

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 6, 2012**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, February 6, 2012 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman P. Vetro called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Chairman Vetro asked those present to join in saluting our flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Anderson
R. Dickman
G. Gasper
D. German (7:56 p.m.)
A. Giannattasio
J. Golden
R. Nunno
S. Shaw
F. Smith
P. Smith
G. Stanford
N. Veccharelli
P. Vetro
R. Vitali

Also Present

Mayor B. Blake
P. Erodicti, Finance Director
J. Berchem, City Attorney
B. Peloso, Asst, City Clerk
S. Fournier, Mayor's Admin. Asst.

Absent

B. Bier

Mayor noted City Clerk Linda Stock was not present and welcomed in her place, Assistant City Clerk Bonnie Peloso. He stated he had a brief presentation for a Milford environmental protection initiative. Mayor Blake introduced Jeanne Cervin.

Ms. Cervin provided the background of the group. She state they recently received two recent grants and she was pleased to honor tonight the two recipients. The stated the first honor goes to Christian Lofthouse. She stated he has been in scouting since the age of 5 years and his work with Eisenhower Park. She then turned the program over to Barbara Milton for the second grant.

Ms. Milton acknowledged Steve Johnson for his work with the Solomon property.

Mr. Johnson applauded Milford's efforts for its initiative for open space. Reading from a prepared statement he talked of areas where improvement is needed.

2. Public Statements

Public statements are limited to the legislative function of the Board of Aldermen. He stated only residents; taxpayers or electors may address the Board. The time limit granted to each speaker shall be three (3) minutes. He asked each speaker to adhere to the three-minute limit.

R. Smith – Sixth Avenue – stated he was here tonight to acknowledge the Mayor and the City department heads for their work on the 2012/2013 proposed City budget. He also thanked the Board of Education for turning in the leanest budget in years. He thanked everyone for acting with financial prudence. Reading from a prepared statement he spoke regarding the East Shore Middle School Expansion project stating Mayor Blake has made this project a priority. Mr. Smith stated it was the Mayor who took this project off the table and began meetings with the Board of Education and the result of that process was the \$12,000,000 bonding package before the aldermen tonight. He commented the process was rigorous but responsive to the needs. He also pointed out this is the single largest single school renovation in the City's history.

K. Lang – East Shore Middle School student – stated education is everything. He stated the plans before the Board are necessary and thanked the Mayor for bringing this forward. He stated they would not be able to have the renovations they need without the full amount. He spoke of the lack of a band room and what they currently use, he also talked about the roofing issues and what other the other middle schools have that ESMS does not have. He spoke about the bathrooms and the many differences in the rooms. He asked the Board to please fund the full amount.

J. Dellamonica, Jr. – Lindy Street – thanked the Mayor for pushing to get ESMS back on the map and getting the much needed repairs. He stated it was his understanding there was a cut to the proposed budget. He stated the faculty will tell you the school is in bad shape. He stated there have been some small repairs, but people who live in this area are counting on the Board of Aldermen tonight to help this area. He stated the kids and the faculty deserve better.

J. Gianpola – 27 Darina Place – stated she was excited about these plans when she first saw them in September. Reading from a prepared statement, she stated how she is now discouraged because the bonding is not at the \$16,000,000 it was supposed to be. She stated with the reduction in bonding there would be no technology, no new furniture, no new equipment, etc. She stated the time was now to address the needs of ESMS and bond the full \$16,000,000.

L. Carr – 6th grade student ESMS – asked the Board to fix her school.

D. Dotson – 69 Wayne Road – stated she is a teacher at ESMS, she also grew up here and has children in the school. She stated she was here tonight to support the bonding for \$16,000,000. She stated the current bonding will not give the school what it needs. She stated they also need the technology.

H. Zultkowski – 17 Nutmeg Lane – stated she is a teacher at ESMS, asked the Board to consider the \$16,000,000 to get the needs of the students met.

A. Kurata – 8th grade student, member of ESMS Student Council – stated \$16,000,000 is a lot of money to be bonded for one school, but a worthy cause. He also spoke regarding the condition of the band classes, the needed expansion of the cafeteria and media, as well as classroom.

K. Paskiewicz/P. Collins – both 8th grade students at ESMS, stated they need a better learning environment than being taught in closets and hallways. They also spoke about a teacher that is pregnant that has to wheel a cart around. Also, there are classes in the gym while gym class is going on.

A. Ives – 8th grade student at ESMS – spoke of the hazards and heat issues at the school and that they need the windows fixed. He stated they need \$16,000,000 to do this.

K. Singh – 6th grade student at ESMS – stated they have problems other schools don't have. He spoke of having to split time in the cafeteria. He stated his sister will be coming to ESMS and that he wanted all of the conditions fixed.

D. Caposso – stated she is a taxpayer and staff member at ESMS for over 17 years. She commented about the same pothole they have been repairing in the driveway at school for the last 10 years. She stated that is just one example of patching and fixing over the years. She stated it was important the Board vote to bond \$16,000,000 to complete the job. She asked the Board not make education choose to use a room appropriately. She also stated they should not have to choose which windows to replace.

A. Phelan/A. Sapperstein (sp) – compared the library at Orchard Hills Elementary School to that at ESMS, stating it is much larger. Miss Phelan also stated she has a little brother who will be coming to ESMS in the fall.

D. Paul – 54 Terrace Road – commented it must be that time again. He stated by approving this bond it will build the City's assets. He stated \$12,000,000 is a lot of money. He stated the \$16,000,000 does not give walls, windows or get the roof fixed. He challenged the Mayor to work without a desk, phone or computer. He also reminded the Board they could be voted out when the time come.

M. Michaud – 125 Clark Hill Road – stated she has been a teacher at ESMS for 12 years and that he children also went to ESMS. She asked the Board to fully bond ESMS. She stated just because they find ways to make it work that they don't need the space. She asked the Board to fund the \$16,000,000.

J. Prisco – 11 Riverdale Road – stated he worked as a construction worked at ESMS, before it was ESMS. He stated nothing has been done at that school since 1950. He stated the work is long overdue. He stated that kids are our future and deserved this.

J. James – 63 Westmoor Road – stated she is parent of three children in the school district. She also stated as a professional she was an intern at ESMS. She stated they have an exceptional team of educators at ESMS, who exist in deplorable conditions. She stated they adjust to numerous conditions each day. She also spoke regarding the breezeway at the school and stated when it is raining outside the kids get wet. Ms. James thanked the Board for hearing their complaints. She stated it is about safety and expressed her hope the Board would vote to bond the money.

K. Elson – 55 Cardinal Drive – commented this building they are in tonight is beautiful, she also pointed to the building across the street and that these buildings are on the side of Milford Bank. She stated it is doubtful you would see East Shore Middle School on the side of that building. She stated it was time to do something about

it or change the city slogan. She stated our children need the technical experience and asked the Board to please bond the \$16,000,000.

R. Singh – 105 Quirk Road – stated he moved to Milford two years ago. He spoke regarding the infrastructure and technology in Milford in comparison to other schools in the area. He stated it was grim to hear the proposed project did not consider technology. He stated without technology, what is the use of the walls. He stated the plan that was put out for \$16,000,000 was well planned and requested the Board give serious thought to the project and that he hoped to see a positive result.

T. Dylan – 10 Spruce Circle – stated he accepted a position in Milford because his children already attended the Milford schools. He stated he has grave concerns that ESMS is below the standards of the other two middle schools. He stated the cafeteria is treacherous and also spoke of the odors in parts of the building. He stated his children were originally in magnet schools, but he decided to put his children in the Milford Public Schools. He stated the Board to move forward with the needed infrastructure work.

J. Dellamonica, Sr. – Berner Terrace – stated he moved here with 43 years ago. He stated Milford was a town that cared about its people. He asked the Board to do the job completely and not partially and that the kids needed the money for their education. He stated nothing less is acceptable. He asked the Board to fix ESMS completely and not partially.

K. Broderick – 20 Paul Braun Court – stated she has an 8th grader and a 5th grader. She stated nothing will change for her daughter, but it will affect her son. She stated with the \$4,000,000 it will only get half of the window done. She also stated even with the proposed \$16,000,000 there will still be one teacher on a cart. She stated there are cracks over the office. She also pointed out many kids have left the school system to attend magnet schools. She also stated with the reduction in bonding the social worker and school psychologist will still be in closets and smart boards will not be available to students at ESMS. She also stated it is her understanding there is a 40% reimbursement for the project. She also stated ESMS still requires the same programs as the other schools. She asked the Board to vote to increase the bonding to \$16,000,000.

K. Astrosky – 44 Pauline Street – stated she is a teacher at ESMS and was also a student at the school and not much has changed. She stated she truly believes in the Milford school district.

M. DiLeo – 270 Old Field Lane – stated she is a teacher at ESMS and also did her student teaching at the school when it was Seabreeze Elementary School. She asked the Board to fully fund the project. She also thanked all those aldermen for coming to look at the school.

S. Roth – 57 Crestwood Road – stated she has three children in the Milford School District. She stated her child has band class in the gym and her history class changes every day. She stated she will have another child and does not want her to experience a step down from elementary school. She asked the Board to vote to fund the entire \$16,000,000.

F. Goodrich – 70 Regent Terrace – stated he was here tonight to talk about the Downs House, which he stated is in a historic district. He stated the property is under the control of the historic district. Regarding from a statement (handed to the City Clerk) he cited numerous State statutes. He stated a certificate of appropriateness is necessary if the property is to be sold for a parking lot.

L. Secondi – 99 Melba Street – stated she works at ESMS and that she fully supports the proposed bond. She stated she works with a great group and stated the Board needed to do this for the kids.

E. Dobson – Wayne Road – stated he supports the \$16,000,000 bond.

K. Shugrue – 68 Elgin Road – stated they have a wonderful staff at ESMS. She spoke of the condition of the school, speaking specifically about the breezeway also known as the “freezeway”. She stated her daughter has fallen when it is wet. She stated the students deserve better.

D. Ellis – Tyler Road – stated the Board has heard tonight of the space constraints at ESMS and asked the Board to consider the plans for the renovation at ESMS based on the \$16,000,000. She stated it is not a “pie in the sky” design, but designed based on needs and State and Federal mandates. She stated the work would also bring them equal to the other two middle schools in Milford. She also noted interest rates are at a record low with reimbursement at 40%. She asked the Board not to take a band aid approach.

L. Fucci – 136 Welch’s Point Road – commented she had not planned to speak tonight. She spoke of recent discussions taking place regarding student performance. She pointed out ESMS has the most students of all the middle schools. She also stated Milford is losing its competitive edge. She stated now is the time to invest in ESMS. She asked the Board to support the bonding that would create beneficial programs. She also stated she is confused between the two figures and hoped those numbers would be explained.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on January 9, 2011.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 9, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Special Organizational Meeting of the Board of Aldermen.

None.

5. Chairman’s Report and Communications.

Chairman Vetro read a statement announcing the Board of Aldermen would be initiating an opportunity for residents to meet their aldermen. He stated this opportunity would occur prior to the monthly Board of Aldermen meeting from 7:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. He stated this “Good of the Community” opportunity would provide an informal opportunity for the public to meet with their aldermen. Chairman Vetro also announced Marty Hardiman has invited the aldermen to march in the Saint Patrick’s Day parade which he stated would be held on March 10, 2012.

6. Mayor’s Report and Recommendations:

Mayor Blake respectfully requested the Board’s consideration and action for items 8a-o on the agenda. He also stated he wished to address the subject of public comment. He recognized the middle school students who he stated spoke eloquently. Mayor Blake stated ESMS is over 20 years old and noted he was a member of the first graduating class of ESMS and stated Mrs. Williams, now principal at ESMS was his math teacher. He stated the school is and has been a focus. Mayor Blake stated this issue is first and foremost a concern of his and has

been for several years. He spoke regarding some of the history at ESMS concerning the renovations. He also spoke of meeting with school officials in the fall and that this school needed immediate alterations and would be bonded for in 2012. Mayor Blake stated he challenged the architect, school officials and teachers to make sure of all of their needs were met, i.e. safety. Mayor Blake stated the architect rose to the challenge and made sure all of his concerns regarding safety were met and the architects came back with a revised plan that addressed the needs of ESMS. He stated a new roof in this proposal. He also stated the breezeway, also known as the “freezeway” would be enclosed. Mayor Blake also reported the media center is undergoing a huge expense with two new classrooms, as well as a cafeteria and kitchen expansion. He stated there would be new band and choir rooms and art classrooms, as well as four new classrooms. Mayor Blake also stated there would be site work outside the school addressing traffic patterns. He reiterated the project meets all those concerns and will improve ESMS for today and into the future. Mayor Blake also explained if the bids come in lower than the additional add alternates would come through. He also stated there was some inaccurate information tonight, but that the architect would provide a complete overall.

7. Unfinished Business.

None.

8. New Business (from Mayor’s Report Items 8a-8o)

8a. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the appointment of (R) John Vaccino, Jr., 15 Barberry Court, from an alternate to a Regular Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals to complete the unexpired term of (R) Thomas C. Nicol, (appointed to Planning and Zoning Commission) (five-year term expiring 12/31/15). Motion carried unanimously.

8b. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Shaw made and seconded a motion to approve the request for appointment of (R) Patrick Tokarz, 29 Platt Street, to the Flood and Erosion Control Board to fill the present vacancy, (five-year term expiring 12/31/12). Motion carried unanimously.

8c. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the request for appointment of (R) Carol Dunn, 54 Creeland Avenue, to the Tree Commission to fill the present vacancy, (three-year term expiring 12/31/12). Motion carried unanimously.

Assistant City Clerk Bonnie Peloso swore in the newly elected John Vaccino and Patrick Tokarz to their respective positions.

8d. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Stanford made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution Re: Grant Application for Department of Human Services. Motion carried unanimously.

8e. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution Re: Grant application for Youth and Family Services Activities. Motion carried unanimously.

8f. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution Re: Grant Application for State Department of Social Services. Motion carried unanimously.

8g. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Shaw made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Allocation Transfer No. 10 (Golf Course Fund). Motion carried unanimously.

8h. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Authorizing Resolution Certifying Louis A. LaVecchia as Emergency Management Director of the City of Milford. Motion carried unanimously.

8i. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request to accept the 2011 Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$142,710 to be used to purchase one and three quarter inch hose with couplings that use National Standard Threads; and to authorize the expenditure of the City's twenty (20) percent cost share of \$28,542; and to authorize the Mayor and Fire Chief to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate the acceptance of this grant and implementation of the program.

Ald. P. Smith asked the Mayor to identify what fund the \$28,542 was coming from.

Mayor Blake responded it would most likely be the general fund.

Motion carried unanimously.

8j. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the City of Milford to exercise its "Right of First Refusal" and to purchase the property known as 553 West Avenue, in accordance with the terms and conditions of Paragraph 12 of said First Amendment as well as the January 5, 2012 "Agreement of Purchase and Sale."

Mayor Blake provided the background regarding this property, which he stated is more commonly known as Beaverbrook, with 57 acres. He stated approximately 57 acres is developable. He explained the easement was given to Milford to hike in that area for passive recreation. He stated this City is being asked to exercise its right of first refusal and stated he would recommend against the purchase of this property. He stated he believed the residents of Milford use this property. He reiterated he would recommend the Board vote not against this Resolution.

By roll call vote the motion failed 0 yes and 14 no (Anderson, Dickman, Gasper, German, Giannattasio, Golden, Nunno, Shaw, F. Smith, P. Smith, Stanford, Veccharelli, Vetro, Vitali).

8k. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the request for its endorsement of the Resolution authorizing Application for Regional Performance Incentive Grant (Shared Services Study).

Ald. Giannattasio stated it was his understanding this approval does not commit the City to any funding or agreement.

Mayor Blake responded yes. He explained this Resolution was brought to the Board in December, but that they did not have the summaries at that time. He stated they have them now and that is why it is before the Board.

Motion carried unanimously.

8l. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the request for its endorsement of Resolution Authorizing Application for Regional Performance Incentive Grant (Regional GIS Program).

Ald. P. Smith asked if this approval were to go forward, if it would commit the city to future activity on this grant.

Mayor Blake responded that Mr. Fournier had discussion with the Executive Director of COG today. He also stated this agreement is the same Resolution that was before the Board in December however only summaries were available at that time and now they have the full application.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. P. Smith requested a 5-minute recess. The Board recessed at 9:13 p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the Board in public session at 9:28 p.m.

Ald. Vitali stated a remark made by the chairman has resonated with him that he spoke with his colleagues about concerning the new “Good of the Community” initiative. He stated tonight was the first he was hearing of it and stated there should have been better communication with all of the members of the Board and that everyone should have been part of the discussion.

Chairman Vetro stated he announced in his report “your aldermen.”

Ald. Vitali asked who initiated the move.

Chairman Vetro responded it was his idea.

Ald. Anderson and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to re-order the agenda and bring forward item 12a. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report of Standing Committees:

Ald. F. Smith reported the Ordinance Committee met this evening to consider two Ordinances and voted favorably to forward the Ordinances to the full Board.

12a-1. Ald. F. Smith and Ald. Veccharelli made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Appropriating \$6,088,600 For Various Public Improvements And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$6,088,600 Bonds Of The City To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose.

Ald. P. Smith asked if this would bring the City to the same funding level as in previous years.

Mayor Blake responded it was the hope to keep funding as flat as in the past year. He also stated the LOSCP grant would likely be the same as last year. Mayor Blake stated they expected to be able to complete 6 miles of roadway as well as sidewalks.

Ald. P. Smith questioned whether the City would in fact receive the reimbursement.

Mayor Blake stated it has been accepted by FEMA and explained each construction invoice would be reviewed by FEMA, but that he has received assurances the City will receive the reimbursement.

Ald. P. Smith asked about the bonding anticipation notes.

Mayor Blake explained what the Board is authorizing are the authorization bonds and in a separate motion the bonds.

Motion carried unanimously.

12a-2. Ald. F. Smith and Ald. Veccharelli made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Appropriating \$12,000,000 For Various School Improvements And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$12,000,000 Bonds Of The City To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose.

Ald. P. Smith expressed concern about bonding for only \$12,000,000 because of the elimination of the four classrooms. She stated it was important they get the teachers off carts. She stated she did not want to shortchange the student or the teachers with the amount being recommended.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Vitali moved to amend the motion and increase the amount to \$14,010,000, which she stated is a 2% increase totaling \$2,010,000.

Mayor Blake commented he heard the word “shortchange”.

Ald. Vitali raised a point of order, stating he did not hear the Chairman announce discussion of the motion.

Chairman Vetro stated he asked if there was any discussion and recognized the Mayor.

Mayor Blake stated the Ordinance as presented does satisfy the needs of the school and meets all safety issues. He recognized the school members present and asked them to come before the Board with any comments.

Mr. J. Richetelli, Chief Operations Officer stated he was delighted to be here. He also recognized the other members of the school board, Tracy Casey, Chairperson, Dr. Feser, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Cummings and Mrs. Cathy Williams, Principal, along many faculty, staff, parents and students. Mr. Richetelli stated this project has been in the Capital Improvement Plan for nearly 8 years. He stated the needs of ESMS to upgrade as well as the addition and renovations to meet the needs of the school have been well established. He asked the design consultant, Bill Silver to come forward to present an overview of the project.

Bill Silver, Silver Petrucelli Architects, Hamden, CT – stated he would provide an overview of the project which the Permanent School Facilities Building Committee has been working on since last March. He explained they vetted out needs v. wishes and in June the Building Committee approved schematic then construction documents. He continued with an explanation of the handout to the Board. He explained the

Mayor asked that the roof work be put into this project. He stated also included in the packet is a two-page estimate cost recommendations with the add/deduct alternates for the project.

Ald. P. Smith commented she has heard the numbers for reimbursement as high as 55% and as low as 45% and asked for clarification.

Mr. Richetelli stated the reimbursement rate has hovered around less than 40%, but that he has heard it may go up to as much as 55%.

Ald. P. Smith asked what portion of the project is eligible.

Mr. Silver stated they have identified the ineligible parts of the project and it appears approximately \$300,000 is ineligible for reimbursement.

Ald. Vitali commented he is on the Permanent School Facilities Building Committee and they have laboriously taken on these issues. He asked Mr. Silver if he believes they could possibly put the project out to bid for \$12,000,000 with the eight classrooms. He also pointed out it was in the paper on January 13, 2012 where the Mayor said all of the needs of the school would be met.

Mr. Silver explained all estimates are based on median or reasonable estimates. He spoke of the Foran High School project where they were fortunate it came in 22% under budget, which was something they never anticipated. He stated he did not believe they could include the eight classrooms could be included in the \$12,000,000.

Ald. Vitali spoke of his years of experience in the education field and that safety and welfare is important. He stated this school and the other two middle schools when they were built were never intended to be middle schools. He asked if the corridors would be wider in the addition.

Mr. Silver responded no, they would be the same as the current building.

Ald. Vitali commented until you have lived it no one can imagine what it is like to be a building administrator and have teachers on carts. He stated he is in favor of adding the \$2,000,000.

Mayor Blake stated the addition connecting the school to the building does add space. He also stated there would be the addition of new band, choir and art rooms as well as two classrooms in the media center. He stated in actuality they are adding 9 classrooms that are new to this project.

Ald. Vitali called the work a band aid and in all his years in education he has never seen a plan that wasn't bastardized. He stated they needed to do this right.

Mayor Blake stated as a point of clarification there is an amendment on the floor. He stated back in 2008, the former city attorney got a legal opinion from bond counsel that if there is a change to the Ordinance it would need to be re-noticed.

Ald. Anderson expressed his concern with occupancy and costs with transferring students and staff.

Mr. Silver stated it will be a challenge and that it will be a multiple phased project. He stated the four classrooms would likely be built first, followed by the media center, art and music. He stated they would also enclose the breezeway. He explained the classes would then move into those classrooms in the addition.

Ald. Anderson stated he wished to be clear all expenses are included into the bond amount.

Mr. Silver responded yes they were.

Ald. Anderson asked the timeline for the project.

Mr. Silver replied if they get out to bid next week, the project should start by April and be completed in September 2013.

Ald. Golden asked if going in with a hiring number could hold up construction.

Ald. Blake responded that bond counsel has indicated that any substantial change to the Ordinance would require a re-notification.

Ald. P. Smith asked if there could be a special meeting of the Board if they went through the proper notification. She stated she would rather fund the property amount of money for the project. She also stated she understood there may be a delay, but it would be well worth it.

Ald. Stanford raised a point of information and asked for clarification if they were still considering the amount.

Chairman Vetro had the secretary read the amendment to the motion, which asked for an increase in bonding to \$14,010,000 as amended by Ald. P. Smith and seconded by Ald. Vitali.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he is in favor of the amendment. He stated that school is the only middle school on that side of town. He also stated it would always be there and always utilized by the district. He also stated that school has been waiting a long time and it would be worth the wait. Ald. Giannattasio stated he wished to move the question.

Ald. Shaw commented as to the issues of safety that have been raised. She asked Mr. Silver if he was satisfied that the plan proposed tonight has adequate safety.

Mr. Silver replied the plans have been developed by school officials and the Bureau of School Facilities has reviewed them. He explained they are breaking the building into two different parts. He also pointed out this will only be the third school in the district that is fully sprinklered, adding it has to be done because of the courtyard expansion.

Ald. Shaw asked about the issues of parity that were brought up tonight. She asked if this school lags behind the other schools.

Mr. Silver stated with the four classroom addition it would bring it up to parity with the other schools.

Ald. German commented just getting the teachers off the carts will be an added safety. He also asked the construction cost just for the new addition.

Mr. Silver replied about \$375 per square foot based on the number of mechanical upgrades.

Ald. Vitali commented the Mayor's response was somewhat ambiguous when he stated the matter would have to be re-noticed. He asked the percentage amount.

Mayor Blake stated his response was based on the memo from the former City Attorney.

Ald. Vitali asked if the construction costs would be much less if the building were clear, with no students.

Mr. Silver replied it would not be a great amount, but there would be some reduction.

Ald. Vitali spoke of recent renovations in New Haven where the students were moved to another location. He stated he was thinking of safety and that it may be feasible to move the students to another school, i.e. Simon Lake.

Mr. Richetelli stated it was give some consideration, however, logistics and cost would far outweigh any savings. He also stated it would not be logistically possible.

Ald. Stanford and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to move the question.

Chairman Vetro stated the rules state an alderman who has not spoken on the subject can speak before moving the question.

Ald. Gasper asked about the window replacement.

Mr. Silver stated approximately half of the old 1952 covered over windows would not be replaced, even with the additional monies.

Ald. Dickman asked if other schools have as many teachers on carts.

Mr. Cummings, Assistant Superintendent of Schools stated there are other teachers on carts in both of the other middle schools as well as the high schools.

Ald. Dickman asked how many.

Mr. Cummings stated he did not have that information, but commented there are more classrooms.

Ald. Nunno commented he is a band teacher at West Shore Middle School. He stated when he started at the school he taught his classes on the stage with gym classes going on. He went on to speak of teaching constraints for many teachers. He stated currently he teachers in a locker room, a health teacher is on a cart and the Spanish teacher shares a room.

Ald. F. Smith commented he has listened tonight as teachers and parents express their frustrations. He stated no one denies it is woefully in need of work. He also stated this renovation comes at a time when the country is in the worst of economic times. He also stressed the importance of good fiscal stability, which he stated the Mayor has achieved. He also stated the bonding is not free and pointed out this is the largest school bonding ever being considered in the City. He asked how real life at ESMS would be affected if the four classrooms were added back and if there would be any teachers still on carts.

Mrs. Williams, Principal, ESMS – stated without the four classrooms there would still be four teachers on carts.

Ald. F. Smith asked Mrs. Williams if she was a part of the discussions reducing and reworking the project.

Mrs. Williams responded yes, but pointed out it was not padded with desires.

Ald. Veccharelli asked how many teachers are on carts.

Mrs. Williams replied 11.

Mr. Silver explained they are converting a former kindergarten classroom into two spaces.

Ald. Veccharelli stated in looking at the media center it shows two new classrooms. He asked if there would be a total of 9.

Mr. Silver stated there are two new classrooms that are being created in the media center. He also explained the breezeway is being enclosed, which could potentially serve as class space.

Ald. Veccharelli asked Mr. Silver how many classrooms he was seeing on the drawing.

Mr. Silver stated there are 8 on the drawing.

Ald. Veccharelli asked if that adds up to the number of teachers on carts.

Mr. Silver spoke of the reconfiguration of the space. He stated logic could mean the space is there, but that Mrs. Williams has to look at scheduling.

Ald. Veccharelli asked Mr. Cummings if he could tell the Board how many teachers are on carts at the other two middle schools.

Mr. Cummings stated he would hesitate to guess, because he did not have the numbers in front of him. He stated there is probably a handful at each of the other schools.

Mrs. T. Casey, Chairperson, Board of Education – stated she is the only one not to speak this evening. She stated what has not been discussed is the Board of Education process in this matter. She stated at the Board of Finance meeting she spoke as to the environment as being as critical as the teaching. She stated ESMS is behind and they need to get caught up. She also reminded the Board there are eight other schools that need new roofs in the next two years. She also commented the Permanent School Facilities Building Committee, of which she is a past member, does a great job at managing those funds and getting the most for the dollar.

The Board recessed at 10:34 p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the meeting in public session at 10:42 p.m.

Motion to move the question carried unanimously.

By roll call vote, the amendment failed 5 yes (Dickman, German, Giannattasio, P. Smith, Vitali) and 9 no (Anderson, Gasper, Golden, Nunno, Shaw, F. Smith, Stanford, Veccharelli, Vetro).

Ald. Vitali expressed his disappointment with his colleagues for not looking to the future. He stated there are educators on this Board and they lacked the fortitude to vote on their own.

Ald. Stanford stated that she was disappointed that the other side was disappointed with them. She stated the school system has been this way for over 20 years and nothing ever happened. She also stated there have been repairs that have been done. She also stated she has gone on record as saying “kids are the best” and that she did not want to wait.

Ald. Nunno echoed the same sentiments. He stated spending \$12,000,000 is the largest expenditure in this district. He stated in the past he questioned the timing of the addition at Foran. He stated ESMS has been in dire need of updates and he did not understand being criticized for that. He also commented it is not good anywhere to be on cart. Ald. Nunno stated this would help ESMS and he was happy to vote for it.

Ald. P. Smith stated they are doing something good, but they could have done more, with little impact. She stated she did not believe it would take another month to hold a special meeting. She reiterated this is good, but it could have been better. She stated this Board had an opportunity to enhance something.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he was in favor of the amendment of the \$14,000,000 and without the extra \$2,000,000 they don’t meet the expectations. He stated he would support the \$12,000,000 because he wants to get this project done. He stated his hope is the bids come in less so those other add alternates can get done.

Ald. Shaw stated her son is a recent graduate of ESMS and she has been aware of the problems at that school and that she never understood what happened with projects in the past. She stated she is glad to see the \$12,000,000 bonding and feels it meets the safety aspect and puts the school in line with the other middle schools. She also stated Mrs. Casey put it into prospective; the project meets the needs and is a good conservative project. Ald. Shaw stated \$12,000,000 is a great deal of money, but that the addition would enhance the school.

Chairman Vetro echoed the comments of Ald. Shaw. He also commented he serves on the committee for the East Side Fire Station and that project came in somewhat less. He stated there is just so much money for all of these projects. He also stated knowing what he knows from Human Services, there are many people in the city experiencing foreclosure, having difficulties paying utilities, etc. He stated he would be voting for the \$12,000,000.

Ald. Anderson echoed the comments of Ald. Shaw. He stated he himself is an educator and is all about children and their needs, but as Ald. Vetro pointed out there are people out there who are hurting. He also stated seniors

are on a fixed income. He stated the allocation will provide a better produce than what exists today and encouraged his colleagues to be part of the process.

Ald. Golden stated she is a substitute teacher in the district and is in all of the schools and sees the work that needs to be done in our schools. She stated \$12,000,000 is a lot of money, but it will put the school in par with the other middle schools. She too experienced concern for seniors on a fixed income.

Ald. Nunno stated the firehouse project came in 25% under bid. He also stated a lot of assertions were made tonight as to what may or may not be in the project. He stated as a member of the Permanent School Facilities Committee they will look at each bid alternative and prioritize. He stated he would support this.

Ald. German echoed the comments of Ald. P. Smith. He expressed his disappointment the extra \$2,000,000 was not passed and stated it was for needs not wants..

Motion carried unanimously.

8m. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution Re: Cash Advance for Various School Improvements – 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

8n. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution Re: Milford Board of Education Concerning East Shore Middle School. Motion carried unanimously.

8o. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the request for approval as requested for Resolution Re: Cash Advance for Various Public Improvements – 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

9. New Business not on the Agenda which may be introduced by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting.

None.

10. Budget Memo Transfers

(a) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. P. Smith made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Budget Memo Transfers #3 and #4, Fund 10, FY 12. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Refunds

(a) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. P. Smith made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$36,367.76. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report of Standing Committees:

b. Public Safety and Welfare Committee – no report.

c. Public Works Committee – no report.

d. Claims Committee – no report

- e. Rules Committee – no report.
- f. Personnel Committee – no report.

13. Report of Special Committees:

- a. Liaison Sub-Committee – Board of Education – Ald. Stanford reported budget workshops were held January 10, 12, 17.
- b. Liaison Sub-Committee – Flood & Erosion Board – no report.
- c. Liaison Sub-Committee – Park, Beach & Recreation Comm. – Ald. Veccharelli reported due to a conflict with his schedule that he and Ald. Golden had switch liaison assignments. He reported to would be the liaison to the Park, Beach & Recreation Commission and that Ald. Golden would serve as liaison to the Golf Commission.
- d. Liaison Sub-Committee – Planning & Zoning Board – no report.
- e. Liaison Sub-Committee – Sewer Commission – no report.
- f. Liaison Sub-Committee – Harbor Management Commission – no report.
- g. Liaison – Council on Aging – no report.
- h. Permanent School Facility Building Committee – no report.
- i. Liaison Sub-Committee – Library Board – Ald. P. Smith reported Friends of the Library Board are doing more marketing and outreach to the public.
- j. Liaison Sub-Committee – Fowler Memorial building – no report
- k. Liaison Sub-Committee – Milford Redevelopment & Housing Partnership – no report.
- l. Golf Course Commission – no report.
- m. Inland Wetlands Agency – no report.
- n. Liaison Health Department – no report.
- o. Devon Revitalization Committee – no report.
- p. Human Services Commission – no report
- q. Liaison Pension & Retirement Board – no report.
- r. Milford Government Access Television (MGAT) – Ald. P. Smith stated she wished to clarify that MGAT who records the meetings does not edit the meetings. She stated came to her who thought that was done. She reiterated no editing is done.

14. Executive Session. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting is required for any item to be considered in executive session. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting is required to go into executive session.

The Chairman shall announce, in public session, those items to be covered in executive session and call for a vote to enter executive session. If a two-thirds (2/3) vote, to enter executive session, is obtained, the hall shall be cleared and executive session declared.

14a. Consideration of Ratification of a Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Milford and Local 3322, Council 4, AFSCME (MEA).

14b. Consideration of Ratification of a Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Milford and Local 1303-452, Council 4, AFSCME (The Milford City Hall Employees Association).

14c. Consideration of Ratification of a Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Milford and NAGE R1-125 (MSA).

Ald. Anderson and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to enter Executive Session.

Chairman Vetro announced those going into Executive Session would be the full Board, Mayor, City Attorney Jonathan Berchem, Assistant City Attorney Debra Kelly, Personnel Director John O'Connell and Attorney L. Sgrignari.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 11:09 p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the meeting in public session at 11:27 p.m.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Shaw made and seconded a motion to approve Ratification of a Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Milford and Local 3322, Council 4, AFSCME (MEA) in accordance with the discussions held in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Shaw made and seconded a motion to approve Ratification of a Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Milford and Local 1303-452, Council 4, AFSCME (The Milford City Hall Employees Association).

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve Ratification of a Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Milford and NAGE R1-125 (MSA).

Being no further business to discuss, Ald. Anderson and Ald. Vitali moved to adjourn at 11:29 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary