

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
March 4, 2013**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, March 4, 2013 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman P. Vetro called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. 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  
B. Bier  
R. Dickman  
G. Gasper  
D. German  
A. Giannattasio  
R. Nunno  
S. Shaw  
F. Smith  
P. Smith  
G. Stanford  
N. Veccharelli  
P. Vetro  
R. Vitali

Also Present

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake  
J. Berchem, City Attorney  
L. Stock, City Clerk  
S. Fournier, Mayor's Admin. Asst.

Excused

J. Golden

**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. He encouraged speakers not to express derogatory or offensive attacks. The time limit granted to each speaker shall be three (3) minutes. He asked each speaker to adhere to the three-minute limit.

A. Petrahai – 32 Orient Avenue – he spoke regarding the Board of Education's budget where they kept positions that had said they were supposed to cut and also transportation. He also spoke about the lack of information to the public regarding the public hearing where one person spoke. Mr. Petrahai referenced the Newtown tragedy and spoke regarding security issues here.

**3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on February 4, 2013.**

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 4, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Special Meeting.

None.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

Chairman Vetro reminded everyone the Saint Patrick's Day parade would take place on Saturday, March 9, 2013, stepping off from the Parsons Parking lot at 1:00 p.m.

Ald. Stanford asked if there is a rain date.

Chairman Vetro stated it would be the following Saturday, March 16, 2013.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations:

Mayor Blake stated it would be sunny for Saturday's parade. He encouraged folks to come early as Milford's parade is the second largest in the State. He also stated he would respectfully request the Board's consideration and action on items 8a-g. Mayor Blake also stated there were two items for the Board's consideration under New Business.

7. Unfinished Business

None.

Ald. P. Smith recalled a tabled item from the January 7, 2013 meeting regarding installation of a proposed fence at Bernard/Francis field.

Mayor Blake stated after that meeting the Jr. Major League asked that the item be withdrawn.

Ald. Giannattasio stated the Board should recognize the matter and either take it up or vote it down.

Ald. F. Smith stated if the matter was withdrawn this Board could then amend the motion to put it on the agenda and then withdraw it. He suggested this Board should vote to withdraw.

Ald. Veccharelli stated at the January meeting the original motion was to approve.

Ald. Stanford asked that the original motion be read.

Ald. P. Smith read the motion from the January meeting.

Ald. Shaw and Ald. Bier made and seconded a motion to withdraw that motion. Motion carried unanimously.

8. New Business (from Mayor's Report Items 8a-8g)

8a. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the request to apply for and receive Storm Sandy Relief funds allocated to the State of Connecticut by HUD, and to authorize the Mayor,

Milford's Block Grant Coordinator, and Finance Director to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate this funding program.

Ald. Shaw asked if Mr. Ivers could provide the Board with an overview of the program.

Mr. Ivers explained the amount of invitations that have been received. He explained the expectation is that most of the funds will be through the Department of Economic Development. He also noted the amount has already been reduced due to the sequestration. He stated they are only at the basics at this point.

Ald. P. Smith asked how the program would be administered. She stated some folks get FEMA money and some are still waiting and some folks got none.

Mr. Ivers stated they have not had any administrative discussions as yet. He stated the basic guidelines are the funds cannot be used for something that could have been funded by something else.

Ald. P. Smith asked if the second phase would take care of infra related projects, such as municipal buildings.

Mr. Ivers stated boardwalks, parks and wastewater would be taken into consideration as well as costs for first responders, personnel, etc.

Ald. P. Smith asked if there would be any rollover for things FEMA does not pick up.

Mayor Blake stated that was the hope. He stated the ground rules have not been adopted, but the State has indicated they will be the administrator.

Ald. P. Smith asked if the taxpayers would still come to the City or through a State agency.

Mayor Blake stated the City would act as the concierge.

Mr. Ivers added there may be languages to the effect that the funds could be used for tax relieve, but that they would be exploring that.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if the housing included engineering costs.

Mr. Ivers replied yes and explained that is part of the project cost. He also stated they are looking at other safety net funding to building in added relief. He also stated it could be used for business loss.

Motion carried unanimously.

8b. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Emergency Contingency Plan for Elections. Motion carried unanimously.

8c. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution RE: Pre-Development Grant under the Housing for Economic Growth Program, pursuant to the February 19, 2013 recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Board, and to authorize the Mayor and Finance Director to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate this grant program.

Ald. P. Smith stated her understanding is that this portion is to apply for the grant to apply for the study. She asked if going forward from there if they would be butting up against Section 8-30 g and if there would be any conflicts.

Mr. Sulkis stated it is a different kind of program. He stated as part of this you would have affordable housing. He explained this is just a grant for the planning to see if something is even viable.

Ald. P. Smith stated it was her further understanding this was just for the corridor through Cherry Street and that this would not be expanded to nearby neighborhoods/boroughs.

Mr. Sulkis stated the area is  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile from the train station, which is basically the Boston Post Road and Cherry Street.

Ald. Veccharelli asked how this proposal affects the builder that comes in and goes through the applicable permit process and then because of a denial uses 8-30 g.

Mr. Sulkis explained if they create an incentive, i.e. housing zone, the assumption is the developer will follow the rules of the zone. He reiterated as long as they follow the rules there should not be a denial.

Ald. Veccharelli asked what the benefit will be to the City to establish incentive housing.

Mr. Sulkis replied he would not say what benefit there may be because they have not studied it yet. He stated is the reason for this request.

Ald. Veccharelli asked why they are looking to expand a new zone. He stated he just wanted to understand this request.

Mr. Sulkis stated there are established zones. He explained the Plan of Conservation and Development calls for looking at the area in the downtown area. He stated it is an opportunity to expand housing opportunities and choices. Mr. Sulkis stated this study would give them the opportunities to see if the concept can be developed. He also commented the economics of creating housing is the developer will get money from the State to do it here.

Ald. Veccharelli stated he had reservations about assisting in the development of these zones. He stated currently are established zones. He stated he just was not sure if he would be in favor of this.

Ald. Stanford stated the initial proposal states “provide incentives to municipalities that voluntarily choose to expand.” She stated based on that sentence, it is up to the City to decide if it wants to do it or not.

Mr. Sulkis stated they already have zones that allow for affordable housing. He reiterated this request does is allow them to do the study. He stated in the end they may do nothing, or end up with a planning produce to use in zones the City already has.

Ald. P. Smith stated she likes the idea of getting this grant money to explore these opportunities. She stated she didn't know where they would otherwise find these monies to do this. Ald. P. Smith she felt this was worthwhile adding she agreed with Ald. Stanford that they should at least look into it.

Mr. Sulkis added it is free money to do a planning study.

Ald. Veccharelli stated he has always felt you just don't get money for nothing. He recalled an upheaval in the community 28 years ago. He stated what they have now works well. He stated he did not think it was necessary to re-zone and give a foot upon the 8-30 g. He stated he really was not in favor of moving forward on this.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he just did not understand why Ald. Veccharelli was struggling with this. He stated what is in place now doesn't work and spoke of the time he served on the Planning and Zoning Board. Ald. Giannattasio stated this study could work to the City's advantage adding it is an incentive to the builder as well. He also pointed out this is only a study.

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

Ald. Veccharelli stated Board of Aldermen rules state you cannot move the question is an alderman wishing to speak has not spoken once on the issue. Chairman Vetro agreed and recognized Ald. Vitali who had not spoke on the motion.

Ald. Vitali stated he has no problem with the exploration of the study, but no matter the result it will put a burden on the city, i.e. education. He asked if this Board would be given the opportunity to review the study when it comes back.

Mr. Sulkis replied yes.

Ald. Dickman stated he agreed with Ald. Vitali. He also stated this request is only asking to look at pursuing the data.

Ald. Vitali and Ald. Stanford made and seconded a motion to move the questions. Motion carried unanimously.

On the main motion, motion carried 13 yes (Anderson, Bier, Dickman, Gasper, German, Giannattasio, Nunno, Shaw, F. Smith, P. Smith, Stanford, Vetro, Vitali) and 1 no (Veccharelli).

8d. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to allow Leonard Wisniewski to extend a third floor balcony two (2) feet into the air space above the public sidewalk at 9-11 River Street, pursuant to the February 19, 2013 recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Board. Motion carried unanimously.

8e. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution Re: Historic Document Preservation Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

8f. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution RE: Establishment of Account for Donations to the Milford Recreation Department and Authorizing Expenditures Upon Approval of the Park, Beach and Recreation Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

8g. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Allocation Transfer No. 4 (Demolition of 20 Lajoie Lane).

Ald. P. Smith stated it was her understanding this would result in a lien being placed on the property and the City would then recoup funds.

Mayor Blake replied yes. He explained it is a house that the health department place on blight lien.

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.

Ald. Stanford and Ald. Veccharelli made and seconded a motion to add two new items to the agenda, item 9a and 9b. Motion carried unanimously.

9a. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the Milford Fire Department to apply for and accept a Port Security Grant from the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security according to the grant application and to authorize the Mayor and the Fire Chief to take all steps necessary to effectuate the grant.

Mayor Blake stated the fire department has applied for \$30,000 to repair the fire boat. He recognized Acting Fire Chief Robert Healey for additional questions.

Ald. Giannattasio asked why this request was brought to the Board at the last minute. He stated the Board was unable to do its due diligence and property review.

Acting Chief Healey explained this grant came to them 2-3 weeks ago and that it had to be in last Tuesday to be in the running for approval. He stated on Saturday he had a teleconference which allowed them to apply for the grant. He stated the fire boat is 17 years old and in need of the work.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if the boat is operable.

Chief Healey stated this grant would make it operable.

Motion carried unanimously.

9b. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. P. Smith made and seconded a motion to approve the request for a waiver of bid for the Fire Department to purchase an oxygen generator for the new East Side Fire Station according to the quote in the amount of \$40,850.00 from Shipman Fire Equipment Co., Inc. – the oxygen generator is proprietary to Shipman's.

Ald. P. Smith asked if this was being funded out of the \$4,000,000 bond for the new firehouse.

Chief Healey stated they thought originally it was on the State bid, but only one-half of it was.

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Budget Memo Transfers

None.

11. Refunds

(a) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$60,099.84. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report of Standing Committees:

a. Ordinance Committee – Ald. F. Smith reported late last year the Ordinance Committee was given the task of drawing up a redistricting map for this Board’s consideration. He stated he has been working with the MIS Department and today he sent around the first draft. He stated he hope in the next week to 10 days there would be three similar maps. He noted the first and fourth districts were very different. Ald. F. Smith stated he hoped to have an Ordinance in the next week to 10 days.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if the Ordinance Committee could expect to meet prior to any vote. He stated he would like to see the specifics.

Ald. F. Smith stated he hoped to have the maps in the next few weeks and then call a meeting.

Ald. P. Smith thanked Ald. Smith for sending out the information; however, she stated she had a lot of questions. She stated she would send him her list of questions.

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 – no report.

b. Liaison Sub-Committee – Flood & Erosion Board – no report.

c. Liaison Sub-Committee – Park, Beach & Recreation Comm. – no report

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 – no report

- 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) – no report.

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 settlement of John R. Velky, III, et al v. City of Milford  
Re: 12 Village Road

14b. Consideration of Pension Agreement between the City of Milford and the Milford Employees' Association.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Stanford made and seconded a motion to enter Executive Session to consider Items 14a and 14b.

He announced those going into Executive Session for Items 14a, would be the full Board, Mayor, City Attorney and City Assessor. He stated those in Executive Session for Item 14 b would be the full Board, Mayor and City Attorney.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 8:43 p.m.

The City Assessor left Executive Session at 8:46 p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the meeting in public session at 9:00 p.m.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to authorize the City to enter into settlement RE: John R. Velky, III, et al v. City of Milford, 12 Village Road, in accordance with the recommendations of the City Assessor and City Attorney as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the Pension Agreement between the City of Milford and the Milford Employees' Association in accordance with the discussion held in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.



Being no further business to discuss, Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Veccharelli moved to adjourn at 9:01 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber  
Recording Secretary