

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 1, 2013**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, April 1, 2013 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman P. Vetro called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. Chairman Vetro asked those present to join in saluting our flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, lead by Kenny Wright from Boy Scout Troop 303.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Anderson
B. Bier (7:45 p.m.)
R. Dickman
G. Gasper
D. German
A. Giannattasio
J. Golden
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.
P. Erodicti, Finance Director

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 – commented his street has not been paved in 30 years. He also spoke regarding public notices being in the newspapers and proceeded to read an article. He also spoke regarding sidewalk paying. Mr. Petrahai also commented regarding pupil population in the schools. He stated you can save money with less teachers.

J. Prisco – 11 Riverdale Road – stated he is happy to hear his street will be paved. He spoke about the guardrails on Anderson Avenue which he stated are in need of repair and that they are dangerous. Mr. Prisco also stated he is a disabled veteran and has to report his assessment, which he stated is not right, adding it is not income tax.

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

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 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 of the extended hours at the transfer station on Saturdays through mid-December. He also reported the new recycling contract goes into effect July 1, 2013 and that the City should recognized a good income. He also stated new stickers are forthcoming.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations:

Mayor Blake stated he hoped everyone had an enjoyable Passover/Easter. He also stated he would respectfully request the Board's consideration and action on items 8a-l and that he would be happy to answer questions as they come up. Mayor Blake stated he would defer to Pam Stanski and Hugh Cochran from the Milford Prevention Council for a special presentation.

Mr. Cochran thanked the Board for their time. He commented he as a mentor to Tom Parsons year ago and very proud of their work over the years. He stated he has been volunteering for over 30 years and he doesn't even live here in Milford. Mr. Cochran stated he is proud of the work of the Milford Prevention Council and invited members of the Board to attend one of their meetings.

Mrs. Staneski stated she is the co-founder of the Milford Prevention Council, adding the handout is part of their social campaign to get the word out. She went on to explain the history of the Milford Prevention Council, including the grant they received in 2009. She stated the message to the community is having control over drugs and/or alcohol. Mrs. Staneski stated they meet the second Wednesday of the month at 3:00 p.m. and extended an invitation for anyone to attend. She stated meetings are held at the United Way. She also asked the Board to mark their calendars for April 27, 2013 for drug take back day.

7. Unfinished Business

None.

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

8a. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the appointment of (R) Carol Dunn, 54 Creeland Avenue, 06460, as an alternate member of the Inland Wetlands Agency, to complete the unexpired term of (R) Michael DeGrego (appointed to the Board of Education) (Three-year term expiring 12/31/13). Motion carried unanimously.

8b. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the appointment of (D) David Rubenstein, 38 Bayshore Drive, 06460, as a member of the Police Commission, to complete the unexpired term of (D) Melvin Eisenhandler (resigned) (three-year term expiring 12/31/14). Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Vetro stated he would entertain a motion to re-order the agenda and bring forward items 8k and 8l.

Ald. Anderson and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to re-order and bring forward items 8k 8l.

8k. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the appointment of (R) Gregory Harla, 2 Anchorage Drive, 06460, as a member of the Economic Development Commission to complete the unexpired term of (R) Cyrus Settineri (resigned) (four-year term expiring 12/31/14). Motion carried unanimously.

8l. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the appointment of (U) Lily Flannigan, 38 Prospect Street, 06460, as a member of the Inland Wetlands Agency to complete the unexpired term of (D) Aaron Sanner (appointment to the Fire Commission) (three-year term expiring 12/31/13). Motion carried unanimously.

City Clerk Linda Stock swore in those present.

8c. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to amend the Revised Redevelopment Plan for the Army Repair Facility located at 26 Seemans Lane, adopted on May 4, 2009, to utilize the facility exclusively for storage of Homeland Security equipment/vehicles and other Emergency Management functions as described in the “Seemans Lane Army Building Proposal” as well as related activities for which a Public Benefit Conveyance (PBC) would be possible.

Mayor Blake pointed out the back up was contained in the aldermanic packet. He also stated there is a substantial amount of emergency management equipment stored there following storm Sandy. He stated Mr. Gregory was present for any questions. He also recognized Retired Army Colonel Gary Puryver (sp.).

Ald. German asked the square footage of the building.

Mr. Gregory stated it is 2.3 acres.

Ald. P. Smith asked who would control the building.

Mr. Gregory responded the fire department.

Ald. P. Smith asked if other departments would be able to store equipment as well, i.e. police department, animal control.

Mr. Gregory stated it would be the fire department.

Ald. P. Smith asked what type of costs would be involved.

Mayor Blake replied “nothing.” He stated they would continue for the foreseeable future for storage only.

Ald. P. Smith asked if there would be any communications that would need to be stored.

Acting Chief Healey stated no at this time. He also noted that animal control's trailer is stored at the fire department.

Ald. P. Smith asked about incorporating other resources.

Acting Chief Healey explained they are a Region II and that they respond to Orange. He stated if there were other Region II towns that wanted to use it they would.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if this amendment is passed how soon they City would take ownership.

Mayor Blake stated that would be up to BRAC.

Ret. Col. Puryver stated if this is passed tonight he would continue to work with the City. He stated it is likely the City could take ownership in the fall, but that there was some sponsorship concerns that needed to be addressed. He stated there is however, great interest in supporting this. He spoke of the storms and how hard Milford was hit. He reiterated it is very positive and that he would stay in contact with the Mayor and Mr. Gregory. He stated it is set up so that Milford can continue using it.

Motion carried unanimously.

8d. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the Agreement: Re: Replacement Bridge No. 00300 U.S. Route 1 over Wepawaug River, and to authorize the Mayor and Finance Director to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate this temporary construction easement.

Ald. P. Smith asked for an overview of the project.

Mr. G. Wassmer, City Engineer explained it would be replaced with 2 span bridge, replacement abutments, widening and adding sidewalks.

Ald. Shaw asked the start date of the project.

Mr. Wassmer stated it is an 18 month project.

Ald. Anderson commented he was glad to hear there are plans to install sidewalks. He noted for the record that there are sidewalks on the North side. He stated sidewalks are of public safety, even if they are of narrow width.

Ald. Nunno asked if there were any plans to increase the size of the culvert.

Mr. Wassmer stated that currently the culvert is blocked by sediment, but they are widening it somewhat.

Ald. Veccharelli asked if the time of the project after it starts is really 18 months, commenting that seemed like a long time.

Mr. Wassmer stated 18 months is only a guesstimate.

Ald. P. Smith expressed hope there would be a reasonable timeframe, recalling the project on Old Gate Lane, which took years. She stated it was important to keep an eye on this project.

Motion carried unanimously.

8e. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the request to authorize the acceptance of reimbursement from the State of Connecticut for test pits and engineering design for relocation of sanitary sewer force main in conflict with the replacement of Bridge No. 00300 U.S. Route 1 over the Wepawaug River, and to authorize the Mayor and Finance Director to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents to effectuate the reimbursement.

Ald. P. Smith asked if the City was simply acting as a pass through agent.

Mr. Wassmer stated the City did not have to pay up front and that it could be billed.

Mayor Blake explained the State was asking the City to use its own vendor. He stated this motion was just accepting the reimbursement as 100%.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if the City would be reimbursed if there is a problem with the reimbursement.

Mayor Blake stated they would either bill the State directly or Westcott and Mapes until the City is reimbursed.

Motion carried unanimously.

8f. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for acceptance of the policy for the Disposition of Electronic Equipment and to authorize the Mayor and MIS Director to take all steps necessary to effectuate the policy.

Ald. P. Smith asked if the Finance Department is involved in any of the net depreciable assets.

Mr. Erodici stated the financial impact is negligible.

Ald. P. Smith asked if the Finance Department signs off, if there could be an impact to the City.

Mr. Erodici explained it all goes through the Purchasing Agent.

Ald. F. Smith asked what they are doing with the items now.

Ms. Lasczak explained it is in a storage/holding area. She stated it is on the books until the equipment leaves the premises.

Mayor Blake commented there is a substantial amount in the storage rooms currently. She stated this policy would give the MIS Director the ability to determine what equipment is obsolete.

Ald. Giannattasio expressed concern there has been no breach of contractor services. He also stated he wanted to make sure the e-waste is properly disposed of. He asked who the new vendor is and if they are approved.

Ms. Lasczak stated she would have to check through Public Works who the vendor is.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he had concern approving something without knowing if it will be properly disposed of.

Ms. Lasczak stated they contracted with the State approved vendor and that she believes they are out of Hollister, MA.

Motion carried unanimously.

8g. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request per the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Board dated March 19, 2013, for the City of Milford to accept the donation of 0 Robert Dennis Drive, located on Map 108, Block 836, Parcel 66AA, of which York Estates Development Group, Inc. is the owner.

Ald. Bier asked if this parcel would require ongoing maintenance by the Public Works Department.

Mayor Blake explained the City requested this property because of the drainage project. He stated they need to gain an easement for a drainage pipe.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if this is a wetlands area.

Mr. Wassmer stated there is access at the end of Robert Dennis Drive. He stated there is wetlands and a detention base and that they would tie the drainage line into Robert Dennis off Burnt Plains Drive.

8h. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the SG System Bus Cooperative Agreement between Redflex Guardian, Inc. d/b/a Student Guardian and the City of Milford, and to authorize the Mayor and Chief of Police to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate the reimbursement.

Ald. P. Smith asked if he could provide him an overall explanation.

Chief Mello introduced Dana Meinke from Redflex Student Guardian.

Ms. Meinke went on to explain the packet distributed to the aldermen this evening. She stated the criteria for the program is based only on statutes on the books. She also pointed out the program would be funded by the issuance of tickets.

Chief Mello added the State's Attorney must be on board with the program and he is.

Chairman Vetro questioned if someone used his vehicle, which would get the ticket.

Chief Mello explained an investigation would be conducted through an investigation.

Ald. Bier asked if contested tickets were holding up in court.

Ms. Meinke responded yes, that there was a high rate of contested tickets being held up.

Chief Mello stated there is no cost to municipality. He also stated the program would be funded through the fines collected.

Chairman Vetro asked who would be doing the maintenance of the vehicle.

Ms. Meinke stated her company installs, monitors and does the trouble shooting.

Ald. Stanford asked the average amount of a ticket.

Ms. Meinke stated the fine for the State of Connecticut is \$450.

Ald. F. Smith stated it is his understanding Redflex does a wonderful job and there is a reduction of the number of vehicle violations, but his concern is that this is a revenue generating opportunity. He also stated it was worth noting they are all on camera. He stated it needs to be made clear the purpose is public safety and not profit.

Chief Mello stated he had the initial reluctance and also shared the same sensitivity.

Ald. Golden asked if it take a picture of the specific vehicle or all vehicles.

Ms. Meinke explained there is a motion detection video.

Ald. Nunno asked the cost of the 10 cameras.

Ms. Meinke stated the cost per unit is \$15,000,

Ald. Nunno commented it sounds like it could take time before the City sees any revenue.

Ms. Meinke stated that is incorrect, that the City would see revenue from day one.

Motion carried unanimously.

8i. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for waiver of bid on behalf of the Fire Department for work to be performed on the fire/rescue boat by Twin Lights as described in the Memo of Battalion Chief Daniel Wassmer and for an amount not to exceed the funding sawarded by the DEMHS Port Security Grant.

Ald. Nunno stated he wished to recognize Acting Chief Healey and asked if he could explain the scope of the work for \$15,000.

Acting Chief Healey essentially it is to repaint and sand the hull and cabinet. He also stated there would be some welding work.

Ald. Nunno asked why the thought was to go to an auto repair shop and not a specialist.

Acting Chief Healey stated it is mainly because of the aluminum hull. He stated those they contacted wanted nothing to do with the type of work and that time constraints also played a part. He stated this is a local company that is willing to do the work.

Ald. Nunno questioned why they were not using a boating specialist.

Acting Chief Healey reiterated, no one wanted to touch the work because of the tight quarters.

Ald. Anderson asked if the \$15,000 is covered out of the State grant the department recently sought approval for.

Acting Chief Healey replied yes, but explained they have to put the money up out front.

Motion carried unanimously.

8j. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement: Regional Tactical Response Vehicle.

Ald. P. Smith asked about shared resources.

Chief Mello explained the bear cat is a light carrier vehicle.

Ald. Giannattasio asked the value of the bear cat.

Chief Mello replied \$125,000.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if this is a shared program would Milford have access to the vehicle at a moment's notice.

Chief Mello explained if there were an incident, they would send someone to pick it up.

City Attorney Berchem noted he handed out at the beginning of the meeting the amended Hold Harmless Agreement.

Chief Mello thanked the City Attorney for all of his hard work in putting this agreement together.

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. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Budget Memo Transfers #6 and #7, Fund 10, FY13. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Refunds

(a) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$148,278.73. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report of Standing Committees:

a. Ordinance Committee – Ald. F. Smith reported the Committee met earlier this evening to consider one Ordinance and voted unanimously to forward to the full Board of Aldermen with a favorable recommendation.

Ald. F. Smith and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve An Ordinance Repealing And Substituting Chapter 20, Streets, Sidewalks And Public Places, Article III Openings And Excavations §20-61 (11) Of The Code Of Ordinances Of The City Of Milford (Permittee Regulations). Motion carried unanimously.

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 S 77 Plains Road, LLC v. City of Milford
Re: 77 Plains Road

14b. REMOVED.

14c. Consideration of settlement of Fifteen Research Drive v. City of Milford, et al.
Re: 15 Research Drive

He announced those going into Executive Session would be the full Board, Mayor, City Attorney and City Assessor.

Ald. Nunno and Ald. Bier made and seconded a motion to enter Executive Session to consider those items announced above by the Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 9:16 p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the meeting in public session at 9:25 p.m.

(14a) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to authorize the City to enter into settlement RE: S 77 Plains Road, LLC v. City of Milford, (77 Plains Road), in accordance with the recommendations of the City Assessor and City Attorney as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

(14b) REMOVED.

(14c). Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to authorize the City to enter into settlement RE: Fifteen Research Drive v. City of Milford, et al (15 Research Drive), in accordance with the recommendations of the City Assessor and City Attorney as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business to discuss, Ald. German and Ald. Nunno moved to adjourn at 9:27 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary