

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
BUDGET DELIBERATIONS SESSION – FY 2013-2014
APRIL 4, 2013**

The Board of Aldermen held a budget deliberation session on Thursday, April 4, 2013 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman Vetro called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. He stated today begins the budget process for the Board of Finance's proposed City and Education budgets for FY 2013-2014. He stated tonight was devoted to public comment and explained they would start with the City side of the budget followed by the Board of Education's budget. He stated time would be limited to three (3) minutes and those residents, taxpayers and electors may address the Board.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Anderson
G. Gasper
D. German
A. Giannattasio
J. Golden
R. Nunno
S. Shaw
F. Smith (7:12 p.m.)
P. Smith
G. Stanford
N. Veccharelli
R. Vitali

Also Present

Mayor B. Blake
S. Fournier, Mayor's Admin. Asst.

Absent

B. Bier
R. Dickman

Mayor Blake recognized the work that went into getting them where they are today and recognized the efforts of the Finance Department. He also stated he wished to address and correct misleading information that appeared in the New Haven Register today. He stated it is important the citizens of Milford know there is not a 10% increase in salaries. He stated it is still not clear to him what the article really was about, whether it was about the U2 Ordinance or something else.

Ald. Giannattasio raised a point of order. He stated it was not appropriate for Mayor Blake to address a newspaper article at this time.

Chairman Vetro ruled the Mayor was not out of order.

Ald. Giannattasio again raised a point of order. He stated tonight was a public hearing for the public to address the budget and not for the Mayor to address a news article.

Chairman Vetro stated he disagreed. He stated it was important for the Mayor to clarify for the citizens some misinformation.

Mayor Blake stated the raises would not exceed 2%. He stated several positions such as the Mayor and City Clerk received 0%. He also spoke of the recently settled union contracts which includes employees now contribute to their health insurance. He stated it was important the public understand the budget process.

Chairman Vetro stated they would now hear speakers regarding the City side of the budget.

B. Prete – 393 Woodruff Road – stated he is the Treasurer for Milford Progress, Inc. He stated he was here tonight in support of Chief Mello's proposal for SRO's in the schools. He referenced the letter that was sent supporting this. Mr. Prete also stated Milford Chamber is in support of this and sent a letter along to the Board of Aldermen as well. He stated as a parent himself as well as a property owner and businessman here in Milford he is in support of SRO's. He went on to speak personally about an incident which occurred at this business downtown.

L. Fucci – 136 Welches Point Road – stated April is autism awareness month. She spoke of the relationship of SRO's and autism, adding everyone wants safe schools. She stated if SRO's are put into schools that they receive special training for children with autism spectrum disorders. She continued reading from a prepared statement regarding autism spectrum disorders and how it impacts city and state budgets. She asked the Board to help make Milford a better and safe community for all.

A. Petrahai – 32 Orient Avenue – stated to the Board he believed earnestly with his heart that they are all doing a good job, but that they could do better. He spoke regarding Warnco who is leaving Milford, which will result in loss of many jobs. He also spoke regarding Chief Mello's request. He asked the Board to do a better job with some cuts. He also spoke of the addition of 4 new sports on the education side of the budget. He reiterated the Board is doing a good job, but asked them to please hold taxes. Mr. Petrahai stated the Board of Education needs to try harder as well. He asked the Board to think about the senior citizens when they vote.

J. Prisco – 11 Riverdale Road – stated he disagrees with one thing in the budget, the exterminator position in the health department. He stated it is too much money. He stated he appreciates the work of the Board and expressed his hope they would sharpen their pencil one more time.

C. Prete – 293 Woodruff Road – applauded the efforts of Chief Mello for trying to find a way to support the SRO's; and to Dr. Feser and Mr. Richetelli for their support and the benefits SRO's will provide for our schools and children. She also stated it was her understanding SRO's would be utilized on weekends and during the summer, which would be a benefit to our downtown area.

T. Beirne – 55 Bayshore Drive – stated it was a disgrace there were only 11 people in the audience tonight at a time when the Board of Aldermen were getting ready to consider a \$200M budget. He stated it is very unfortunate. He stated it is no one's fault but that of the people if we lose government, adding the purpose of government is to protect the people. Mr. Beirne stated there are a lot of reasons for the SRO program, but that people don't fully understand what that responsibility will be. He stated an SRO officer would help with problems in the school and also recognize issues of bullying. He added an SRO officer would be a friend to a child. He asked the Board to find the money for those SRO's, but commented it really should be a BOE financed program. He also asked the Board not to take away from the school and that it was all about the kids.

Chairman Vetro asked if there was anyone who wished to speak regarding the Board of Education budget:

J. Prisco – 11 Riverdale Road – he stated the budget is a little high. He asked the Board to do some homework, sharpen their pencils and see what they could come up with. He also commented regarding the vote of the Board of Finance and pointed out it is always the same ones that pass the budget every year.

A. Petrahai – 32 Orient Avenue – pointed out it was under Mr. Cummings and Mr. Richetelli that Simon Lake School was closed and that they were going to save money. He also spoke of the graphs providing details and spoke personally of his own school days. He commented you don't need to have a master's degree to pen a kid's mind. Mr. Petrahai stated it was important to educate the kids and make sure they know now to do the basics, reading and math.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to recess at 7:36 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Vetro stated the Board would stand in recess until April 22, 2013 when I would begin hearing from the City Departments.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary