

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
BUDGET DELIBERATIONS SESSION – FY 2017-2018  
APRIL 5, 2017**

The Board of Aldermen held a budget deliberation session regarding the Board of Finance's recommended budget for fiscal year 2017-2018, on Wednesday, April 5, 2017 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman Vetro called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. asking those present to join in saluting our flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. Roll Call**

**Board Members Present**

E. Beatty  
B. Bevan  
M. Casey  
A. Giannattasio  
J. Grant  
M. Hardiman  
S. Shaw  
F. Smith  
N. Veccharelli  
P. Vetro  
R. Vitali

**Also Present**

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake  
S. Fournier, Mayor's Admin. Asst  
P. Erodicti, Finance Director  
J. Rohrig, City Clerk

**Excused**

B. Anderson  
B. Bier  
D. German  
J. Golden

Chairman Vetro stated tonight begins the public portion of the budget deliberation process. He stated the Board would hear remarks from those present who wished to speak regarding the Board of Education's proposed budget, followed by the city side of the budget as recommended by the Board of Finance.

**Speakers regarding the Board of Education budget:**

L. Fucci – 418 Anderson Avenue – asked the Board to consider the impact of any reductions to the education budget. She stated public education is an investment in democracy. She also spoke of marching with the Foran High School band and saw firsthand community support and enthusiasm.

M. Brown – 67 Point Beach Drive – stated he was in support of the education budget as presented.

M. Hennessey – 35 Elaine Road – acknowledged there has been a decrease in enrollment but that she was in support of the budget presented and asked the Board not to cut it.

T. Marquis – 67 Point Beach Drive – asked the Board not to cut the budget for schools and preserve the arts, sciences and sports.

E. Pinsince – 11 Briggs Court – stated she was here to read a letter on behalf of Sara Bromley, 27 Norway Street, who was unable to attend. She read the letter expressing support of the education

budget and expressed her hope the Board would implement a budget that supports education. In her letter, Ms. Bromley stated she strongly believes in Milford Public Schools. Ms. Pinscinse also commented she is the parent of an 8 year old and is a teacher at Laurelton and asked for the Board's full support of education.

D. Cotton – 60 Corona Drive – commented he did not believe the Governor's cuts would come to fruition. He stated the mayor has put together a lean budget with limited increases this year and over the years. He expressed hope a plan would be put in place that would make sense to the city. He also commented there is a lot of uncertainty and asked the Board to put students first. He asked the Board not to cut the education budget.

J. Cervin – 3 Central Avenue - echoed the comments of the previous speaker. She stated there is nothing more important to the future of our city than our children.

K. Flannery - 41 North Street - support full funding of the board of education budget. She stated during a recent visit to Orange Avenue School they showed new teaching strategies being used in school that help students with critical thinking. She commented that people choose where they live based on the school system. She stated the proposed education budget is the lowest in 15 years. Ms. Flannery extended congratulations to Orange Avenue School and Pumpkin Delight School recipients of Schools of Distinction Award.

N. Osborne - 51 Lambert Drive – stated she is a former Foran High School student and came out tonight to speak on behalf of the arts program in the schools and how the arts education she received helped her in her life. She encouraged the Board to support arts education.

Chairman Vetro asked those who wished to speak on the city side of the budget to come forward.

#### **Speakers regarding the City budget:**

M. Brown - 67 Point Beach Drive – questioned the funding for Milford Progress.

L. Whittaker - 32D Shipyard Lane – stated she wished to advocate on behalf of the library. She spoke about the amount of activity that goes on at the library and how impressed she is with the programming as a community building. She encouraged the Board to consider carefully the budget during these challenging times, adding the library is a big part of what makes this city.

L. Sheehan - 135 Forest Road, Unit – stated she is an avid member of the Friends of the Library and asked the Board not to make cuts to the library budget.

E. Prinscinse – 11 Briggs Court - spoke regarding the library, which she considers to be the hub of a town and also an important factor when deciding where to live. She asked the Board to keep the library budget the way as is.

D. Cotton – 60 Corona Drive – stated he has been a resident the last 11 years. He expressed his appreciation for the work of the Board of Aldermen, Board of Finance and Mayor Blake who have

worked so hard to make Milford what it is and a place that people want to come to. He stated he is in support of the budget and city expenditures to make Milford livable.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to recess until April 10, 2017.  
Motion carried unanimously.

The Board recessed at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Kennedy  
Recording Secretary