

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 6, 2015**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, April 6, 2015 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman Vetro called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. Chairman Vetro asked those present to join in saluting our flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. He recognized State Representative Pam Staneski to lead the Pledge.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Bier
B. Anderson
M. Casey
D. German
S. Fontana
A. Giannattasio
J. Golden
M. Hardiman
D. Kubek
S. Shaw
F. Smith
G. Stanford
N. Veccharelli
P. Vetro
R. Vitali

Also Present

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake
Debra S. Kelly, Asst. City Attorney
S. Fournier, Mayor's Admin. Asst.
B. Peloso, Asst. City Clerk

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.

No speakers.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on March 2, 2015.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 2, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Special Meeting. None.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

Chairman Vetro stated he hoped everyone had a Happy Easter and Happy Passover.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations:

Mayor Blake wished everyone a happy spring. Mayor Blake also made the Board aware of the Mayor's appointment of (U) Ryan A. Keeler, 49 Dart Hill Road, 06460, as a member of the Milford Conservation Commission to fill the present vacancy (three-year term expiring 12/31/16). He asked the Board's consideration of items 8a-8g and that he would be happy to answer any questions that come up.

7. Unfinished Business

7a) Board of Aldermen approval is requested per the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Board dated February 4, 2015, for acceptance of the donation of a parcel of land known as "0" White Oak Road (Map 75, Block 922, Parcel 23).

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Board dated February 4, 2015, for acceptance of the donation of a parcel of land known as "0" White Oak Road (Map 75, Block 922, Parcel 23).

Ald. Anderson commented the Sewer Commission had an opportunity to review this parcel at its March 25 meeting and favor the acquisition.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

8a. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the appointment of (U) Sarah Tullo, 48 Clover Street, 06460, as an *alternate* member of the Board of Assessment Review to fill the present vacancy (three-year term expiring 12/31/17). Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Blake noted for the record this is an alternate position being appointed, which the agenda did not reflect.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Peloso, Assistant City Clerk swore in Ryan Keeler as a member of the Conservation Commission.

8b. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the City of Milford to submit an application for the Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement (DDHVE) Mobilization Grant and to authorize the Mayor, Chief of Police and/or City Attorney to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said grant.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he believed someone was present from the police dept to answer questions.

Mayor Blake recognized Capt Alexopolous.

Ald. Giannattasio asked the monetary amount of the violation.

Captain Alexopolous explained it is a staggered fee, which changes with the number of violations.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if the City would recognize those fees.

Captain Alexopolous stated by State statute it is 25%. He stated he believed it was paid on a quarterly basis.

Chairman Vetro asked if this was similar to what the state police recently began.

Captain Alexopolous replied yes. He stated it is similar to other municipalities. He stated the slogan is "You Drive, You Text, You Pay."

Ald. Veccharelli asked what exactly was meant by distracted driving, i.e. did it include driving while eating, drinking, putting on lip balm, etc..

Captain Alexopolous explained this program is specifically for hand held devices. It is not just distraction, but distraction with the use of a device.

Ald. Veccharelli asked about the use of a Bluetooth device.

Captain Alexopolous stated it was exempt.

Ald. Vitali asked if the focus was only on cell phones. He asked about other distractions such as someone driving with a dog on their lap, which is being looked into at the State level.

Captain Alexopolous explained the distracted driving law has to have a violation. He stated this request is specifically for someone holding onto their phone.

Ald. Golden asked if a cell phone could be held in one's hand, but with the speaker on.

Captain Alexopolous stated that would be a violation. He explained how the law would be administered.

Ald. Casey asked about the cost to the city, if it was overtime.

Captain Alexopolous stated it is overtime and reiterated it is 25%. He also noted there is a report that must be filed.

Ald. Fontana asked if the Sate was passing a specific statute for a dog in the lap, she asked if there would be an additional infraction.

Captain Alexopolous replied no.

Motion carried unanimously.

8c. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the City of Milford to accept the 2015 JAG Violence Crime Prevention Grant and to authorize the Mayor, Chief of Police and/or City Attorney to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said grant.

Ald. Giannattasio asked how the \$26,000 would be spent.

Captain Alexopolous stated there is a criterion that is spelled out in the grant and it must be used accordingly. He stated it is particular in that it allows them to purchase equipment i.e. computer, software, tactical, etc.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if it mainly for crime prevention.

Captain Alexopolous stated it is to improve police response, he read each of the categories.

Mayor Blake stated this is a grant the City receives every year, but it is less than last year.

Motion carried unanimously.

8d. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the Contract for Independent Employee Benefits Consulting for the City of Milford and Milford Board of Education and to authorize the Mayor, Human Resources Director, and City Attorney to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said agreement.

Ald. Fontana asked why they switched companies and the process that was used to choose this company.

Mayor Blake explained the City is looking at a host of vendors that provide services to the City and their effectiveness. He stated an RFP was put out. He stated he believed there were 9 applicants. The committee included the finance director, assistant city attorney, human resources director and the chief operations officer from the Board of Education. He stated previously the City paid almost \$150,000 for these services. Mayor Blake stated the package before the Board tonight includes services for \$80,000 for the first 2 years and \$85,000 for the third year.

Ald. German asked the name of the prior company.

Mr. Erodici stated the City has been with AON Hewitt for the last 10 years.

Ald. German noted there were two applicants that were less expensive then the company chosen.

Mr. Erodici stated it was not just price that the Committee looked at, but their level of service to the City.

Ald. German asked about the scope of work and the projected savings for the city.

Mr. Erodici stated he did not have projections as yet, but that preliminary preparations and negotiations had begun.

Ald. German stated before he could make a decision to vote on this he would think some type of projection would be in place.

Mr. Erodici stated AON would help with the transition and renewal which will take place in July. He stated they have had discussions regarding cost savings for health care costs. He stated the wheels have started turning, but they do not have exact projections.

Ald. Vitali stated there are no definitive measures, the bids were \$65,000-\$185,000 and no RFP included. He stated he would have liked to have seen the RFP, especially if they were expected to vote on this. He stated essentially they are voting in the dark as to what they are getting.

Mr. Erodici stated the RFP was published in November 2014. He stated he supported the RFP and that it was time to put it out there and look at other firms, especially towns that do a lot of municipal work. Milliman and the other firms had good reputations. He stated he believed this was a fresh perspective for the City and the initial cost is also less. He stated the folks at Milliman are very enthusiastic in working with Milford to get new ideas and a new perspective and see that they are doing the best for Milford.

Ald. Vitali reiterated this Board was being asked tonight to vote on something they had not seen,

Ald. Shaw asked if it was a unanimous decision to make this change and if there would be a cost savings to the City.

Mr. Erodici replied yes.

Ald. German expressed concern with the scope of work and asked if they would be handling pharmacy benefits as well.

Mr. Erodici replied yes. He also stated they are also willing to help with life insurance. He stated essentially they looked at employee benefits in general. He stated their assistance with the City of Milford would be similar to the work AON has been doing.

Ald. Smith commented it is difficult to speculate on the savings, but what they know is that the fees and the savings are there.

Mr. Erodici commented it really is a "no-brainer". He stated an employer needs the expertise of negotiating with these healthcare providers and pharmaceuticals. He reiterated it is like a fresh set of eyes. He stated the City's relationship with AON goes back 10-15 years and that it was fair and reasonable to go out for an RFP.

Ald. German stated he is in favor of searching out other firms, but questioned the amount of service the city would receive.

Ald. Vitali asked if there was a spreadsheet the Board could look at.

Mr. Erodici stated any member of this Board could go to the City's Purchasing Department to see the material.

Ald. Vitali asked if a spreadsheet could be created for the Board to show the vendors and what services they intended to provide to the city.

Ald. Vitali moved to postpone this item.

Mr. Erodici stated it would be reasonable to address requests to the firm and that they had done this.

Ald. Giannattasio seconded the motion to postpone.

By roll call vote, the motion to postpone failed 9 no (Anderson, Golden, Hardiman, Kubek, Shaw, Smith, Stanford, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 6 yes (Bier, Casey, Fontana, German, Giannattasio, Vitali).

Ald. Bier asked about the company's experience with other cities and Anthem.

Mr. Erodici stated the company's list of dealing with other municipalities in Milford is extensive.

Ald. Bier asked if the \$85,000 was a flat fee and that there would not be any add on services.

Mr. Erodici stated it is a flat fee and it would be frowned on to add on any extra services. He stated with AON the rates fluctuated each month.

Ald. Casey asked if the company was chosen primarily of their reputation.

Mr. Erodici replied yes. He also stated they have extensive experience with Anthem and in the private sector.

Ald. Giannattasio stated what he was hearing was the fees from AON are hiring and that they are not representing the city in their best interests. He asked why the Board was not notified that this would be going out to bid.

Mr. Erodici stated it fell under the professional services line item in their budget and therefore they went out to bid.

Mayor Blake stated the reason this item came before the Board is because the city is committing to a 3 year contract. He stated if there was no contract it would not have had to come before this Board.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he is concerned because it is less money and there is an expectation they would be doing more for less and that makes him skeptical. He recalled when Mayor Blake came into office and he attempted to do away with Anthem, citing it would be the same or better. Ald. Giannattasio stated with this change all he is hearing is its less money so it's worth it. He stated he could not support it.

By roll call vote the motion to postpone fails 9 no (Anderson, Golden, Hardiman, Kubek, Shaw, Smith, Stanford, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 6 yes (Bier, Casey, Fontana, German, Giannattasio, Vitali).

On the main motion, motion carried 9 yes (Anderson, Golden, Hardiman, Kubek, Shaw, Smith, Stanford, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 6 no (Bier, Casey, Fontana, German, Giannattasio, Vitali).

8e. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the city of Milford to submit an application for the attached Congestion Mitigation air quality (CMAQ) Program, including providing funding for the required local match, if any, and to authorize the Mayor, Public Works Director and/or City Attorney to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents to effectuate said grant. Motion carried unanimously.

8f. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the Resolution Re: State of Connecticut, Office of Policy and Management Transit-Oriented Development Planning Grant Program. Motion carried unanimously.

8g. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the Request for Proposals for the demolition and removal of an existing two story residential building, accessory structures, if any, and contents therein, located at 71 Ardmore Road and to authorize the Mayor, Chief Building Official and/or City Attorney to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate said demolition.

Ald. Giannattasio commented this item was not presented at their leadership meeting. He stated he has expressed concern about items come before the Board that are not presented at the leadership meetings. He stated because he was not aware of this item it was not discussed at his party's caucus meeting.

Mayor Blake stated this item was a late add on to the agenda by the City Attorney's Office. He stated aldermanic approval was required in the event the City needed to contract with a firm to demolish the structure. H spoke of the blight fund established by this Board. He also stated it would have to go out to bid to select the contractor to demolish this structure. Mayor Blake stated it is a residential structure the City acquired in foreclosure. He stated the chief building inspector deemed this building as structurally unsafe and an eye sore for the folks on Ardmore Road.

Ald. Bier asked what would happen to the land.

Mayor Blake stated the lien would continue and then it would go out for public auction similar to an auction coming up on Bittersweet Road. He stated these types of actions happen periodically and the City has been recouping the monies on the liens which would pay for the work associated with the demolition.

Ald. Vitali stated he wanted to clarify that the Public Works Department was not doing the demolition.

Mayor Blake stated they were not.

Ald. Vitali asked if this was a blighted property.

Mayor Blake stated the property was foreclosed on because of unpaid taxes, not blight.

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

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve Budget Memo Transfers #7 and 8, Fund 10, FY15.

Ald. Anderson asked if this transfer covers a shortage in that account.

Mr. Erodici replied yes.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Refunds

(a) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$6,377.71.

12. Report of Standing Committees:

- a. Ordinance Committee – no report
- 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. Vitali reported the new redistricting plan was voting on by the Board of Education and accepted. He noted some students were grandfather and that it was a complicated process, but it will go into effect in September.
- 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.
- s. Liaison – Milford Progress, Inc. – 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
Gap, Inc. v. City of Milford
RE: 1201 Boston Post Road, 1212 Boston Post Road, 1654 Boston Post Road
- 14b) Consideration of settlement of
SREF Pepe, LLC v. City of Milford
RE: 40 Pepe's Farm Road
- 14c) Consideration of settlement of
Stephen Berglass v. City of Milford
RE: 203 Kings Highway

Chairman Vetro announced those individuals entering Executive Session would be the full Board, Mayor, Assistant City Attorney and City Assessor.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to go into Executive Session for the matters announced above by the Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 8:37 p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the meeting in public session at 8:51 p.m.

14a. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to authorize the City to accept Consideration of Settlement of Gap, Inc. v. City of Milford, RE: 1201 Boston Post Road, 1212 Boston Post Road and 1654 Boston Post Road, in accordance with the recommendations of the City Assessor and Assistant City Attorney, as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

14b. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to authorize the City to accept Consideration of Settlement of SREF Pepe, LLC v. City of Milford, RE: 40 Pepe's Farm Road, in accordance with the recommendations of the City Assessor and Assistant City Attorney, as discussed in Executive Session.

14c. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to authorize the City to accept Consideration of Settlement of Stephen Berglass v. City of Milford, RE: 203 Kings Highway, in accordance with the recommendations of the City Assessor and Assistant City Attorney, as discussed in Executive Session.

Being no further business to discuss, Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden moved to adjourn at 8:53 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Kennedy
Recording Secretary