

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
BUDGET DELIBERATIONS
APRIL 11, 2007**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held a Budget Deliberations Session for the FY 2006-2007 on Wednesday, April 11, 2007 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman Beirne asked everyone present to stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

P. Beckwith
T. Beirne
B. Bier
B. Blake
V. Ditchkus
J. Garbus
B. Genovese
B. Lambert
J. Patterson (8:00 p.m.)
J. Politi
K. Rowland
J. Toohey
N. Veccharelli, Jr.
P. Vetro

Also Present

Mayor J. Richetelli, Jr.
J. O'Connell, Mayor's Admin. Asst.
A. Jepson, City Clerk
J. Doneiko, Finance Director
M. Lipton, City Attorney

Excused

M. Hardiman

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to come out of recess at 7:07 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Richetelli stated he wished to work with the Board as they begin their deliberations this evening. He stated the intent of all is to lighten the load of the taxpayer. He also stated he along with his administration and department heads also wish to work with the Board to lighten the load of the taxpayer and the purposes of these deliberations as they begin is to discuss the implications of possible cuts to their departments. He suggested to the Board if they are contemplating a cut to discuss it with that department head. He stated he has gone line by line with each department head and had discussions with regard to services, etc. He broke down where the increases in the budget come from explaining that about 94-95% come from areas they have little control over. He also spoke as to health insurance, workers compensation, pension, gasoline increases, etc. He reiterated his goal as is that of the Board is to lighten the load of the taxpayer.

4111 – Board of Aldermen

Mayor Richetelli stated this is the Board's account. He explained secretarial fees are for the Board's monthly meetings as well as a number of sub-committees of the Board of Aldermen. He stated to reduce secretarial fees you would have to reduce the number of sub-committees. He stated the other option would be to have the Board do their own minutes. He also stated the postage amount is as of December.

Chairman Beirne stated with every department they were looking to save 10%. He suggested cutting \$720 from this budget and they would find a way to get it done.

Ald. Blake asked about the request for chairs and asked who made that request.

Mayor Richetelli explained this building was renovated in 1986 and that all of the furniture in this building is 21 years old. He stated members of this Board have asked in the past to have the chairs in this room and in the caucus rooms replaced. He stated he did not feel it would be possible this year.

Ald. Blake asked who made the request.

Mayor Richetelli replied individual aldermen have asked over the years. He stated in the caucus room the springs are coming through some of the chairs and that they are in desperate need of repair and will have to be done or replaced at some point.

Ald. Blake suggested in the future this be one at a committee level.

Ald. Rowland asked what line items the \$720 would come from.

Ald. Veccharelli asked if they are in need of a secretary and don't have one if the Mayor was going to volunteer.

Ald. Lambert commented in response to the Mayor's comment that the Chairman of this Board would be unable to take minutes and also spoke as to legal issues. She stated she would not be in favor of doing away with the secretary.

Chairman Beirne stated it is the proposal the Chairman and the Board put forward.

Mayor Richetelli stated he wished to clarify it is not just the aldermanic secretary. He pointed out there are other standing committees such as Ordinance Committee, Special Committee, Public Safety, Claims, Permanent Schools, etc.

Ald. Toohey suggested they look under "Operational Expenses", line items 4775, 4783 and 4798 for reductions as well.

4112 – Elections

Mayor Richetelli deferred to the distinguished City Clerk, Alan Jepson.

Mr. Jepson commented as he has each year there are various factors, usually unknown that preclude the exact amount. He recalled this Board has had to make transfers in the past as they come up.

Mayor Richetelli added this past year they expended \$95,000 and that they had thought it would be \$85,000. He stated at the time this budget was printed the final numbers were not in. He also spoke of the affect a

primary has and added the upcoming fiscal year is a Presidential election year and that the \$65,000 could be slightly low.

Chairman Beirne asked if this budget was cut 10% if his department could live with it.

Mr. Jepson reiterated they just don't know what they will encounter.

4115 – Registrar of Voters

Chairman Beirne stated they were looking to shave 10% here as well.

Mayor Richetelli stated he did not know where our Registrar of Voters were and apologized on behalf of them. He stated the Registrar budget only went up less than a \$300 increase from last year and that the bulk of that comes in wages.

Ald. Beckwith asked if Mr. Jepson could explain overtime in that office.

Mayor Richetelli explained the overtime would come from the canvassing they are required to do by state law, which means keeping the office open later. He stated in addition, on Election Day the Registrars and staff are required to be at the polls early as well as training before an election and on the Saturday before Election Day.

Ald. Rowland asked the Chair if he would elaborate as to what specific line items he had in mind for cuts.

Ald. Ditchkus raised a point of order stating this was not the time to ask where they are actually cutting.

Chairman Beirne stated his questions is and will be throughout the night is if you were asked to reduce your budget 10% where could you do it.

Ald. Toohey commented there are questions that are being asked and they are not being give an opportunity to answer. She stated she would ask they look at overtime and address that and get back to them

Ald. Genovese reiterated what Ald. Toohey had stated. She asked they check overtime and seasonal overtime as these accounts are over what they should be and that they be told this.

4121 – Mayor's Office

Mayor Richetelli explained the increase in this budget is 2.8% and represents the increase in Regular Wages of 2.5%, which is what all city employees received. He stated there is no other increase except in "Gasoline & Propellents" and that is due to the supply due to increases. He also stated postage is up slightly which reflects the anticipated increase. He explained they Mayor's Office is responsible for several group, one being the Environmental Concerns Coalition. He stated they work out of the Mayor's office. He also pointed out various ceremonies come out of the Mayor's Office. He stated in "Operational Expenses" they reduced their costs and reduced their seasonal temporary. He also explained when the Mayor is out of the office; the Chairman is the acting Mayor per Charter and is required to be paid. He stated since he has been Mayor he has taken less than two weeks.

Chairman Beirne asked why there is a legal requirement to pay.

Mayor Richetelli replied it City Ordinance that requires the pay.

Chairman Beirne asked if the person could forego that pay.

Mayor Richetelli stated the proper way would be to donate it back.

Chairman Beirne commented when he has acted as Mayor, generally he is not in the office and basically he is on call. He stated he did not feel he should receive full time pay.

Mayor Richetelli commented it would be the Board's decision to look at the Ordinance and that this decision was made decades ago.

Chairman Beirne asked the Mayor if this department were given a budget 10% less could they do it.

Mayor Richetelli replied they would look at every item. He stated if it is the Board's desire to cut, his department would find a way, but there would be consequences. He stated he felt they run fairly lean and that his office includes himself, an assistant and two secretaries. He also spoke as to mileage and parking as well as travel and conferences and basically he does not go anywhere. He stated last year he went to Washington, DC to accept an award as one of 100 Top Cities. He explained with regard to publications, they receive the daily newspapers. He stated in "Office and Upkeep" they have a copy machine, fax machine. He stated it would be difficult, but if it were the desire of the Board they would do it.

Ald. Blake referred to Acct. 4331 and pointed out it went up over two times. He also noted they are bidding high-octane gas and asked if they were recommended to do that. He stated he thought they changed that this year and also asked if there would be a decrease.

Mayor Richetelli responded historically they have always purchased high-octane gasoline. He explained in the 1990's the police chief reported to the Public Works garage a "pinging" noise and it seem to happen with the lower octane gas. It was the manufacturers recommendation to go with the higher octane. He also explained they only bid gasoline once a year and until this year they have always made out well. He stated this past year they locked in at 2.90 which was the prevailing rate at the time and explained the difficulties with that and in addition it is a function of the bidding process. He stated he has had discussions with the Police Chief and Superintendent at the garage and they don't believe it will affect the current fleet of vehicles.

4122 – General Expenses

4123 – Community Development – Mr. R. Gregory was present to answer questions.

4155 – Economic Development Commission – Mr. R. Gregory was present to answer questions.

4129 – City Clerk – Mr. A. Jepson was present to answer any questions.

Ald. Lambert asked about Acct. 4778 0000 and asked if that accounts for a new system.

4131 – Law Department – Attorney M. Lipton was present to answer questions.

4132 – Ethics Commission – Chairman C. Robert Satti, Jr. was present for questions. Chairman Satti, Jr. stated they asked for considerably less this year.

4740 – Claims and Refunds – Attorney Lipton was present for questions. – None asked.

4133 – Probate Court – Ms. K. Liskiewicz was present for questions. She thanked the Board for their support.

Ald. Veccharelli commented their caseload had increased significantly.

4141 – Board of Finance – Mayor Richetelli commented this account is secretarial fees for monthly meetings and postage for items they may need to send out throughout the year.

4142 – Planning and Zoning – D. Sulkis, City Planner stated he had no prepared stated but would be glad to answer any questions.

4144 – Zoning Board of Appeals

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4145 – Pension Board – J. Boland, Personnel Director, stated he is here on behalf of the Pension Board.

Ald. Toohey asked about Acct. 4977 if that is their piece or out of the three departments.

Ald. Boland replied yes.

4146 – Flood and Erosion – no questions.

4147 – Tree Commission – no questions.

4151 – Civil Service – Mayor Richetelli stated the \$50 is to cover their temporary secretary.

4153 – Park, Beach and Recreation Commission – D. Worroll, Chairman stated the budget covers secretarial

4156 – Conservation Commission – no questions.

4158 – Inland Wetlands Agency – Ms. M.R. Palumbo, Compliance Officer and Mr. P. Fulco, Chairman were present.

4159 Fowler Memorial Commission – Ms. L. D’Amico was present.

Organizations. Motion carried unanimously.

4193 Public Library – Ms. J. Tsang and Ms. Telka de Fate were present on behalf of the Library Board. Ms. J.

4310 – Police Department – Chief K. Mello was present.

4340 Animal Control – P. Liptak, Director of Animal Control was present for questions.

4157 – Harbor Commission – R. Swift was available for questions.

Ald. Genovese asked about Acct. 4750 and the increase and asked why.

4610 Health Department – Dr. E. Dennis McBride was present. He stated they are on the same mark and noted

4998 Education Health Services/School Nurses – Dr. E. Dennis McBride was present – no questions.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Blake made and seconded a motion to recess at 9:16 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Board Secretary