

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
BUDGET DELIBERATIONS SESSION  
APRIL 14, 2011**

The Board of Aldermen resumed their budget deliberation session on Thursday, April 14, 2011 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. He asked those present to join in saluting our flag and reciting the Pledge of allegiance and to remain standing for a moment of silence for the men and women serving our country.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Bevan  
B. Bier  
B. Blake  
D. German  
F. Goodrich  
B. Joy, Jr.  
J. Patterson  
G. Smith  
P. Smith  
P. Staneski  
N. Veccharelli  
P. Vetro  
R. Vitali

Also Present

Mayor J. Richetelli, Jr.

Excused

M. Hardiman  
A. Giannattasio

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to come out of recess at 7:14 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

**4825 Beth El Shelter** – Toni Dolan, Executive Director was present for questions. She stated she also had with her several of her Board members. Mrs. Dolan stated the last two years have not been easy for anyone. She stated a lot of choices had to be made concerning non-profits. Mrs. Dolan told the Board this is the 30<sup>th</sup> year anniversary for Beth El Shelter. Mrs. Dolan went on to explain what the shelter does. She stated they have a 34-bed shelter, soup kitchen, meals to go and a no free shelter. She also pointed out they have assumed many of the responsibilities of the Red Cross. She also stated individual donations are down. She expressed her hope the city would continue to partner with them to ensure that those in need will not fall through the holes due to economic cuts.

Ald. Vitali asked what their total budget is.

Mrs. Dolan responded \$615,000.

Chairman G. Smith thanked Mrs. Dolan for all she and her staff do for the shelter. He announced there were two departments held over from the lat meeting, Fowler Memorial Commission and Patriotic Organization Association (MAPO).

4159 Fowler Memorial Commission – William Cates, President of MAPO was present. Mr. Cates stated they would like to combine the Fowler Memorial Commission and Patriotic Organization Association (MAPO). He explained that MAPO is for the procurement of flags for the veteran's graves.

Chairman G. Smith stated he is active with the VFW and previously sat on the Fowler Commission. He asked Mr. Cates if the budget were reduced if it would have an effect on the purchase of flags.

Mr. Cates stated they are sailing on uncharted waters here. He stated he did not expect there to be much of a problem combining the two budgets.

**4320 Fire Department** – Chief Louis LaVecchia, Battalion Chief William D. Healey and Captain Daniel DelVecchio were present. Chief LaVecchia stated Mr. Riso, Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioner was also present. He also stated before moving to his presentation he wanted to announce the department has a firefighter leaving for Afghanistan next week. Chief LaVecchia distributed a handout to the Board to follow along with his presentation. He stated the number the Board of Finance has recommended will be very difficult and will jeopardize the firefighters and public safety. He stated the monies they previously received for firefighter recruits are no longer coming to the department and that they will now have to pay full tuition. He also stated when he came before this Board concerning the new firehouse; he indicated it would bring the department to full standards. Chief LaVecchia went out to explain they have 8 dispatchers working 12 hour shifts. He stated if there is an opening due to vacation it is covered by a per diem or full time dispatcher. He continued page by page through the handout. He pointed out since 1996 they went from 5 to 7 dispatchers. He also explained the EOC position.

Ald. Blake stated the minimum manpower is currently 23 based largely on OSHA standards. He asked with the consolidation of the stations if the 23 person minimum manning could be adjusted.

Chief LaVecchia stated it is being changed and will go into effect January 2012. He explained it is 23 by contract, but 24 is what they have been staffing. He also noted they are recognized by ISO as having 24.

Chairman G. Smith asked the Chief to explain the difference with homeowners insurance and having the ISO certification.

Chief LaVecchia explained ISO is an independent company that rates fire departments. He explained there is a large savings to a large company and that a homeowner only received about a \$100-\$200 savings.

Ald. P. Smith asked if they were compliant based on the current head count and NFPA.

Chief LaVecchia responded yes.

Ald. P. Smith asked if they would have any problem manning the second rescue truck.

Chief LaVecchia stated they would be fine.

Chairman G. Smith stated he has a long family history with the fire department. He complimented the chief on the fabulous job they were doing. Chairman G. Smith also pointed out the reduction of two firefighters and a

dispatcher. He stated as aldermen looking at the budget, they need to look at this proposal to reduce. He asked how the consolidation will affect the levels of firefighting.

Ald. Vitali referred to the Chief's comment regarding a plan to absorb the cuts and asked if he has a plan.

Chief LaVecchia stated he was on vacation when he initially learned he would need to cut. He stated at this time he does not have a plan, but there are places he could cut, but he would like the opportunity to do that.

Ald. Joy referred to the rescue/dive and hazmat overtime, noting that Stratford and Fairfield also have these types of teams and asked what they do and if they could combine efforts.

Chief LaVecchia stated when those times have an incident they call Milford. He stated Greenwich and Fairfield have a regional team. Chief LaVecchia pointed out that Milford has a very active shorefront and that a primary function is water rescue.

Ald. Joy asked if any of the other departments were Class 1.

Chief LaVecchia stated that Class 1 deals strictly with firefighting.

Ald. Joy asked if there is a regional hazmat team.

Chief LaVecchia responded yes, stating Milford belongs to it. He stated the funding for equipment comes from the region.

Ald. Joy asked if Fairfield and Stratford have dive rescue teams.

Chief LaVecchia stated Bridgeport Police Department has a dive team, as well as the State.

Ald. Joy asked how many towns have both fire and police water rescue.

Chief LaVecchia replied there are a few and mentioned Norwalk and Old Saybrook.

Ald. Joy asked about the 6 positions of battalion chief and captain.

Chief LaVecchia stated the battalion chief is the shift commander and went on to explain the four platoons, how they alternates days and nights and on/off. He also stated there are 4 line captains and 4 day captains.

Ald. Joy asked the Chief to start putting together a plan since he did not see much monetary help coming from the State.

Ald. Staneski asked the Chief to provide a shift schematic as to who is on/off. She also asked for a list of all the grants they have received and how it has helped the fire department.

Chief LaVecchia stated he could provide that.

Ald. Staneski asked how the loss of positions would be covered. She also asked if that meant staffing levels would drop to 23.

Chief LaVecchia stated the positions would be covered by overtime. He also stated the current staffing is 24.

Ald. Blake asked the average number of retirements per year. He stated in the past the Chief has stated it is about five.

Chief LaVecchia stated that has come to a halt. He stated retirements tend to run in cycles and that they now have a much younger department.

Ald. Blake asked how much money would be left in the regular wages account and transferred to the overtime account.

Chief LaVecchia replied it was too early to tell where they will be. He stated there is a fixed number in vacation, but sick and injured are unknown. He stated part of overtime is due to paramedic training.

Mayor Richetelli elaborated concerning Ald. Blake's question. He explained when there is money in regular wages; a transfer takes place only when there is a vacancy. He stated the same applies to the police department.

Chief LaVecchia followed up stating they are at full staff with the exception of the one position. He stated it is the vacation and relief account when they fall below minimum manning. He stated that account is also used if a paramedic goes to school.

Ald. Blake asked about the three individuals on worker's compensation.

Chief LaVecchia explained the light duty policy they instituted for both workers compensation and light duty.

Ald. Blake asked about workers compensation reimbursement.

Mayor Richetelli stated it is a 2/3.

Ald. Goodrich commented in doing the math, with 8 dispatchers, switching to 8 hr shift, covering 3 shifts that every dispatcher would have one day off every 7 days.

Chief LaVecchia responded that was corrected. He also stated the department would be losing an Incident Scene Safety Officer.

Mayor Richetelli pointed out the department currently does not have a safety officer, but they had planned on putting one on.

Chairman G. Smith asked what happens when a third call comes in and two dispatchers are handling another call.

Chief LaVecchia stated that is more likely to happen in a highly populated area. He explained there are times when several people are calling in for the same incident.

Ald. Patterson asked if they would see a reduction in overtime with the implementation of the full time rescue truck.

Chief LaVecchia stated he did not foresee a reduction in that account.

Ald. Bevan asked for an explanation of the overtime account and how there could be a savings.

Chief LaVecchia overtime comes from above minimum manning. He stated the vacation/relief is below minimum manning, which is straight time. He stated the only time a firefighter received time and a half is when they work over a certain number of hours during a 28 day period cycle. Chief LaVecchia reiterated if cuts are to made that you allow him to do it in a planned manner that meets the needs of the city.

Ald. Vetro commented the job of the alderman is to make the budget work. He stated to do that they have to look at each department. He stated he does not like the idea of anyone on this Board thinking they can run the fire department. He stated he believed that was their job. He stated as aldermen they need to limit spending in all departments and come up with a balanced budget.

Chief LaVecchia stated for the record that he himself is a taxpayer, as is his mother and four of his children. He applauded the aldermen for their work and asked that they allow him to put a plan in place.

Ald. Gianattasio asked if since the cut the Chief is only going with what has been prepared.

Chief LaVecchia stated he did not believe a plan could be implemented with this budget. He also stated he believed some of it would require negotiations.

Ald. Giannattassio commented to the best of his knowledge he does not dictate actual positions or cuts. He stated he was under the impression the reduction was doable.

Chief LaVecchia stated under the contract it may be, the question is if it will meet standards. He stated it may not and could affect firefighter safety.

Ald. Giannattasio stated it was his understanding the department does not have a safety officer and that it was a position the department was looking for with the consolidation. He pointed out in the handout it specifies a safety officer, which the department does not have.

Chief LaVecchia stated the Incident Commander is considered the Safety Officer until he delegates the positions.

Ald. Bier asked if this Board approved the Board of Finance recommended budget, if there would be “pink” slips.

Chief LaVecchia stated they have one open position, so yes, a pink slip would go to a firefighter and a dispatcher.

Mayor Richetelli state it is the goal of the City to minimize the number of people that actually lose their jobs. He stated they are making every effort to o it through attrition and reiterated the city's goal is to minimize the number of people actually losing their jobs.

Ald. Bier stated he was not clear.

Mayor Richetelli stated if the Board approved the Board of Finance's recommended budget, there currently is one firefighter position vacant. He stated it is his hope they can work with the union.

Ald. German asked about energy efficiency measures and what the department has done. He also asked if there new building would be green and more efficient.

Battalion Chief W.D. Healey stated they have taken many steps toward efficiency. He stated the new station will have motion sensor light switches; equipment would be tuned up, etc. He also stated they are working with Tom Ivers. He explained the changes made when Station 8 opened.

Ald. Veccharelli thanked the chief for coming in with the budget he did and asked him to look it over to see what else could be done. He agreed with the comments of Ald. Vetro that this Board gives "x" amount of dollars that each department has to work with. He also spoke concerning the dispatcher position and stated he did not see that position being eliminated. He stated as someone who has done that position, he know firsthand the amount of work. He also commented there is not a lot of fat in the fire department and expressed his hope an alternative could be found to save the firefighter position.

Ald. Staneski referenced p. 57 of the budget book and asked for clarification regarding the firefighter positions.

Chief LaVecchia stated they originally asked for two firefighters that were cut.

Ald. Staneski spoke regarding the dispatcher position and commented whether this Board upholds the Boar of Finance cut she would like to know if there would be one or two dispatchers.

Chief LaVecchia stated there will be times when there will only be one.

Ald. Staneski asked how long the firefighter position has been open and where the dollars go.

Chief LaVecchia stated the position has been open since October. He stated usually those dollars go to overtime to fulfill overtime. Chief LaVecchia went on to explain the rest of the handout.

**4331 Civil Preparedness** – Chief LaVecchia was present for questions.

Ald. Blake asked if the fire department had negotiated a new contract with zero increase.

Mayor Richetelli stated negotiations have just begun.

**4805 CMED** – Chief LaVecchia was present.

Mayor Richetelli reported he was recently notified that the city's share of the amount will be going down.

**4360 Lighting, Hydrants, Water** – Chief LaVecchia was present. He stated the water authority was proposing an increase, but that they did not have any further information at this time.

**4340 Animal Control** – Rick George, Animal Control Officer was present. He stated his budget is relatively transparent and like everyone else their costs have gone. He cited such items as veterinary costs, food, chemicals and supplies, etc. He stated the rabies account is just about out of money and they have less than \$1,000 in medical fees. He stated his department is also involved in eviction cases and cases of hoarding. He explained in an eviction, 80-85% of the time animals are involved. He asked the Board to not make any further cuts to the department. He stated they are at a place where they just can't afford any further costs.

Ald. Staneski asked about the volume of calls now that they are working with Orange and also the workload on the employees.

Mr. George stated he did not believe the agreement had gone through, but that he expected a smooth transition.

Ald. Staneski asked in the case of an animal with rabies, if they are quarantined.

Mr. George explained the variations between a wild animal and humans. He explained in the situation of feral cats they are given a rabies inoculation. He stated every year they run a low cost rabies clinic and noted this year it is May 7.

Ald. Staneski asked about evictions and hoarding and how many animals are involved on an average and also the length of stay of an animal in these types of situations.

Mr. George spoke about a case where there were 13 animals involved. He explained they would house those animals for about a year. He stated the average for dogs is 5-10 dogs at any time in the kennels. He pointed out they don't have a lot of roaming dogs and that they have a good adopt-a-dog program.

Ald. Vetro asked about line item 4978 0703 Mower. He asked why public works does not mow their lawn.

Mr. George stated they do not mow. He stated a part of the reason is that it is contractual. He also pointed out they have a substantial piece of property. He stated there are also some health concerns with the droppings.

Ald. Joy asked about animal food running low.

Mr. George stated their accounts are low, but that they do receive a fair supply of donated food. He stated people are also having tough times and that they come to the shelter and get food. He stated that supply is running low.

Ald. Blake asked how much additional revenue is generated from pound pouches, etc.

Mr. George stated it is around \$4,000, but that they have specified funds. He explained those types of funds.

Chairman G. Smith stated the Milford/Orange agreement is a new thinking and that he believed the Board would be discussing it at a future Board of Aldermen meeting. He thanked Mr. George for all he does and mentioned his level of volunteerism in the Milford community which is not related to the animal shelter.

The recessed at 9:08 p.m.

Chairman G. Smith reconvened the Board in public session at 9:15 p.m.

**4157 Harbor Commission** – Ray Swift, Harbor Master was present. He stated all indications are it will be a good season, with reservations filling up. He stated the mooring fields are getting filled in. He stated two unknown are the cost of fuel and donation levels.

Ald. Blake asked when the dredging that was just bonded by the aldermen would take place.

Mr. Swift thanked the Board for that funding. He stated they samples were taken two weeks ago and if everything falls into place the work could get done between October and January.

Ald. P. Smith asked about the schedule for the town dock.

Mayor Richetelli stated permits have been submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection. He stated if all goes well the project should go to bid by June with construction by July.

Ald. Giannattasio thanked Mr. Swift for always making the place look great.

Mr. Swift stated it is a great place to stay. He stated they get about 1,200 boats with double the number of people who visit the harbor.

**4610 Health Department** – Dr. McBride, Mrs. Joan Cagginello, Nurse Administrator and Laura Miller were present. Also present from the Board of Health were Constance Young and Ernest Judson. Dr. McBride distributed a handout to the Board. He stated there are two major concerns for the health department and that he would address these in two parts, first regarding the elimination of the sanitarian position and second, the school/public nurse. He deferred to Dr. Young, Chairman of the Board of Health for a statement.

Dr. Young stated the City is fortunate to have a wonderful health department. She went on to speak regarding the sanitarian and school nurse positions. She also explained the role of a nurse in today's school, which is not atypical.

Dr. McBride continued, explaining the handout and what would happen if the sanitarian and nurse positions were eliminated.

Ms. Miller described what a sanitarian does. She stated with the anti-blight code enforcement Ordinance that went into effect in 2009 it has added greatly to the duties of a sanitarian. She stated there are also temporary food events as well. She explained the review process for a temporary event, which includes the menu review and food handler training sessions.



Mr. Judson added that sanitarians wear more hats than any other city employees. He stated the elimination of the sanitarian position will impact new restaurant applications and blight call investigations. He also stated the health department is one of the best in the state and that this department takes the lead in disaster planning. He asked the Board not to cut those two positions.

Dr. McBride stated his concern is the erosion of a quality of life that sanitarians bring forward. He stated they do a great job at what they do.

Ald. Bevan asked if there are currently four sanitarians.

Dr. McBride responded yes. He stated they have 4 sanitarians, plus Ms. Miller who is a certified sanitarian.

Ald. Vitali asked if the numbers of the carts (handout) were actual confirmed blight enforcement.

Dr. McBride stated it is hard to put numbers on it, but they have more responses than previously.

Mr. Judson stated there are 216 blight investigations.

Ald. Vitali asked if every "dot" on the chart represents a call.

Dr. McBride stated the black dots represent a complaint, he stated the other dots are actual confirmed blight.

Ms. Miller stated there were 526 environmental complaints and 216 blight calls.

Ald. Vitali asked the number of restaurants and number of kitchens in the city.

Dr. Young responded 372.

Ald. Vitali asked if there are other kitchens.

Dr. McBride stated there are 300+ that have various levels of food services. He stated there are other food inspections, i.e. temporary events. He also pointed out the nature of restaurant inspections changes. He stated inspections are hand and glove with economic development.

Ald. Giannattasio commented a sanitarian is not only enforcement, but education and asked why the staff would not be a part of that support.

Dr. McBride stated education is onsite. He stated if the sanitarian sees something he must deal with it at the time.

Ald. Giannattasio asked Ms. Miller if she is in the office or the field.

Ms. Miller responded both.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if a sanitarian position were lost if Ms. Miller could work in the field.

Ms. Miller stated that would depend on how Dr. McBride wished to realign the office.

Dr. McBride added it would mean something would not get done.

Ald. Giannattasio asked about the red dots on the charts.

Ms. Miller explained whether a violation is issued, they investigate and actions can vary.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if there is staff support with the complaints as well.

Ms. Miller stated they have a very busy office.

Ald. Staneski asked if other staff in the office is paid through grants. She also asked how the sanitarians interact with the Animal Control Department. She also asked if any of the sanitarian positions were paid through grants; and finally she asked if the red dots shown on the handout were for environmental complaints.

Dr. McBride stated the dots were taken from formal complaints. He stated actual complaints are not shown on the map.

Ald. Staneski stated she was trying to get an average estimate as to time.

Dr. McBride stated a blight inspection can take anywhere between 4-8 hours. He stated they need to be meticulous and document as much as possible.

Ald. Staneski asked if any of the sanitarian positions are through grants.

Dr. McBride responded no.

Ald. German asked the average number of calls for a sanitarian on a typical day.

Dr. McBride responded about 5 calls a day.

Ald. Veccharelli asked how many years they have had the four sanitarians.

Dr. McBride stated it has been about 9 years.

Ald. Veccharelli commented he realized it was important to cut costs, but these cuts were concerning. He also commented how the health department of today has changed.

Ald. Patterson echoed the comments of Ald. Veccharelli. He stated he has been involved in many of those temporary events and thanked the department for all they do.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if temporary events need a permit to get an inspection.

Dr. McBride stated some don't require an inspection.

Ald. Blake stated he has received many calls regarding the proposed cut of a school nurse.

Dr. McBride stated he would continue his presentation of the handout concerning the school nurse position and deferred to Mrs. Cagginello.

Mrs. Cagginello explained the handout and the effects of cutting the school nurse position.

Ald. Blake asked about the fall back.

Mrs. Cagginello stated she has had discussions with Sue Kelleher, Board of Education. She stated out placing a student is very expensive.

Ald. Vitali asked if there are institutions that have requirements.

Mrs. Cagginello stated at Platt Tech the nurse is paid by the State. She stated at Boys and Girls Village, they provide their own nurse; and at the Center for Child Development, the city provides a nursing consultant.

Ald. Vitali stated for clarification that there will be one school that will be without a nurse for two hours.

Ald. Staneski stated for the record that she will not vote for the elimination of a school nurse position. She referred to the PJ settlement and spoke at length about what a school nurse does.

Mrs. Cagginello stated one on one nursing can cost up to \$75,000 and out placing a student the district even more.

**4801 Council on Aging** – Janice Jackson, Director and Mary Ann Herman were present. Ms. Jackson provided a statement as to what the center does. She stated they provide 42,306 rides, which is up 7%, they have 427 new members, which is up 54%, 12 full time employees, 26 part time employees, 13 teachers, 80 volunteers, 1 twelve passenger van, 1 seven passenger van and 1 Crown Victoria automobile. She stated they also have 3 fourteen passenger vans, 2 meals on wheels vans and 1 food bank van. She also stated 88% of their budget is from the grant the City provides.

Ald. German asked for a list of the statistics provided by Ms. Jackson.

Ald. Veccharelli asked Ms. Jackson how the Board of Finance cut would impact the department.

Ms. Herman stated they were cut to the funding level of 2006-2007. She stated they would continue to tighten their belts, but they were really not sure at this point how they would handle it.

**4802 Regional Mental Health** – Claire Phelan, Regional Chairperson and Christy Barber, Executive Director. Mrs. Phelan stated she hoped the Board had received the packet she sent out. She went on to explain some background about the Regional Mental Health. She stated they were developed in legislation almost 40 years ago. She stated Milford's share of the budget is \$3,000, about .6 per capital. She thanked the Board for the years of support.

Ms. Barber stated she appreciated being here tonight and that she too appreciated the support of the Board and Milford. She stated they have many dedicated volunteers. She stated she reports to the Mental Health and Addiction Services. Ms. Barber stated they also provide the Tom Parsons Day and explained that Tom Parsons was a very strong advocate of mental health.

Ald. P. Smith asked if any of the 36 towns were having any problems paying their portion.

Ms. Barber stated they receive full participation.

**4813 Bridges** – Claire Phelan, Chairman of the Board and Barry Kasden, President and CEO were present for questions. Ms. Phelan stated they began as a small agency in 1957 serving several hundred and now they serve over 7,000. She stated the services are supportive and provide a great help to our Milford residents. She stated many would live in disrepair without the services Bridges provides. She stated the faces served by Bridges are known to all. Ms. Phelan stated she wished she had the solutions for the fiscal dilemma, but she doesn't. She thanked the Board for its years of service.

Mr. Kasden provided the Board with basic information about Bridges. He also went on to explain why a cut of \$13,188, although small, would impact services. He stated the need here in Milford will not be met with a cut like the one by the Board of Finance. He stated they will have waiting lists; they will have short evaluations with 25 families or more. He also pointed out they are the only full service mental health facility in the area. He stated they also bring services to Milford that are funded by Federal government, but that Milford residents can use. He also stated they have after hours 24/7, they are the only agency in the area that provide bi-lingual services, they provide services through the schools, they have a full medical department, with a psychiatrist and psychiatric nurses on staff, they provide large residential support, approximately 110, they are the only provider that has integrated health services into its plan, they provide case management, location services, medical presentation care. He stated each week they have 1,688 requests for services (65 calls a week), which is up 40%. Mr. Kasden stated in March alone they had 77 calls a day. He also mentioned the walk-in clinic and also stated they are currently open 4 nights a week, which would likely change. He stated they would have a deficit of \$150,000 deficit by the end of this year. Mr. Kasden stated they project the State will cut them by 10-15%. He stated any support the City can provide by reinstating some of those dollars cut by the Board of Finance would be helpful.

Ald. Staneski asked Mr. Kasden if they partner with Beth El.

Mr. Kasden stated they partner with regard to referrals. He explained they are a local mental health facility.

Ald. Staneski asked referrals to other agencies. She also asked if they work with insurance agencies.

Mr. Kasden replied yes. He stated they refer outside, but many times they can't find anything.

Ald. Staneski asked about insurance agencies.

Mr. Kasden replied yes. He stated they have a large sophisticated system. He stated they also work with husky insurance. Mr. Kasden explained they are a licensed nationally accredited agency and for every city dollar they receive they bring in \$34.00. He emphasized Bridges is a very important part of this community. He stated there is no savings in taking \$13,000 from their budget, but without it, it will cost families here in Milford.

Ald. Blake asked if Milford's contribution amounts to 13%.

Mr. Kasden replied yes. He added they don't use those funds to subsidize elsewhere.

**4817 Human Services Department** – Lisa Diamond Graham, Director and Melissa Dubiel, Administrative Assistant were present. Ms. Diamond Graham stated she would be happy to answer any questions from the Board.

Ald. Staneski asked if the reduction they have received from the Board of Finance would take into account the extras cost they had requested a few months ago for insurance costs.

Mayor Richetelli stated the amount requested and recommended reflected the amount needed for extra benefits. He stated the amount the Board of Finance recommended would be services that would have to be cut.

Ms. Diamond Graham explained the history behind the recent Ordinances.

Ald. Veccharelli asked if the amount cut by the Board of Finance would give them enough to cover costs.

Ms. Diamond Graham replied no.

Ald. Veccharelli asked how it would affect the department. Would it be services, etc.

Ms. Diamond Graham said she was not sure as yet. She stated it would not cover the benefits for the full time employee.

Ms. Dubiel spoke to the projected insurance increase. She also stated they have mandated step increases and also what they project they believe will be salary increases.

Ald. Goodrich commented as to health insurance and benefits.

Ald. Vetro stated he would be in full support of the budget as requested by the department.

**4811 Borough of Woodmont** – Ed Bonesi and C. ("Kit") Schmeisser were present. Mr. Bonessi stated for the record they are not an agency. He stated they were here tonight to get back about 4%. He stated they agreed to the amount last year knowing they would use up their reserve monies. He stated with a grant of \$210,000, it would not work, neither would \$200,000.

Mr. Schmeisser explained they rely on a rebate of their tax monies to pay for their services such as lighting, snowplowing, street repair, etc. He stated by the end of next month or so they will run out of money for municipal work. He also stated if they have a winter next year like this past winter they will be in trouble. He went on to explain how they have been spending down their reserves and asked the Board to understand that it takes time to save up for major projects. He implored the Board to restore the monies and then some.

Ald. German asked the amount they are over in their snow removal budget.

Mr. Schmeisser responded it is about 30%.

Ald. German commented the roads in the Borough really do take a beating. He also commented Woodmont is not only a gem for Milford, but for the State of Connecticut as well.

Ald. Vetro asked how much the Borough has lost in grants since 2007.

Mr. Schmeisser explained the handout given to the aldermen.

Ald. Bevan commented last year the Borough put sand on the beach and on the city side as well. He asked if they received reimbursement from the City.

Mr. Bonessi responded yes, but not for the City side. He explained the City was not able to pay for their portion. He went on to explain the process.

Mr. Schmeisser added the bottom line is they are asking that they be funded enough to get what other residents in the city get.

Ald. Bevan asked about storm drains and if the DEP monitors them.

Mr. Schmeisser explained they are part of the City program.

Note: Ald. Goodrich left at 12:15 a.m. He apologized, but stated due to the late hour he was leaving.

**4121 Golf Commission** – Dan Worroll, Vice Chairman was present. He explained the budget is very simple in that it is revenues/expenditures and that they equal out. He explained the four major line items. He also reported they averaged 30-33,000 rounds during the year and that they donate \$30,000 to open space. He also noted they recently purchased a second golf cart and that it is working out quite well.

**4812 Transit District** – Henry Jadach, Executive Director was present for questions. He stated his department is facing all the same hurdles as other departments with increased workers compensation, medical insurance, etc. he stated they have done very well over the last two years on budgets, but this year fuel is a real concern. He spoke about the coastal line, which is the most popular service. Mr. Jadach also reported they finally will be opening a hub at the mall. He stated the money the city gives them is well used and also serves as a good bargaining tool applying for and receiving State grants.

Ald. P. Smith asked Mr. Jadach if he has seen an increase in ridership.

Mr. Jadach stated yes, in the coastal link.

Ald. P. Smith referred to the Capital Plan and asked about equipment.

Mr. Jadach stated they have two 40' coaches, 3 ADA vans, they constructed the hub at the mall, they rehabbed the lot at High Street and installed electronic fare boxes.

Ald. Vetro asked how he would absorb the approximate \$7,000 reduction.

Mr. Jadach stated they work hard and have accomplished savings in some areas. He also stated they have changed their health care, which resulted in some savings. Mr. Jadach also reported the unions have agreed to give some concessions. He stated they would make every effort to figure it out and make it work.

Ald. Vitali asked about fares.

Mr. Jadach replied bus fare is \$1.25; van is \$2.00 each way. He explained the fares are subsidized by the City and State. He stated no city funds are used for parking, which is \$150 for 6 months, \$275 for 1 year and \$5.00 daily.

Ald. Bier asked about the railroad station shuttle.

Mr. Jadach explained there are several areas, North Milford, Wheelers Farm and back to the station.

**4816 Milford Flotilla** – Mike Gabriel was present for questions. He thanked the Board for all their support in the past.

Chairman G. Smith asked how the reduction to their proposed budget would affect them.

Mr. Gabriel responded they are grateful for whatever they receive.

**4826 Boys & Girls Club** – Meghan Altomare was present for questions. Ms. Altomare read a letter from one of the children that attend Boys & Girls Club. She then went on to give a brief history of the club which opened in 2008. She stated approximately 100 youths attend every day. She stated there is one full time employee and 6 part time employees.

Ald. P. Smith noted one of their other programs is the community outreach program and that several kids helped out with the Wildermere Beach cleanup.

Ald. Staneski asked how the Board of Finance's reduction would impact their program.

Ms. Altomare stated most of their expenses are salary for staff. She stated it will be difficult, but they would try to find it elsewhere. She reiterated it would be very difficult.

Ald. Bevan and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to recess at 12:45 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber  
Recording Secretary