

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
BUDGET DELIBERATIONS SESSION
APRIL 20, 2009**

The Board of Aldermen resumed their budget deliberation session on Monday, April 20, 2009 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman Blake recognized Dick Austin from the Borough of Woodmont and asked him to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Bier
J. Blacketter
B. Blake
V. Ditchkus, Jr.
A. Giannattasio
M. Hardiman
S. Manning
R. Nunno
J. Patterson
J. Rosen
J. Toohey
N. Veccharelli
P. Vetro
R. Vitali
S. Willey

Also Present

Mayor J. Richetelli, Jr.
L. Bull DiLullo, Mayor's Admin. Asst.
A. Jepson, City Clerk

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Toohey made and seconded a motion to come out of recess at 7:11 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

4320 Fire Department – Chief Louis LaVecchia, Assistant Chief Daniel Johnson, Battalion Chief Alan Zingaro and Battalion Chief William D. Healey were present. Chief LaVecchia recognized Chairman Riso from the Board of Fire Commissioners. Chief LaVecchia stated they had a presentation tonight for the Board but first wished to point out some facts. He stated the Milford Fire Department was the first chartered fire department in the State of Connecticut. He explained the background of the uniform worn by the men tonight and how proud they are to wear this uniform as well as being proud of the department and of this City. Chief LaVecchia also recognized Captain Christopher Zak from the department's Training Office who was operating the PowerPoint tonight. Chief LaVecchia stated the Power Point presentation follows along with the handout and the budget book.

Ald. Bier asked what a fire call was compared to an EMS call.

Chief LaVecchia responded it is a service call such as a lockout, water in the basement, fire alarms, etc.

Chairman Blake thanked the Chief for the comprehensive presentation.

Ald. Rosen thanked the Chief and the department for all they do. He asked if they anticipated any retirements.

Chief LaVecchia responded they always get retirements and average 5 a year.

Ald. Nunno asked how much money was transferred from line item 4111 0000 to other accounts within the *Personal Wages*.

Chief LaVecchia responded \$22,000. He went on to explain the 4111 accounts and how they draw from these accounts.

Ald. Willey asked if the minimum manning was 23. He also asked about the second rescue truck and the additional two people coming from within.

Chief LaVecchia stated the maximum manning is 25. He went on to explain the Fair Standard Labor Act. He also stated historically there are two firefighters out per day. He stated the man the second rescue truck with two on a day shift and on nights they hire. He stated they are asking another night shift be added.

Ald. Willey asked if incidents are even.

Chief LaVecchia responded yes, extremely even.

Ald. Willey commented he was struggling to understand this if the calls are even.

Chief LaVecchia stated they are asking for the positions explaining it is a cost effective way to do it.

Ald. Willey stated in doing the Math he was concerned about overtime costs.

Chief LaVecchia responded it is a savings to have it manned the way they do and really it is the cost that balances out.

Ald. Willey asked if it would be cheaper to pay time and a half.

Chief LaVecchia stated that is basically what they are asking for in this second rescue truck. He also pointed out they are not paying the cost of gear, etc.

Ald. Manning asked the difference between property upkeep in *Operational Expenses* and upkeep in *Vehicle & Equipment Upkeep* and also the bathroom mentioned that is under *Capital Outlay*.

Chief LaVecchia explained the Capital Outlay account also includes boilers, roofs. He stated an overhead door which is damaged, and a jammed lock would all come out of property upkeep.

Ald. Manning asked if he could provide a list to the aldermen. She also asked about energy efficiencies. She stated they are looking to see what could be offset and asked for a list of proposed needs to be done.

Chief LaVecchia stated they have a full time maintenance person as well as a part time maintenance person that do most of the repairs. He stated traditionally they spend more in upkeep.

Ald. Ditchkus asked about line item 4120 0000 Fire Trainees and the increase in the account. He stated the Chief had indicated an average of 5 retirees and questioned such a large increase which number would seem to represent more than 5.

Chief LaVecchia explained two years ago, former Speaker of the House Amann was able to secure funds for statewide fire training. Under the governor's proposed cuts those monies are cut. He stated the academy is a 14 week program at a cost of \$5,100 per recruit. He stated they asked the Board of Finance to double that.

Ald. Patterson stated it was his understanding there would be a zero increase in wages, however he calculated what represents an 11% increase in wages.

Chief LaVecchia responded he would look into it.

Ald. Blacketter asked about upgrades with regard to energy efficiency. She asked how that program is working and the software that was meant to track it.

Chief LaVecchia responded they try to do a project each year.

Chairman Blake asked about the new Dispatcher/Supervisor.

Chief LaVecchia stated that position has been in previous budget books and was a negotiated position. He stated it has been 3-4 year since it went into effect.

Ald. Vetro thanked the Chief for an excellent job. Regarding the chain of command, he asked if they keep the same number of lieutenants, captains, etc.

Chief LaVecchia responded it is contractual and the status is the same. He added they have looked at having officers in houses where they don't.

Ald. Manning asked about the South Central EMS which has not been expended to date. She asked if that is a line item they should leave in.

Chief LaVecchia stated one of their officers is a member of a regional council. He explained they make recommendations to the state and local hospitals. Chief LaVecchia stated the benefit is we get direct input to EMS level of service. He stated they also provide EMS testing to the department at no cost.

Ald. Manning questioned why no monies have gone out.

Mayor Richetelli stated it has been budgeted for \$1,000 for several years. He explained in the current budget they billed the City \$1,500. Mayor Richetelli stated he explained to them the budget is only \$1,000 and paid that amount.

Ald. Rosen asked about line item 4997 0190 Computer. He stated this money was also in the budget last year but was transferred to vehicle upkeep.

Chief LaVecchia stated the main body of their computer comes from this account.

Ald. Rosen noted the account was cleaned out on the 17th of this year for a \$2,000 transfer.

Battalion Chief Healey stated they had some major vehicle issues this year and that money was transferred to that account.

Ald. Veccharelli asked about line item 4722 0000 Fire Clothing/Rubber Goods and asked if this would address the issue the Chief spoke of during this presentation.

Chief LaVecchia stated contractually they are required to outfit each firefighter with two sets of gloves. He stated these monies will give them one set of gloves. He added they are currently short in this fiscal year.

Ald. Veccharelli asked about line item 4112 9941 Overtime. He stated he would tend to agree with the comments of Ald. Willey. He stated they are going to hire they are looking at the additional \$35,000 and asked what that would give them.

Chief LaVecchia explained the four platoon system. He stated they have enough funds to provide a 2nd rescue truck four nights a week. He stated the additional money would allow up to five nights a week.

Ald. Blacketter asked about response and nuisance alarms and asked if that charge has been evaluated.

Chief LaVecchia explained after three false alarms a warning is given and after the fourth there is a fine. He stated they have had good success with working with repeat offenders.

Ald. Manning asked about line item 4203 9941 Educational Supplement and the correlation with *Personal Services* and also the contractual wage adjustment in the amount of \$2,100 is that figure is correct.

Chief LaVecchia responded there is no overlap and that it is two separate items. He stated the Educational Supplement is a contractual requirement for EMT certification, paramedics, Fire Marshal, etc. He stated it is also for college degrees, which is also contractual.

Ald. Vetro asked about line item 4331 0000 Gas & other propellants in the amount of \$82,000 and heating fuel in the amount of \$70,000. He asked if those figures were accurate considering fees have gone down.

Chief LaVecchia responded yes.

Chairman Blake stated every year he asks about reimbursement for services the fire department already provides for which people pay car insurance and other insurance. He asked if they had made any leeway with that.

Chief LaVecchia responded no. He stated Fairfield has a program and in the first year they generated \$15,000 and the second year \$10,000 and the third year is even lower. Chief LaVecchia stated there are some problems

with it. He also stated the insurance companies are not required to pay this. He stated they have looked at billing to help offset the second rescue but the money that would come in just won't cover it.

Chief LaVecchia stated he would be happy to put something together.

Ald. Giannattasio asked about the 23 minimum manning, but stated there are actually 25 positions and two that are never filled.

Chief LaVecchia explained it is a 23 minimum manning with 25 on shift.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if the two extra men are recruits.

Chief LaVecchia stated they are assigned to shift.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if there are two extra men why not put them on the truck.

Chief LaVecchia stated they would not be able to put them on the truck if they are filling other spots. He stated the money is still needed for that 2nd rescue truck.

Ald. Blacketter asked overtime and the GIS and why if there is a department that is not with the City.

Chief LaVecchia explained the GIS was started in the fire department over 25 years ago by FF Guilmette who has since retired. Chief LaVecchia stated there GIS is fire department specific and that it is also done for the vehicle equipment. He stated they also create wall maps for the systems and hydrants and reiterated the work is site specific.

Ald. Blacketter asked if that information is fed into the City, i.e. engineer.

Chief LaVecchia responded yes.

Ald. Ditchkus asked about line item 4120 0000 fire trainees. He stated if the cost is \$5,200 that would be more than 5 and more like 8. He asked the Chief if they were anticipating 8 retirees.

Chief LaVecchia responded the figure of 5 retirees is based on a 13 year history.

Ald. Rosen asked about ALS calls and if there are two calls how they responded, with an extra truck or engine.

Chief LaVecchia explained the contract with AMR.

Ald. Rosen asked what the second rescue truck would provide.

Chief LaVecchia stated each ladder truck is manned by two and the standard is clearly 4.

Ald. Rosen asked what a normal response is.

Chief LaVecchia explained the statewide protocol for a response.

Chairman Blake asked about line item 4942 0254 and asked if it is a life raft or life pack.

Chief LaVecchia responded it is a life pack.

Ald. Vitali asked if there was any thought as to reorganization.

Chief LaVecchia stated in 1984 the Anderson study was done and that it was the recommendation of the two previous chiefs to implement it. He stated the City currently owns a lot on Red Bush Lane and also that the project has been in the Capital Improvement Plan for at least 20-25 years.

4331 Civil Preparedness – Battalion Chief W. Healey stated it is not a large budget. He stated line item 4944 0216 was increased to \$30,000, which is the Code Red System. He explained in the current system they have 80,000 minutes and that this increase would give them unlimited minutes. He also pointed out line item 4117 0000 Seasonal/Temporary is used to upgrade the emergency plan, flood mitigation, etc., which allows them to apply for grants.

Mayor Richetelli addressed the Code Red System. He stated the current early warning system was put into affect more than a decade ago. He stated with advanced technology with the telephone system they can cover the City in real time which is a valuable tool.

Ald. Manning asked if they have looked at texting services and that he it could something to supplement and also it would be available because it is web based.

Ald. Blacketter asked about line items 4776 0000 and 4746 0000.

Battalion Chief Healey responded 4776 000 is a wireless system and 4746 0000 is communications.

Ald. Manning asked about line item 4944 0249 special equipment.

Battalion Chief Healey responded the flood gauge for Buckingham comes out of that account as well as other repairs, etc.

Ald. Blacketter asked if it was also used to purchase tents and also asked about repairs to the canvas.

Battalion Chief Healey explained it is used for the shelters.

Ald. Nunno asked about consolidating with other departments such as education, Beth El.

Battalion Chief Healey responded their primary shelters are located at the senior center, Foran and Law.

Chief LaVecchia added they provide the equipment. He stated they also looked into using the system the school uses but it would have been triple what the school board pays.

Mayor Richetelli stated the Board of Education is Connect Ed and explained the difference.

Ald. Nunno expressed the need to reduce redundancy and that they should shop one system for all of the City's needs.

Mayor Richetelli responded they have shopped around. He also stated the Board of Education has privacy issues that you cannot use on a system that goes potentially to an entire population. He added Code Red is superior system.

Ald. Ditchkus thanked the department for finding a system that is much less expensive. He stated he understood the issue of redundancy but it was something they dealt with last year. He also added these are questions they might want to ask the Board of Education.

Ald. Manning asked about line item 4117 0000 Seasonal/Temporary and how the reduction would impact obtaining further grants and how many they have applied for.

Battalion Chief Healey explained how the pay works. He also stated any grants they apply for they have to bring to this Board first. He added they are applying for grants all the time and noted they just received a \$15,000 grant for the Emergency Operations Center and also received a grant to get a lap top for the Emergency Preparedness Director.

Ald. Blacketter asked if CCM provides information with regard to emergency response and grants.

Mayor Richetelli responded they make the City aware of certain grants. He stated the fire department has their own statewide organization who assist them with many other grants. He stated CCM also sends out notices on a regular basis.

4805 CMED – no questions.

4360 Lighting, Hydrants, Water

Ald. Ditchkus referenced the Erna Avenue fire and the undersized water main. He asked who pays to upgrade that line.

Chief LaVecchia explained the Regional Water Authority owns all hydrants and mains. He stated it would fall in the capital improvement plan. Chief LaVecchia stated this particular street was one they targeted and brought to the attention of the Regional Water Authority 10 years ago and again as recently as 6 weeks ago. He also pointed out developers are required to put in their own mains.

Ald. Nunno asked if all areas had been identified.

Chief LaVecchia responded there are very few. He stated ISO is 40% water supply and of 28 areas ISO found only 6 defective areas and they have improved on 5 of those areas.

Ald. Nunno asked the Chief if he was confident this was the only area that needed addressing.

Chief LaVecchia responded there still are areas that don't have water mains because they were already developed.

Ald. Blacketter asked of CME is a fixed cost.

Chief LaVecchia explained the calculation formula is based on the population and the number of EMS calls.

4340 Animal Control – Rick George, Animal Control Officer was present. He introduced Mrs. Blake, Chair of the Animal Commission, M. Scrivani, Jan Diamond and Ed Leuchtner. Mr. George stated they are a small department and transparent in what we do. He stated he will be out of money in their dog food account before the end of the fiscal year. He also stated they are seeing more and more animals being turned in because of evictions or people just not able to care for them as well as more mutual aid. Mr. George explained they have been using the donated food they receive for those who cannot afford food. He stated they have not seen costs go down. He also stated they utilize every resource they have. He stated they are a staff of five and that they do all their own ground maintenance work.

Ald. Nunno asked the revenue in donations to Pound Pooches.

Mr. George responded he did not know. He stated they are a separate entity and do not answer to his office.

Ald. Blacketter commented energy costs seem high and asked if any steps were being taken towards cost saving measures adding you sometimes get more with less.

Mr. George responded that would fall to Public Works. He also went on to explain the kennels have to be kept at 55° and explained the water pressure equipment they use. He stated it is very old but they manage to keep the kennels very clean.

Ald. Veccharelli asked about line item 4798 0000 Other Supplies & Charges.

Mr. George responded they use it for disinfectants which are not cheap. He explained they buy it by the drum and the cost is around \$600-700. He stated the account is also used for exterminators for a rat problem they have had. He also stated they are also slated to get \$7,500 worth of equipment by the end of the year and explained the grant they received in connection with line item 4720 0033.

Ald. Ditchkus stated for clarification it was his understanding Pound Pooches was not associated with the City, nor are they a budgeted item.

Mr. George stated at this moment they are having some issues with them. He also explained a fundraiser project for an addition to the building. Mr. George stated they do collect some funds that people earmark specifically for the animals. He also stated they had to stop the feral cat program earlier this year which was very disappointing. He stated the City can be very proud of the protective services they provide because they all work together collectively for a better community.

Ald. Veccharelli commented about line item 4761 0000 Animal Food and stated it looked like they would fall short in that account and also asked about line item 4978 0407 Weed whacker at \$0.

Mr. George stated they received the weed whacker last year.

Ald. Veccharelli asked about line item 4980 0601 Security system.

Mr. George responded first to the earlier question and stated yes, they have fallen short on animal food and that they have been supplementing with donated food. With regard to the security system he stated they have an antiquated camera. He stated this request is being made so that staff can observe what is going on in the kennels and also keep an on eye on vandalism as well as animals that are being dumped off.

Ald. Vetro asked about line items 4162 0000 and 4748 0000.

Mr. George responded 4162 0000 is a State mandate and 4748 0000 helps them to buy small items such as tee shirts for the children that come down and donate to them and it is a way to give back to them.

Ald. Patterson asked about line item 4977 0190 Computer and if it was a replacement.

Mr. George responded yes.

Ald. Rosen asked how much had been transferred out of Regular Wages to Seasonal/Temporary and if it was, was it because it was underfunded or a vacancy.

Mr. George explained for 6 months they were without a kennel keeper so the monies were transferred to Seasonal/Temporary.

4157 Harbor Commission – Ray Swift, Harbor Master was present. He stated they were anticipating a good year down at the landing and that reservations are already up.

Ald. Vitali thanked Mr. Swift for the job they do down there and commented people should take advantage of that beautiful spot.

Ald. Veccharelli echoed the sentiments of Ald. Vitali and thanked Mr. Swift for himself and his dog.

Ald. Manning asked about debt service.

Mr. Swift responded it is a typo.

Ald. Manning asked about the harbor revenue numbers.

Mr. Swift stated again it is a misprint.

Chairman Blake asked about the mooring reserved.

Mr. Swift responded they are up from last year and that the paperwork is out for 18.

Ald. Ditchkus referred to p. 113 and asked the number on State pilot and noted that expenditure would have to be equal to the revenue.

4160 Housing Code Board of Appeals – no questions.

4161 Housatonic Estuary Committee – Bob Gisualo (sp), Chairman. He stated this was put together as a State charter and explained the make-up of the Commission and the purpose of the committees which is to come together and work out issues together.

Ald. Nunno asked if there are similar commissions up the river.

Mr. Gisualo responded there are a lot of organizations, but none had been talking to each other prior to this.

4992 Private School Textbook-State Mandate

Mayor Richetelli stated this group was very interested and asked if they had been notified about tonight.

Chairman Blake stated he would check.

Mayor Richetelli stated he would be happy to answer any questions. He explained briefly the legislation enacted into law two sessions ago that gave municipalities an option, if asked by the local schools to participate in this program. He stated this did not apply to just catholic schools, but they were the only ones to apply. He also pointed out it is only Milford taxpayers.

Ald. Manning commented she followed up last year and it was reported it went very well.

4801 Council on Aging – Janice Jackson, Director and Mary Ann Herman were present. She provided the Board with their April bulletin as well as a handout which she proceeded to explain.

Ald. Nunno asked Ms. Jackson if she would provide an itemized budget for the Board.

Ald. Toohey commented she understood the struggles and also remarked they had not had a budget increase however managed to maintain the same amount. She thanked the women for all they do.

Mr. Jackson stated they were fortunate to have wonderful volunteers.

Ald. Manning asked about membership fees.

Ms. Jackson responded they are \$8.00.

Ald. Manning asked the last time they went up.

Ms. Jackson responded it has been a few years.

Ald. Manning asked what the dues include.

Ms. Jackson explained a member can participate in any of their activities.

4803 Fine Arts Council – Bill Meddick and Donna Corey were present. Mr. Meddick stated he sent a narrative to Chairman Blake which he was kind enough to forward.

Ald Manning read from a section of the City Charter. She questioned if someone is appointed to represent this agency.

Mr. Meddick replied they always did in the past.

Ald. Manning stated she was not comfortable allocating funds if the Charter is not being followed.

Mrs. Corey added they are very careful with 501-C restrictions.

4802 Regional Mental Health – Claire Phelan, Regional Chairperson. She stated her budget is the same as previous years. Reading from a prepared statement she explained what the Board does.

4811 Borough of Woodmont – Dick Austin, C. Smyser and Ed Bonesi were present. Mr. Smyser distributed a sketch of their needs for the upcoming years and continued with a lengthy explanation of their history. He stated his pitch basically was a simple one “pay us now or pay us later”. Mr. Smyser stated the Borough does a great job of upkeep.

Ald. Manning stated she did not receive the grant history.

Mr. Smyser explained how the handout reads. He noted as part of the summary sheet that grants have gone down.

Mr. Austin stated the Borough money raised pays Borough taxes and that City money is to do City work, such as street lighting, sidewalks, sanding, plowing, etc.

Ald. Willey commented in looking at the analysis and with all the work being done it would appear the Borough would have a deficit.

Mr. Smyser explained they operate differently from a typical department and also explained the triage type method as to what needs to be done.

Ald. Willey asked how much City money they spent.

Mr. Smyser responded they spent all of it. He stated with the rough winter the money was spent.

Ald. Patterson asked about the sidewalk/seawall and if it was on the beach side or the homeowner side.

Mr. Smyser responded the beach side.

Chairman Blake took the opportunity to thank Mr. Austin for his extensive tenure. He asked if the City were to reduce the budget by 10%, if they could live with it.

Mr. Austin responded no.

Mr. Smyser remarked if all the City departments were to take a 25% hit, then you could see him. He stated they are trying to be fiscally prudent adding their public works guy works very cost effectively. He stated they would like to keep the grant money as it is and expressed his appreciation to the Board for the assistance they receive.

4121 Golf Commission – Dick Austin and Dan Worroll were present. Mr. Worroll stated they have been around now for 10 years. He stated they take pride in the way the course works and looks. He stated they would be painting the clubhouse shortly. He reported there were 36,303 rounds played this past year. Mr. Worroll stated the Commission has been very careful to make sure Milford residents are taken care of first. He reported they recently voted to increase fees to \$10.40 for residents and \$16.00 non-residents. He also reiterated they stay on top of the course and its needs. Mr. Worroll also thanked Ald. Toohey and Ald. Hardiman the Commission's liaisons as well as the Commission secretary for keeping them in line with their agenda and FOI.

Mr. Austin also pointed out the Commission has generated \$30,000-33,000 to the City's Open Space Account each year the course has been in operation. In stated in the 9 years the Commission has been in operation they have not put in less than \$30,000.

Ald. Willey asked about the \$70,000 revenue.

Mr. Austin explained it is the money the management agency pays the City of Milford to run the course, plus the \$30,000 they give into open space. He explained the management company does all the equipment, maintenance on the course, pays the salaries. He stated they don't own or pay anything except the water bill and secretary fees.

Ald. Willey asked if it is still the same management company.

Mr. Austin responded yes.

Ald. Vitali asked about the \$10.40 and \$16.00 and asked if that was weekdays or weekends.

Mr. Worroll stated it is \$11.65 for the weekdays and \$17.00 for the weekends.

4812 Transit District – Henry Jadach, Transit Manager was present for questions. He stated they run several vans, parking at the Milford Train Station, etc. He expressed his appreciation of the support the City has given them. He stated his budget is less than 15%, but is a very significant part of their budget.

Ald. Rosen asked the total operating cost.

Mr. Jadach responded it is less than \$3,000,000.

Ald. Manning asked if they have locked in on fuel prices.

Mr. Jadach stated they have done the best with the spot market.

Ald. Manning stated she wished to follow up on her earlier comments concerning the language in the City Charter and asked if they had a liaison.

Mr. Jadach explained by State Statute there can only be two voting members appointed for by year term. He stated they have a five member Advisory Board appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Board of Aldermen.

4813 Bridges – Claire Phelan, Chairman of the Board and Barry Kasden, President and CEO were present for questions. Ms. Phelan read from a prepared statement as to the work of Bridges. She also pointed out Bridges would be receiving an award from the United Way for the Community Investment Award.

Mr. Kasden stated they would provide the Board with a detailed budget. He stated with regard to the issue of an appointee, he stated they would address it as it is in their by-laws. He stated they serve over 5,000 residents per year and have a total operating budget of \$11,000,000. He went on to explain the very unique programs they provide. He also stated they provide around the clock programs. Mr. Kasden stated there has been a very dramatic increase of the number of people coming in light of the current economy. He stated when the economy is bad they are at their worst. He stated they are expecting a shortfall next year and because of that will layoff positions which mean at least 300 people probably won't get seen. He stated the annual cost of a bed ranges from \$300,000 to \$800,000. He stated he appreciated the difficult decisions of the Board. He explained their work with the surrounding communities, but stated he was pleased to announce that West Haven has finally come through with some monies. He also reported the State of Connecticut provided them with a grant for their emergency mobile services.

Ald. Willey asked if they fund 4x of what West Haven and Orange fund.

Mr. Kasden responded they see about 200 from Orange. He stated West Haven also has a mental health clinic, but the total number of Milford residents seen is 5,000.

Ald. Blacketter asked if they receive \$19.00 for every City dollar received.

Mr. Kasden yes and explained how it is calculated. He stated the City funding helps secure local dollars.

4815 Veteran Graves – no questions.

4816 Milford Flotilla – Timothy Mulherin and Jeff Ciplack (sp) and Robert Girsula were present. Mr. Mulherin stated all of their members are volunteers. He stated they are also the most active flotilla in the area. He stated they also do land based patrols and help keep residents safe. He spoke of the boating courses they provide adding they have been a very valueable part of this community for many years. He stated some of the community activities they participate in are the Milford Oyster Festival, Rape Crisis Center event, etc. He stated this year they are bringing in the Naval vessels. He stated they are very aware of the economic times, but this request is very important to them and helps greatly to provide the people of this City with support and services. He also pointed out they recently upgraded their grounds.

4817 Human Services Department – Lisa Diamond Graham, Director along with Donna Nunno from their Board and Melissa Dubiel were present. Ms. Diamond Graham reading from a prepared statement explained the many functions of this department and explained the handout. She stated she wished to point out their client population is solely Milford residents and any further cuts to their budget they would be unable to maintain their

current level of services. She stated she wished to thank Ald. Vetro, their liaison who has been very dedicated and devoted to their work.

Mrs. Nunno thanked the Board for their considerations as they deliberate the budget.

Ald. Manning asked about professional services and if they provide services to Milford employees.

Ms. Diamond Graham responded the service Milford employees, children, etc., but that they are separate from the EAP program.

Ald. Blacketter asked if they receive benefits through the City.

Ms. Diamond Graham responded yes, they are in the pension plan.

4819 Milford Progress, Inc. – Lynda Smith Tellier and Kathy Alagno were present.

Ms. Tellier stated they are a 501c-4 Economic Development Agency. She stated they have requested money for two things; the wave shelter and the Downtown Plan of Development. She explained the next phase is a way finding project which is the current project and they are ready to move forward.

Ald. Blacketter asked about grant money received to date.

Ms. Tellier responded it was to pay for the consultant. She stated last year's committee made the decision not to spend the money on the consultant so it could be used for the implementation which included the design, sign.

Ald. Vitali asked if that money was being held in abeyance.

Ms. Tellier responded yes.

Ald. Blacketter asked how they received input from the businesses in the area.

Ms. Tellier replied they have collaborated and made it a Citywide and included Woodmont, downtown and the Village of Devon. She stated they have also meet with other towns and also fortunate to have the help of the city departments.

Mayor Richetelli added the Way finding Committee has representatives from each of those parts of town.

Ald. Nunno asked if they were allocating \$13,500 and how long the study would take and also if they were getting their monies' worth.

Ms. Tellier stated after they receive city input and go out for design specifications they will determine the entire cost.

Ald. Blacketter cited the City Ordinance and stated Milford Progress is specifically confined to a certain region of Milford. She asked where the authorization was given to do that and also now they are saying the cost will be larger than expected. She stated she thought the focus was the downtown.

Ms. Tellier explained way finding is for people entering the community and that would be outside the scope of downtown. She stated they had to start outside the City to get them downtown and that was why they asked permission to start outside and to bring people downtown, She stated the charge has not changed and it is still the downtown, but to do that you have to start outside.

Ms. Alagno added it was important to start on the perimeter to get them to the downtown and that they have tried to be as inclusive as possible and included Ald. Manning from the Village of Devon, Mr. Austin from the Borough of Woodmont and Ms. Shaw from the Downtown Merchants Association.

Mayor Richetelli cited as an example, the Town of Stratford and how their signs point to places of interest.

Ald. Manning asked if there is a liaison assigned to this group.

Ms. Alagno responded Bob Gregory is the standing appointment.

Ald. Manning asked about other services of the finding.

Ms. Alagno stated with regard to the wave project they would go to each business for advertising. She also stated they received a grant from Milford Bank several years ago to help with that.

Ald. Manning asked how much was in the account.

Ms. Alagno responded approximately \$50,000, but explained \$25,000 is designated.

Ald. Vetro commented they are always thinking of innovative ways to save Milford money. He commented it would be nice if Milford could have various areas in town that a business could adopt.

Ms. Alagno stated they are hoping to get sponsors for some of the larger signs.

Ald. Blacketter asked about the signage study.

Ms. Alagno stated the signage regulations were presented to Planning and Zoning and it was her understanding they have 6 months to look at it.

Mayor Richetelli added it was done properly and is now in the hands of Planning and Zoning to implement.

4825 Beth El Shelter – Toni Dolan, Executive Director was present for questions. She thanked the Board for their considerations over the year. She stated homelessness is on the rise and that they have seen a 13% increase in Milford and that they are experiencing many more calls on a daily basis, as well as more people showing up on their doors. She stated to date they have served 17,000 meals. She also stated they are not sure what the State legislature is going to do. Ms. Dolan stated they also rely on fundraising efforts to fill the gaps. She stated this budget just cannot sustain any additional cuts to the budget.

No questions asked.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Toohey made and seconded a motion to recess at 11:28 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary