

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
BUDGET DELIBERATIONS SESSION
APRIL 21, 2010**

The Board of Aldermen resumed their budget deliberation session on Wednesday, April 21, 2010 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman G. Smith welcomed everyone to the April 21, 2010 meeting of the proposed budget for the City and Board of Education for fiscal year 2010-2011. 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. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to come out of recess at 7:08 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

4825 Beth El Shelter – Toni Dolan, Executive Director was present for questions. Mrs. Dolan stated the record should reflect they are no longer CPAC and that it should be removed. Mrs. Dolan stated homelessness is on the rise nationwide. She stated here in Milford they have experienced more calls each day with a sharp increase in the number of meals they serve every day. Reading from a prepared statement, Mrs. Dolan stated it was important the Board understood the work of the shelter. She stated they serve in two capacities; first as a soup kitchen and second as a shelter. Mrs. Dolan stated the soup kitchen is open every day from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and that they are up over 8% from last year. She also stated they are a 34 bed “transitional” shelter and explained the housing is a 90-day program. Mrs. Dolan also spoke regarding the impact of the state budget crisis, which leaves them with a great deal of uncertainty. She explained the coverage of the other contracts they receive. She expressed her deep appreciation of what they receive from the City. She stated the amount they receive is about 11% of their total budget. She stated they have an active development committee. In addition, she stated they actively pursue grants and foundation giving. Mrs. Dolan stated she was grateful for the support they receive from the City and asked the Board to keep the amount as recommended by the Mayor and Board of Finance.

Ald. P. Smith asked about the transitional housing being built and the relationship of the two.

Mrs. Dolan responded the housing is supportive housing. She stated the hope is it will be one of the answers to homelessness in that it is permanent, independent living. Mrs. Dolan explained they would have case management services available to them. She pointed out they do not own the property and will not manage it. She stressed they would only be providing the case management service.

Ald. P. Smith asked if additional funds would be available to them.

Mrs. Dolan explained they have been in touch with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction services.

Ald. Staneski asked how much time would be attributed to the new duties.

Mrs. Dolan stated it would be determined by caseload. She reiterated it would only be for supportive housing. She went on to explain some of the other services and monies they receive from a community block grant, also some United Way money. She stated other than fire and police, they are the only other 24/7 facility in the City.

Ald. Blake stated on Monday he asked all department that have come in with an increase to go back and sharpen their pencil to see if they could trim back, perhaps 10% from their budget so that this Board could come in the same as last year and stay status quo. He stated he was asking this of those departments whose request exceeds that of the previous year and if they could report back their findings prior to the aldermen beginning their final budget deliberations.

4320 Fire Department – Chief Louis LaVecchia, Assistant Chief Robert Healey, Battalion Chief Alan Zingaro and Battalion Chief William D. Healey were present.

Chief LaVecchia asked the Board to turn to p. 55 in their budget book and note the department has already had \$300,000 cut from their budget. He stated the Mayor then asked them to cut another \$100,000, which they did. Chief LaVecchia stated this is an extremely trim budget. He continued with his presentation referring the Board to the handout.

Ald. Staneski asked about the EMS summary and for clarification as to duplicate calls.

Chief LaVecchia explained it is when two calls come in at the same time.

Ald. Staneski asked if it was standard for an engine company to go out with a paramedic company.

Chief LaVecchia responded yes. He stated all engines are first responders along with the rescue truck, followed by an ambulance and the police department.

Ald. Staneski asked if there is a savings having a repair shop.

Chief LaVecchia replied the main justification is the turnaround of fire apparatus. He explained they are able to turnaround sometimes in just one day.

Ald. Staneski asked about the budget breakdown and for an explanation of discretionary items.

Chief LaVecchia stated they run a second rescue truck 4 days/4 nights. He explained the nights are covered by overtime, adding overtime cost for a firefighter is straight time. He also explained the manning clause of the contract. He stated such other items may be tools. He stated there are time hose could be considered discretionary. He explained they have to determine when there is a choice to repair a truck or purchase hose.

Ald. P. Smith asked about line item 4120 0000 Fire Trainees. She stated she recalled last year there was State funding, which has since been cut so they City had to provide that funding. She asked if those funds were still cut.

Chief LaVecchia stated that line item is used to pay the tuition of their firefighter recruits. He stated the current cost to send a firefighter to the academy is \$5,400. He stated it appears that money will not be available in the fall.

Ald. Vetro thanked the Chief for the presentation adding it was very valuable.

Ald. Blake commented in the past the Chief had testified there are approximately 5 retirees each year. Referencing line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages, he asked how much of a surplus there would be this year in that line item. He also asked how much money has been transferred from Regular Wages to Overtime.

Chief LaVecchia stated it was important he explain line item 4116 0000 Vacation & Relief. He stated that line item is used when the department falls below the minimum manning level. He state anything above them minimum manning comes out of overtime such as paramedic school, firefighter classes, large fires where someone is called back, storms, etc. He stated those accounts have historically been below adequate funding. He stated he would be coming to this Board next month for a transfer.

Ald. Blake asked the Chief if he could get those particular numbers from those accounts.

Chief LaVecchia stated he believe it will be \$20,000-30,000.

Ald. Blake asked if that is after monies have been transferred.

Battalion Chief W. Healey stated to date the number is around \$30,000, which he stated is due to vacancies and shortages.

Ald. Goodrich commented it is not extra money.

Chief LaVecchia replied it was not and that there is no extra money.

Chairman G. Smith asked if there was any overlap of services between the fire department and the police department, such as the fire boat.

Chief LaVecchia stated the two departments work excellent together. He also pointed out the police and fire dive teams train together about 50% of the time. Chief LaVecchia stated the fire department has the only fire

board on Long Island Sound that provides advanced life support. He stated the respond to about 40-50 water emergencies a year.

Chairman G. Smith stated he was asking about overlap by the departments with such services as maritime, scuba, etc.

Chief LaVecchia replied there is some overlap, however it was important to remember this is a coastal town that floods a great deal. He stated during those time they need as much manpower as possible. He also pointed out police do law enforcement, which fire does not. He also spoke of the resources of the fire department and their ability to do so much faster. He stated they are working in a direction to eliminate overlap.

Ald. Veccharelli asked about line item 4977 0152 Tables and Chairs.

Chief LaVecchia stated that line item is to replace a kitchen table or chairs in the stations.

Ald. P. Smith asked about line item 4942 0259 and if those funds are now covered by a grant.

Chief LaVecchia replied yes.

Ald. Joy asked about line item 4112 9945 Overtime, Fire Training. He stated the request was much higher than what was approved by the Mayor and Board of Finance.

Chief LaVecchia explained this line item is for fire officer training, which he explained depends on the number of officers that have been promoted.

Chairman G. Smith thanked the Chief and men present for the presentation.

4331 Civil Preparedness – Chief LaVecchia was present for questions.

Ald. P. Smith asked if line item 4944 0216 was the Code Red System and if the amount would get the unlimited minutes the department had requested last year.

Chief LaVecchia responded yes.

Ald. Blake asked about line item 4720 0019 GIS Mapping. He stated there are three different employees that have GIS in their titles. He asked if some of their work could be done by these other individuals and then eliminate this line item.

Chief LaVecchia responded this line item is used specifically for supplies. He went on to explain the wall maps located at each department. He also stated there is a full size set of maps in each truck, as well as specified mapping for the fire department.

Ald. Vitali asked about line item 4117 0000 Seasonal/Temporary and pointed out it was cut in half from the amount requested by the department. He asked the Chief if he would be able to manage.

Chief LaVecchia explained the department has 5-6 large plans the department is required to update yearly. He stated this account allows them to hire back when necessary.

Ald. Staneski asked if the department works with the City Grant writer and if they collaborate with any other city agencies.

Chief LaVecchia stated Battalion Chief Zingaro does the department's grant writing and has been extremely successful. He stated they also have worked with the City grant writer, but most of their grant writing is done in-house.

4805 CMED – Chief LaVecchia was present. He explained the two main functions of CMed. He also stated they are a direct link to a hospital so that the paramedic in the field can speak directly to the emergency room doctor. He stated there is also mass casualty. He stated the number is derived specifically from a formula which is based on the number of EMS calls and population. Chief LaVecchia stated they also have a representative that sits on the Board.

Chairman G. Smith asked if the figure was from C-Med.

Chief LaVecchia replied yes and stated it is a fixed cost.

Mayor Richetelli stated the City strenuously objected to the increase; however C-Med is absolutely necessary for the routing of the City's medical calls. He noted Milford was the only town to vote against the budget.

4360 Lighting, Hydrants, Water – Chief LaVecchia was present. He stated New Haven Regional Water Authority owns the fire hydrants and charge the city a rental fee and charge for water usage.

Ald. P. Smith asked about line item 4845 0000 Street lighting and how that works.

Mayor Richetelli explained the United Illuminating Company owns the poles and equipment and the City pays for the electricity.

Ald. Bier asked if the cost was fixed or metered.

Mayor Richetelli replied it is metered.

Ald. Staneski asked about the option 3 which allows residents to purchase clean energy and asked if the City has entertained those options.

Mayor Richetelli stated for the City's use of electricity they have gone to an energy consortium through CCM which allows the City to save a considerable amount of money. With regard to the street lights he stated the City gets a municipal rate.

4340 Animal Control – Rick George, Animal Control Officer was present. Marilyn Blake, Chair of the Animal Commission and Janet Perreault were present.

Mr. George stated veterinarian costs have gone up along with the costs of animal food and electricity. He explained they are required by Statute to keep temperatures at a certain rate. He stated the only new item in his budget is for a security system. He stated the system they have is antiquated. He also stated the service they currently have has changed so the fees they are being charged are extremely high.

Ald. Blake remarked concerning the security system that the best security system is a dog. He suggested the idea of corralling the dogs.

Mr. George responded there would be the issue of liability.

Ald. P. Smith asked if the department was seeing an increase of services in light of the economy.

Mr. George responded they are receiving more and more requests to take pets from families. He also stated their pet food bank has seen an increase in service needs. He stated yes, they have are called upon more and more.

Ald. Bevan asked how many kennels they have currently.

Mr. George responded 30.

Ald. Bevan asked if they are all full.

Mr. George replied no, but that they are just about at capacity with 9 dogs.

Ald. Bevan asked how many were available for adoption.

Mr. George explained it is done by Statutes and it has to be advertised. He stated they also attempt to spade the dogs before they go out.

Ald. Bevan asked about the large trailers in front of the building.

Mr. George stated those trailers were obtained through Region II for disaster preparedness. He went on to explain the federal mandate that came out after Hurricane Katrina. Basically, he stated if the City opens a shelter, they must do so as well for animals.

Ald. Vetro asked about line item 4748 0000 Promotional Expenses in the amount of \$2,000 and asked what animals would be receiving a promotion.

Mr. George stated that line item is used for public educations. He stated they provide a tremendous amount of education in the school system as well as the public.

4157 Harbor Commission – Ray Swift, Harbor Master was present.

Ald. P. Smith asked how the revenue expenditure works.

Mr. Swift explained it is through the Milford Harbor Management fund which is an enterprise fund. He also explained the cut he expected to receive from the State for the State PILOT: Boats (Marina Enterprise Revenue). Discussion ensued regarding the Marina Enterprise Revenue.

Ald. German asked about line item 4471 0000 Building & Groups Upkeep – asked if they maintain all the grounds.

Mr. Swift replied yes. He stated they do the landscaping, planting, etc.

Ald. Blake suggested selling off the anchors that were at one time in storage. He suggested this could generate some revenue.

Ald. Veccharelli commented as he looked through his budget book that this department basically costs the City nothing and that they are self-sustaining. He thanked Mr. Swift for the job he does.

4610 Health Department – Dr. McBride and Mrs. Joan Cagginello, Nurse Administrator were present. Dr. McBride stated they have had a very busy year with H1N1 and the new blight Ordinance, which keep them full. Dr. McBride reported the vaccinations programs went well. He stated the blight Ordinance this Board passed has kept the department very busy and that it has brought along significant change. He stated the City Attorney's Office currently has about 8 cases. Dr. McBride also reported the environmental health division has also been very busy on top of the complaints they receive. He stated the number of special events that require food inspections has gone up greatly. Dr. McBride also pointed out a change with the Public Health Nurse Administrator position. He explained they gave up a part time nurse in the school nurse's budget. He explained there are 23 school nurses that answer to 1 person. He went on to explain the long history of school nurses who are an asset to the schools. He stated the school nurses are overlooked often, but that he is very proud of their work and what they do on a day to day basis. He stated the school nurse is very involved in the health of a child every day. He stated the school nurse is responsible for asthma management each day, as well as administering medication each day. He stated the proposed position would assist the school nurse who can sometimes be isolated in the building. He explained the supervisor would be clinical hands on position as well as working on paperwork. He also explained the nurse's role with H1N1.

Ald. Vitali stated he is a supporter of full time nurses, plus in their schools they play an expanded role as educators and providers. He asked how many part time positions were being traded off and their salary.

Mrs. Cagginello stated the 19 hr. school nurse position would be absorbed. She stated that salary is \$21,460 and that the other position was on the health side which was \$14,000.

Ald. Vitali asked if it would be a supervisor position only.

Mrs. Cagginello replied yes, it would be supervisory, but that person would be used as a substitute nurse, if necessary.

Ald. P. Smith asked if the position would be dedicated to the schools.

Mrs. Cagginello replied it would be the schools and public health, but primarily in the schools. She stated that individual would also be active in public health education, clinics, etc.

Dr. McBride stated Mrs. Cagginello works out of the central health office, but does straddle both.

Mayor Richetelli stated they have ongoing discussions with the nurse's union. He stated if this Board provides the funds it will be moved from the Health Department side to the school nurses side. He stated this could happen before the Board takes their final vote.

Ald. Staneski stated she wished to be clear they were eliminating the 19 hr. position and then eliminating the seasonal temporary position. She asked if someone could get her the numbers for those positions. She also asked if someone could explain the overtime account for the department.

Dr. McBride stated the overtime account is primary used for the environmental side.

Ald. Staneski asked if it was to fill in or if it was above and beyond.

Dr. McBride stated this line item is generally used for temporary events when the sanitarians have to go out for inspection. He stated this is on top of what they do and noted it is the sanitarians that do the restaurant food inspections.

Ald. Bier asked about the dental hygienists and their role.

Dr. McBride responded they do trained work. He stated they do the dental screening and sealants for the children.

Mrs. Cagginello added the City is very fortunate to have this program in our school. She stated for many children this is their only visit with a dentist.

Ald. German asked who is responsible for school nutrition/food.

Dr. McBride stated that is the school's responsibility. He stated he only looks at the preparation part of it.

4821 Visiting Nurses (VNA) – Dr. McBride and Joan Cagginello, Nurse Administrator were present.

Ald. P. Smith asked what service(s) this grant covers and the population.

Mrs. Cagginello responded SCCT. She stated this is the Well Child Clinic which is held twice a month. He continued with an explanation of the program. She stated the program also offers physicals free of charge, with an appointment. She stated it is a great service that compliments the work they do in the health department.

Ald. Patterson asked how the grant is computed.

Dr. McBride stated he believed it was two lump sum payments.

Ald. Patterson asked if it is based on the number of people seen.

Dr. McBride stated it is a flat rate.

4160 Housing Code Board of Appeals – Andy Chrland, Chairman was present. He stated he wished to bring to the Board’s attention the number of appeals they have because of the new blight Ordinance. He stated he would be knocking on the Mayor’s door soon looking for additional funds for secretarial fees. He stated this will be above and beyond the amount in the budget.

Mayor Richetelli stated he wished to elaborate. He stated traditionally this Board would meet about four times a year. He stated with the new blight Ordinance, the appeals will go to the Housing Code Board of Appeals. He stated currently there are 8 pending appeals in the City Attorney’s Office. Mayor Richetelli stated the goal is to get them taken care of and resolved. He stated to date the Housing Code Board of Appeals has handled one appeal. He stated they will likely need more money, but it is not known as this point how much.

Chairman G. Smith stated for those watching the meeting at home, the number they were discussing is \$200.

Ald. Veccharelli asked if the process is that when someone appeals it goes to this Board. He also asked about the fine involved with the violation.

Mayor Richetelli explained the fine does not begin until the appeals. He stated many cases have been settled before they get that far.

Mr. Charland stated there are 7 appeals scheduled for May 7, 2010.

4161 Housatonic Estuary Committee – Lori Romick, Vice Chairman and City Representative was present. She stated their budget is relatively small and that the only costs they have are for secretarial fees and their new website, for the monthly costs. She went on to explain the development of the Commission, bylaws and their mission statement. Ms. Romick stated it is a six town committee established without funding, but that they all work together and with harbor management. She stated they are all volunteers. She explained the nature of their work, which she stated includes answer complaints, writing letters of support or denial that apply to the river. Ms. Romick reiterated the \$11,000 requested is for secretarial fees and their web-site.

Chairman G. Smith asked the address of the web-site.

Ms. Romick stated is www.vhrec.org with links to other commissioners.

Ald. P. Smith asked if all the towns contribute.

Ms. Romick stated Milford and Shelton are the sole supporters. She stated they are working with the other two towns and hoping for support from Stratford this year.

4992 Private School Textbook – no one was present.

Ald. Veccharelli stated it is erroneous that this stated this is a mandate. He stated he believed that to be a typographical error and asked that it be removed from the agenda, because this is not a mandate.

Mayor Richetelli stated Ald. Veccharelli was correct in that this is not a mandate, but it is a State program that is left up to each community to fund.

Ald. Patterson asked if the number could be adjusted with the potential closing of Saint Ann's School.

Mayor Richetelli stated it is the hope those children will go to Saint Gabriel's and Saint Mary's. He stated it may be less realistically, but it was hard to know just what the amount would be at this time.

Ald. Vitali commented this amount is a far cry from absorbing all those children into the public school system. He further stated books are a big number whether on the private side or public side.

4801 Council on Aging – Janice Jackson, Director and Mary Ann Herman were present. Ms. Jackson read from a prepared statement as to how the Senior Center has cut costs from last year. She also spoke of an increase in health care costs of about 11.2% and that they expect the same in workers compensation benefits. She also pointed out they have a 10 year old duplicating machine and 2 year old copy machine. She stated they also have costs to repair the lifts on their van, which is used for wheelchair access. She continued reading citing the number of rides they provide, meals served and number of active members.

Chairman G. Smith commented he works with a lot of senior veterans who comment to him how wonderful Milford's senior center is.

Ald. Blake stated the Council on Aging is the first of a series of agencies coming before the Board that are grant based. He stated he was requesting of all grant based agencies a detailed copy of their operating budget. He asked if each agency could have that information before the Board votes on their budget.

Ald. P. Smith asked what other grants they receive and the percentage of funds from Milford.

Mrs. Jackson responded they receive a grant from the United Way of Milford and from the Community Development Block Grant.

Ald. P. Smith asked the percentage of the City's contribution to their budget.

Ms. Herman responded she did not know the percentage, but stated the City is their primary funding.

Chairman G. Smith asked the information requested be submitted to the Board of Aldermen's office and it would be forwarded to the members of the Board.

4803 Fine Arts Council – Donna Corey was present. Mrs. Corey stated Director Meddick was ill this evening and unable to attend. She went on to thank the Board for supporting the Fine Arts Council. She stated the arts are the inspiration that motivate all of us. She stated they operate on a bare bones budget and noted they recently had to furlough two employees and cut the hours of another. Mrs. Corey stated their programs help them support themselves. She stated cutting programs will not do them any good. She also stated their theatre program was very successful this year. Mrs. Corey stated they received a grant for the community grant and that they are working with Marcia Winter, the City's Grant Writer to develop an active grant writing committee. She also spoke of their major fundraisers, the New England Arts & Crafts Fair held in July and the Sand Castle Competition at Walnut Beach in August. She stated she hoped the Board would continue to support them.

Ald. German asked about membership and how many members they have.

Mrs. Corey stated they have 500 members. She stated they depend heavily on this grant money they receive from the City.

Ald. German asked the amount of a membership.

Mrs. Corey stated a membership could be as low as \$25.00, but that they have various levels in which to purchase a membership/sponsorship.

Ald. Staneski asked if they rent out their building.

Mrs. Corey responded yes, but not very often. She explained they have so many programs it does not allow for many open dates.

Ald. Veccharelli complimented the work of the Fine Arts program and stated he greatly appreciated their programs.

Mrs. Corey stated they also have the Firehouse Gallery in Walnut Beach and that they have begun partnering with other groups and recently had an event with the Audubon Center.

4802 Regional Mental Health – Claire Phelan, Regional Chairperson. She stated her budget is the same as previous years. She stated they are a member of the Region II Regional Mental Health. She stated they were developed as a result of State legislation in 1976. She expressed her appreciation of the Board's support over the years and hoped that support would continue. She stated they expected to receive a 15% cut from the State. She stated as a Milford resident, she appreciates the support as well.

Chairman G. Smith stated the Board would take a 5-minute recess. The Board recessed at 9:38 p.m.

Chairman G. Smith reconvened in public session at 9:49 p.m.

4811 Borough of Woodmont – Ed Bonesi and C. ("Kit") Schmeisser were present. Mr. Schmeisser stated the handout to the Board discussed three items: 1) historical; 2) benefits (mutual); and 3) current financial status.

Mr. Bonessi stated the Borough of Woodmont is a municipality within a municipality. He stated they are responsible for the streets, paving, and lights and also provide their own summer police protection. He explained they use off-duty Milford Police Officers. He also stated they provide assistance with snowplowing. Mr. Bonessi also reported the Borough recently hired a professional bookkeeper.

Mr. Schmeisser spoke regarding the financial aspects of the Borough and stated it was important the Board understand the perspective. He stated they are Milford residents and they pay taxes. He stated these monies are separate and are raised through a revenue tax to Borough residents. He stated in the handout to the Board they provided the Borough's current balance sheet. He stated from their perspective the Borough has been underfunded for several years. Mr. Schmeisser stated they anticipate to be operating on an as-you-go basis. He stated this is based on the current grant numbers. He stated they are running \$230,000-240,000. He stated they

are asking for \$200,000. He stated they expect to have a reserve of about \$35,000 and expect to spend that down. Mr. Schmeisser stated it was important to understand that Borough monies raised by the Borough citizens are separate and reserved for a "rainy day". He stated the storm in the 1980's was a prime example of that when the beach was nearly wiped away.

Mr. Bonessi stated he has only been the Warden for less than a year, but on the Board for 19 years. He gave a history regarding the beaches with former Mayor Lisman and a conversation they had. He stated they have nearly 6 miles of roadway with nearly 4,000 residents and 41% of the City's seawalls, which he stated take a beating and they are responsible for their upkeep. He stated they have a very busy area with many, many walkers. Mr. Bonessi stated it was important to know that Woodmont is open to all Milford residents at all times.

Ald. German asked the total amount of tax dollars paid to Milford.

Mr. Bonessi responded it is approximately \$5,000,000 and that they were looking for only \$200,000.

Mr. Schmeisser explained how they work with the Public Works department and have a solid relationship.

Mr. Bonessi spoke regarding the paving done in the Borough and explained basically when the City does paving, they also do their paving. He also stated he had heard a question concerning street lights and pointed out the Borough pays the same as the City.

Ald. Veccharelli asked how much money the Borough has on hand right now.

Mr. Schmeisser explained the breakdown on the balance sheet and stated it is about \$35,000.

Ald. Veccharelli stated the way he is reading the balance sheet it looks to be over \$120,000.

Mr. Schmeisser stated they still need to repair a collapsing seawall which will cost about \$45,000.

Ald. Blake stated during the presentation he heard them men stated the annual operating budget was \$230,000. He asked if the monies being requested were to replace city services or if it is in addition.

Mr. Bonessi stated it is strictly City services. He stated additional services are from another account, which includes the bookkeeper, library, borough hall, etc.

Mr. Schmeisser added the Borough income is not included in the statement. He also stated the amount being asked for is what has been asked for in the past.

Ald. Blake asked as a follow-up to Ald. Veccharelli's question what funds are currently available to the Borough.

Mr. Schmeisser responded at the end of June it will be \$35,000.

4812 Transit District – Henry Jadach, Executive Director was present for questions. He stated they run several vans, parking at the Milford Train Station and gave an overview of each service. He stated they recently took over the Red Cross transportation. Mr. Jadach stated the grant amount they receive from this City is approximately 14% of their overall operating budget and helps them to obtain other grants. He expressed his appreciation of the support the City has given them.

Ald. Bevan asked about the Milford to Norwalk run and asked why they would go so far.

Mr. Jadach explained it is with the Greater Bridgeport and Norwalk transit and explained it is a reverse commute. He stated there are a number of people traveling that way and that it is very successful.

Ald. German asked what efforts they have taken to convert to bio-diesel to bring cleaner, energy efficient vehicles.

Mr. Jadach explained they have greater diesel, which is clean diesel. He stated the others are so very expensive they are not practical.

Chairman G. Smith asked about handicapped accessible buses and how they are scheduled.

Mr. Jadach explained those runs. He also stated the run 10-12 vans a day.

Ald. Staneski thanked Mr. Jadach for the packet the Board received ahead of tonight's meeting. She stated it was very well put together.

Ald. Joy asked how they measure usage.

Mr. Jadach explained it is an hourly headway. He stated if they were more aggressive with the schedule and went to ½ hr run they would need much more funding then what they receive.

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.

Mrs. Phelan stated she is the Chairman of the Board of Directors for Bridges. She stated Bridges has been serving Milford since 1957 and has grown considerably since. She went on to read some of the background of Bridges.

Mr. Kasden stated he would get a detailed budget to the Board as requested earlier. He also pointed out that Bridges submits to the City at the end of the year a detailed audit. He stated Bridges is the only full service mental health agency which is fully accredited. He gave a brief overview of their work as detailed in the handout provided to the board. Mr. Kasden stated he would focus on the pressures they are under and what they as an agency are looking for. He noted the Mayor and Board of Finance recommended a status quo budget. Mr. Kasden also stated the grant they receive from the City is 3% of their total operating budget and that the amount represents \$6.98 per person in Milford. He stated the numbers they are seeing are increasing. He stated last year 7,599 called for some kind of service, with 80% of the calls being Milford residents. Mr. Kasden stated with the budget they presented they had to cut \$632,000 and they are projecting they will have to take another \$400,000 out of the budget. He stated they have taken the equivalent of 9 positions, 7 which were due

to attrition and also 2 cuts from DCF. He stated they are facing a dire situation. Mr. Kasden stated they are thankful for money they receive, but admittedly they are looking for another \$65,000 to handle those cases that are walk-ins. He went on to explain in detail the agencies and groups they partner with as a part of the solution.

Ald. Blake stated he wished to clarify; the Milford grant represents 3% of the total operating budget, which is about \$12,000,000.

Mr. Kasden responded yes.

Ald. Blake asked about updated figures as to what Orange and West Haven contribute.

Mr. Kasden replied he would get those figures and include them with the report. He stated he was pleased to say they have gotten some block grant money from West Haven and Orange.

Chairman G. Smith noted the City also has the Department of Human Services and asked if there is overlap.

Mr. Kasden stated referrals are made back and forth. He stated the difference is that Bridges is a licensed out service program. He stated the need is there and that both agencies are seeing a large population. Mr. Kasden stated the reality is that people are coming through both doors of both agencies. He explained the coordination of services.

Chairman G. Smith asked what percentage of the budget is fundraising.

Mr. Kasden replied about \$100,000 in fundraising, which amounts to 1%.

Chairman G. Smith stated he wished to bring forward account 4817 Human Services Department at this time.

4817 Human Services Department – Lisa Diamond Graham, Director and Melissa Dubiel, Administrative Assistant were present. Ms. Diamond Graham reading from a prepared statement explained the many functions of this department.

Ald. Vetro thanked Ms. Diamond Graham for her work.

Chairman G. Smith asked Ms. Diamond Graham to elaborate on some of the programs they have.

Ms. Diamond Graham explained the work in their department. She stated the work is similar with the exception that they do not provide psychiatric care. She stated they also coordinate with other agencies.

Chairman G. Smith asked what percentage of the City grant is their budget.

Ms. Diamond Graham replied 94%.

Chairman G. Smith asked if they do any fundraising.

Ms. Diamond Graham replied they are not a 501(c) (3) so they cannot fundraise.

Ald. P. Smith asked how much of a cut they have seen from State agencies.

Ms. Dubiel explained they are currently in a two-year cycle so they will not know for another year.

Ms. Diamond Graham added it is a two-year grant that will come to an end next year.

Ald. Blake asked if a private organization can make a donation to the Human Services Department.

Ms. Diamond Graham replied yes.

Ald. Blake questioned why they cannot fundraise if they can accept donations.

Mayor Richetelli interjected and stated the Board of Aldermen passed a Resolution that allows contributions to the agency.

Ald. Blake responded that fundraising could then be possible.

Ms. Diamond Graham explained donations can be made to a specific program.

Ald. Bier asked about the \$443,110 and if that includes salaries, programming and fringe benefits. He also asked about the energy assistance program.

Ms. Diamond Graham stated it does not cost money to run that program.

4816 Milford Flotilla – Timothy Mulherin was present for questions. He stated they are an intricate part of this City. He stated they have been serving Milford for 63 years and that they are all 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 valuable 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 reiterated they keep the residents of Milford safe on the waterways. Mr. Mulherin also stated they were called out on three major SAR cases, which required multiple day searches. He also pointed out 50% of new boats are paddle boats now and that they offer paddle boat safety classes. He stated they are very proactive in their work. He also stated they are very aware of the current financial climate, but this request is very important to them and greatly appreciate it. He reiterated it helps greatly to provide the people of this City with support and services. He stated any money they derive in income is from the classes they teach. Mr. Mulherin stated they have 73 patrol boats and a training center. He stated they enjoy what they do and thanked the Board for their support.

Chairman G. Smith thanked him for his patience in the long wait tonight.

4819 Milford Progress, Inc. – Steve Studer was present. Mr. Studer stated he is the new president this year. He stated they are the official downtown arm of this agency and the vibrancy and vitality of the downtown and feel they have played a role in that. He cited some of the things they have done, i.e. street lights, etc. He stated 38% of their operating budget comes from this grant.

Ald. P. Smith asked what is on the horizon over the next year.

Mr. Studer stated the focus would be on two things: 1) to push forward with the City's wayfinding study; and 2) State has cut regional convention tourism account. He stated they would be looking to put together a brochure to promote Milford.

Ald. Blake stated he has requested all department agencies that exceed last year's budget allotment to go back and consider what could be trimmed. He asked those departments to find ways to trim their budget to see if there is a potential reduction.

4215 Management Information Systems (MIS) – Jean Lasczak, MIS Coordinator was present. Ms. Lasczak stated she wished to provide the Board with clarification based on a series of questions that came up in the Board of Finance meeting. She explained line item 4796 0000 Software & Maintenance. She stated it is an important account that covers software licensing and maintenance for products that are installed. She also stated financial systems are the largest purchase out of this account.

Ald. Blake asked about the three employees with GIS in their title. He asked if there is a need for three employees that have to do with GIS and if one of those positions were eliminated could the department get by.

Ms. Lasczak stated there are only two GIS Coordinators. She explained the other position was that of a clerk/analyst as a restricting/shift from the Engineering Department. She explained the many duties of the GIS Coordinator and stated two positions are critical and work with all the public safety agencies.

Ald. Blake asked the responsibilities of the new position.

Mayor Richetelli interjected stating there is no new position, but actually a reduction in staff. He stated there are only two positions, but the name of the other position has changed representing a savings reduction of \$23,000 in this department. He stated by consolidating they are saving monies.

Ald. Staneski asked about line item 4189 0000 Professional Fees.

Ms. Lasczak stated it is used for emergency networking support as well as project support. She stated her office is very busy and often they need extra support.

Ald. Bevan asked about line item 4715 0000 Office Equipment and Upkeep. He stated they have been hearing about the purchase of \$700 chairs and asked what the account is used for.

Ms. Lasczak stated this would not be the account chairs would be purchased out of. She stated regarding the chairs that they ended up purchasing two chairs from an office liquidation company for \$125 and 99. She stated they replaced two other chairs from office supplies for \$180 each.

4121 Golf Commission – No one was present. No questions/comments.

4815 Veteran Graves – no questions.

Chairman G. Smith asked if the Mayor could explain the difference between Veterans Graves and MAPO.

Mayor Richetelli stated MAPO is the organization that puts the flags on the graves and also supports the patriotic parades. He explained Veterans Graves is tasked with preserving those grave stones specifically located in Milford cemetery.

4823 Patriotic Organization Association (MAPO) – no questions.

4818 Historic District Commission – no questions.

4820 Historic District II – no questions.

4822 Cemetery Association – no questions.

4826 Boys & Girls Club – no one was present.

Ald. P. Smith asked if the Mayor could provide a brief update and what this grant would cover.

Mayor Richetelli explained the history behind this club, stating former Speaker of the House Amann asked if Milford would be interested in having a Boys & Girls Club. Mayor Richetelli stated there was grant money at that time, which has since gone away. He reported there is an existing grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 for an addition to the West Shore Recreation Center. Mayor Richetelli stated there are over 300 active participants in the program. He also reported there is a very cooperative recreation department to accommodate the program at West Shore. He stated there is a Milford Board of Director who is charged with the long term operation of the club. He stated it is a very dedicated group of volunteers. Mayor Richetelli stated he expects over time the club will become self-sufficient. He stated there are a number of benefits to the West Shore.

Ald. Staneski asked if the \$60,000 grant was for programs.

Mayor Richetelli responded it is for operational costs only. He stated the expected annual operating costs will be \$110,000 to \$160,000. He also pointed out that currently there is a volunteer Executive Director.

Ald. Staneski asked if the Mayor could get the numbers for programs, etc.

Ald. Blake stated that previous discussions never evolved to an annual contribution from the City. He stated this is the first Board of Aldermen meeting this is coming to light. He also commented the Mayor previously stated at some point they would be self-sustaining and asked when that might occur.

Mayor Richetelli responded it was difficult to say at this time. He stated their goal and wish is to be self-sufficient. He stated he did not believe the club could sustain without a buy-in from the City initially. Mayor Richetelli stated he has seen the work they have done with the children and families and invited any member of the Board to go and see what they do. He stated they are doing great things. He also stated the Board of Directors is working tirelessly for funding.

Ald. Vitali stated he was on the Board, but recently resigned. He stated the monies they have put in are a debt. He stated they recently found out it was not and that they would have to pay back the money to Shelton.

Ald. Blake commented he was having difficulty with this especially when there is talk across the street of closing a school.

Ald. Vitali stated that is conjecture on the part of the Board of Education at this point. He stated it is yet to be seen if there will be any closures.

Chairman G. Smith commented the City has a history in that area. Speaking personally he recalled growing up in that area when there was a youth center and the benefits to him as a youngster.

Mayor Richetelli reiterated none of the funds are for capital improvement. He stated any additional funds past the grant would be raised.

Ald. Vitali and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to recess at 11:42 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary