

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
BUDGET DELIBERATIONS SESSION – FY 2015-2016  
APRIL 22, 2015**

The Board of Aldermen held a budget deliberation session on Wednesday, April 22, 2015 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman Vetro welcomed everyone to the meeting regarding the Board of Finance recommended budget for FY2015-2016. He stated tonight the Board would start hearing from the department heads and various agencies and Boards. He asked those present to join in saluting our flag and reciting the Pledge of allegiance.

**1. Roll Call**

Board Members Present

B. Anderson (8:55 p.m.)  
D. German  
M. Casey  
S. Fontana  
D. German  
A. Giannattasio  
D. Kubek  
S. Shaw  
F. Smith  
N. Veccharelli  
P. Vetro  
R. Vitali

Also Present

Mayor B. Blake  
P. Erodicti, Finance Director  
J. Rohrig, City Clerk  
S. Fournier, Mayor's Admin. Asst.

Excused

B. Bier  
J. Golden  
M. Hardiman

Chairman Vetro reconvened the meeting in public session at 7:09 p.m.

**4812 Transit Authority** - Henry Jadach, Director was present for questions/comments. He explained the routes, fixed rates and van routes. He also stated they maintain the railroad parking.

Ald. German asked the number of riders

Mr. Jadach stated fixed routes carry 400,000 and elderly and ADA with approximately 60,000 riders.

**4825 Beth El Shelter** – Toni Dolan, Executive Director, Attorney Michael Williams, Ed Davies, Board President and Suzanne Legas, Board Treasurer were present for questions/comments. Reading from a prepared statement, Mrs. Dolan expressed appreciation of the support they have received from the City. She stated one of the biggest challenges they face is the changes in the way they conduct the shelter and the competitive bid practice. Mrs. Dolan explained how the State has aligned itself with HUD which is the driving force behind the changes. She stated Beth El is now part of the 211 line, so calls no longer come directly to the shelter. Mrs. Dolan continued reading from a prepared statement speaking of the food costs which have risen. She stated they served over 26,000 meals last year and noted here are now additional meals provided by the culinary programs, i.e. Platt Tech and also Rotary. She stated Beth El is the only local shelter that operates a No Freeze Shelter. She stated they continue to watch their spending. Mrs. Dolan stated they have 6 full time staff remaining and

have per diem or part time people as well. She stated the shelter could not operate if they did not have the number of volunteers they have. She also spoke of the support they receive from foundations, clubs, loyal churches, United Way, etc. Mrs. Dolan stated their board commits every effort to work towards funding goals. She stated they are asking the same amount as last year and asked the Board to continue that funding.

Ald. Casey asked if a perspective client must go through the 211 services.

Mrs. Dolan replied yes.

Ald. Casey asked about the challenges, especially for someone with no access to phone service.

Mrs. Dolan explained they could come to the shelter and they would call 211. She stated the State provides cell phones to many.

Ald. Shaw asked why the new process is so confusing.

Mrs. Dolan explained in the past you would have to call various shelters to be able to find availability. She stated they are in a coordinated access region. She stated one positive is that the same information is entered into the same data system.

Ald. Shaw asked how this dovetails to the community outreach program for the homeless.

Mrs. Dolan stated they are starting to do work for the homeless living outdoors. She stated they are also working with the panhandling in Milford. She stated they are working on putting together afternoons where people could come in and they would be provided with information.

Ald. Vitali congratulated the Mrs. Dolan and the shelter board for all they do. He asked if individuals are ever turned away and if they are if so, if they are then re-directed elsewhere.

Mrs. Dolan explained if they are assessed, case managers are on the phone throughout the region so they are able to look at the data and find where a bed may be available. She stated there is always the possibility a bed may not be available, so in that case 211 does have some funding for temporary housing.

Ald. Vitali asked how someone would get there. He also asked the shelter's total operating budget.

Mrs. Dolan stated a ride would be provided. She also responded their total operating budget is \$718,000.

Ald. Vitali asked about fundraising and how much they generate in revenue.

Mrs. Dolan stated their goal this year is to raise \$80,000 through the various events they have planned, which she stated includes the upcoming Gala, "Sail into Summer," on May 30, 2015.

Ald. Smith commented about the Board's opportunity to speak with each of the departments and agencies and their needs. He recalled this Board made an adjustment last year in the amount of \$5,000. He asked about State contracts they receive.

Mrs. Dolan stated the veteran's contract had a small increase as well as Gemus (spelling).

Ald. Smith thanked Mrs. Dolan for all the wonderful work they do.

**4159 Veterans Ceremony and Parade Commission** – unavailable.

**4801 Council on Aging** – Janice Jackson, Executive Director and Mary Allen Herman were present for questions/comments. Reading from a prepared statement, Ms. Jackson spoke of the numerous programs they run which are very active, also the meals on wheels program which is run out of their offices and their van service. She stated their insurance specialists also provided services. In addition, Ms. Jackson stated they served 27,000 lunch meals and 9,000 were delivered and 2,000 received assistance from the food bank. 400 people received flu vaccinations. She noted there has been a large increase in people over the age of 55 joining the center, although the average age of their members is 75. She also spoke of some fundraising events and their fund box which averaged about \$700. Regarding gasoline, she stated they have used about 77% to date. She thanked the Board for their continued support of the center.

Ald. Shaw asked about the general increase in participation and attendance.

Ms. Jackson stated they have had a 10% increase in events and also an increase in special events.

Ald. Smith asked about membership dues.

Ms. Jackson explained they recently increased from \$10-\$15 per year. She also explained they have someone who calls their members to remind them when dues need to be paid.

Ald. German asked the total number of members.

Ms. Jackson replied they have approximately 3,000 members.

Ald. German asked about any additional membership increase.

Ms. Jackson stated they just went up, but that an additional increase had not been discussed by the Board.

Ald. Vitali asked the percentage increase.

Ms. Jackson replied 9% increase.

**4826 Boys and Girls Club** – Mrs. Megan Altomare, Executive Director, along with her board members, Thom Bach, Ila Tokarz, Ralph H, Jorge Santiago and Gary Opin were present to answer questions/comments. Mrs. Altomare provided an overview of their program. She stated they are now able to provide snacks thanks to Shop Rite and Food Bank. She spoke of their two locations they now operate, one in Simon Lake (elementary age) and also at West Shore Middle School. Mrs. Altomare stated they have seen an increase in their membership, over 43%.

Ald. Vitali thank you Ms. Altomare and her board for satisfying the needs of our kids. He asked the per pupil expenditure.

Ms. Altomare replied \$1,000

Ald. Vitali asked about staffing.

Mrs. Altomare stated they have 2 full time and 14 part time employees.

Ald. Veccharelli asked about the two locations.

Mrs. Altomare explained how the two locations have allowed them to separate their programs and focus on the specific needs of their kids. She stated it also, helped increase their membership, mostly because parents are very happy with the separation of the age groups.

Ald. German asked about other funding.

Mrs. Altomare stated they are always researching grants and partnerships.

Ald. German asked about the increase over last year's budget.

Mrs. Altomare stated this year's budget is \$380,000.

Mr. Santiago stated most of their funding is through fundraising.

Ald. German asked about of their fundraising events.

Mrs. Altomare stated coming up is their Getaways Galore event, 5k run, Pumpkins on the Pier and their Dodgeball tournament.

Ald. Vitali asked if there is a waiting list or if they are able to satisfy all requests.

Mrs. Altomare stated they are in full swing and is now a waiting list. She stated they also have a waiting list for the summer program.

Mr. Santiago commented on the needs of getting kids from all over town.

Ald. Shaw followed up on the wait list, asking if it was due to space or funding.

Mr. Santiago stated it is actually both. He stated if there was more space they could go for more funding.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if the increase in kids is why the added staff.

Mrs. Altomare stated they are not a licensed club but they do follow all state ratio requirement, pointing out they are not required to do so.

**4815 Veterans Graves** – Mr. Richard Shea was present for questions/comments. He stated he was filling in for Mr. Thomas Cody who was not available, but that he would do his best to answer any questions. He spoke

what the activities they have done over the past year which included the installation of a new flag pole for veterans, also flags for the veterans graves during the holidays. He stated they are planning to distribute 36 Betsy Ross flags. He stated it is quite a task because of the deterioration of some of the revolutionary war graves. He also stated they are interested in a small monument for Joseph Plumb in the old cemetery, who was a revolutionary war veteran.

Ald. Casey asked if the funding is adequate for some of the needs and goals of the agency.

Mr. Shea replied yes, the funding has been sufficient.

Ald. Veccharelli thanked him for identifying veterans from the Revolutionary War.

**4816 Milford Flotilla** – Mr. Dan Kiely was present on behalf of Paul Pronovost to answer questions/comments. Mr. Kiely explained how the Flotilla supports the auxiliary and how long they have been operating in Milford. He also spoke of their boating safety programs. He stated the funds they receive helps defer costs and also for them getting the boat into the water, as well as maintenance. He pointed out their current vessel over 20 years old. He also stated they receive their slip from the Milford Yacht Club.

Ald. German asked their total budget

Mr. Kiely stated their budget is just under \$20,000. He explained how they are still recouping losses from the two hurricanes where their building sustained severe damage.

**4822 Cemetery Association** – no questions/comments.

**4157 Harbor Commission** – Ray Swift, Harbor Master stated they still maintain the status of best marina location. He commented everything is falling into place and that they are continuing with the same events. He stated they have also brought in more boaters and groups during the off-season by offering special deals.

Chairman Vetro asked if there was any damage at the Harbor from the long winter.

Mr. Swift stated there is some piling that need to be re-set, with eight (8) needing to be replaced because they actually broke.

Chairman Vetro asked if the funding was available in the budget to accomplish the needed work.

Mr. Swift replied yes.

Ald. German asked if insurance helps with the damage

Mr. Swift replied no, that they are not insurable.

Ald. Casey asked about future precautions to protect for additional damage.

Mr. Swift stated they have tried, but unfortunately you can never really prepare for the winter, especially this past winter which was harsh.

Ald. Vitali asked the cost for the replacement of the piling.

Mr. Swift stated the cost is about \$21,000.

Ald. Veccharelli asked about parking spaces in the area of the dinghies. He asked about being able to park there.

Mr. Swift stated he knows the area Ald. Veccharelli is referring to, but he stated it would take away a ramp for boat launching.

Ald. Veccharelli stated the Ordinance states up to 3 spaces. He stated currently there is only two and every year he has asked for one more.

Mr. Swift stated he would put a spot there but reiterated it would take away from someone being able to launch their boat.

Mayor Blake stated he would work with Mr. Swift and the traffic division and public works to make the situation better.

Ald. German thanked Mr. Swift for keeping the harbor in top shape.

Ald. Casey also thanked Mr. Swift for his efforts and the work he does for the city.

**4219 Human Resources Department** – Tania Barnes, Human Resources Director was present for questions/comments. She explained her department is responsible for human resources, civil services, pension administration. Ms. Barnes provided the Board with an overview of her department's accomplishments this year. Regarding the re-organization in the department, Ms. Barnes explained the pension administrator transferred creating a vacancy in the department. She stated it was determined the best way to move forward was to create a Benefits Administrator in keeping with best practices and standards. She stated that position would work in conjunction with the Finance Department in the transition of the work and would be much more efficient to get the work done. Ms. Barnes stated the administrative assistant in her office does the work like a human resources generalist, doing much more in-depth and complex work than an administrative assistant would do.

Ald. Smith commended Mrs. Barnes for spearheading some of the changes in the department. Regarding the two positions, he asked if the benefits specialist position would be a full-time position.

Ms. Barnes replied yes.

Ald. Smith asked if that change for the Human Resources Generalist position had taken place.

Ms. Barnes stated the person in the administrative assistant position is working in a more complex position. She stated they went to the Civil Service Board for approval for this position change.

Ald. Vitali asked if there would be further training or qualifications for the Human Resources Generalist position.

Ms. Barnes stated the person is currently working at a hiring capacity. She stated that person is working with the exams, applications, etc. Ms. Barnes stated she has provided some of the training for her. She also spoke of OPEB which she has taken on as well.

Ald. Vitali asked about the upgrade of the testing and also the salary increase.

Ms. Barnes reiterated the person is working in that position and has been doing that work. She stated the salary is to a grade 27-4 from a grade 26-x.

Ald. Vitali questioned why the new position would not have to be tested for. He stated if the aldermen creates the position, then it should be considered vacant and then be tested for like any other position in the city.

Ms. Barnes stated they would go through that process.

**4145 Pension Board** – Ms. Barnes, Human Resources Director was present for questions/comments. She spoke in the reduction in secretarial fees line item. Ms. Barnes explained currently the Board pays a secretary, but that the goal is the benefits specialist would take on that role.

Ald. Vitali asked if that would create overtime for that position.

Ms. Barnes stated the individual would be paid time and half over 40 hours. She stated the Benefits Specialist puts together the agenda and also attends the meetings currently and would just assume the taking of the minutes.

Mayor Blake stated the position as it currently exists acts as the pension administrator for the pension board. He explained the new position would act as both which streamlines the position and makes the role more efficient.

Ald. Vitali expressed concern regarding the added work load could potentially lead to overtime if the regular work duties were not accomplished.

Ald. Veccharelli asked the actual savings per year.

Ms. Barnes stated \$600. She explained the current secretary receives \$1,200 per year. She also pointed out the administrative assistant currently prepares the agenda, puts together the paperwork, etc.

**4151 Civil Service Commission** – Tania Barnes, Human Resources Director was present for questions/comments. The monies are kept in the budget in case of an emergency.

**4131 Law Department** - Jonathan Berchem, City Attorney was present for questions/comments regarding his proposed budget. He provided the Board with an overview of the work the department does. He stated the department was part of the negotiations that resulted in the new pension contract for fire and that they are in negotiations with various bargaining units. Attorney Berchem continued with a review of the work of the city

attorney's office. He stated the department has negotiated the acquisition of land parcels, 5% decrease with the city's insurance carrier. He stated the department continues to represent the city with various tax appeals. He also stated the department has drafted several Ordinances as well as working with the health department concerning numerous blight issues. He stated his department's operating expenses remain stagnant.

Ald. Stanford compliment Attorney Berchem. She asked why the salary of the assistant city attorney is higher than the city attorney.

Attorney Berchem stated city attorney position is a part time position and the assistant city attorney is a full time position.

Ald. Vitali asked about the necessity of hard cover law books.

Attorney Berchem explained that line item includes the on-line books as well. He explained the updates they receive.

**4132 Ethics Commission** – Jonathan Berchem, City Attorney was present for questions/comments. He stated his office is charged with administering this Commission. He explained Misc Professional Fees are if they need to hire a fact-finder. He stated the overall budget is small, but they make due.

**4340 Animal Control** - Mr. Scott Ellingson, Acting Animal Control Officer and Janet Perrault were present for questions/comments. He spoke of the work of the department including the service they provide to Orange, noting they continue to be happy with the services. He explained the enforcement work they do, feral cat program and educational programs they are involved with. He stated the only item they have asked for in the budget was a new vehicle, but they have been able to make alternative arrangements.

Ald. Stanford asked about the assist animal control officer which was removed from the budget.

Mr. Ellingson explained the position that was removed is his former position. He stated the department has now has three (3) officers which includes himself, an assistant and kennel/assistant.

Ald. Smith asked about coyotes in Milford.

Mayor Blake stated Milford animal control is exclusively domestic and DEP handles coyotes, bobcats, etc.

**4121 Golf Course** – no one was present for questions.

**4818 Historic District Commission** – Mayor Blake stated the Commission's request is minimums.

**4820 Historic District II** – Mayor Blake stated this Commission as well is minimums.

**4819 Milford Progress** – Scott Moulton, President and Jorge Santiago, Vice President were present for questions/comments. Mr. Moulton and Mr. Santiago provided an overview of the work of MPI. He spoke of the funding they lost last year, stating they have been able to eliminate their administrative costs. Mr. Moulton stated they have made great strides in that area. He also stated they have worked with Public Works to put up the way-finding signs, which he stated will be installed throughout the City. Mr. Moulton stated they have also



been working with Julie Nash from the Economic Development to secure various grants, however they are projecting a loss of about \$14,000. He explained part of the loss is the commitment they have made to refurbish the Adopt A Spot Program, which he stated is chaired by Mr. Santiago. Mr. Moulton continued with an overview of the Adopt A Spot Program, which included over 20 volunteers. He stated their request for funding is to raise seed money to make sure the Adopt a Spot program becomes a viable, revenue making program.

Ald. German asked about the maintenance of each of the spots.

Mr. Moulton explained a part of the cost is the signage, as well as pruning of the area, flowers, etc. He stated down the road the landscapers will provide their services, but we have to provide the flowers, etc.

Mr. Santiago explained previously a number of the spots just were not maintained.

Ald. Shaw asked if the program would eventually be self-funding.

Mr. Moulton stated that was the objective. He stated it is a misnomer that the MPI has a "war-chest" of funds.

Ald. Shaw stated based on minutes of the last MPI meeting, it is just over \$100,000.

Mr. Moulton stated he would provide the Board with a statement. He explained much of the money is encumbered for specific projects.

Ald. Vitali thanked Mr. Moulton and Mr. Santiago for the extensive report. With regard to the adopt a spot program, he asked if they would be encumbered by the person "adopting" the spot. He also asked if there are potential sponsors.

Mr. Moulton stated there are 23 locations. He stated the committee would look to adopt other spots.

Ald. Vitali asked about the wayfinding signs and if the public works department was doing the work.

Mr. Moulton stated they are paying for the signs. He stated the cost is roughly \$1,000-1,400, depending on the size.

Ald. Vitali commented on the signs on Bridgeport Avenue/Clark Street and Cherry Street/Boston Post Road, that you cannot read those signs.

Mr. Moulton stated it is his understanding those signs follow DEP regulations.

Mayor Blake stated the Cherry Street sign is an original sign, but the font size would be changed.

Ald. Veccharelli applauded Mr. Moulton and Mr. Santiago for their efforts in the adopt a spot program.

Ald. Anderson commented it was a bit serendipitous that some of the adopt a spot locations coincide with the way finding signs.

**4161 Housatonic River Estuary Committee** – no request for funding.

**4162 Open Space** - Steve Johnson, Open Space Agent was present for questions/comments. He stated it has been a very active year. He stated the focus is on the mission of protecting and preserving open space and natural resources. He continued reading from a prepared statement regarding the work done throughout the year. Mr. Johnson also spoke of some of the grants received to date. He spoke of public outreach, education and being fortunate to work with several different departments and boards and commissions in the city. He stated they continue to refine the open space inventory.

Ald. Anderson asked about benefits paid in accordance with this position and the amount and where they are paid out of.

Mr. Erodici asked if he was referring to benefits for this position if funded.

Ald. Anderson replied yes.

Mr. Erodici stated it would be account 4710 Employee Benefits.

Ald. German complimented Mr. Johnson on the good work throughout the city.

Ald. Stanford thanked him as well and noted she has received numerous calls to keep this position in the budget.

Ald. Giannattasio spoke regarding grants that can be used under maintenance and can also be used to cover your salary. He asked if it is true that a particular grant could pay this salary.

Mr. Johnson asked what specific grant he was referring to.

Mayor Blake stated this position has been paid out of monies that come in for open space which allows for acquisition or maintenance of open space. Milford has brought in excessive amounts of grants. He also stated there have been grants that Mr. Johnson has sought out above and beyond. Mayor Blake stated the Board can decide on those funds which currently go into the general fund. He also pointed out the entire budget lists two new positions, this open space position and an accountant position. He stated overall there is a reduction of the budget with the elimination of two positions, so this there is a net increase of zero.

Ald. Casey complimented Mr. Johnson for his services. He stated it was his recollection when the position was created the money from open space would be seed money until monies were sought out through grants.

Mayor Blake stated a big function of Mr. Johnson's job has been grant writing, grants which he himself has sought out. He stated monies from these grants go into the general fund and basically offset his position.

Mr. Johnson clarified the NRCS grant identified city properties as well as some residential properties. He stated there were also a small number of properties that were in the preservation trust. He also spoke of restoring the marsh systems.

Ald. Giannattasio commended Mr. Johnson on all the work he has done and the dollars he has brought into the city. He stated he felt fundamentally different than the Mayor regarding this position and that the Board should

consider continuing as is. He stated he wanted to be very clear this is no reflection on Mr. Johnson, but the position has proven to be successful the way it is and that this Board needs to be responsive to the taxpayer.

Ald. Veccharelli thanked Mr. Johnson for all the money he has brought into the city. He commented he is very happy to have him as a permanent member as the city's open space manager. He stated this is zero dollars for the taxpayers.

Ald. Casey wanted to be clear he is very appreciative of the work done to date. He stated he is trying to understand why this cannot be clear that this is a change in policy of when this position was created. Owe it to the citizens to be clear that the policy has changed.

Ald. Anderson stated he appreciates the comments of the minority and he did not feel it was the proper forum, that the Board would have the opportunity to debate this.

Ald. Stanford stated she agreed with Ald. Anderson that this was not the time and place and that there was plenty of time to discuss this during the Board's deliberations.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he wished to point out this is not a debate, and that he wished to be clear that a position is being created when there has been a position in place not using taxpayer dollars. He stated this is an increase to the overall budget and that Mr. Johnson is before this Board to answer questions.

Ald. Shaw stated she agreed with Ald. Anderson. She asked Mr. Johnson if this position is currently a seasonal/temporary position.

Mayor Blake stated seasonal/temporary positions are generally life guards, camp counselors, etc.

(NOTE: Fontana left 9:38 p.m.)

Ald. German asked about past problems with bargaining units wherein work was being done through the open space agent.

Mr. Johnson stated he is encouraged by the service work by volunteers for events such as Earth Day. He stated he has received full support from Boy Scouts, girl scouts and public works. He stated he has come to understand the process in asking for permission from various departments. He also spoke of his continuing work to build relationships with the various departments and continue working with them.

**4813 Bridges Community Support** – Barbara DiMauro, CEO, Kathleen Sheehan, Chief Financial Officer and were present for questions/comments. Michele LeMere, President of the Board. Provided the Board with a history of the work of Bridges, pointing out they have been here since 1957. She stated they serve approximately 5,000 people annually.

Ms. LeMere stated she was honored to be here before the aldermen and that the Bridges board is very grateful for all of the support over the years. She continued reading from a prepared statement speaking of the critical struggles they face.

Ms. DiMauro stated they are experiencing cuts from the State, Department of Children and Families and other departments. She respectfully asked the Board to fund the amount as requested.

Ald. Vitali asked if they could elaborate on the cuts and how it would affect the residents of Milford.

Ms. DiMauro stated the most severe cuts would be adult outpatient services. She stated additional cuts could be staffing which would mean many parents that come to them for help with their children would not be able to do so. Ms. DiMauro also spoke of the medication that is provided to some of their patients. She stated if they cannot see the patients there will not be anywhere else for them to go.

Ald. Veccharelli spoke of Affordable Care Act and asked if they are now getting more insured people and if it is a wash or possibly a loss.

Ms. Sheehan stated they have done some analysis. She stated the increase in their fees is about \$68,000, so it is not a wash.

Ald. German asked the overall operating budget and the \$350,000 they receive from the city.

Ms. Sheehan stated the \$350,000 represents 2.8% of their budget. She stated their overall budget is \$12M. She stated she has been there over 24 years and last year was one of the worst years she has ever seen.

**4807 Regional Mental Health Board** – no one was present.

**4811 Borough of Woodmont** – Ed Bonessi, Warden and Christopher (“Kit”) Schmeisser were present for questions/comments. Mr. Bonessi stated they are a municipality within a municipality. He went on to explain they are not a private beach. He also stated the Borough augments the police department's budget by supplementing policing during the summer months. He also spoke of the maintenance of the beaches. Mr. Bonessi stated the budget as it is presented will barely leave them the ability to do any paving this summer, possibly just some patching.

Ald. German asked about the \$220,000 requested in the budget.

Mr. Schmeisser stated they asked for significantly more than the \$220,000 which they did not get. He stated the Borough is still digging out from storms Irene and Sandy. He also stated there is a lot of patching to be done since they will not be able to do paving. Mr. Schmeisser pointed out have not had an increase in the grant amount in a number of years, so they have not been able to set up any reserve to earmark specific projects.

Ald. German asked the number needed to meet those expenses.

Mr. Schmeisser referred to the handout that showed the number as \$253,000, but any small increase would help as the infrastructure continues to suffer.

Ald. Veccharelli stated he was confused as to the amount requested. He stated both the Mayor and Finance Board recommended \$220,000. He asked the Borough what they requested.

Mr. Schmeisser stated that was not their request to the Mayor or Board of Finance.

Ald. Veccharelli stated he was still confused because each department/agency has the ability to meet with the Mayor and Finance Board.

Mr. Schmeisser stated the \$220,000 was the number the Mayor recommended as well as the Board of Finance after listening to them. If you are asking me if I submitted something in writing for \$220,000, he stated that is not what was requested. He went on to explain the history of the relationship with the Borough and the City of Milford.

Ald. Shaw commented this is like a rebate for the work done in the Borough for the services provided.

Mr. Schmeisser stated they are trying to replicate what the rest of Milford gets,

Ald. Shaw asked the balance of their budget beyond the \$220,000.

Mr. Schmeisser stated it is for additional incremental things that are done which are a benefit for Milford.

Mr. Bonessi spoke of the sidewalks on Grove Street and curbs and sidewalks on New Haven Avenue. He stated the Borough picked up the additional costs which ended up being more than they were told it would be.

Ms. Schmeisser commented they have tried to be good stewards for Milford with the beaches in Woodmont, which he pointed out benefits all Milford residents.

Mayor Blake commented about storm Sandy and the work the Army Corp did, but after storm Irene they eventually had to seek reimbursement from FEMA, but it took a very long time but we were finally reimbursed.

Mr. Schmeisser commented there should be a separate line item for their work with the Army Corp. He spoke of the need to focus and set aside an amount the City feels would maintain proper levels.

Mayor Blake explained the reimbursement arrangement with the Army Corp and the City of Milford going back to the 1970's. Our engineering department has done and continues to do its due diligence.

Ald. Vitali asked the number the Borough originally requested.

Mr. Schmeisser stated it was \$253,000.

Ald. Vitali asked why the request was not shown in the budget. He referred to the comments made by Ald. Veccharelli who also asked what the original request was. Ald. Vitali also asked about the assessment and asked Mr. Bonessi if it is 1 mill.

Mr. Bonessi stated it is approximately \$118,000 plus.

Mr. Erodici stated the Borough this year did not submit their budget in writing, which is due in October. He stated they did not submit anything, so he used the number from the previous year.

**4320 Fire Department** – Fire Chief Douglas Edo, Assistant Chief Gary Baker, Battalion Chief Wassmer and Kevin McGrath, Chairman, Board of Fire Commissioners were present for questions/comments. T

Chief Edo thanked the Board for the opportunity to be here. He stated most of their budget is contractual wages and other contractual items. He stated the bottom line is this budget is \$300,000 over last year's budget.

Mayor Blake stated there was one adjustment as they are still making a determination for line item 4923 EMS Equipment reduced to \$1,000 from \$50,000 under the assumption they are going to purchase the equipment under a grant. He stated he would be making a recommendation for a technical correction at the time the budget is approved.

Chief Edo spoke about the life pack equipment which the department is looking to purchase.

Chairman Vetro asked about overtime for the Oyster Festival. He asked if the amount is \$5,000 every year.

Chief Edo stated it is a new line item. He explained it makes for a smoother transition in the budget.

Chairman Vetro commented it was his understanding there was a previous arrangement that the Oyster Festival would pick up those costs.

Mayor Blake stated there is a grant that should show up on the books because the police department also has the same line item which they have had for several years.

Chairman Vetro commented the taxpayers were essentially paying.

Mr. Erodici stated yes, the taxpayers front the money until the Oyster Festival reimburses each department.

Ald. Veccharelli thanked Chief Edo for coming in with the lean budget, understanding there are contractual obligations and commended him for doing so.

Chairman Vetro thanked each of the members of the department for all they do and the mutual aid provided to Milford's surrounding towns.

Ald. Giannattasio asked about the Quint and when delivery was expected.

Chief Edo stated they had just received and was getting some additional equipment and then would be placed in service.

Mayor Blake recognized the efforts of Chief Edo shortly after becoming chief in recognizing the need for this particular piece of apparatus especially being a large shoreline community.

Ald. Stanford thanked Chief Edo and the department for all they do for Milford to keep us safe.

**4360 Lights, Hydrants, Water** – Chief Edo explained this budget is essentially water usage and for street lights. He stated this year they put in a request for a hydrant which they did not do last year.

**4331 Civil Preparedness** – Chief Edo stated there were no changes from last year.

**4805 C-Med** – Chief Edo explained that this account is for the communications for emergency medical services which allows the paramedics to speak with the hospital physicians.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to recess at 10:47 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Kennedy  
Recording Secretary