

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
BUDGET DELIBERATIONS SESSION
APRIL 27, 2015**

The Board of Aldermen resumed their budget deliberation session on Monday, April 27, 2015 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman Vetro welcomed everyone to the April 27, 2015 meeting of the proposed budget for the City and Board of Education for fiscal year 2015-2016. He asked those present to join in saluting our flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Anderson (8:51 p.m.)
M. Casey
S. Fontana
D. German
A. Giannattasio (7:11 p.m.)
J. Golden
M. Hardiman
D. Kubek
F. Smith (7:06 p.m.)
G. Stanford
N. Veccharelli
P. Vetro
R. Vitali

Also Present

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

Excused

B. Bier
S. Shaw

Chairman Vetro reconvened the budget proceedings in public session at 7:07 p.m.

4803 Milford Fine Arts – Paige Miglio

Paige apologized for missing her previously scheduled meeting. She also thanked those in the audience for letting her begin the evening. Ms. Miglio distributed a handout regarding her budget and some of their events. She spoke of the work that has been done at the building, in light of the difficult weather. Last year the art counsel experience its first vandalism so they installed security camera. Spoke of the success of their events. Also they continue to grow their board members. Continued reading from her report and the partnerships they have established. Community focus has been a push and they continue to form partnerships with their fellow non-profit groups. The trustees of the Milford Fine Arts Counsel have recently set up a scholarship for high school.

Ald. German asked the Fine Arts Council's total budget and how much of Milford's portion represent that amount represented.

Ms. Miglio stated it is roughly \$150,000

Ald. Vitali asked the Council's total fundraising amounts for the year.

Ms. Miglio estimated that amount to be around \$20,000.

Ald. Smith asked about the expectations of the \$7,500 the agency requested and did not receive from the Mayor or Board of Finance.

Ms. Miglio explained their budget was based on previous budgets and what programs they had success with.

Ald. Smith asked about the additional staffing.

Ms. Miglio stated for years they have used a volunteer for their membership recruitment, but that they desired to have someone in the position with more of a vested interest.

Ald. Smith recognized the work of the Fine Arts Council.

Ald. German asked where the balance of their funding comes from.

Ms. Miglio stated it comes from their programs.

Ald. German asked the cost to join the Council.

Ms. Miglio stated it is \$25.00 per person and also there is a family rate.

4817 Human Services Department - Lisa Diamond Graham, Executive Director and Beth Simpson, Secretary/Bookkeeper were present for questions/comments. Ms. Diamond Graham distributed their program of operations. She read from a prepared statement as to how the department was created and their overall budget. She stated they receive grants from the Department of Education and the Department of Social Services. Ms. Diamond Graham explained although they are not part of the city they follow all the rules of the city and contribute to the pension plan and receive city benefits. She stated she has a staff of 6 full time employees and 16 part-time therapeutic staff members. She continued reading citing the number of people they have seen over the past year, which is a significant increase over last year. She also spoke of the work they do in the department and the uptick of families they are seeing. On a personal note, Ms. Diamond Graham stated this would be her last budget presentation as she will be retiring in the fall. She expressed her fear of the sustainability of this department and asked that the integrity of this department not be compromised. She also thanked her amazing staff that gives their heart and soul to this city. Ms. Diamond Graham also thanked the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor for supporting the department day in and day out.

Ald. Vitali thanked Ms. Diamond Graham for the work they do with so many different agencies in Milford and also personally as an educator and administrator at Live Oaks School.

Ms. Diamond Graham thanked Ald. Vitali for his support over the years

Ald. German asked about a succession plan at this point.

Ms. Diamond Graham expressed her hope a plan would be put in place. She stated she announced it to her board and also has spoken with the Mayor.

Ald. Kubek thanked Ms. Diamond Graham for her work and commended her staff for the work they do, especially the work they do behind the scenes that no one really sees. She wished her the best of luck.

Ms. Diamond Graham thanked Ald. Kubek and expressed her appreciation in having her serve as liaison to their Board.

4116 Milford Government Access - Albert May, Chairman, of MGAT was present for questions/comments. Reading from a prepared statement he provided the Board with a review of their work. He stated they have two sources of revenue, \$15,000 they receive from the City and the other grant is from Cablevision, which comes from the Regional Advisory which is 65% of their budget. He explained it is a grant they must apply for every year, adding there was a period last year when they were not sure they would receive the grant. Chairman May reported in 2014 they produced 80 meetings. He asked the Board to consider adding \$2,020 to help them with costs, mostly secretarial fees for their meetings.

Ald. Vitali asked their total operating budget.

Chairman May stated it is \$40,000.

Ald. Vitali asked if every program that is aired costs the same.

Chairman May stated it could vary depending on the length of the meeting.

Ald. Vitali asked about the \$60.00 charge and what it encompassed.

Chairman May stated the \$60.00 is a monthly fee to put their programming on Cablevision.

Ald. Smith stated last year the cable access grant was in jeopardy and some of the programming was in danger of getting cut, but did not recall that anything was actually cut.

Chairman May stated the situation was remedied because of a ruling from the court and which Soundview did not appeal.

Ald. Smith asked about other towns (i.e. Orange \$80,000, Fairfield \$25,000) pointing out they receive more money. He asked what additional programming.

Chairman May replied yes. He stated both towns he mentioned do so much more, such as more educational activities, etc.

Ald. Smith applauded the fine work of MGAT.

Ald. Hardiman thanked Mr. May for the fine job MGAT did on the Saint Patrick's Day parade.

Ald. Veccharelli stated the department requested \$15,750, but tonight they were asking for a little more. He asked the reason for the increase request.

Chairman May stated a lot of it was due to the change in leadership. He stated the budget was put together by his predecessor.

Ald. Kubek asked if customers have access to the meetings if they are a Frontier customer.

Mr. May stated they do but it is his understanding many citizens do have difficulty accessing programming.

Ald. Kubek asked if Frontier charges a monthly fee.

Mayor Blake clarified at the bottom of every Cablevision subscriber's bill there is a charge for that customer which goes back to Cable Advisory. He continued with some history of the grant Milford receives. He also spoke about the installation of equipment which enabled town specific programming.

Ald. Vitali asked if that contact could be announced tonight so that those watching would have that information.

Chairman May stated he did not have that information with him.

4215 Management Information Systems – Jean Lasczak, MIS Coordinator was present for questions/comments. She provided the Board with a brief overview of her department. She also spoke of her dedicated GIS staff. Ms. Lasczak pointed out an error in her budget, which was submitted during a transition. She stated line item 4977 0123 Computer hardware was omitted and was brought up during the Board of Finance's deliberations.

Ald. Stanford asked about the two new positions that were rejected and the expectations of those positions.

Ms. Lasczak stated in 1997 there were two additional GIS positions. Since 1997 she stated her staff has been reduced. She stated back in 1997, the City has only 50 computers which her department supported and now there are over 500 computers. She stated she was asking for backup for her PC LAN WAN Coordinator and software Specialist-DB Administrator.

Ald. Stanford asked about line item 4775 0000 Office Equipment Upkeep and 4796 0000 Software & Maintenance asked about the increase.

Ms. Lasczak explained their contract fees increase each year. She stated the increase was for maintenance costs. Also, more clocks have been installed which require maintenance. She also spoke of the New World Software which went up 9%, GIS 5%, etc.

Ald. Giannattasio asked about the time clocks. He recalled there was an issue that they were not being used at Public Works.

Ms. Lasczak stated the time clocks are currently being used and that another clock is also being used in building maintenance.

Ald. Giannattasio asked about other departments using the Kronos system.

Ms. Lasczak stated they are rolling out use of the system in the City Clerk's department and that they hoped to finish the rest of the Parsons Complex as well as the fire department. She stated her department is currently using the system.

Ald. German asked about computer equipment for each department.

Ms. Lasczak stated it is a part of each department's budget.

Ald. German asked the cost for each computer.

Ms. Lasczak stated they are currently using the State contract with a cost of \$565 for the PC, however, monitors vary.

Mayor Blake added there is a cost in each department of \$700 which is for Microsoft programs, etc.

Ms. Lasczak commented they don't have all of the costs at the time the budget is put together, so they request a reasonable amount which that they can fluctuate.

Ald. Vitali asked about a more common memory charges for computers. He also commented about licensing and asked if they were bought in bundles.

Ms. Lasczak stated some departments may upgrade them at different times. She stated they have 500 computers and you just don't get much of a benefit from buying bundles. She also stated with regard to memory for the computers it can vary from department to department.

4210 Finance Department – Peter Erodici, Finance Director was present, along with Ariane Swift, Accountant, Daniel Thomas, Assessor, Sue Taft, Tax collector for question/comments. Mr. Erodici recognized each member of his staff and welcomed Mrs. Taft the new tax collector and wished her well. He stated the other divisions of the Finance Department include the city treasurer and purchasing agent who could not be present tonight. He stated most of the line items remain flat, with a few increases which are contractual for the bargaining units. Mr. Erodici stated MEA and MSA contracts are currently being negotiated. He stated the main increase to the budget is regarding reval operations. He stated he had asked for \$55,000 which was reduced to \$10,000. Also last year and previous to that he made a request for an Accounting I position. Mr. Erodici explained the history of the position dating back to 2009, when unfortunately they were unable to fill the position before it was cut from the budget the following year. He stated it is still a much needed position. Mr. Erodici spoke of staff turnover due to retirements, illness and family tragedies which has hit his department hard. He spoke of the numerous State and Federal mandates which the department must follow. He also spoke of the growth of the City, i.e. number of grants, capital projects, the loss of seasoned department heads. Mr. Erodici also spoke about the number of contracts, which has been a huge burden on his already lean department. He commented this year and going forward would be increasingly difficult and almost impossible to complete the work needed. He spoke of the amount of work on the back burner and the Affordable Care Act work which is a mandate increasing the department's workload on a daily basis. Mr. Erodici also spoke of converting the financial system which is a 1980's system and in dire need of updating as well as the support they receive from their vendors.

Ms. Swift spoke regarding the accountant position. She stated the need is even greater because of the requirements from the State which begin this year. She also addressed the need for an updated financial system, which just can't be done without this additional accountant position. She continued reading from a prepared statement and expressed her hope this position would be reinstated to the finance department.

Mr. Thomas spoke regarding line item 4977 0142 which is the request of \$5,000 for the cost of computer enhancement which will give them the ability to handle the number of applications they process each year. He stated currently all taxpayer claims are processed by hand.

Ald. Veccharelli asked about the need for the account position.

Mr. Erodici explained the request for this position was first approved in 2008 by the Board of Finance cut it from their recommended budget. He stated in 2009 the position was approved by both the Board of Finance and Board of Aldermen, however, due to the retirement of his predecessor that position and the need to fill that position first, and the next year the position was cut from the budget before they had a chance to fill it.

Ald. Veccharelli stated he would support this request. He stated this position has been asked for year after year and is badly needed.

Ald. Casey asked some background regarding the uniformed charter account.

Mr. Erodici explained the process was established by the State several years ago. He stated the first focus is with all boards of education and then it was expanded to all cities and towns. It is a way for the State to conduct comparisons for each town. He also spoke of a partial grant that is available is town/cities do participate. He also explained they have asked for reporting from Milford, but because the system is so old he is extremely difficult to convert. He also added this would be one of the key projects the account could work on.

Ald. Giannattasio asked about New World which is a vendor of the City of Milford and if asked Mr. Erodici to elaborate on pushing the technology forward with this new hire.

Mr. Erodici stated New World is one of the top vendors for municipalities, not necessarily in Connecticut. He stated they have them a long time and they have been very satisfied with them and their performance. He stated it was back in the 1980's when they converted to New World. He stated they are a serve based technology which supports an AS 400 base. He continued with an explanation of the number that serves the AS 400 platform. He stated they just don't get that same level of support.

(Note: Ald. Golden left at 8:28 p.m.)

Ald. Giannattasio recommended looking for a company that would provide the personnel and get the city to the point where they could convert. He stated he wanted to be clear regarding the mandates.

Mr. Erodici stated it is mandated, but it is being done in phases. He stated the electronic filing will be required by December 2015. He also stated he wished to be clear, it is not an enhancement that technology would be able to let them do so many things, the system is doing the job, but the mechanics and support to do the job lessen each year. He stated the upgraded technology is to get the support needed for contracts, benefits, etc.

Mayor Blake commented on the customization from New World which is one reason they are so invested in New World. This Board has already approved an upgrade, but we need someone with an understanding of our finance systems, understands the AS 400, etc.

Ald. Veccharelli asked if the funding was currently in this budget to move off the AS 400 system to the cloud.

Mr. Erodici stated the funds are there. This Board approved the bonding back in 2008. The project was put on hold because of two major retirements. He stated they are ready to move forward, but need the personnel to do so. Even if we get this position, there still is much to do and we will need to take time from our current responsibilities.

Board recessed at 8:34 p.m. for a technical difficulty.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the Board in public session at 8:45 p.m.

Ald. Vitali commented regarding the request for the account position and asked Mr. Erodici if what he was saying was by adding a junior account it would help efficiently run the process.

Mr. Erodici stated the Assessor and tax office have their own systems and have already upgraded to a different system. He stated he is referring the financial end, i.e. payroll, capital assets, purchasing, hr data, budget, etc. He stated the system is doing the job and they are making the best of it, but it needs to be upgraded. He stated a replacement system is needed because of quarterly and bi-annually patches that need to be done.

Ald. Vitali commented it is the responsibility of the vendor to focus on these upgrades. He commented on the technology which in his mindset would require less people.

Ald. German asked the bonding that was allocated in 2008.

Mr. Erodici stated he believed it was \$245,000. It may be a challenge since it is 7 years later. He expressed his hope of negotiating the best way possible. He also stated attempts were made in 2008 for updates. He also commented on the support from MIS in making these changes.

Ald. Giannattasio commented this was sounding more like a technology issue.

Mr. Erodici stated he would respectfully disagree. He spoke of the internal resources that are needed.

Ald. Giannattasio spoke of contractual wages that would increase as well as insurance costs. He stated he felt the request was last minute and that he was forcing the hand of the Board to get this position in. He stated training the staff was important. He questioned why it has taken since 2008 to move forward. He stated he would have a problem supporting a new hire for the reasons given and that it was more a technology issue.

Ald. Veccharelli spoke regarding various operating systems and the functionality of each system to make it operate. He stated the question is the need for an accountant position which is sorely needed. He spoke of the remarkable job the finance director and his predecessor have done to date. The bonding is in place for the technology. He stated he would whole heartedly support this position.

Mayor Blake commented the dialogue has gone somewhat off-board. He commented on the number of grants the city has receives and the need to monitor those grants. He spoke of the importance of having someone champion these projects and transition. There are a host of reasons for adding this position. This is one of two positions that are really being supplanted and that a lot of discussion and input has gone into this decision and why it is being recommended to you.

Ald. Casey stated last year this position was recommended by the Board of Finance, but didn't move any further.

Mayor Blake stated it was a recommendation he made at the Board of Finance budget meetings.

Ald. Giannattasio spoke of the taxpayer and not being able to realize a savings to the taxpayer. He referenced the DPLU which adapted after cuts to their budget. He stated he believes the position i premature and that technology should be put in place prior to adding a position. He stated two positions are being added to this budget.

Ald. German asked about the computer software and the \$5,000 increase you were looking for.

Ald. German stated each year they process 3,600 applications for seniors, veterans and handicapped. He stated there are six different applications they most process. He stated if they were able to upgrade their software it would reduce doing these calculations by hand.

4141 Board of Assessment Appeals – Daniel K. Thomas, City Assessor was present for questions/comment. No questions.

4420 Public Works Office – Christopher Saley, Public Works Director was present for questions. German asked for an overall summary. Mr. Saley commented it has been a rewarding year for the department and the city. He spoke of the numerous building projects, drainage projects and energy efficient projects. It is a substantial investment. He stated training and education are very critical for his department and all city departments.

Ald. Casey asked about the request for an assistant public works director.

Mr. Saley spoke of energy savings and the role of the energy administrator for the Board of Education. He reiterated the need to invest in their employees and efficiency.

Ald. Vitali asked about a collaboration of an individual who would take care of "both sides of the street" and would know what is going on across the entire city.

Mr. Saley stated it was not just about energy, but there are times when a second set of hands is much needed. He stated he was looking for a broader scoped person.

Ald. Vitali commented the mindset needs to be there and that the city needs to work toward collaboration and not isolation.

Mr. Saley stated an example the mayor has been pushing for is a shared fleet. He stated that is just one example of sharing.

Ald. Smith spoke as a liaison to the public works committee and spoke of the creativity and response of the director. He asked if the clerk position had been filled.

Mr. Saley replied yes.

Ald. German asked about the assistant pw director and any savings, i.e. grants, etc.

Mr. Saley stated he believed it would pay for himself. He stated there are numerous opportunities that would save the city, i.e. recycling, energy and various other spots. He spoke of the importance of forward thinking.

Ald. Anderson thanked the director for his work. He asked for a list of vacancies in his department.

4421 Highway/Parks – Christopher Saley, Public Works Director was present for questions.

Ald. Veccharelli asked about line item 4534 0000 Sand and asked why such a low

Mr. Saley stated Tom Hunt came to him with a new mixture, called a "molasses" mix which other towns use. It does two things, it reduces the amount of sand on the streets and it is less expensive per ton.

4423 Building Maintenance – Christopher Saley, Public Works Director was present for questions. No questions were asked. Mr. Saley acknowledged the amount of work the building maintenance has done this past year. He noted they have really taken the lead in doing work in-house.

4424 Engineering – Christopher Saley, Public Works Director was present for questions. Mr. Saley noted the department is in the process of reorganizing the department and becoming more automated. He stated previously the department was on both sides of the hallway and it was an idea brought to them by Administrative Assistant Bev Hayes.

Ald. Vitali asked about any thought of renting space that is available in the building. He asked how many rooms are free.

Mr. Saley stated that would be a decision of the Board of Aldermen. He stated he did not have the square footage on that. He stated there are a handful of rooms available on the second floor and also the first floor. He stated they are looking to get all of the conference rooms back on the first floor and they would then be able to take the second floor off-line which would save energy costs.

Mayor Blake stated they do that to some degree. He spoke of some new offices that came online and pay for some stipend. He stated the value to our citizens is the resources they provide. He stated a proposal to repurpose the space is taking the second floor off line and save on energy costs.

4429 General Garage – Christopher Saley, Public Works Director, was present for questions. No questions were asked.

4431 Solid Waste – Christopher Saley, Public Works Director was present for questions.

Ald. German asked about reducing trash and the possibility of outsourcing.

Mr. Saley stated the real growth is looking on how to reduce trash, separating organics, recycling, etc. He spoke of the variety of ways.

Chairman Vetro asked about 4790 9944 Hazardous Waste Removal asking about the reduction to \$3,000 from the requested \$12,000.

Mr. Saley provided a history of the hazardous waste removal.

Ald. German asked about line item 4709 0000 Condo Reimbursement

Mayor Blake stated condominiums pay taxes as well for trash removal. He spoke of the formula which is established by this Board. He also cited the numerous requirements which the city is very strict with.

Ald. German asked who audits this each year.

Mayor Blake explained as part of the process they have to submit their costs.

Mr. Erodici elaborated the formula is set by Ordinance (\$2.23 per unit for regular trash pickup and .27 for recycling). He also stated it is administered by the accounting office.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if any condominium had ever not been reimbursed.

Mayor Blake referenced the Ordinance and explained the letter that goes out and the restrictions.

Ald. Veccharelli asked about the increase at the Transfer Station.

Mr. Saley stated last year they looked at various towns and we made a proposal that was fair which was brought to the alderman and approved. We felt it was in the best interest of Milford citizens. He noted the cost would be going up again next year.

Ald. German asked about the contract to manage the facility.

Mr. Saley stated it is being looked at. He stated as a whole they have to look at the trend.

4426 Wastewater – Christopher Saley, Public Works Director was present for questions. Mr. Saley informed the Board the Mayor has been very helpful in supporting them looking at various energy savings. He mentioned solar components and other incentives for savings.

Ald. Giannattasio asked for an update on the nitrogen credits.

Mr. Saley stated there has been a transition with the recent retirement of Mr. Cooper. He stated there have been some learning curves. The last few weeks they were over, but the operation foreman down there is done well in making changes and bringing the number down. He also spoke of the educational training.

Ald. Giannattasio asked how the credits work. If too much is produced, are they penalized?

Mr. Saley replied yes that is true. He stated Housatonic and Beaverbrook share. He explained the charge if you go over. Mr. Saley stated he felt it was optimistic overall.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if any credits would be seen on the revenue side.

Mr. Erodici stated he did not see any revenue from the nitrogen credits, but could not speak to the future.

Ald. Giannattasio asked about the cost to the taxpayer.

Mayor Blake interjected speaking of the credit program and generating savings. The financial commitment by this Board to put in mechanicals and training has helped.

Mr. Saley stated he is more concerned with the energy consumption and looking down the road at cogeneration which does so much more. He stated nitrogen is a small component of this.

Ald. Vitali asked about asphalt acclamation.

Mr. Saley stated it has been slow, but it is moving along now. He stated they have also received calls from contractors. He also commented they are now using a hot patch instead of a cold patch. He stated there is a lot of roadwork to be done in the City.

Ald. Vitali asked about the asphalt recycling.

Mr. Saley stated the machine has been very helpful.

Ald. German asked about the sewer use fees.

Mr. Erodici stated it is directly related to the department expenditure cost also impacted by the number of users.

4154 Sewer Commission - Christopher Saley, Public Works Director was present for questions. No questions were asked.

4503 Public Debt Service – no questions asked.

4710 Employee Benefits

Ald. Casey asked about line item 4211 9909 Post Employment Benefits and the reduction.

Mayor Blake stated an OPEB trust was formed several years ago. He stated this is a liability the city has which is associated with costs for retirees. He stated what is critical for Milford is that we make good faith efforts to fund it. He stated the City has been making this installment which is the pay as you go.

Ald. Casey asked how the request is formulated.

Mayor Blake stated it is formulated by the City's actuaries. He stated the city has never fully funded the full amount. What Milford does that most municipalities do not is making a good faith effort.

Mr. Erodici stated the actual arc has come down from about \$14,000,000 which is a direct result of establishing that OPEB Trust.

Ald. German asked about line item 4211 9905 Pension: Fire/Police/General and if it would continue to increase.

Mayor Blake explained the changes in accounting practices. Milford has one of the healthiest pension funds in the State. He stated this Board recently adopted a new pension contract for police and fire which has also resulted in savings that will be seen after July 2015. He stated the actuaries are charged with analyzing each year.

Ald. German asked about pension obligations which continue to grow, but it really isn't self-supportive. Important we continue to re-negotiate contracts and continue this moving forward.

Mayor Blake reiterated it is a huge liability as well as a burden to our taxpayers, but the City continues to work in good faith with a steady, prudent course into the future.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if \$500,000 was the amount for the last few years.

Mr. Erodici stated yes, it has been around \$500,000 for several years.

Ald. Giannattasio He asked if the Finance Director could explain "Pay as you Go."

Mr. Erodici stated that is the claims paid each year for retiree medical benefits.

4740 Claims and Refunds

Ald. Casey asked about line item 4841 0000 Uninsured Claims: General - asked what claims may not be covered.

Mr. Erodici stated that is a conservative number. He stated prior to his tenure it was his understanding there were claims.

Mayor Blake stated in 2012 the boardwalk that goes through Beaverbrook was an item not covered by insurance. He stated claims involving the Harbor Commission.

4720 Insurance and Bonds – no questions asked.

4790 Benefit & Salary Reserve

Ald. German asked for an explanation of the account.

Mayor Blake stated this is part of negotiations for the bargaining units.

Mr. Erodici provided a quick overview. He stated this line item is used when a contract is expiring as of June 30, 2015. He stated this account anticipates those increases.

4992 Private School Textbook – no questions asked.

4799 Unallocated Contingency

Ald. Vitali asked for an explanation for when the money is expended.

Mayor Blake state this account is to draw money for items that were unexpected during the budget process. He stated this Board would see a budget memo transfer from the unallocated contingency for the City Clerk's office for indexing.

4993 Education Audit Fees – no questions asked.

4994 School Debt

Ald. Smith asked why this account is included in the city budget.

Mayor Blake stated this has been the structure of the budget for some time. He stated the Board could work with the Board of Education to restructure these items.

Mr. Erodici stated this is rolled into the BOE's budget which technically is part of the City's budget. He also explained it encompasses the bonding that goes out each year.

4995 Employee Benefits, Non-Teaching – no questions asked.

4997 Education Health Insurance Contribution

Ald. Vitali asked if the bonding for education purposes was taken out what the amount would add up to.

Mr. Erodici stated the total bonding for education is \$43,000,000

Ald. Vitali commented the expenses for education total almost \$150,000,000.

Mr. Erodici stated it is over a course of a few years. He also pointed out some of the items are dictated by state statute.

Mayor Blake referred the Board to p. 13 which bifurcates the items and shows the total.

Ald. German asked what is being done to keep the costs down.

Mayor Blake stated his entire morning was spent with the State Comptroller's Office. He stated a large portion of the budget is dedicated to healthcare, i.e. prescriptions, etc. He stated it is something the city is very involved in managing.

Ald. Stanford recalled the history of regarding the health benefits concerning education.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to recess at 10:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Kennedy
Recording Secretary