

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
BUDGET DELIBERATIONS – FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017
MAY 12, 2016 – FINAL VOTE**

The Board of Aldermen held a budget deliberation session on Thursday, May 12, 2016 in City Hall for Consideration and Voting RE: the proposed general budget, revenues and appropriations for fiscal year 2016-2017, establishment of the 2016-2017 mill rate and the tax due dates.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to come out of recess. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the Board in public session at 8:12 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the final meeting of the 2016-2017 budget deliberations session. He asked everyone present join him in the Pledge of allegiance.

Chairman Vetro stated tonight was the final step in the budget process. He went on to thank Mayor Blake, Board of Finance, Board of Education and Superintendent Feser and her staff and the aldermen. He spoke of the efforts of all to strike a balance between student citizens and senior citizens representing the best interests of the city, with the best results.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Anderson (8:17 p.m.)
B. Bier
M. Casey
S. Fontana
D. German
A. Giannattasio
J. Golden
M. Hardiman
D. Kubek
S. Shaw
F. Smith
G. Stanford
N. Veccharelli
P. Vetro
R. Vitali

Also Present

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

Ald. Vitali and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to reorder the agenda and vote on the Education budget.

Ald. Vitali stated with a number of individuals present from the education department he would ask his colleagues to be amendable to reordering the agenda.

By roll call vote, the motion to reorder fails 7 yes (Bevan, Bier, Casey, German, Giannattasio, Grant, Vitali) and 7 no (Beatty, Golden, Hardiman, Shaw, Smith, Veccharelli, Vetro).

Ald. Shaw suggested this item be revisited later in the evening, and that they first get started with the budget.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the following budgets: Acct. 4111 Board of Aldermen in the amount of \$6,305, Acct. 4112 Elections in the amount of \$130,000, Acct. 4115 Registrar of Voters in the amount of \$154,128, Acct. 4116 MGAT in the amount of \$16,250 and Acct. 4121 Mayor's Office in the amount of \$272,004, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Bevan and Ald. Casey moved to amend account 4116 MGAT increasing line item 4189 0001 Government Cable Service by \$5,000 for a new amount of \$20,000 and a new subtotal in *Personal Services* of \$20,000 and a new department total of \$21,250.

Ald. Anderson stated the amended amount exceeds what was requested by MGAT.

Ald. Bevan stated the new chairman made this request last night. He stated it was based on the number of meetings they cover.

Ald. Anderson asked if he was open to a lesser amount, perhaps \$3,000, for a new department total of \$19,250.

Ald. Casey withdraws his second and Ald. Bevan rescind his amendment.

Ald. Bevan and Ald. Anderson moved to amend account 4116 MGAT as follows: increase line item 4189 0001 by \$3,000 for a new total of \$18,850 and a new subtotal in *Personal Services* and a new department total of \$19,250.

Ald. Shaw asked Ald. Bevan what the \$3,000 would provide MGAT with.

Ald. Bevan stated it would allow them to possibly get to the end of the year for recording meetings.

Ald. Veccharelli stated the MGAT chairperson last night stated the Board of Education meetings are not covered entirely through this line item and that the Board of Education pays toward the recording of Board of Education meetings. He stated it was his understanding MGAT would ask the Board of Education for additional funds.

Ald. Bevan stated the Board of Education did provide MGAT with extra funding for the recording of their meetings, but it still was not enough to cover their meetings.

By roll call vote, the amendment fails 7 yes (Anderson, Beatty, Bevan, Bier, Grant, Shaw, Smith) and 8 no (Casey, German, Giannattasio, Golden, Hardiman, Veccharelli, Vetro, Vitali).

On the main motion, by roll call vote the motion carried 11 yes (Bier, Casey, German, Giannattasio, Golden, Hardiman, Shaw, Smith, Veccharelli, Vetro, Vitali) and 4 no (Anderson, Beatty, Bevan, Grant).

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the following budget: Acct. 4122 General Expenses as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017, with the following changes (NEW) Add a new line item 4998 0016, Milford Historical Society, in the amount of \$2,000 for a new sub-total in *Capital Outlays* of \$73,000 and a new department total of \$460,301.

Ald. Casey stated request for line item 4998 0016 Milford Historical Society was not approved by the Board of Finance, so a 2/3 vote was needed on this request.

Mayor Blake stated the operational costs for the historical society have increased. He stated they offer historical tours, school trips and much more for Milford. Mayor Blake stated this request would help with electrical costs and such, with most of their operational costs would be borne by the historical society. He stated this is a token amount and demonstrates the city is in favor of what they do.

Ald. Anderson stated he is in favor of this because Milford's school children tour those buildings and it is an educational piece. He stated in many respects they are an adjunct facility of the city. He also referenced Art Stowe, the new city historian and some of the other affiliations with the historical society. He stated the request would show appreciation of their work. He also pointed out the historical society provided their contribution for Milford's 375 Celebration and the number of events that were planned.

Ald. Smith echoed the comments of Ald. Anderson. He stated it is a nominal amount and the monies would defray some of the costs the historical society has incurred over the years. He stated he is in full support to add this money.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he is in favor of providing children with any educational benefit. He stated this is non-profit organization. He also cited the State fiscal crisis and that this may not be the time for adding additional monies to the budget. He suggested there are other ways, perhaps fundraising, etc. He stated he would not be in favor.

By roll call vote the motion carried 10 yes (Anderson, Beatty, German, Golden, Grant, Hardiman, Shaw, Smith, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 5 no (Bevan, Bier, Casey, Giannattasio, Vitali).

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve the following budgets: Acct. 4123 Community Development in the amount of \$112,363, Acct. 4129 City Clerk in the amount of \$369,042 and Acct. 4131 Law Department in the amount of \$607,262, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the following budgets: Acct. 4132 Ethics Commission in the amount of \$800, Acct. 4133 Probate Court in the amount of \$18,299, and Acct. 4141 Board of Finance in the amount of \$1,050, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4142 Permitting and Land Use in the amount of \$997,300, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017.

Ald. Bevan and Ald. Casey moved to amend the motion to eliminate the Clerk A/Concierge position Budgeted Positions.

Chairman Vetro stated the new numbers would need to be reflected for the secretary and finance director.

Ald. Giannattasio requested a 5-minute recess. The Board recessed at 8:46 p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the Board in public session at 8:57 p.m.

Mr. Erodici stated the new totals would be as follows: Contractual Wage Adjustment to read \$3,600 for a new Position Totals to read \$835,343, line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages to read \$835,343, line item 4111 9942 1/5 Fiscal Week to read \$4,159, for a new subtotal in *Personal Services* to read \$897,753 and a new department total of \$961,899. He stated the amendment reflects a \$35,401 total reduction.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he did not feel this was a critical position that needed to be added to the budget at this time. He stated he was not in favor of any new positions given the critical situation in the State. He also stated he was not in favor of the position based on the testimony of the DPLU Director. Ald. Giannattasio commented it seemed to be the trend of this administration.

Mayor Blake stated over the last 7 years the Board of Education has reduced over 27 employees. He pointed out the addition of this position, eliminates two other positions and over the last 10 years several positions in the city have been eliminated.

Ald. Giannattasio stated the citizens just don't realize the true savings because they are not receiving the benefit. He also stated during the public comment on the Board of Finance's recommended budget, a member of the department testified the position just was not necessary. He stated at this point based on economics it would be fiscally irresponsible.

Mayor Blake stated the department has received good reviews because of the tools they have been given. He stated under the recommendation of the DPLU Director it is a budgetary cut and would improve relations.

Ald. Giannattasio reiterated he saw no benefit to the taxpayers.

Ald. Shaw asked for point of clarification regarding the position and that it was her understanding the position is currently in the building department part-time.

Mayor Blake responded yes.

Ald. Shaw stated she had the same initial concern, but that after looking at the numbers of the changes that have been made in the department she was in favor.

By roll call vote the amendment failed 7 yes (Bevan, Bier, Casey, German, Giannattasio, Grant, Vitali) 8 no (Anderson, Beatty, Golden, Hardiman, Shaw, Smith, Veccharelli, Vetro).

On the main motion, by roll call vote the motion carried 8 yes (Anderson, Beatty, Golden, Hardiman, Shaw, Smith, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 7 no (Bevan, Bier, Casey, German, Giannattasio, Grant, Vitali).

Ald. Shaw and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to reorder the agenda and bring forward Acct. 4996 Educational Operations. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Golden made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4996 Education Operation in the amount of \$91,611,950 as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017.

Ald. Shaw and Ald. Golden moved to amend the motion as follows: line item 4001 0000 Lump Sum Appropriations to read \$91,786,950 for a new subtotal in *Education Operations* of \$91,786,950 and a new department total of \$91,786,950.

Ald. Shaw stated she wished to amend the motion to add back in the \$175,000 that was reduced by the Board of Finance. She stated she was making the motion based on the projected State cuts to the education budget. She also cited reductions to the energy and transportation accounts. She stated as to the reduction of the SRO monies, it was her understanding those monies would go toward upgrades to the language lab at Harborside Middle School.

By roll call vote, the amendment failed 8 no (Anderson, Bevan, Bier, Casey, German, Giannattasio, Grant, Vitali) and 7 yes (Beatty, Golden, Hardiman, Shaw, Smith, Veccharelli, Vetro).

Ald. German stated it was difficult at this point to add money back without knowing what monies would be coming from the State.

Ald. Anderson and Ald. Shaw moved to amend the motion as follows: line item 4001 0000 Lump Sum Appropriations to read \$91,651,950 for a new subtotal in *Education Operations* of \$91,786,950 and a new department total of \$91,651,950.

Ald. Anderson stated his amendment would add back the \$40,000 the Board of Finance cut. He stated his reasoning was that the \$40,000 would provide the district the opportunity to add the language lab at Harborside Middle School to bring parity to the middle schools.

Ald. Vitali stated this Board can only recommend monies and cannot dictate where the monies go. He stated there is no guarantee the monies would be used where directed by this Board. He stated for that reason he would not be in support of the amendment.

Ald. Anderson stated when Dr. Feser and the Board of Education came to this Board last year they asked to reconfigure and redistrict which they did in a manner that was sensitive to the needs of

children and residents. He stated this year Dr. Feser came in with an increase of .85%. He stated Dr. Feser and the department came in with an honorable budget, with an increase that was less than 1% and that he believed the monies would be used for the stated purpose.

Ald. Grant agreed with the parity, however, the point made by Ald. Vitali is a concern. He asked if there was any guarantee the money would be used where directed by Ald. Anderson.

Ald. Anderson replied no.

Ald. Veccharelli stated the Board of Education has promised to this Board that the monies would be used for the science labs and that he would respect that they would do what they have stated they would do with the \$40,000. He stated it is for the kids and education and that he hoped everyone would support this because he believed they would do what they stated during their presentation.

Ald. Anderson commented there is often talk about STEM programs at the high schools and expressed his hope this Board would support the installation of the language lab at the middle school.

Ald. Golden stated she did not want to see anything taken from the children and wanted to see them given what they need.

Ald. Bevan commented regarding the request that the monies go to the language lab, adding he did not see or hear the Board of Education advocating for the \$40,000.

By roll call vote, the amendment fails 8 yes (Anderson, Beatty, Golden, Hardiman, Shaw, Smith, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 7 no (Bevan, Bier, Casey, German, Giannattasio, Grant, Vitali).

On the main motion, by roll call vote, the motion carried 13 yes (Anderson, Beatty, Bier, Casey, German, Giannattasio, Grant, Hardiman, Shaw, Smith, Veccharelli, Vetro, Vitali) and 2 no (Bevan, Golden).

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve the following budgets: Acct. 4143 Board of Assessment Appeals in the amount of 10,200, Acct. 4144 Zoning Board of Appeals in the amount of \$8,975, Acct. 4145 Pension Board in the amount of \$3,900, Acct. 4146 Flood and Erosion Board in the amount of \$903, Acct. 4147 Tree Commission in the amount of \$1,621, Acct. 4151 Civil Service Commission in the amount of \$200, Acct. 4153 Park, Beach and Recreation Commission in the amount of \$1,100 and Acct. 4155 Economic Development Commission in the amount of \$2.00, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve the following budgets: Acct. 4156 Conservation Commission in the amount of \$1,105, Acct. 4159 Veterans, Ceremony & Parade Commission in the amount of \$5,600, Acct. 4160 Housing Code Board of Appeals in the amount of \$400, Acct. 4161 Housatonic River Estuary Commission in the amount of \$0 and Acct. 4162 Open Space in the amount of \$55,783, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if the \$55,783 in Acct. 4162 Open Space represented the wages for the Open Space Agent.

Mayor Blake responded yes.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he wished to reduce Acct. 4162 Open Space to \$0, with the understanding that this position be funded by open space funds and not by the city funds and taxpayer dollars.

Ald. Veccharelli stated it was not a proper motion.

Ald. Giannattasio and Ald. Casey made and seconded a motion to divide the question and separate out account #4162 Open Space.

Ald. Shaw stated it needed to be clear how this was funded. She stated there is no place in the budget to add this back in.

Mayor Blake stated in order to do any budget memo transfers it would have to go through the process that is approved by the planning and zoning.

Mr. Erodici reminded the Board that the open space account is virtually without funds since the purchase of 701 North Street.

Ald. Giannattasio stated in order to move forward this would have to go on the Park, Beach & Recreation agenda and Planning and Zoning. He stated at this point he was not concerned with the funding until it goes through the process. He stated he was opposed to this the last budget session. He stated it is not the person, simply the position.

Ald. Anderson with an incumbent in the job and without a discussion with the personnel director, he would loathe this type of amendment. He cautioned debating this position.

Ald. Veccharelli stated the individual in this position continues to bring more and more money into this city. He stated Milford is lucky to have this individual who continually brings in grant money to the city.

Ald. Giannattasio stated his amendment has nothing to do with the person and pointed out he agrees the individual in the job does a great job. He recollected this job was previously a seasonal temp job and that it should go back to being a seasonal temporary position without benefits. He reiterated he is not debating the work or number of grants that have been accomplished by this person only how the position is funded.

By roll call vote, the amendment failed 11 no (Anderson, Beatty, Bevan German, Golden, Grant, Hardiman, Shaw, Smith, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 4 yes (Bier, Casey, Giannattasio, Vitali).

On the main motion, by roll call vote, the motion carried 11 yes (Anderson, Beatty, Bevan German, Golden, Grant, Hardiman, Shaw, Smith, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 4 no (Bier, Casey, Giannattasio, Vitali).

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4193 Public Library in the amount of \$1,093,002, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4210 Finance Department in the amount of \$1,761,469, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4215 Management Information Systems (MIS) in the amount of \$751,490, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4219 Human Resources in the amount of \$210,859, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4310 Police Department as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following technical changes: line item 4112 9943 Overtime, Park increased by \$5,000 for a new amount of \$10,000 for a new sub-total in *Personal Services* of \$10,896,174; and line item 4796 0000 Software Maintenance , decrease by \$30,000 for a new amount of \$235,000 for a new sub-total in *Operational Expenses* of \$596,844 and a new department total of \$12,229,289.

Ald. Casey asked why the changes to the software maintenance account.

Mayor Blake stated the changes were recommended by Chief Mello because the increase would not go into effect for another year.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4320 Fire Department in the amount of \$11,284,462, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4331 Civil Preparedness in the amount of \$104,153, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4340 Animal Control in the amount of \$326,352, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4360 Lighting, Hydrants, Water in the amount of \$1,906,000, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budgets for Acct. 4420 Public Works Office in the amount of \$352,193 and Acct. 4421 Highway/Parks in the amount of \$2,586,076, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017.

Ald. German asked for clarification that Acct. 4420 Public Works Office includes requested position, which includes eliminating two other positions, as requested by Director Saley during his testimony.

Mayor Blake replied yes.

Ald. German and Ald. Grant moved to amend Acct. 4420 Public Works Office, under Budget Positions, Superintendent of Public Works from 50-X to make the position a non-union position.

Ald. Anderson requested a 5-minute recess.

The Board recessed at 9:57 p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the Board in Public Session at 10:06 p.m.

Ald. Bier asked how this Board could decide whether the requested position is a union or non-Union position.

On the amendment, by roll call vote, the motion carried 8 yes (Bevan, Bier, German, Golden, Grant, Hardiman, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 7 no (Anderson, Beatty, Casey, Giannattasio, Shaw, Smith, Vitali).

Ald. Giannattasio stated he is not in favor of the position because of the amount of money recently bonded for this department, i.e. new equipment, etc. He stated the Public Works Director has a vision however he is asking for upgrades and never indicated that he would need additional help in order to accomplish his vision. He also commented regarding the solid waste routes. He stated there is no need for additional supervision with the technology that is out there to accomplish the same as a new position. He stated the State is laying off people and that there are genuine fiscal concerns. He stated he is speaking on behalf of all constituents in the city. He stated he just could not support this.

On the main motion, by roll call vote, the motion carried 11 yes (Anderson, Beatty, Bier, German, Golden, Grant, Hardiman, Shaw, Smith, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 4 no (Bevan, Casey, Giannattasio, Vitali).

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4423 Building Maintenance in the amount of \$3,048,807, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017, with the following technical changes: correct line item 4923 0502 Roof Repairs to read line item 4923 0501 West Shore Roof and line item 4971 0402 to read line item 4923 0502 Roof Repairs.

Ald. Bevan asked if the changes were due to the typographical errors in the budget.

Mayor Blake responded yes.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4424 Engineering in the amount of \$358,866, Acct. 4429 General Garage in the amount of \$1,364,068; and Acct. 4431 Solid Waste in the amount of \$4,435,129, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017.

Ald. Grant commented about the efficiencies the Public Works Director highlighted during budget testimony. He also pointed out a new superintendent was just added to the budget

Ald. Grant and Ald. German moved to amend Acct. 4431 Solid Waste as follows: reduce line item 4790 9950 City Waste Removal Costs by \$40,000 for a new amount of \$1,960,000 and a new subtotal in *Operational Expenses* of \$2,461,089 and a new department total of \$4,395,129.

Mayor Blake stated this line item has already been reduced and that it would make it very tight. He stated it was not out of the question, but would be a very tight budget.

Ald. German stated in looking at the numbers he felt it was doable.

By roll call vote, the amendment carried 11 yes (Anderson, Beatty, Bevan, Bier, Casey, German, Giannattasio, Golden, Grant, Shaw, Vitali) and 4 no (Hardiman, Smith, Veccharelli, Vetro).

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

Acct. 4503 Public Debt Service in the amount of \$10,421,7261, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017, with the following technical changes: decrease line item 4611 9909 Bond Principal, General by \$64,000 for a new amount of \$3,338,500, decrease line item 4611 9937 Bond Principal, Sewer by \$297,000 for a new amount of \$2,768,500, increase line item 4612 9909 Bond Interest, General by \$27,250 to \$1,515,234, and line item 4612 9937 Bond Interest, Sewer by \$32,478 to \$1,704,239 for a new sub-total in *Debt Service Charges* of \$10,120,454 and a new department total of \$10,120,454.

Ald. Bier asked the reason for the changes.

Mr. Erodici explained the changes were reflective of the recent bonding and the savings that was incurred.

Ald. German asked when that bonding reduction was done.

Mr. Erodici started in March and finalized in April.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4610 Health Department in the amount of \$873,825, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4620 Recreation Department in the amount \$819,279, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4710 Employee Benefits in the amount of \$22,684,177 as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the following budgets: Acct. 4720 Insurance and Bonds in the amount of \$2,298,708 and Acct. 4740 Claims and Refunds in the amount of \$640,000 as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4790 Benefit & Salary Reserve in the amount of \$1,070,000 as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4799 Unallocated Contingency in the amount of \$25,000, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017.

Ald. Bier asked why this account had more than doubled.

Mr. Erodici explained this account is set aside while the bargaining contracts are being negotiated.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4801 Council on Aging in the amount of \$1,371,298 and Acct. 4803 Milford Arts Council (**Note: Acct. 4803 should read Milford Arts Council**) in the amount of \$67,500, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4805 C-MED in the amount of \$71,613, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017, Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budgets for Acct. 4807 Regional Mental Health Board in the amount of \$2,996, Acct. 4811 Borough of Woodmont in the amount of \$230,000, Acct. 4812 Transit Authority in the amount of \$345,242, Acct. 4813 Bridges Community Support in the amount of \$350,000, Acct. 4815 Veterans Graves in the amount of \$2,850 and Acct. 4816 Milford Flotilla 73 in the amount of \$10,000, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017.

Ald. Shaw and Ald. Vitali moved to amend Acct.4813 Bridges as follows: increase line item 4708 0000 Grant \$10,000 for a new amount of \$360,000 and a new subtotal in *Operational Expenses* of \$360,000 and a new department total of \$360,000.

By roll call vote, the amendment failed 9 yes (Beatty, Golden, Grant, Hardiman, Shaw, Smith, Vetro, Vitali) and 6 no (Anderson, Bevan, Bier, Casey, German, Giannattasio).

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4817 Human Services Department in the amount of \$490,000, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budgets for the following: Acct. 4818 Historic District in the amount of \$650, Acct. 4819 Milford Progress, Inc. in the amount of \$10,000, Acct. 4820 Historic District II in the amount of \$650, Acct. 4821 Health Services/VNA in the amount of \$20,000, and Acct. 4822 Cemetery Association in the amount of \$9,250, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4825 Beth El Shelter (**Note: Acct. 4825 should read *Beth El Center***) in the amount of \$80,000 and Acct. 4826 Boys & Girls Club in the amount of \$70,000, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to add a new account, 0010 4827 Literacy Volunteers of So. CT, in the amount of \$3,500, for fiscal year 2016-2017.

By roll call vote, the motion failed 9 yes (Anderson, Beatty, Golden, Grant, Hardiman, Shaw, Smith, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 6 no (Bevan, Bier, Casey, German, Giannattasio, Vitali).

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve the following budget for Acct. 4992 Private School Textbook in the amount of \$20,000, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017.

Ald. Bevan and Ald. Vitali made and seconded a motion to amend Acct. 4992 Private School Textbook as follows: reduce line item 4708 0000 Grant by \$10,000 for a new amount of \$10,000 and a new subtotal in *Operational Expenses* of \$10,000 and a new department total of \$10,000.

Mayor Blake stated this line item has been unaltered for 10 years despite the fact that textbook costs have risen. He stated although there has been a reduction in the number of private school, the number of students has remained relatively the same. He stated they are still assessing and would ask the Board wait another year to see where they are with funding.

Ald. Grant asked if the monies not used are returned to the general fund.

Mayor Blake replied yes.

Ald. Smith stated he would appeal to the minority not to reduce this account. He stated the monies help to defray the costs for those attending private schools and agreed this account should remain untouched for this budget session.

By roll call vote, the amendment failed 7 yes (Beatty, Bevan, Casey, Giannattasio, Golden, Veccharelli, Vitali) and 8 no (Anderson, Bier, German, Grant, Hardiman, Shaw, Smith, Vetro).

On the main motion, by roll call vote, the motion carried 14 yes (Anderson, Beatty, Bier, Casey, German, Giannattasio, Golden, Grant, Hardiman, Shaw, Smith, Veccharelli, Vetro, Vitali) and 1 no (Bevan).

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to add a new account 0010 4828 Milford Historic Preservation Commission in the amount of \$650.00 for fiscal year 2016-2017.

Ald. Anderson stated this new account gives parity for these types of agencies that provide services to the city.

Ald. Smith stated this is the Historic Preservation Commission established by Ordinance last year. He stated this Commission is for the historic areas outside of the current Historic District I & II.

By roll call vote, the motion carried 12 yes (Anderson, Beatty, Bevan, Bier, German, Golden, Grant, Hardiman, Shaw, Smith, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 3 no (Casey, Giannattasio, Vitali).

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the following budget for Acct. 4993 Education Audit Fees in the amount of \$22,300, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the following budget Acct. 4994 School Debt, as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following technical changes: decrease line item 4611 9928 Bond Principal: Schools by \$144,000 for a new line item total of \$2,988,000; and increase line item 4612 9928 Bond Interest: Schools by \$17,353 for a new line item total of \$1,606,454 and a new subtotal in *Debit Service Charges* of \$4,594,454 and a new department total of \$4,594,454. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the following budget for Acct. 4995 Employee Benefits, Non-Teaching in the amount of \$1,226,770, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4997 Education Health Insurance Contribution in the amount of \$18,917,205, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4998 Education Health Services: School Nurses in the amount of \$1,387,194, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4154 Sewer Commission in the amount of \$1,699,898, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4426 Wastewater in the amount of \$6,419,341, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4790 Benefit and Salary Reserve in the amount of \$58,283, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve expenditures and revenue for Acct. 0012 0000 Sewer Fund in the amount of \$8,177,522, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve expenditures and revenue for Acct. 0036 4157 Harbor Management Commission in the amount of \$289,426, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve expenditures and revenue for Acct. 0018 4121 Golf Course in the amount of \$82,333, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 0010 0000 General Fund Revenue as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017, with the following technical changes: decrease line item 3516 0000 Transportation by \$95,189 to \$0, decrease line item 3517 0000 Education Cost Sharing by \$145,750 for a new amount of \$11,231,820 for a new subtotal in *State Education Grants* of \$11,435,793; and decrease line item 3643 000 State Realty by \$1,529, for a new amount of \$195,096, decrease line item 3643 0001 State Realty – Pequot by \$990 for a new amount of \$380,756, and decrease line item 3647 0000 Private Exemptions by \$3,291 for a new amount of \$419,820, for a new subtotal in *State PILOT Grants* of \$1,570,465; and decrease line item 3658 0000 Property Tax Relief-Mun Rev Share by \$819,170 for a new amount of \$1,880,830 and a new subtotal in *General Purpose State Grants* of \$1,975,830; and increase line item 3901 0000 Appropriated Fund Balance by \$500,000 for a new amount of \$3,500,000 for a new subtotal in General Long Term Liability Proceeds.

Ald. Anderson corrected the Private Exemptions account number

Ald. Bevan asked if the final revenue total would be calculated tonight.

Chairman Vetro replied yes.

Ald. German asked how the numbers were arrived at since the State had not finalized its budget.

Mayor Blake state the received the numbers from the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, Policy Management and Fiscal Analysis and the city's legislative delegates. He stated the numbers are similar numbers to other towns that have already approved their budgets over the last few days. Mayor Blake stated there is always the chance an adjustment may have to be made, but there is a high rate of probability that these numbers are sound.

Ald. German expressed concern that the Board was voting on number that have not been voted on by the State.

Mayor Blake stated there is never any 100% accuracy as amendments and adjustments can be made at any time.

Ald. German asked about line item 3901 0000 Appropriated Fund Balance

Mayor Blake explained the prudent budget process that has been followed for the last 8 years. He stated it the Board does approve this final resolution he stated there would be a tax cut. He stated in the last 25 years a tax cut in Milford is historic. He acknowledged all the time the aldermen have put in seeking out answers to put forward the best possible budget for the taxpayers.

Chairman Vetro thanked the Board as well as the Board of Finance, Finance Director and especially the Mayor for his prudent budget.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Shaw stated she would like to reconsider Acct.4813 Bridges. She asked the Board to reconsider adding \$10,000 to this account.

Ald. Shaw and Ald. Smith made and seconded a motion for reconsideration of Acct. 4813 Bridges to add \$10,000 to this account.

Ald. Giannattasio raised a point of order.

Ald. Shaw stated a motion for reconsideration is non-debatable.

By roll call vote, the motion for reconsideration carried 12 yes (Anderson, Beatty, Bier, German, Golden, Grant, Hardiman, Shaw, Smith, Veccharelli, Vetro, Vitali) and 3 no (Bevan, Casey, Giannattasio).

Ald. Shaw and Ald. Veccharelli made and seconded a motion to amend Acct.4813 Bridges as follows: increase line item 4708 0000 Grant \$10,000 for a new amount of \$360,000 and a new subtotal in *Operational Expenses* of \$360,000 and a new department total of \$360,000 for fiscal year 2016-2017.

By roll call vote, the motion carried 10 yes (Anderson, Beatty, Golden, Grant, Hardiman, Shaw, Smith, Veccharelli, Vetro, Vitali) and 5 no (Bevan, Bier, Casey, German, Giannattasio).

Ald. Grant and Ald. German made and seconded a motion for reconsideration of (NEW) Acct. 0010 4827 Literacy Volunteers of So. Connecticut.

By roll call vote, the motion carried 11 yes (Anderson, Beatty, Bier, German, Golden, Grant, Hardiman, Shaw, Smith, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 4 no (Bevan, Casey, Giannattasio, Vitali).

Ald. Grant and Ald. Veccharelli made and seconded a motion to amend (NEW) Acct. 0010 4827 Literacy Volunteers of So. Connecticut, in the amount of \$3,500 for fiscal year 2016-2017.

Ald. Giannattasio cautioned these types of actions set a precedent when reconsidering departments. He thanked the Chairman for his fairness in doing so, but expressed concern with precedent.

Ald. Beatty stated it is allowed in the aldermanic rules.

By roll call vote the motion carried 11 yes (Anderson, Beatty, Bier, German, Golden, Grant, Hardiman, Shaw, Smith, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 4 no (Bevan, Casey, Giannattasio, Vitali).

Chairman Vetro stated the Board would recess while the Finance Director finalized the number to arrive at the mill rate.

The Board recessed at 11:21 p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the Board in public session at 11:46 p.m.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve an Ordinance establishing a budget for the City of Milford for fiscal year 2016-2017, setting the mill rate and establishing a due date in accordance with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes and the Charter of the City of Milford.

Whereas: The Board of Finance of the City of Milford has made estimates of the income and amount of money necessary to appropriate for the expenses of the City of Milford for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017, and has classified such expenses under appropriate headings, departments and appropriations as more fully appears in the proposed Fiscal Budget submitted to the Board of Aldermen in accordance with Article VI, Section 2 of the Charter of the City of Milford; and,

Whereas: The Board of Aldermen, having met and conducted a public hearing, has considered said proposed fiscal budget and has made changes therein pursuant to Article VI, Section 3 of the Charter of the City of Milford; and

Whereas: The Board of Aldermen, in its deliberations and voting on said budget, has estimated revenues for the 2016-2017 fiscal year in the amount of \$204,464,623 and authorized appropriations for 2016-2017 fiscal year in the amount of \$204,464,623.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF MILFORD AS FOLLOW:

That the proposed fiscal budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017, as amended by the action of the Board of Aldermen pursuant to law, is hereby adopted and ordered to be filed with the City Clerk.

The taxes for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017, at the rate of 27.84 mills upon the ratable estate within the limits of the City of Milford, are hereby laid and levied to meet the expenses of said budget. Said mill rate is set on the predication that it is estimated that \$416,539 of said levy will be granted for Elderly Exemptions (State of Connecticut), \$821,622 will be granted for a local tax relief program for the elderly, \$792,580 will be granted for a local tax relief program for Veterans and 97.85 % of the resulting levy will be collected during the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2016, provided that if the taxes of any person shall exceed Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00), the first installment thereof, but not less than one-half of the amount of such taxes shall be due and payable on the first day of July 2016 and the remainder due and payable on the first day of January 2017, but any taxpayer may pay the total amount of the tax for which he or she is liable at the time when the first installment shall become payable. Such tax rate shall apply to all districts of the City of Milford.

<u>TAXES TO BE RAISED</u>	<u>\$173,820,769</u>
<u>TOTAL APPROPRIATION</u>	<u>\$204,464,623</u>
<u>TOTAL REVENUE</u>	<u>\$204,464,623</u>

This Ordinance shall take effect in accordance with the Charter of the City of Milford

Ald. Vitali asked what last year's mill rate was set at.

Mr. Erodici replied 27.88.

Ald. Bevan stated he was disappointed in the way the budget was presented tonight. He stated he would have liked to have seen a number of the accounts separated and voted on individually.

Chairman Vetro stated the aldermen can at anytime divide a motion, which he pointed out was done tonight.

By roll call vote, the motion carried 8 yes (Anderson, Beatty, Golden, Hardiman, Shaw, Smith, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 7 no (Bevan, Bier, Casey, German, Giannattasio, Grant Vitali),

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to adjourn the budget deliberations for 2016-2017 at 11:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Kennedy
Recording Secretary