

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
BUDGET DELIBERATIONS – FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016
MAY 14, 2015 – FINAL VOTE**

The Board of Aldermen held a budget deliberation session on Thursday, May 14, 2015 in City Hall for Consideration and Voting RE: the proposed general budget, revenues and appropriations for fiscal year 2015-2016, establishment of the 2015-2016 mill rate and the tax due dates.

Chairman Vetro welcomed everyone to the final meeting of the 2015-2016 budget deliberations session. He reconvened the meeting in public session at 7:05 p.m. asking everyone present join him in the Pledge of allegiance.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Anderson
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

Chairman Vetro stated this is the final step in the budget process. He thanked the Mayor, Finance Director and his staff, department heads, Dr. Feser and her staff, as well as the Board of Aldermen and many others who put in many hours toward putting the budget forward. He stated each year the Board works hard to understand the needs and wants of the citizens, students and senior citizens in Milford and adopt a budget in the best interest of the City.

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 \$110,000, Acct. 4115 Registrar of Voters in the amount of \$149,880 and Acct. 4116 MGAT in the amount of \$15,750 as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2015-2016. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the following budgets: Acct. 4121 Mayor's Office in the amount of \$270,019 and Acct. 4122 General Expenses in the amount of \$435,966 as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2015-2016. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the following budgets: Acct. 4123 Community Development in the amount of \$113,673, Acct. 4129 City Clerk in the amount of \$367,326 and Acct. 4131 Law Department in the amount of \$607,261, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2015-2016. 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 \$16,423, and Acct. 4141 Board of Finance in the amount of \$1,050, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2015-2016. 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 \$1,005,814, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2015-2016.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the following budgets: Acct. 4143 Board of Assessment Appeals in the amount of \$2,650, Acct. 4144 Zoning Board of Appeals in the amount of \$8,975, Acct. 4145 Pension Board in the amount of \$3,650, Acct. 4146 Flood and Erosion Board in the amount of \$903, and Acct. 4147 Tree Commission in the amount of \$1,621, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2015-2016. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the following budgets: Acct. 4151 Civil Service Commission in the amount of \$200, Acct. 4153 Park, Beach and Recreation Commission in the amount of \$1,100, Acct. 4155 Economic Development Commission in the amount of \$2, and Acct. 4162 Open Space in the amount of \$53,468, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2015-2016. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Vitali and Ald. Casey made and seconded a motion to divide the motion and take up Acct 4162 Open Space separately. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the following budget: Acct 4162 Open Space in the amount of \$53,468, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2015-2016.

Ald. Casey moved to amend in the amount of \$0. Motion seconded by Ald. Giannattasio.

Ald. Casey stated when this position was created in 2012 the mayor initially went to the Planning and Zoning Board. He continued with a history of the position. He stated it was asked at that time if the position would be temporary. Ald. Casey recalled the Mayor had stated the position would be self-sustaining and would be paid through grants. He asked about steps had been taken to fund the position. He stated the response from the Mayor was that the course of the position had changed. Ald. Casey stated this was not the initial plan of the position. He stated he asked when he was a member of the Planning and Zoning Board as to funding and never received an answer.

Mayor Blake stated when this position was first funded through open space funds; the position would be above and beyond overseeing the city's open space as well as working with students through various projects. Mayor Blake spoke of the grants that have been received to date that were through the efforts of the open space agent. Mayor Blake stated during budget deliberations he spoke of some legal ramifications concerning a seasonal temporary position. He stated the intention from day one was for this to be a self-sustaining position. He stated with the amounts of grants received it has. He also stated it would be in the best interest to fold this into the budget.

Ald. Anderson commented that often granting agencies will require a municipal official to be the primary designated person for the implementation of programs and the grants. He also stated as a volunteer himself with the open space agent that he is aware of the difficulties encountered with other municipal departments, but he has developed cache with many city departments.

Ald. Giannattasio asked why the city attorney was not present.

Mayor Blake stated he generally is not present during budget deliberations, but is available during regular meetings to answer legal questions.

Ald. Giannattasio stated the policy has shifted and now the taxpayers would bear the burden of this position. He stated he therefore disagreed with the representations of the Mayor and Ald. Anderson that this is budget neutral. Ald. Giannattasio acknowledged that to date this individual has realized grants which he continues to oversee, but intuitively it just doesn't make sense to put this position into the budget. He stressed it has nothing to do with the person and that he respects the work the open space agent has done, but that he did not now want to put the burden onto the taxpayers. He stated the position as it exists is being paid for. He asked what would happen with those open space funds. Ald. Giannattasio stated he could not support this added position.

Mayor Blake stated there were several reductions in the budget and so the overall wage account is less.

Ald. Giannattasio stated this position is already being funded by non-taxpayer dollars and that the taxpayer should realize those funds.

Ald. Shaw outlined what the taxpayers are getting from this position. She stated there is a need and it does need to be looked at as a permanent position. She referenced the \$500,000 grant for Beaverbrook /Calf Pen and some of the other grants that were received. She stated if the city had not received those grants the burden would have been on the taxpayer, so the taxpayers are gaining. She also pointed out these projects have to be followed through to their conclusion.

Ald. Vitali expressed concerns with adding a position to the budget. He also stated this position appears to be at the will of the mayor, so if that position were to change, so would the open space agent. He also expressed concern that this is a department being created therefore there will be additional costs, i.e. meetings, secretarial costs, furnishing, equipment, supplies, etc. He stressed it is not the person, it is the costs. He stated over time the costs would increase.

Ald. German stated this was voted on in 2006 to be funded by the open space.

Ald. Giannattasio stated it is not just the position; it is the contractual wages, pension costs and medical insurance. He reiterated it makes sense to continue to fund it the way it has. The position is already working, realizing grants, doing a great job for the city.

Chairman Vetro stated it was important to realize this city has found a star that has been beneficial to this city. He also pointed out there is the possibility the grant will not always be here. By not being a part of this budget the city could lose something that has been good for Milford.

Ald. Casey stated he brought this issue up twice during budget deliberations. He also stated the open space account has money in it. He stated he agreed with Chairman Vetro that the city does have a star in this position, but there are other ways to award him besides giving him a permanent position. Ald. Casey

expressed his respect for the members of this board and Mayor, but that he felt enough discussion was not given as well as the information he was seeking.

Ald. Vitali stated just this Board was not just creating a position in the budget, but that they were being asked to create a department, so at this particular time it is not just a position. He suggested being more creative and possibly giving a contract. He also reiterated it appears this position/department would be at the will of the mayor.

By roll call vote, the amendment failed 9 no (Anderson, Golden, Hardiman, Kubek, Shaw, Smith, Stanford, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 6 yes (Bier, Casey, Fontana, German, Giannattasio, Vitali).

On the main motion, by roll call vote the motion carried 9 yes (Anderson, Golden, Hardiman, Kubek, Shaw, Smith, Stanford, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 6 no (Bier, Casey, Fontana, German, 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 \$1,088,736, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2015-2016. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4210 Finance Department in the amount of \$1,757,173, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2015-2016.

Ald. Bier stated he is not in favor of adding any new positions to the budget. He stated he wished to amend line item 4111 0000 Regular wages to read 1,446,510, with a sub-total in *Personal Services* of \$1,477,385, and a new department total of \$1,679,087. Ald. Bier stated his amendment represents a reduction of \$78,000. Ald. Casey seconded the motion.

Ald. Vitali stated the request for the account position was discussed at length during budget deliberations and that it came down to technology in the department. He stated he is a believer in advancing technology, but stated it seemed they were putting the cart before the horse in adding a position at this stage. He stated he is not totally against the position, but that the department needed to focus on technology.

Ald. Giannattasio added technology should be implemented first and then re-evaluate the department. He stated this has been on the back burner and now this Board is being told we have to add this position to move forward. Not in favor at this point.

Mr. Erodici stated during the debate during budget deliberations the conversation got lost with the technology piece. He stated there has been years of testimony as to why this position is justified and needed. He spoke of the length of time in getting someone into this position. He stated he disagreed putting this position in the budget is putting the cart before the horse. He stated the department cannot move forward without having a person in place. Also, he stated the fines related to non-compliance are in the thousands of dollars and could reach even millions. He stated he was trying to be prudent and address the many other areas that have been addressed over the years for this position.

By roll call vote, the amendment failed 6 yes (Bier, Casey, Fontana, German, Giannattasio, Vitali) and 9 no (Anderson, Golden, Hardiman, Kubek, Shaw, Smith, Stanford, Veccharelli, Vetro).

On the main motion, by roll call vote, the motion carried 9 yes (Anderson, Golden, Hardiman, Kubek, Shaw, Smith, Stanford, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 6 yes (Bier, Casey, Fontana, German, Giannattasio, Vitali).

Ald. Fontana requested a 5-min recess. The Board recessed at 7:57 p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the Board in public session at 8:04 p.m.

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 \$741,032, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2015-2016. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4219 Human Resources as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following technical changes: Department 0010 4129 Human Resources: Benefits Specialist will remain in MCHEA union and as a result, \$300 added to Contractual Wage Adjustment for a revised position total of \$177,392, which increases the regular wages account by \$300; and line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages increased to \$177,392 with a new subtotal in *Personal Services* of \$193,077 and a new department total of \$208,830. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Kubek 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: 8 existing fire dispatcher positions are being moved from the Fire Department budget to the Police Department budget, for a revised position total change from 131 to 139 and revised position total amount of \$9,211,467; line item 4111-0000 Regular Wages increased by \$369,790 for a new amount of \$9,211,467; line item 4111-9942 1/5 Fiscal Week increased by \$1,849 for a new amount of \$45,881 and a new sub-total in *Personal Services* of \$10,892,232 and a new department total of \$12,180,809.

Ald. Fontana asked for an explanation of the changes.

Mayor Blake stated this codifies the discussion from a few weeks ago when the police department presented its budget. He spoke of the consolidation of police and fire departments to one PSAP center. Mayor Blake provided the history behind the consolidation. He also stated they receive additional grant money.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budgets for Acct. 4320 Fire Department as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following technical changes: 8 existing fire dispatcher positions are being moved from the Fire Department budget to the Police Department budget. Position Total changed from 125 to 117 with a revised Position Total amount of \$8,083,527; line item 4111-0000 Regular Wages decreased by \$369,790 for a new amount of \$8,083,527; and line item 4111-9942 1.5 Fiscal Week decreased by \$1,849 for a new amount of \$40,418 for a revised sub-total in *Personal Services* of \$10,007,845 and a new department total of \$11,213,440. 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 \$94,901, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2015-2016. 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 \$323,127, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2015-2016. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Vitali made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4360 Lighting, Hydrants, Water in the amount of \$1,856,000, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2015-2016. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4420 Public Works Office in the amount of \$267,256, Acct. 4421 Highway/Parks in the amount of \$2,580,386, Acct. 4423 Building Maintenance in the amount of \$3,012,464, Acct. 4424 Engineering in the amount of \$372,947, Acct. 4429 General Garage in the amount of \$1,322,568 and Acct. 4431 Solid Waste in the amount of \$4,630,554, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2015-2016.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4503 Public Debt Service in the amount of \$9,896,481, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2015-2016. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Bier made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4610 Health Department in the amount of \$881,298, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2015-2016. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Casey made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4620 Recreation Department in the amount \$809,429, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2015-2016. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4710 Employee Benefits in the amount of \$21,927,006 as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2015-2016. 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 \$1,728,250 and Acct. 4740 Claims and Refunds in the amount of \$640,000 as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2015-2016. 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 \$425,281 as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2015-2016. 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 2015-2016. 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 \$1,357,849 and Acct. 4803 Fine Arts Council in the amount of \$67,500, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2015-2016. 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 \$95,151, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2015-2016, 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 \$220,000, 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 2015-2016. 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 2015-2016. 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 2015-2016.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4825 Beth El Shelter 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 2015-2016. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve the following budgets for Acct. 4992 Private School Textbook in the amount of \$20,000, Acct. 4993 Education Audit Fees in the amount of \$21,900, Acct. 4994 School Debt in the amount of \$4,647,004, and Acct. 4995 Employee Benefits, Non-Teaching in the amount of \$1,198,477, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2015-2016. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Bier requested a 5-minute recess. The Board recessed at 8:25 p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the Board in public session at 8:29 p.m.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4996 Education Operations in the amount of \$91,010,638, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2015-2016.

Ald. Fontana moved to amend the motion to read \$90,555,584.80. Ald. German second.

Ald. Fontana stated the new amount represented a .5% reduction.

Ald. German reiterated it is really a 1.5% increase which is prudent considering the decline in enrollment.

Ald. Vitali expressed his disappointment in spending \$140,000 in consultant fees and then the district returning to K-5. He stated in looking at the positions, teacher leaders, there are teacher leaders in the MEA that don't do any teaching, but get a stipend to fill in for administrators. He stated he received from CCM three proposed unfunded mandates; (HB 6282) Mandated Physical Activity and Assessment, (HB 6796) School Nurses, hiring nurses to student ratio; and (HB 7023) Additional Education Mandate, increase the number of required hearing screenings for public school students.. He also commented on the city side of the budget there are additional

education monies. Ald. Vitali spoke of the idea of change and resolving issues. He reiterated the \$140,000 in consultant fees just does not sit right with him and there was no new resolve.

Ald. Stanford stated subsequent to the Board of Education's presentation she requested a job description of the teacher leader position from the BOE. She stated she showed the position to several education leaders around the state, all of whom agreed this is the job of an assistant principal. She stated her original thought was to vote against the original vote, but it goes against the grain of her 40 years of teaching and the possibility of hurting the children. She stated she would vote for the original BOE budget knowing the BOE has the ability to move monies around and suggested they hire two assistants.

Ald. Casey thanked Ald. Stanford and stated he agreed in part with her comments. He stated he hears over and over that Milford is top heavy in administration and that parents concerns are not being heard.

Ald. Stanford commented she did not believe the BOE was top heavy with administrators. She spoke of the amount of evaluations that are required and the need of more assistant principals.

Ald. Vitali spoke about the observations, noting there are pre and post conferences required. He also stated this Board was told these positions would not be conducting evaluations. He suggested those individuals should receive a stipend and could serve as supervisors. He reiterated he was stuck was the way the realignment of the district resulted in. He stated he felt that teacher leader position should not be in the teacher union.

Ald. German stated the total budget is \$118,000 on the city side which is funded by taxpayers noting there are many taxpayers with no children in the system. He also spoke about the continuing decline in student enrollment.

Ald. Anderson stated the 5% reduction and 2% increase represents \$455,000 which is a substantial hit for the Board of Education. The district has come a long way especially when you consider everything on their plate, i.e. reconfiguration, redistricting, etc. He spoke of the number of AP classes that are offered, world languages at the middle school and opportunities for high school students to obtain college credits, etc. He stated for a host of reasons he felt the Board of Education deserved this Board's support and that he would be supporting the full amount. He stated he felt the \$455,000 would be a detriment.

By roll call vote, the amendment failed 9 no (Anderson, Golden, Hardiman, Kubek, Shaw, Smith, Stanford, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 6 yes (Bier, Casey, Fontana, German, Giannattasio, Vitali).

On the main motion, the amendment carried 9 yes (Anderson, Golden, Hardiman, Kubek, Shaw, Smith, Stanford, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 6 no (Bier, Casey, Fontana, German, Giannattasio, Vitali).

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 \$19,605,412, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2015-2016. 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 2015-2016. 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 \$1,705,134, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2015-2016. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4426 Wastewater in the amount of \$6,250,415, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2015-2016.

Ald. Giannattasio stated during budget deliberations he asked about nitrogen credits. He pointed out based on the figure Milford seems to have lost its way and is not seeing the credits it should. He expressed his hope the Mayor would do his best to make sure the city begins to recognize the credits it should. With the current administration we don't have the revenue stream we had and it was his hope that would change.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4790 Benefit and Salary Reserve in the amount of \$52,510, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2015-2016. 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 \$8,008,059, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2015-2016. 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 \$271,818, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2015-2016. 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 2015-2016. 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 2015-2016, the Finance Director will provide final total once current taxes, Acct. 3111-0000 is calculated. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Vetro stated the Board would recess while the finance director finalized the mill rate.

The Board recessed at 8:58 p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the Board in public session at 9:10 p.m.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve an Ordinance establishing a budget for the City of Milford for fiscal year 2015-2016, 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, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016, 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 2015-2016 fiscal year in the amount of \$202,180,672 and authorized appropriations for 2015-2016 fiscal year in the amount of \$202,180,672.

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, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016, 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, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016, at the rate of 27.88 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 \$433,050 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, \$546,091 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, 2015, 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 2015 and the remainder due and payable on the first day of January 2016, 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>\$173,039,337</u>
<u>TOTAL APPROPRIATION</u>	<u>\$202,180,672</u>
<u>TOTAL REVENUE</u>	<u>\$202,180,672</u>

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

Ald. Giannattasio stated taxes are being raised over \$139M. He spoke of the time when he was in the majority He also spoke of the two positions that were put into the budget. He stated there was just no creativity and taxes are being raised. He stated the people in the majority are not putting the taxpayers first. A better effort should have been made to accommodate the taxpayers and not just a rubber stamp.

Mayor Blake thanked the Board and departments for their nights of work. He stated he takes issue with the comments of Ald. Giannattasio. He stated he spends each day making thoughtful, prudent decisions. He stated this is a responsible budget that has been put forward tonight. He spoke of the four previous budgets which have been the lowest in years.

Ald. Veccharelli spoke of the work of the mayor and his diligence each and every day to help the taxpayers. He commended Mayor Blake for his time and energy and responsible budget. Ald. Veccharelli also commended the finance department for their work. He stated for the most part tonight this budget was accepted by unanimous vote. He stated this Board did a good job all in all and that the citizens of Milford have been treated very well and that every effort was made to keep taxes lower. He commended Mayor Blake for being responsible. Ald. Veccharelli stated he realized his colleagues on the other side did not agree, but thanked them for their time, energy and effort.

Chairman Vetro thanked the Mayor and Board of Finance for recommending a very lean and prudent budget. He also commended the aldermen on both sides for being respectful and getting a hard job completed, adding everyone handled themselves in a professional manner.

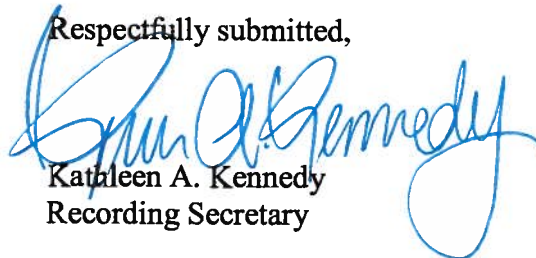
Ald. Bier commented on the overall budget. He expressed his disappointment with the democratic budget which was rubber stamped the whole way through. He stated this Board could have held the Board of Education to a tighter budget and failed to do that. He also, commented about nitrogen credits. He expressed his hope next year's budget would result in lower taxes for the citizens of Milford.

Ald. Shaw stated she took issue with Ald. Bier's comments. She stated there were just three items the other side of the aisle offered to reduce and that she did not want to be accused of rubber stamping the budget. Ald. Shaw thanked Mayor Blake and the Finance Board for putting forward a prudent and fair budget.

By roll call vote, the motion carried 9 yes (Anderson, Golden, Hardiman, Kubek, Shaw, Smith, Stanford, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 6 no (Bier, Casey, Fontana, German, Giannattasio, Vitali),

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to adjourn the budget deliberations for 2015-2016 at 9: 27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathleen A. Kennedy
Recording Secretary