

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
BUDGET DELIBERATIONS – FINAL VOTE
MAY 16, 2013**

The Board of Aldermen held a budget deliberation session on Thursday, May 16, 2013 in City Hall for Consideration and Voting RE: the proposed general budget, revenues and appropriations for fiscal year 2013-2014, establishment of the 2013-2014 mill rate and the tax due dates.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Anderson
R. Dickman
G. Gasper
D. German
A. Giannattasio
R. Nunno
S. Shaw
F. Smith
P. Smith
G. Stanford
N. Veccharelli
P. Vetro
R. Vitali

Also Present

Mayor B. Blake
P. Erodici, Finance Director
S. Fournier, Mayor's Admin. Asst.
L. Stock, City Clerk

Excused

B. Bier

Chairman Vetro welcomed everyone to the May 16, 2013 meeting of the Board of Aldermen regarding the final night of budget deliberations for FY2013/2014.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to come out of recess at 7:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Vetro thanked the Mayor, department heads, Board of Education and staff, as well as the Board of Aldermen and many others who put in many hours toward putting the budget forward. He stated the budget is prudent and financially responsible. He asked the Board to put away all political agendas and do what is best for the City tonight.

Ald. Vitali and Ald. Dickman made and seconded a motion to re-order the agenda and bring forward the education budget, Acct. 0010 4996 Education Operations. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Vetro asked the Board and those present to join in saluting our flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4996 Education Operations in the amount of \$88,843,283, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Vitali moved to amend the motion for Acct. 4159 with the following change: reduce line item 40001 0000 Lump Sum Appropriation to read \$88,593,283 for a new sub-total in *Education Operations* of \$88,593,283 and a new department total of \$88,593,283.

By roll call vote the amendment failed 6 yes (Dickman, Gasper, German, Giannattasio, P. Smith, Vitali) and 8 no (Golden, Nunno, Shaw, F. Smith, Stanford, Veccharelli, Vetro, Anderson).

On the main motion, motion carries 13 yes (Anderson, Dickman, Gasper, German, Giannattasio, Golden, Nunno, Shaw, F. Smith, Stanford, Veccharelli, Vetro, Vitali) and 1 no (P. Smith).

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio 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 \$75,000, Acct. 4115 Registrar of Voters in the amount of \$143,927 and Acct. 4116 MGAT in the amount of \$15,650 as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014.

Ald. P. Anderson and Ald. Anderson moved to amend the motion for Acct. 4116 MGAT with the following change: line item 4168 0000 Secretarial Fees add \$500.00 for a new sub-total in *Personal Services* of \$15,500 and a new department total of \$16,150.

By roll call vote the amendment fails 7 yes (Anderson, Gasper, German, Nunno, F. Smith, P. Smith, Vitali) and 7 no (Dickman, Giannattasio, Golden, Shaw, Stanford, Veccharelli, Vetro).

On the main motion, 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 \$263,993 and Acct. 4122 General Expenses in the amount of \$419,861 as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the following budgets: Acct. 4123 Community Development in the amount of \$111,852, Acct. 4129 City Clerk in the amount of \$257,500 and Acct. 4131 Law Department in the amount of \$527,457, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the following budgets: Acct. 4132 Ethics Commission in the amount of \$700, Acct. 4133 Probate Court in the amount of \$16,241, Acct. 4141 Board of Finance in the amount of \$1,050, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4142 Permitting and Land Use in the amount of \$881,774, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Dickman moved to amend the motion for Acct. 4142 Permitting & Land Use with the following changes: line item 4112 0000 Overtime reduce to \$25,000 and line item 4117 0000 Seasonal Temporary reduce to \$25,000 for a new sub-total in *Personal Services* of \$941,440 and a new department total of \$831,774.

Ald. P. Smith stated she understands an increase of this department is anticipated, but she would suggest waiting until that is realized. She stated a transfer at a later date could be done. She stated this is similar to what Mayor Blake recommended for the Public Works Department last year.

Mayor Blake stated there are very few parts of the budget where there is an increase. He stated the slight uptick in this department is due to storm Sandy. He explained there were a number of homes destroyed by Sandy and that the number of permits in the building department has nearly doubled. Mayor Blake also stated there is a minor increase of a few percent for overtime and seasonal temporary. He stated it is important to help storm victims' move through the process.

Ald. Shaw thanked the Mayor for his comments. She stated this is one department where the funds are necessary. Ald. Shaw also commented if anyone has been to those areas destroyed by the storm they would see the need.

Ald. P. Smith stated the reduction amounts to the level of FY13. She stated she was in no way trying to impact those citizens affected by the storm. She stated she was merely suggesting that a transfer be done when those funds are needed.

Ald. F. Smith stated the same could be said for a lot of other departments. He asked Mr. Fournier, Interim DPLU Director if he there is an increase in the department at this point.

Mr. Fournier stated there has been a tremendous uptick since the storms. He stated there are lines at the department every day, sometimes 15 people deep. He reiterated there has been a tremendous increase since the storm.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he receives complaints that there is a backlog of permits, plan reviews, etc. He stated the budget is appropriate and that he would not entertain this amendment.

By roll call vote, the amendment failed 4 yes (Dickman, German, P. Smith, Vitali) and 10 no (Anderson, Gasper, Giannattasio, Golden, Nunno, Shaw, F. Smith, Stanford, Veccharelli, Vetro).

On the main motion, motion carried 12 yes (Anderson, Dickman, Gasper, German, Giannattasio, Golden, Nunno, Shaw, F. Smith, Stanford, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 2 no (P. Smith, Vitali).

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio 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 \$14,525, Acct. 4145 Pension Board in the amount of \$4,050, Acct. 4146 Flood and Erosion Board in the amount of \$53, and Acct. 4147 Tree Commission in the amount of \$1,371, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio 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 \$600 and Acct. 4155 Economic Development Commission in the amount of \$2, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the budgets for 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, and Acct. 4161 Housatonic River Estuary Commission in the amount of \$500, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4193 Public Library in the amount of \$1,074,249, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4210 Finance Department in the amount of \$1,641,957, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4215 Management Information Systems (MIS) in the amount of \$700,495, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Vitali moved to amend the motion for Acct. 4215 Management Information Systems (MIS) as follows: line item 4977 0138 Software add \$6,225 as requested by the department heard for a new sub-total in *Capital Outlays* of \$12,025 and a new department total of \$707,720.

Ald. P. Smith stated by adding this amount it would give the department the ability to get the auto cad license which they requested.

By roll call vote, the amendment fails 3 yes (German, P. Smith, Vitali) and 11 no (Anderson, Dickman, Gasper, Giannattasio, Golden, Nunno, Shaw, F. Smith, Stanford, Veccharelli, Vetro).

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4219 Personnel in the amount of \$281,859, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4310 Police Department in the amount of \$10,985,022, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014.

Ald. Anderson and Ald. Veccharelli moved to amend the motion for Acct. 4310 Police Department as follows: under Budgeted Positions add 4 SRO at Step 2 at a salary of \$58,728 each for a revised position total of \$8,411,289; increase line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages to read \$8,411,289; line item 4111 9942 1/5 Fiscal Week to read \$41,877 for a new sub-total in *Personal Services* of \$10,049,984 and a new department total of \$11,222,009.

Ald. P. Smith asked Ald. Anderson if he could clarify the grade and step.

Ald. Anderson replied Grade 4, Step 2.

Ald. Nunno stated they could achieve the same result in a different way. He referred to the way North Branford has funded their SRO's, by hiring retired police officers. He stated he would propose to hire 5 retired officers at \$20.00 per hour for a total cost of \$145,600 which would cover all three middle schools and both high schools. He stated the funding would also allow for training and expenses. He explained by doing it this way the city would save on salaries, pensions, healthcare, etc. He stated he believed the same result would be achieved and that it was the fiscally prudent way to go. He also pointed out they would be getting one additional SRO.

Ald. P. Smith commented she appreciated the alternative, but wished it had been brought up sooner instead of at the 12th hour so there could have been more discussion and vetting by this Board.

Ald. Nunno stated the Board has not had time to debate this like the Board of Education. He stated this Board still needs to discuss this. He stated what he is offering is a compromise and reiterated it is fiscally prudent.

Chairman Vetro asked Ald. Nunno if he was making his proposal in the form of a motion.

Ald. Nunno stated he was not sure it was necessary.

Ald. Anderson stated he would like to follow the regular order and debate the motion and follow with a vote.

Ald. Dickman stated he would support Ald. Anderson's amendment, adding with two children in the district he is in full support of the proposal.

Ald. F. Smith commented the SRO's are a marquee item of this budget. He expressed concern that the greater presences of officers in the schools interferes with the business of education. He also questioned fundamental civil liberties issues. He also agreed this Board has not had the opportunity to debate this. He stated he felt there are things driven by a sense of dread that is misplaced. Ald. F. Smith also expressed concern that the dollars being proposed may not cover the program, i.e. pensions, healthcare, etc. He stated he was somewhat ambivalent about the issue and that he did understand the importance of SRO's but felt this Board should debate it.

Ald. Veccharelli stated he would support the amendment to add the SRO's. He explained initially he was opposed and didn't feel the city needed the extra expense, but after hearing the program at the Board of Education/Board of Aldermen meeting he feels the SRO's will provide added safety looking to the future.

Ald. Nunno stated he is proposing 5 officers with SRO training, not 4 at a lesser cost. He questioned why this Board would want to pay Rolls Royce prices for 4 SRO's when they could get 5 SRO's at Chevrolet prices.

Ald. Stanford stated while she supported Ald. Nunno, she disagreed. She stated they would not be perceived as police officers, but members of the school system. She also stated the kids would go to them and they would develop a special relationship with the SRO's. Ald. Stanford also commented the SRO's would be a part of the community. She stated she was in agreement they should hire the SRO's and felt they would do a great job.

Ald. Vitali stated he was ambivalent and disappointed. He stated at the 12th hour an alternative is being proposed. He stated this Board has never been debated. He also spoke as a former administrator and

commented about the level of bullying in the schools. He stated during the presentation no percentage was given, but the speaker indicated it is the highest in the middle school. Ald. Vitali stated whether it is an officer or a counselor, either is helpful to a situation, but that there needs to be some initiative from the Board of Education. He stated he is not in favor of 4 SRO's, that more are needed. He spoke to the idea of a school being left unattended. He stated Ald. Nunno's idea is a great one and that he would like to see that issue addressed. He stated there needs to be more conversation and that this Board has not done its due diligence and reiterated he was confused and somewhat disappointed.

Mayor Blake stated in the days following Sandy Hook he toured the schools with the police chief. He spoke of some of the initiatives since December 14th and what Milford has done to ramp up its security efforts. He stated the SRO's are a piece of the task force that was formed. He stated this is something that has been discussed at two meetings of the Board of Aldermen and Board of Education and at two budget presentations, which was a comprehensive special meeting. He stated the police chief, police department and school board have done their due diligence.

Ald. P. Smith stated she did not know the police chief would be at the last meeting. She stated she asked the Chairman to put it on the Board's next agenda but she was told it was too late. She also pointed out at the Board of Education meeting the aldermen were only allowed questions as to the presentation only. She stated she is comfortable voting tonight on the SRO's because she has put time into investigating this. She also stated she is comfortable with 4 SRO's and suggested they move forward with it and they can always revisit. She reiterated there could have been a lot of discussion earlier if this had been on the aldermanic agenda in May as she requested.

Chairman Vetro reminded Ald. P. Smith that he had the police chief speak during the Chairman's Report at the May meeting. He also stated there were other opportunities to ask questions and that there has been ample time for questions.

Ald. Vitali stated with all due respect that there was not an appropriate forum to discuss the SRO's and have discussions as to the appropriate layers. He stated this is an impactful element to this budget. Ald. Vitali stated he is not against SRO's, but would like to see enough officers that will make an impact and a difference in the schools. He also commented what he is hearing is that SRO's will make a difference, but that in fact the Board of Education needs to do their due diligence.

Ald. F. Smith stated he agreed there has not been adequate time to discuss this, adding this issue is politically and emotionally charged. He stated this Board would likely have been at this point no matter what but that he was glad to have the time now to debate it.

Ald. Golden stated she has children in the school system and also substitutes. She stated they need to reach out to the community and see how they feel about it. She stated she has and people like the idea. Ald. Golden stated having the SRO's would create a great link that can stop problems before they start. She stated she supports the SRO's.

Ald. Nunno stated the outcry came from 3 people who came to a Board of Aldermen meeting to support this, but they were more concerned about protecting their business in the downtown area. He stated as an alderman he has received nothing. He stated what he is proposing doesn't come with a pension, healthcare benefits or police vehicle attached. He stated he is simply proposing 5 instead of 4 at a greater savings to the city.

Ald. P. Smith stated she agreed with her colleagues they would still be having this discussion. She stated what this Board doesn't have is subject matter experts here to discuss Ald. Nunno's proposal. She stated the proposal simply has not been vetted with school administration. She stated had this matter been put on the agenda as she had requested there may have been that opportunity.

Ald. Giannattasio stated at the end of the day it comes down to the administration. He stated was the police chief that wanted these SRO's even before Sandy Hook. Ald. Giannattasio stated they needed to take the chief's lead, adding the chief has taken ownership of this. He stated he was in favor of this.

Ald. Shaw commented there has been ample time for this Board individually to review the SRO program. She stated this is the time to debate this and thanked the Chairman for the opportunity. Ald. Shaw also echoed the comments of Ald. Giannattasio, adding this Board has had the opportunity to insert its own ideas. She also pointed out both the administration of school and the police chief has put together a thoughtful program. She stated the program is well thought out and one that will benefit our schools.

By roll call vote, the amendment carried 13 yes (Anderson, Dickman, Gasper, German, Giannattasio, Golden, Shaw, F. Smith, P. Smith, Stanford, Veccharelli, Vetro, Vitali) and 1 no (Nunno).

Ald. Anderson stated he has heard all of the comments made tonight clearly and that he was not looking to micro manage the program, but that she felt Ald. Vitali made some valid points. He stated he would like to request this Board receive a detailed comprehensive report in April 2014 as to how the program is working. He stated the SRO's will have been in the schools 8 months at that point with all the logistics worked out. He stated the other advantage to getting the report in April is that it will be outside of the regular budget process.

Mayor Blake commented he was sure school administration as well as the police chief would be happy to provide a report, but wanted to remind Ald. Anderson about the training for the SRO's and that it was not expected they would be in the schools until January 2014.

On the main motion, motion carried 13 yes (Anderson, Dickman, Gasper, German, Giannattasio, Golden, Shaw, F. Smith, P. Smith, Stanford, Veccharelli, Vetro, Vitali) and 1 no (Nunno).

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Shaw made and seconded a motion to approve the budgets for Acct. 4320 Fire Department in the amount of \$11,119,820, and Acct. 4331 Civil Preparedness in the amount of \$90,401, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014.

Ald. Stanford and Ald. Gasper moved to amend the motion for Acct. 4320 Fire Department as follows: line item eliminate the Dispatcher/EOC Coordinator position and reduce Budgeted Positions from \$62,857 to read \$0 for a new total in Position Totals of \$8,052,237; and line item 4111 0000 to read \$8,052,237 and line item 4111 9942 to read \$49,262 for a new sub-total in *Personal Services* of \$9,899,399 and a new department total of \$11,056,649. Motion carried unanimously.

On the main motion, 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 \$371,855, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4360 Lighting, Hydrants, Water in the amount of \$1,785,450, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Stanford made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4420 Public Works Office in the amount of \$238,861, Acct. 4421 Highway/Parks in the amount of \$2,568,587, Acct. 4423 Building Maintenance in the amount of \$2,974,512, Acct. 4424 Engineering in the amount of \$376,672, Acct. 4429 General Garage in the amount of \$1,271,062, and Acct. 4431 Solid Waste in the amount of \$4,426,563, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014.

Ald. F. Smith and Ald. Veccharelli moved to amend the motion for Acct. 4420 Public Works Office and add a Clerk A position, Grade 24, Step N in the amount of \$40,810 and increase Contractual Wage Adjustment to read \$900 for a new Position Total of \$249,953; and increase line item 4111 0000 to read \$249,953 and increase line item 4111 9942 to read \$1,246, and line item 4117 0000 Seasonal/Temporary reduce to \$3,000 for a new sub-total in *Personal Services* of \$257,199 and a new department total of \$263,925. Also, Acct. 4421 Highway-Parks in Budgeted Positions, eliminate the Operator, Light Equipment (6-X) position reducing that position from \$48,839 to read \$0, Contractual Wage Adjustment to read \$12,600; and line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages to read \$1,993,401 and line item 4111 9942 1/5 Fiscal Week to read \$9,903 for a new sub-total in *Personal Services* of \$2,199,304 and a new department total of \$2,519,504.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if there would be any repercussions with the removal of the Operator, Light Equipment.

Mayor Blake stated the position is vacant and that it had been discussed with the Public Works Director, who was glad to see a clerk position back.

Ald. Anderson commented with the restoration of the clerk position not only would the department be more effective with administrative operations, the interface with the public is increased.

Ald. P. Smith suggested another approach would be to eliminate the Sewer Clerk A position, which has been vacant several years. By doing it this way, she stated they could then keep the Operator, Light Equipment position, especially in light of the fact the public works department has been hit hard over the years.

Mayor Blake stated the position in the sewer department does not factor into the tax base. He stated that position is needed and noted at one time there were three people in the Sewer Department. He also noted no one is receiving any benefits and the work is getting done at a fraction of the cost. Mayor Blake stated that position will be filled at some point.

Chairman Vetro commented with the number of calls that come into the Public Works Office, having that additional person will be appreciated by the taxpayers and residents of the city.

Ald. Vitali asked as a point of information the number of hours per week the secretary in the Engineering Department works.

Mayor Blake replied 37 ½ hours per week.

Ald. Vitali asked if the work for the Sewer Department is overtime and how one position manages two positions. He stated he was having trouble understanding how one person who works 37 ½ hours per week in one position is also handling a second position and questioned the number of hours one could work in a week.

Mayor Blake stated the city is getting by with a fraction of what it would cost. He reiterated at one point the Sewer Department had three positions.

Ald. Vitali asked if the person is working 37 ½ hours in their current position, how many hours are added onto the other position.

Mr. Erodicti stated it could be 5-7 hours of overtime, but that he did not have the exact numbers with him.

Ald. Vitali asked how many hours it is beyond the 37 ½ work week.

Mr. Erodicti stated he would have to look at the wages.

Ald. Vitali stated he was not understanding how it was possible to do one job at 37 ½ hours and also perform a second job.

Mayor Blake stated the person works 37 ½ hours in the Engineering Department and anything above that is done separately.

Ald. Vitali commented overtime hours have to be added somewhere and questioned if the person works until late at night. He stated an investigation of some sort should be done.

On the amendment, motion carried unanimously.

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4503 Public Debt Service in the amount of \$9,392,437, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014. 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 \$937,911, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014.

Ald. Gasper and Ald. Anderson moved to amend the motion for Acct. 4610 Health Department as follows: in Budgeted Positions reduce the Administrator, Nurses position to a 10 month position, Grade 53, Step 3 in the amount of \$75,432 and change the Community Health Coordinator position to Deputy Health Director, Grade 53, Step 1 in the amount of \$79,665 for a new positions total of \$797,898; and line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages to read \$797,898 and line item 4111 9942 to read \$3,975 for a new sub-total in *Personal Services* of \$837,373 and a new department total of \$920,275.

Ald. P. Smith commended Dr. McBride and staff for taking a critical look at what they need in that department. She also stated it will give them an opportunity to promote people within.

Motion carried unanimously.

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Gasper made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4620 Recreation Department in the amount \$792,024, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4710 Employee Benefits as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014, with the following technical changes: line item 4212 9913 FOCA: Medicare to read \$505,000, line item 4213 0000 Group Life Insurance to read \$37,088 and line item 4221 9919 Self Insurance Contribution to read \$12,404,950 for a new subtotal in *Employee Benefits* of \$19,740,779 and a new department total of \$19,761,979

Mr. Erodici explained the technical changes were due to an employee that moved to the Wastewater division.

Ald. P. Smith asked if some of the changes were due to the educational side as well.

Mr. Erodici stated he continuously looks at each projection based on monthly numbers as well as advice from the City's consultants. He stated he received the latest update before the budget meeting. He pointed out the reduction totals just over \$600,000

Motion carried unanimously.

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the following budgets: Acct. 4720 Insurance and Bonds in the amount of \$2,386,878 and Acct. 4740 Claims and Refunds in the amount of \$655,000, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4790 Benefit & Salary Reserve as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014, with the following change: line item 4199 0000 Other Wage Adjustments to read \$78,000 for a new sub-total in *Personal Services* of \$78,000 and a new department total of \$78,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4799 Unallocated Contingency in the amount of \$50,000, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014. 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 \$1,345,500 and Acct. 4803 Fine Arts Council in the amount of \$67,500, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4805 C-MED as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014, with the following change: line item 4708 0000 Grant to read \$95,151 for a new sub-total in Operational Expenses of \$95,151 and a new department total of \$95,151. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budgets for the following: 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, and 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 2013-2014. 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 2013-2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio 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 \$41,000, and Acct. 4822 Cemetery Association in the amount of \$9,250, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4825 Beth El Shelter in the amount of \$75,000 and Acct. 4826 Boys & Girls Club in the amount of \$65,000, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014.

Ald. Stanford and Ald. Anderson moved to amend the motion for Acct. 4826 Boys & Girls Club as follows: line item 4708 0000 Grant to read \$70,000 for a new sub-total in Operational Expenses of \$70,000 and a new department total of \$70,000.

Ald. Giannattasio asked Ald. Stanford for a justification for the increase, pointing out this was also amended in the last budget session.

Ald. Stanford stated there are more young people trying to get into the Boys & Girls Club. She stated it will make it more convenient for kids to join.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he appreciated it, but knows they also do fundraising and also receive donations.

Ald. Anderson commented there is a waiting list there. He stated he visited the site and was impressed, but noted there are very confined spaces and they do need additional space. He also commented like other 501 c (3) agencies they have experienced very challenging fundraising times. He stated they really could use the assistance.

Ald. P. Smith stated one of the club's grants has been cut in half. She stated the \$5,000 they received from the City helps to maintain the staff to member ratio. She stated the additional \$5,000 will help them tremendously, adding the majority of the clubs members are middle and high school students.

Ald. Vitali stated he supported the increase, but expressed concern with the physical plan. He stated they need to focus on the physical plant to see just how many kids they can accommodate.

Ald. Stanford stated it is her understanding the additional funds could accommodate as many as 25-50 more kids, but agreed at some point they will need to address the infrastructure. She also agreed that funding has been difficult and that the \$5,000 will help them.

Mayor Blake stated the City of Milford and Board of Education are working towards finding more space. He also noted they have a \$1,000,000 bond to building a new infrastructure, but commented that amount may not go far. He stated they are committed to finding that much needed space.

Ald. Giannattasio asked how this Board could be assured that these additional funds would go towards enrollment for the children.

Mayor Blake explained them monies are part of the grant so it is up to the discretion of their Board. He also commented they do a tremendous job with what they have. He stated one of one of their focuses is the counselor to child ratio and identify new space.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if it was fair to say this grant would grow in the near future.

Mayor Blake replied that would be the pleasure of this Board.

Ald. P. Smith stated the additional \$5,000 will help the club to recap what has been lost in federal and State grants. She also pointed out they do aggressively pursue grants and that these monies will start to make them whole.

Ald. Vitali spoke of his association with the Board at Boys & Girls Club and their work on the west side of town, but stated it is much needed on the east side of town as well and that he would like to see them long at something long term on the east side as well.

Ald. P. Smith invited the Board to go down and visit them at Boys & Girls Club and see what they do and visit with the director, Megan Altomare. She also spoke of the club's goals and future vision of the club.

Ald. Vitali stated he was just looking for equity on both sides of town.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he was happy with the club's success and supported the amendment.

The amendment carried unanimously.

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden 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 \$22,300, Acct. 4994 School Debt in the amount of \$3,938,725, and Acct. 4995 Employee Benefits, Non-Teaching in the amount of \$1,112,800, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4997 Education Health Insurance Contribution, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014, with the following change: line item 4221 0000 Contribution, Self Insurance to read \$18,591,537 for a new sub-total in *Employee Fringe Benefits* of \$18,591,537, and a new department total of \$18,591,537. 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 \$1,261,626, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014. 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 \$1,765,859, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014.

Ald. P. Smith asked the Mayor if he anticipated hiring a clerk in the coming fiscal year.

Mayor Blake replied he did not know if he could be done this fiscal year, but reminded they were in actuality saving money in this account.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4426 Wastewater in the amount of \$5,993,289, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014.

Ald. Giannattasio asked where they were with nitrogen credits.

Mayor Blake explained they are calculated from the previous year and that the city would be getting a credit which he stated is memorialized in this budget.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if it is figured into the budget totals.

Mr. Erodici explained any monies received get put into the Debt Service Fund.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Blake stated on the expense side the nitrogen credits will be \$0, but that they expect it will be approximately \$80,000.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve expenditures and revenue for Acct. 0012 0000 Sewer Fund as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following changes: line item Sewer Use Fees to read \$6,859,648, for a Revenues Total of \$7,759,148; and line item Employee Fringe Benefits to read \$949,376 for a total budget of \$7,759,148.

Ald. Anderson asked the Chairman to have the numbers read back. Majority Leader Veccharelli read back the numbers.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve expenditures and revenue for Acct. 0036 4157 Harbor Management Commission in the amount of \$257,462, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve expenditures and revenue for Acct. 0018 4121 Golf Course in the amount of \$72,000, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 0010 0000 General Fund Revenue as approved by the Board of Finance, with the following technical changes: line item 3111 0000 Current Taxes to read \$163,399,748 for a new sub-total in *Taxes* of \$164,954,748; and line item 3516 0000 Transportation to read \$9,466 and line item 3517 0000 *Education Cost Sharing* to read \$11,233,587 for a new sub-total in *State Education Grants* of \$11,741,053; and line item 3643 0000 State Realty to read \$380,123, line item 3643 0001 State Realty – Pequot to read \$326,785, line item 3647 0000 Private Exemptions to read \$383,311, line item 3670 0000 Manufact. Machines/Equip to read \$661,721 for a new sub-total in *State PILOT Grants* of \$2,375,231; and line item 3658 0000 Prop. Tax Relief-Mun Rev Share to read \$287,984 for a new sub-total in *General Purpose State Grants* to read \$397,894 for a Total Revenue to be determined.

Ald. Vitali questioned why the Board would not wait until they had all the numbers before voting.

Mr. Erodici stated he would answer all the revenue numbers once the mill rate has been set.

Mayor Blake recommended the Board vote on the expenditures.

Ald. P. Smith questioned the increase in police fines.

Mayor Blake stated he spoke with the finance department and that there was a contingency of over \$100,000.

Mr. Erodici stated he was hopeful to get that revenue and that he had every confidence of the recommendation from the police chief. He stated it was prudent to put in \$0 for this year and wait for one year for concrete numbers. He stated the account is 3762 0000.

Ald. P. Smith stated that next year the prediction should hopefully be higher and reflect this line item.

Mr. Erodici stated that was assuming they collect the \$15,000.

Ald. Vitali spoke of the sensitive situation for non-profits and stated he would like to revisit Acct. 4813 0000 Bridges. He stated he would like to see a \$10,000 increase to that account but would settle for \$5,000.

Ald. Vitali and Ald. Giannattasio moved to amend the motion for Acct. 0010 4813 Bridges Community Support, line item 4708 000 Grant to read \$355,000 for a new sub-total in *Operational Expenses* of \$355,000 and a new department total of \$355,000.

Chairman Vetro stated he believed it was too late for an amendment.

Ald. Vitali deferred to the Mayor, adding he believed this was done last year.

Ald. Veccharelli raised a point of order, stating the Board is done with that account. He stated there was ample time to add or subtract monies. He stated this Board has moved on.

Ald. Vitali recalled last year the Board increased some of the accounts, but regardless that he wished to revisit that account.

Ald. Veccharelli raised a point of order stating there was a motion on the table and that the Board needed to vote on the technical correction.

Chairman Vetro ruled the time to revisit had passed.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Vetro stated the Board would recess while the finance director finalized the mill rate. The Board recessed at 9:35 p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the Board in public session at 10:08 p.m. 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 2013-2014, 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, 2013 and ending June 30, 2014, 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 2013-2014 fiscal year in the amount of \$194,043,398 and authorized appropriations for 2013-2014 fiscal year in the amount of \$194,043,398.

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, 2013 and ending June 30, 2014, 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, 2012 and ending June 30, 2013, at the rate of 26.28 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 \$462,943 of said levy will be granted for Elderly Exemptions (State of Connecticut), \$758,280 will be granted for a local tax relief program for the elderly, \$578,403 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, 2013, 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 2013 and the remainder due and payable on the first day of January 2014, 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>\$163,317,258</u>
<u>TOTAL APPROPRIATION</u>	<u>\$194,043,398</u>
<u>TOTAL REVENUE</u>	<u>\$194,043,398</u>

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

Ald. Golden and Ald. P. Smith made and seconded a motion to adjourn the budget deliberations sessions for 2013-2014 at 10:13 p.m.. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary