

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
BUDGET DELIBERATIONS – FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019
MAY 22, 2018 – FINAL VOTE**

The Board of Aldermen held a budget deliberation session on Tuesday, May 22, 2018 in City Hall for Consideration and Voting RE: the proposed general budget, revenues and appropriations for fiscal year 2018-2019, establishment of the 2018-2019 mill rate and the tax due dates.

Chairman Vetro He asked everyone present to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Anderson
E. Beatty
K. Fortunati
C. Gaynor
D. German
A. Giannattasio
J. Golden
J. Grant
F. Smith
A. Sutton
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

Excused

M. Hardiman

Chairman Vetro stated he would entertain a motion to come out of recess.

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

Chairman Vetro reconvened the meeting in public session at 7:08 p.m. He stated tonight was the final step in the budget process. He thanked the mayor, aldermen, Dr. Feser and her staff for presenting a reasonable budget. Chairman Vetro spoke of the importance of finding balance between citizens, students, senior citizens.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the following budgets: Acct. 4111 Board of Aldermen in the amount of \$6,205, Acct. 4112 Elections in the amount of \$105,000, Acct. 4115 Registrar of Voters in the amount of \$166,149, and Acct. 4116 MGAT in the amount of \$22,250.

Ald. Fortunati and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to amend Acct. 4116 MGAT as follows: line item 4189 0001 Government Cable Service increase by \$3,000 from \$20,950 to \$23,950 for a new subtotal in *Personal Services* of \$24,550 and a new department total of \$25,250.

Ald. Giannattasio asked the purpose of the amendment.

Ald. Fortunati stated when the chairperson came before this Board she expressed frustration in having the funds in televising various events.

On the amendment, the motion carried unanimously.

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 \$294,033, Acct. 4122 General Expenses in the amount of \$368,023, Acct. 4123 Community Development in the amount of \$124,490, Acct. 4129 City Clerk in the amount of \$402,082, Acct. 4131 Law Department in the amount of \$651,264, Acct. 4132 Ethics Commission in the amount of 800.00, Acct. 4133 Probate Court in the amount of \$16,944, and Acct. 4141 Board of Finance in the amount of \$1,047, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2018-2019. 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 \$1,066,252, Acct. 4143 Board of Assessment Appeals in the amount of \$3,051.00, Acct. 4144 Zoning Board of Appeals in the amount of \$8,875, Acct. 4145 Pension Board in the amount of \$3,500, Acct. 4146 Flood and Erosion Board in the amount of \$903.00, Acct. 4147 Tree Commission in the amount of \$1,621, Acct. 4151 Civil Service Commission in the amount of \$200.00, Acct. 4153 Park, Beach and Recreation Commission in the amount of \$600.00, Acct. 4155 Economic Development Commission in the amount of \$1.00, 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 \$300, and Acct. 4162 Open Space in the amount of 66,347, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2018-2019.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4193 Public Library in the amount of \$1,171,604, Acct. 4210 Finance Department in the amount of \$1,898,174, Acct. 4215 Management Information Systems (MIS) in the amount of \$1,015,351, Acct. 4219 Human Resources with the following technical changes: Budgeted Positions, reduce Grade/Step for Human Resource Generalist to \$56,542, for a new Position Total of \$200,512; and line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages to read \$200,515 and 1/5 Fiscal Week to read \$1,000 for a new sub-total in *Personal Services* of \$220,713 and a new department total of \$234,492, for fiscal year 2018-2019.

Ald. Giannattasio asked the reason for the change to regular wages and fiscal week.

Mayor Blake explained due to the change/reduction in the salary of the Human Resources Generalist, it impacted the department's regular wage and ½ fiscal week totals.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4310 Police Department in the amount of \$13,311,694, Acct. 4320 Fire Department in the amount of \$12,017,473, Acct. 4331 Emergency Management in the amount of \$103,154, Acct. 4340 Animal Control in the amount of \$337,489, Acct. 4360 Lighting, Hydrants, Water in the amount of \$2,002,000, Acct. 4420 Public Works Office with the following technical changes: Budgeted Positions, Public Works Office Manager to read \$67,059 for a new Position Totals of \$379,482, line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages to read \$379,482 and line item 4111 9942 1/5 Fiscal Week to read \$1,893 for a new sub-total in *Personal Services* of \$384,375 and a new department total of \$390,301; and Acct. 4421 Highway/Parks in the amount of \$2,749,787, Acct. 4423 Building Maintenance in the amount of \$3,083,039, Acct. 4424 Engineering in the amount of \$399,493, Acct. 4429 General Garage in the amount of \$1,369,021; and Acct. 4431 Solid Waste in the amount of \$4,198,376, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2018-2019.

Ald. German stated he wished to amend the motion further as follows: Acct. 4360 Lighting, Hydrants, Water with the following change: line item 4845 0000 Street lighting reduce to \$590,000 for a new sub-total in *General Charges* of \$2,000,000 and a new department total of \$1,802,000

Mayor Blake stated while he applauded Mr. German's recommendation, he stated there were some variables that needed to be taken into consideration. Mayor Blake explained the re-lamping had not been completed as yet and further until the city has the actual experience of recognizing savings he would warn against such a large cut. He stated at this time next year there would be a clearer picture as to savings.

Ald. German withdrew his motion (that was not seconded).

Ald. German and Ald. Grant made and seconded a motion to amend the motion as follows: Acct. 4360 Lighting, Hydrants, Water reduce line item 4845 0000 Street lighting to \$690,000 for a new sub-total in *General Charges* of \$1,902,000 and a new department of \$1,902,000.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if the cut would be more conservative.

Mayor Blake stated it was, but reiterated the savings has not been realized.

Ald. Smith stated although there was no real savings was known as yet, it seemed like a reasonable reduction.

By roll call vote the amendment carried 9 yes (Anderson, Fortunati, Gaynor, German, Giannattasio, Grant, Smith, Tranquilli, Vitali) and 5 no (Beatty, Golden, Sutton, Veccharelli, Vetro).

Main 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 \$11,194,557, Acct. 4610 Health Department in the amount of \$919,684, Acct. 4620 Recreation Department in the amount \$864,004, Acct. 4710 Employee Benefits in the amount of \$23,681,038, Acct. 4720 Insurance and Bonds in the amount of \$1,783,500, Acct. 4740 Claims and Refunds in the amount of \$615,000, Acct. 4790 Benefit & Salary Reserve in the amount of \$126,079 and Acct. 4799 Unallocated Contingency in the amount of \$20,000, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2018-2019. 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 \$1,369,298 and Acct. 4803 Milford Arts Council in the amount of \$70,000, Acct. 4805 C-MED in the amount of \$76,993, Acct. 4807 Regional Mental Health Board in the amount of \$2,996, Acct. 4811 Borough of Woodmont in the amount of \$233,000, Acct. 4812 Transit Authority in the amount of \$345,242, Acct. 4813 Bridges Community Support in the amount of \$375,000, Acct. 4815 Veterans Graves in the amount of \$2,850 and Acct. 4816 Milford Flotilla 73 in the amount of \$9,000, Acct. 4817 Human Services Department in the amount of \$435,000, Acct. 4818 Historic District in the amount of \$650, Acct. 4819 Milford Progress, Inc. in the amount of \$7,500, Acct. 4820 Historic District II in the amount of \$650, Acct. 4821 Health Services in the amount of \$12,000, Acct. 4822 Cemetery Association in the amount of \$9,250, Acct. 4825 Beth El Center in the amount of \$85,000, Acct. 4826 Boys & Girls Club in the amount of \$70,000, Acct. 4827 Literacy Volunteers of So. CT, in the amount of \$5,000, Acct. 4828 Milford Historic Preservation Commission in the amount of \$650.00, 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 \$5,231,000, and Acct. 4995 Education Employee Benefits in the amount of \$1,200,001, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2018-2019.

Ald. Gaynor and Ald. Grant made and second a motion to amend the motion as follows: Acct. 4826 Boys & Girls increase line item 4708 0000 Grant to \$75,000, for a new sub-total in *Operational Expenses* of \$75,000 and a new department total of \$75,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Vitali and Ald. Grant made and seconded a motion to amend the motion as follows: Acct. 4813 Bridges Healthcare, Inc. as follows: increase line item 4708 0000 Grant to \$380,000, for a new sub-total in *Operational Expenses* of \$380,000 and a new department total of \$380,000.

Ald. Anderson asked when this account last received an increase.

Mayor Blake stated it was reflected in the budget book, page 89.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he would rise in support of this increase due to the opioid crisis locally and in the country.

By roll call vote, the amendment carried 11 yes (Anderson, Beatty, Fortunati, Gaynor, German, Giannattasio, Grant, Smith, Sutton, Tranquilli, Vitali) and 3 no (Golden, Veccharelli, Vetro).

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4996 Education Operations in the amount of \$93,235,155, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2018-2019. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Beatty and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to amend the motion as follows: line item 4001 0000 Lump Sum Appropriations increase by \$80,000 for a new sub-total in *Education Operations* of \$93,315,155 and a new department total of \$93,315,155.

Ald. Vitali stated he has repeatedly asked for a long range plan from the Board of Education. He also spoke regarding declining enrollment in all of the schools. He also pointed out the BOE was given a \$70,000 increase last year and that same amount was returned to the general fund at the end of the fiscal year. Ald. Vitali also pointed when the Board of Education made their presentation they stated they could live with the amount requested. He stated this Board needed to be prudent in its decision.

Ald. Veccharelli recalled during the questioning of the Board of Education that they would not be able to accomplish many of their requests. He stated this additional money would provide monies towards the requests and that he was in support of this increase. He also stated it would provide a better learning environment. Ald. Veccharelli expressed his hope the BOE would go forward with those items needed and prioritize accordingly.

Ald. Anderson echoed the comments of the majority leader. He pointed out the vast majority the requests were elementary schools and that the priorities were outlined for Tier I and Tier II funding. He stated by voting for the \$80,000 it shows good faith that we hear the Board of Education and that this Board is doing right by the children, parents, schools.

Ald. Giannattasio stated both sides presented good points. He stated the hope is the monies will be used for what the Board stated during their presentation, but he would like assurances. He noted Mr. Richetelli and other Board of Education personnel were present.

Ald. Beatty stated she was speaking for her colleagues on the Board, she reiterated it was with careful consideration that this amount was reached. She stated the \$80,000 is a good faith offer to get those projects started.

Ald. Grant appreciative of the information the Board of Education provided regarding the Tier I and Tier II projects. He expressed his hope the air conditioning in the classrooms would be a priority.

Ald. Fortunati added she was in support of the motion to support the additional monies to the budget. She spoke of a recent visit to Orange Avenue School where air conditioning is sorely needed in several of their class rooms where there is no shade provided by trees. She added this is only a quarter of what the Board of Education requested.

Ald. Tranquilli stated he was in favor of giving some funds back to the Board of Education and that initially he was looking more along the lines of \$60,000, but \$80,000 was not too far off and seemed fair to address the needs.

Ald. Sutton stated the amount would help to address those quality of life issues in the school for those children, adding school environment is important for day to day learning.

Ald. Giannattasio asked what the \$80,000 would encompass and reiterated his request to hear from Mr. Richetelli or other members of the Board of Education.

Ald. Veccharelli stated the Board of Education had already shared with this Board where funding is needed. He stated this Board cannot micro manage the Board of Education's spending. He reiterated all these questions have been asked and answered. He stated this Board simply cannot tell the Board of Education where to spend their money.

Ald. Giannattasio stated it was important to know what could be expected from the additional funding, and stated its called transparency.

Ald. Golden stated this is about good faith. She stated the Board of Education has heard this Board's concerns.

Mayor Blake stated it is the Board of Education that will make the final decision as to spending and that he was sure Mr. Richetelli would make recommendations to the Board of Education. Mayor Blake also pointed out when the Board of Education took their final vote, they made it clear where they planned to spend the \$360,000 that was added back in. I would think the \$80,000 would be that scope.

Chairman Vetro echoed the comments of Mayor Blake.

Ald. Sutton also pointed out there is a superintendent of schools as well as a Board of Education.

Ald. Giannattasio requested a 5-minute recess.

The Board recessed at 8:10 p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the Board in public session at 8:15 p.m.

By roll call vote the amendment carried 12 yes (Anderson, Beatty, Fortunati, Gaynor, Giannattasio, Golden, Grant, Smith, Sutton, Tranquilli, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 2 no (German, Vitali).

On the main motion, 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 \$19,265,575 and Acct. 4998 Education Health Services: School Nurses in the amount of \$1,316,193, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2018-2019. 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 \$1,703,708, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2018-2019. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4426 Wastewater in the amount of \$6,803,286, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2018-2019.

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 \$8,506,994, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2018-2019. 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 \$283,108, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2018-2019. 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 \$84,488, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2018-2019. 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 with the following technical changes: Acct. 3517 0000 Education Cost Sharing to \$10,069,109; for a new State Education Grant sub-total of \$10,186,455; Acct. 3643 0000 State Realty to \$281,776; Acct. 3643 0001 to \$236,690; Acct. 3647 0000 Private Exemptions to \$285,985 for a new sub-total of \$941,336; Acct. 3659 0000 Misc. State-Mun. Stabilization to \$1,130,086 for a new sub-total of \$1,240,086; Acct. 3901 0000 Appropriated Fund Balance to \$5,300,000 for a new sub-total of \$5,300,000.

Mayor Blake provided a background with some of the technical changes in light of the State's adoption of its budget that allowed them to put these numbers in place.

Ald. Anderson asked about Acct. 3659 0000 Misc. State-Mun.

Mayor Blake explained it is a newly named grant, not tied to anything specific.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

The Board recessed at 8:27 p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the Board in public session at 8:46 p.m.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve an Ordinance establishing a budget for the City of Milford for fiscal year 2018-2019, 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, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019, 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 2018-2019 fiscal year in the amount of \$210,195,255 and authorized appropriations for 2018-2019 fiscal year in the amount of \$210,195,255

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, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019, 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, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019, at the rate of 27.74 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 \$394,925 of said levy will be granted for Elderly Exemptions (State of Connecticut), \$775,784 will be granted for a local tax relief program for the elderly, \$435,802 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, 2018, 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 2018 and the remainder due and payable on the first day of January 2019, 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.

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|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| <u>TAXES TO BE RAISED</u> | \$177,221,271 |
| <u>TOTAL APPROPRIATION</u> | \$210,195,255 |
| <u>TOTAL REVENUE</u> | \$210,195,255 |

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Blake thanked the Board. He stated because of their efforts this was the third consecutive cut in a row, while still providing services to the Milford residents.

Ald. Giannattasio thanked Chairman and Mayor Blake and Board. He stated this is a responsible budget that meets the needs of the city.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Smith made and seconded a motion to adjourn the budget deliberations for 2018-2019 at 8:54p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Kennedy
Recording Secretary