

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
BUDGET DELIBERATIONS
MAY 30, 2007**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held a meeting on Wednesday, May 30, 2007 regarding Budget Deliberations for FY 2007-2008 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman Beirne asked everyone present to stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

P. Beckwith
T. Beirne
B. Bier (9:43 p.m.)
B. Blake
V. Ditchkus
J. Garbus
B. Genovese
M. Hardiman
B. Lambert
J. Patterson
J. Politi
K. Rowland
J. Toohey
N. Veccharelli, Jr.
P. Vetro

Also Present

Mayor J. Richetelli, Jr.
J. O'Connell, Mayor's Admin. Asst.
A. Jepson, City Clerk

Ald. Lambert and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to come out of recess at 7:13 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Richetelli reported Ald. Bier would be late as he was attending at event with his son. He also reported that Ms. Doneiko was doing well and was released from the hospital last night and is under doctor's care. He stated they would be able to send here electronically all the changes the Board has made. He stated he would like to see the Board ratify the budget tomorrow night, or if the Board wishes, Monday before the Regular Meeting. He explained they would need to get the information to the Finance Department so that they can give the authority to the Tax Office and Assessor's Office. He stated if all this is able to happen they should be able to get the tax bills out by July 1, 2007 without any cost to the city.

Chairman Beirne asked the timeframe if they are able to electronically get the information to Ms. Doneiko.

Mayor Richetelli responded the changes manually imputed along with exemptions that have been calculated by the Assessor's Office. He reiterated this Board could ratify everything tomorrow night.

Chairman Beirne asked if it could be tonight.

Mayor Richetelli responded no.

Ald. Patterson commented in able to do this they need security tax anticipated notes for the phase-in.

Mayor Richetelli responded he was correct. He stated the tax collector and assessor would need to work on it Thursday and Friday. He also credited the Tax Office in developing the program for the phase-in and noted they have met all the hurdles to plan the final numbers.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Garbus made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 4790 Benefit and Salary Reserve as recommended by the Board of Finance in the amount of \$25,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Garbus made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 4799 Unallocated contingency as recommended by the Board of Finance in the amount of \$100,000.

Ald. Blake and Ald. Lambert made and seconded a motion to reduce Acct. 0010 4799 to \$10,000.

Ald. Blake stated this is the same figure approved last year.

Mayor Richetelli stated the actual figure last year was \$50,000. He explained all transfers are passed through this fund. He cited as an example the transfer for the City Clerk's Office for the election last year.

Ald. Blake stated it had been at \$100,000 last year and this Board put it at \$50,000 and at the time last year's budget was enacted it was \$10,000.

Mayor Richetelli reminded the Board 8-10 transfers were made by the Board of Finance and Board of Aldermen. He also stated this account cannot be touched by any department or the Mayor for that matter. He stated it is an account that many transfers are made through by this Board.

Chairman Beirne asked what would happen if a department were to run out of money and followed up by asking if it would come from this account.

Mayor Richetelli explained they require departments to transfer within their own budget. He also explained the transfer for the City Clerk's Office last year regarding elections. He stated the ins our outs of this account can be tracked by this Board through the Board's monthly agenda. He stated another account that comes to mind is the Ethics Commission, which needed extra money last year to cover unanticipated costs.

Ald. Lambert pleaded to the mayor that they would like to get out at a reasonable hour tonight and that it was not necessary to repeat the same thing over and over. She stated they have gone over this before.

Chairman Beirne responded everyone would like to get out early but it is important they all understand.

Ald. Lambert and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to amend Acct. 0010 4799 Unallocated Contingency reducing that account to \$50,000.

By roll call vote, the amendment carried 7 no (Beckwith, Beirne, Ditchkus, Garbus, Genovese, Politi, Toohey) and 7 yes (Blake, Hardiman, Lambert, Patterson, Rowland, Veccharelli, Vetro).

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Garbus made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 4801 Council on Aging as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following changes: line 4708 0000 Operational Expenses, Grant to read \$1,353,000 with a new department subtotal of \$1,362,000 and a new department total of \$1,382,000.

Ald. Rowland stated it was her understanding they had agreed at a previous meeting to \$1,320,000.

Ald. Rowland and Ald. Blake made and seconded a motion to amend Acct. 0010 4801 Council on Aging by reducing it to \$1,320,000.

Ald. Lambert stated she had a question through the Chair to Ald. Toohey or Ald. Vetro regarding the two vehicles allocated and if that was in addition to.

Ald. Toohey replied two vehicles were received part as a grant money and part from Council on Aging. She stated they looked at a third vehicle through a grant. She stated the two vehicles they go were paid for but at a very good price.

Ald. Beckwith commented this is an account that benefits out senior citizens who pay their taxes faithfully. He stated it would be a disservice to reduce this any further.

Ald. Blake stated the amendment is the same figure as last year.

Ald. Toohey commented they have done remarkable things with the grant money they get and also do wonderful things with the volunteers they have. She added she did not feel bringing it to last year's figure would hurt them.

Ald. Ditchkus stated the new department sub-total would read \$1,329,000 with a new department total of \$1,349,000.

The amendment carried unanimously.

The main motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Garbus made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 4803 Fine Arts Council as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following changes: line 4708 0000 Operational Expenses grant to read \$71,250 for a new department sub-total of \$71,250 with a new department total of \$71,250. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Toohey made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 4805 C-MED as recommended by the Board of Finance in the amount of \$89,200. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 48047 Regional Mental Health, as recommended by the Board of Finance in the amount of \$2,996. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Garbus made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 4811 Borough of Woodmont as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following changes: reduce line 4708 0000 to read \$146,430 for a new department sub-total of \$146,430 and a new department total of \$146,430. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 4812 Transit Authority as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following changes: reduce line 4708 0000 to read \$343,375 for a new department sub-total of \$343,375 and a new department total of \$343,375. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Lambert made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 4813 Bridges Community Support as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following changes: increase line 4708 0000 to read \$360,000 for a new department sub-total of \$360,000 and a new department total of \$360,000.

By roll call vote, motion carried 13 yes (Beckwith, Beirne, Blake, Garbus, Genovese, Hardiman, Lambert, Patterson, Politi, Rowland, Toohey, Veccarelli, Vetro) and 1 no (Ditchkus).

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 4815 Veterans Graves as recommended by the Board of Finance in the amount of \$2,850. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 4817 Milford Flotilla 73 as recommended by the Board of Finance in the amount of \$7,500. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 4817 Human Resource Development (HRD) as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following changes: line 4708 0000 to read \$197,272 and line 4710 0000 Grant Youth and Family Services to read \$216,147 for a new department sub-total of \$401,618 and a new department total of \$404,618.

Mayor Richetelli interjected and stated he believed the amount agreed on was \$196,044.

Ald. Vetro stated he would rescind his second. Ald. Ditchkus withdrew his motion.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Genovese made and seconded a motion approve the budget for Acct. 0010 4816 Human Resources Development (HRD) in the amount of \$196,044 with a new department total of \$421,618. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Beckwith made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 4818 Historic District as recommended by the Board of Finance in the amount of \$715. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Toohey made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 4819 Milford Progress, Inc. as recommended by the Board of Finance in the amount of \$15,000.

Ald. Rowland and Ald. Blake made and seconded a motion to amend Acct. 4808 and reduce it to \$13,500.

The amendment carried unanimously.

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Beckwith made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 4820 Historic District II as recommended by the Board of Finance in the amount of \$1,500. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Garbus made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 4821 Health Services /VNA as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following change: line item 4708 0000 to read \$41,000 for a new department sub-total of \$41,000 and a new department total of \$41,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Rowland made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 4822 Cemetery Association as recommended by the Board of Finance in the amount of \$9,500. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 4823 Patriotic Organization as recommended by the Board of Finance in the amount of \$4,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 4825 Homeless Shelter (CPAC) as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following changes: line 4708 0000 to read \$60,000 with a new department sub-total of \$60,000 and a new department total of \$60,000.

Ald. Politi stated she planned to support this but would like to see our local congregation contribute to this. She added every year this sum goes up and it is a burden to the taxpayer.

Ald. Lambert commented the congregations do contribute and that as far as she knows, all the churches do.

Ald. Genovese added the Saint Agnes Men's Club contributes and also does a lot of work for Beth El Shelter.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 4993 Education Audit Fees as recommended by the Board of Finance in the amount of \$20,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Blake made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 4994 as recommended by the Board of Finance in the amount of \$3,560,993. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 4995 Employee Benefits Non-Teaching as recommended by the Board of Finance in the amount of \$979,578. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Beckwith made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 4996 Education Operations as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following changes: line 4001 0000 Lump Sum Appropriations to read \$77,914,815 with a new department sub-total in the amount of \$77,914,815 and a new department total of \$77,914,815. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Toohey made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 4997 Education Health Insurance Contribution as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following changes: Employee Fringe Benefits – line 4708 0000 Education health Insurance Contribution to read \$15,377,257 with a new department sub-total to read \$15,377,257 and a new department total of \$15,377,257.

Ald. Blake and Ald. Rowland made and seconded a motion to amend line 4708 0000 to read \$15,255,793.

Chairman Beirne stated he believed the original figure was agreed to. He stated the Finance Department checked with the actuary and that is there recommended number based upon our actuary and self-insurance. He stated he would recommend they not go below that recommendation as this could put us in jeopardy of not being able to pay claims when they come due.

Ald. Blake thanked the Chair and stated he agreed to his comments to some degree. He stated actuaries give different figures of being conservative. He stated he believes it would be better for the taxpayer to go with the lower figure.

Mayor Richetelli reminded the Board they are contractually obligated to pay medical benefits to our employees. He stated it is a guess, but it is based on many years of experience and to go with a number pulled out of the air and not the actuary is looking at a slippery slope. He stated they needed to pay all of their contractual obligations, including their teachers.

Ald. Blake commented the figure put forth by the majority is just as much a guess and that their number is just another layer of the actuary.

Chairman Beirne commented actuaries have a science and that he does not believe the number is a guess and that they might take offense to that remark.

Ald. Ditchkus asked what this would do to this taking it down a layer or so.

Mayor Richetelli explained they would have to go to the unallocated contingency to fund this account as well as any contractually obligated. He stated this City is fortunate to have a strong AA bond rating. He spoke as to the rating and also how flags could be raised if they failed to recognize the actuary's recommendation. He stated he wished to keep this community healthy.

Ald. Ditchkus commented he understood if the bond rating goes down then interest rates go up. He also commented they could end up paying tons of thousands of dollars in higher interest as well.

Mayor Richetelli stated when they bond it is for over 20 years. He explained the rating.

Ald. Rowland stated the number is not a guesstimate and that it is on the actuary's report as well. She also commented it is not a big difference but does make a difference to the taxpayer.

Mayor Richetelli stated it was taking a much greater risk and a slippery slope they should not get into. He stated the financial status of the City is much too important to the taxpayer.

Ald. Ditchkus spoke as to the numbers and stated this number could go up every year.

By roll call vote the amendment carried 8 yes (Blake, Genovese, Hardiman, Lambert, Patterson, Rowland, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 6 no (Beckwith, Beirne, Ditchkus, Garbus, Politi, Toohey).

Ald. Beckwith requested a 5-minute recess. The Board recessed at 8:13 p.m.

Chairman Beirne reconvened the Board at 8:30 p.m.

Ald. Ditchkus stated he did not think this was a wise thing to do. He stated he understood the layers, but felt the more money the better the city is financially. He compared it to a credit rating and also commented a bond rating is basically a score. He stated if the score goes down the taxpayer would pay more. He urged his colleagues to be very careful and think about the long-term financial rating of the city.

Ald. Blake stated he would call it a different analogy with credit cards. He also remarked "this is not the house jack built". He stated there were cuts by the Republicans, and then the Democrats reduced it further based on the actuary's numbers. He stated he just did not understand the comments made.

Ald. Ditchkus responded if your credit rating goes down you pay higher interest rates and remarked if he could not understand that how could you lead a town of \$52,000. He reiterated simply if your credit rating goes down you pay higher rates.

Ald. Lambert stated she understood what he was saying but it was just a different perspective. She likened it to buying a house for \$340,000 and taking a loan for more. She stated she did not believe it would jeopardize the city's bond rating and further that it would not harm the city. She stated it is merely 1%.

Ald. Beckwith stated their cut was reflective of the actuary recommendation.

Mayor Richetelli stated many years ago the city went to self-insurance because it was the right thing for the taxpayers and it cut costs. He stated they also did the same with casualty insurance and they have seen a savings. He stated over the course of the last 5 years they have saved money. He spoke as to the perception that they are not fully funding to the recommended amount of the actuary. He stated Milford is stable, healthy and prudent because they have met the recommendation of their actuaries and have been financially responsible. He added by doing so they have been responsible for taxpayer dollars.

Ald. Veccharelli stated tonight wouldn't be a bad idea for this Board to go with Robert's Rules and let each person have two bites of the apple. He stated everyone is anxious to move on this and that it is really a debate

between only a few people. He stated he wished to move on this question or they would be here for a long time. He reiterated he would like to move the question and would put that in the form of a motion.

Ald. Ditchkus raised a point of order.

Ald. Veccharelli stated he had the floor.

Chairman Beirne asked if he was moving the question and that there was no second.

Ald. Patterson seconded the motion to move the question.

Chairman Beirne stated they were talking about something that could affect our city for 20-30 years. He stated he himself is involved in insurance, amortizations, etc. and commented actuaries have to be satisfied. He also reminded the Board to keep in mind the city is following the recommendation. He stated if they find we are not being conservative or ignoring their determination as to what the numbers should be they could down rate the numbers. He also spoke as to the comment made by Ald. Lambert that there wasn't much difference and asked if it was really worth the risk. He also stated it was important to be aware of the decision they were making.

Ald. Patterson commented they reduced the post-employment account in the amount of \$10,000 to ¼ of that.

By roll call vote, the main motion carried 6 no (Beckwith, Beirne, Ditchkus, Garbus, Politi, Toohey) and 8 yes (Blake, Genovese, Hardiman, Lambert, Patterson, Rowland, Veccharelli, Vetro).

Mayor Richetelli stated these are the numbers they have and in speaking with the Speaker of the House's Office they did not feel the numbers would be less. He stated they would discuss as they go along.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Blake moved to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 0000 General Fund Revenue, line 3194 0000 in the amount of \$15,000 as recommended by the Board of Finance. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Vetro moved to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 0000 General Fund Revenue, line 3199 0000 in the amount of \$1,000,000 as recommended by the Board of Finance. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Garbus moved to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 0000 General Fund Revenue, "Licenses & Permits" with a department sub-total of \$102,868 as recommended by the Board of Finance. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Garbus moved to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 0000 General Fund Revenue, "Federal Grants" in the amount of \$3,000 as recommended by the Board of Finance. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Blake moved to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 0000, "State Education Grants" as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following changes: line 3516 0000 should read \$187,894 and line 3517 0000 should read \$10,335,419 for a new department total of \$11,464,407.

Mayor Richetelli noted this is a reduction so it should be a 2/3 vote.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Toohey moved to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 0000 General Fund Revenue “State PILOT Grants” with a new sub-total of \$3,247,077. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Toohey moved to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 0000 General Fund Revenue “General Purpose State Grants” with a department sub-total of \$283,995 and “Special Purpose State Grants” with a department sub-total of \$83,542. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Beckwith moved to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 0000 “Other Educational Revenue” and “General Service Revenue” as recommended by the Board of Finance. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Beckwith moved to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 0000 “Public Safety Revenue” as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following change: line 3722 0000 Building Inspection Fees increased to \$1,300,000 with a new department sub-total of \$1,405,450. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Vetro moved to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 0000 “Public Service Revenue”, “Health Service Revenue”, “Boards & Commissions Fees”, “Public Library Revenue”, Special Assessment Revenue” as recommended by the Board of Finance. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Toohey moved to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 0000 “Use of Money & Property” as recommended by the Board of Finance. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Garbus moved to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 0000 “General Long Term Liability Proceeds” (line items 3818 0000 and 3093 0000) as recommended by the Board of Finance. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Beckwith moved to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 0000 “General Long Term Liability Proceeds” as recommended by the Board of Finance, with the following change: line item 3901 0000 Appropriated Fund Balance to \$2,500,000.

Ald. Rowland advised against that and asked if there was any new information or why the insurance.

Mayor Richetelli explained they keep monthly tabs for projects for the end of the year. Based on the year-end and fund balance at the end of the current fiscal year. He stated because of gas, heating fuel, water, etc. they do not anticipate the same level. He continued with a lengthy explanation.

Ald. Rowland asked how long ago and also commented he used the term “we”.

Mayor Richetelli stated he has discussed this with the Finance Director and other city officials.

Ald. Blake asked if the Finance Director agrees and if it is her recommendation.

Mayor Richetelli stated they are in concurrence that they will be in excess. He stated of course the Finance Director would always like it to be greater.

Ald. Blake commented it is ironic that sometimes the majority goes against and in other places cries the sky is falling and doomsday. He stated here the figure is 5x and it is the same theory.

Mayor Richetelli reiterated they concur and will have in the fund balance more than what the bond rating says.

Chairman Beirne questioned why Mr. Blake would question giving back to the taxpayer.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus stated line items 3838 0000 and 3839 0000 to \$0.

Mayor Richetelli explained this is since Jai Alai was purchased and OTB, which was on the property is no longer in Milford. He also explained with regard to "Miscellaneous Revenue", in the Board's packet for Monday night are the billboards on New Haven Avenue and Bridgeport Avenue. He stated Planning and Zoning has recommended they continue to lease these billboards and that they have become aware they are worth a lot more. He stated if the City agrees to lease the billboards, over 25 years they would pay over \$20,000 a year as compared to \$2,000 a year. In accordance with the CPI index this is an increase. He stated they would not be able to put the money into this budget if the Board is not going to approve this on Monday. He stated if approved they could put \$190,000 into that line item, but there would need to be a commitment that it would pass on Monday.

Ald. Rowland asked if it could be increased from the \$2,000.

Mayor Richetelli explained it would not reduce the taxpayers' money for this fiscal year and that you would not be able to lower the tax rate for that amount.

Ald. Veccharelli commented in was in favor of taking that money and putting it to relieve our taxpayers. He asked how long a commitment this was when they sign the papers. He also asked what would happen if these billboards become a problem because something on them is offensive to the community. He stated he wanted to make sure this was well thought out and what recourse.

Mayor Richetelli stated he appreciated Ald. Veccharelli's concerns and stated they were some of the concerns they had during negotiations. He spoke as to the contract restrictions i.e. alcohol, adult oriented ads, etc. He stated the City has the say on the content on the billboards. He also explained there is an out clause. He also explained the 10-year agreement that the boards cannot come down except for a viable municipal issue.

Ald. Patterson asked if it was retroactive to 2005-2006 and if so, the actual amount would be \$210,000.

Mayor Richetelli agreed it could be as much as \$210,000.

Ald. Politi asked if there could be some opposition to this and if the Mayor could share that with this Board.

Mayor Richetelli replied there could be some opposition on Monday night and stated there are people who want all billboards gone. He also spoke as to a City Ordinance that does not allow billboards and also commented environmentally minded people that wish to get rid of all of them. He stated he respectfully understand their opinion but also that the revenue aspect is important as well. He noted there are billboards in town and that the City happens to own two of them and stated the City should reap the benefits.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Toohey moved to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 0000 General Fund Revenue, "Miscellaneous Revenue" as recommended by the Board of Finance as follows: line 3839 0000 Miscellaneous Other Revenue increase to \$190,000.

Ald. Patterson and Ald. Rowland moved to amend line 3839 0000 to \$210,000.

Ald. Ditchkus asked if the \$190,000 could be \$210,000.

Mayor Richetelli replied he believed he would be safe to go with the \$210,000.

Ald. Lambert stated they were automatically accepting the billboards and stated she wanted to be able to explain to her constituents what she had done. She stated they are voting to put money into this account in essence approving the billboards.

Ald. Veccharelli stated there are four billboards, approximately \$5000 each billboard and also located where they are located.

Mayor Richetelli explained there is one set located on New Haven Avenue across from the Sundae House and another on Bridgeport Avenue across from K-Mart Plaza. He stated there are two billboards that are two-sided. He stated according to the CPI index it will increase.

Ald. Blake asked if the city would take control of them and rent them out.

Mayor Richetelli explained they are forced to negotiate with the current billboard owners because they own the equipment. He stated the one questions is whether they would be approved as new. He also noted they are on wetlands but the current billboards are grandfathered. He also noted they talked with several other billboard companies.

Ald. Veccharelli asked if we would allow them any other privileges. He also asked about lights on the billboards that you see on some.

Mayor Richetelli stated there are lights that hang over the billboards and they are permissible but there could not be any additional lighting.

By roll call vote on the amended motion, motion carried 13 yes (Beckwith, Beirne, Blake, Ditchkus, Garbus, Genovese, Hardiman, Patterson, Politi, Rowland, Toohey, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 1 no (Lambert).

On the main motion, by roll call vote, motion carried 13 yes (Beckwith, Beirne, Blake, Ditchkus, Garbus, Genovese, Hardiman, Patterson, Politi, Rowland, Toohey, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 1 no (Lambert).

Mayor Richetelli referred to page 69 and stated the report should read: 4111 9142 1/5 \$9,870. He explained they would calculate the expenditures if the Board goes into recess, which will allow the Finance Director to calculate the mill rate.

Ald. Garbus and Ald. Beckwith moved to go into recess at 9:36 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Vetro moved to come out of recess at 12:15 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Richetelli stated it would be up to the Board to decide if they wished to meet tomorrow or before the Regular Meeting on Monday. He reminded the Board of the Living Treasure presentation tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. so City Hall would only be available at 5:30 p.m.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Vetro moved to approve total appropriations of \$169,047,545 and total revenues of \$169,047,545 minus Revenue other than taxes of \$30,932,594 for total taxes to be raised at \$138,114,951 and a collection rate of 97.85% and authorize the "Finance Director to calculate the phased-in mill rate for FY 2007-2008 Budget" and report back to the Board of Aldermen at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 1, 2007 in conference Room A of the Parson's Complex and further authorize the Tax Collector and Assessor to begin the billing process on Thursday, May 31, 2007.

Ald. Blake stated they talked about Monday and that possibly it would not have an affect. He stated he would move to meet on Monday, June 4, 2007. He stated he would make that in the form of a motion. Ald. Patterson seconded it.

Mayor Richetelli stated it would not have an affect as long as they authorize the Tax Collector to start their work, but reminded the Board they cannot turn the clock back.

Chairman Beirne asked how Ald. Blake wished to change the motion.

Ald. Blake stated he wished to change the date to June 4, 2007.

Chairman Beirne stated they would also have to make a change to authorize the departments to get the bills ready.

Ald. Rowland stated she was confused as to when they would be voting on the budget.

Ald. Ditchkus stated he wished to clarify they would only be voting on the budget.

Chairman Beirne replied yes.

Ald. Rowland stated they still needed to pick a date.

Chairman Beirne stated they would need to change the language to authorize the tax collector and city assessor to begin the billing process on May 31, 2007. He stated they have gone through the process and basically they will be voting on the expenditures and revenues and don't know when they will be calculated as a mill rate. By doing this he stated, they will be allowing the processing of billing to start tomorrow.

Ald. Ditchkus stated the motion has the numbers in it. That is the bottom line.

Chairman Beirne stated they would still need to change the wording of the motion.

Ald. Ditchkus stated they would then need to vote the mill rate in.

Chairman Beirne stated the Ordinance contains the mill rate.

Mayor Richetelli commented the only thing that is different is that the finance director is ill and cannot be here. He stated the amounts here are the totals of the last three nights and that normally that would be done tonight. He stated we are asking you to vote on the budget tonight and then have the finance director “crunch” the numbers and come up with the mill rate.

Chairman Beirne stated Ald. Blake’s amendment would mean they would need to change the wording. He clarified the amendment should read *and report back to the Board of Aldermen at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, June 41, 2007 in City Hall and further authorize the Tax Collector and Assessor to begin the billing process on Thursday, May 31, 2007.*

The amendment carried unanimously.

By roll call vote, the main motion carried 8 yes (Beckwith, Beirne, Bier, Ditchkus, Garbus, Politi, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 7 no (Blake, Genovese, Hardiman, Lambert, Patterson, Rowland, Toohey).

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Blake moved to recess at 12:31 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Board Secretary