

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 2, 2012**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, July 2, 2012 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman P. Vetro called the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Chairman Vetro asked those present to join in saluting our flag.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Bier
B. Anderson
R. Dickman
G. Gasper (8:14 p.m.)
D. German
A. Giannattasio
J. Golden
R. Nunno
S. Shaw
F. Smith
P. Smith
N. Veccharelli
P. Vetro
R. Vitali

Also Present

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

Excused

G. Stanford (vac.)

2. Public Statements

Public statements are limited to the legislative function of the Board of Aldermen. He stated the time limit granted to each speaker shall be three (3) minutes. Residents, taxpayers, and electors may address the Board at this time. He stated the Board encourages speakers not to express derogatory, insensitive, or offensive statements or to engage in personal attacks against individuals. He stated in order to allow everyone an opportunity to speak; he would ask that everyone limit their comments to three minutes.

A. Petrahai – 32 Orient Avenue – stated he has been a taxpayer and voter since 1965. He stated he wished to talk to the Board about something very serious – audits. He stated in industry there are quarterly audits conducted. He referred to the Board of Education and stated you don't what was finished until much later. He also spoke regarding the police department and its driving record and review of videos. Mr. Petrahai stated the education system should be audited, adding all those important things should be audited. He also commented his taxes keep going up, but his pension is the same. He asked the Board to keep an eye on everything. He stated government should be run like a business.

L. Bull DiLullo – 122 Pumpkin Delight Road – stated she is the Chairperson of the Milford Republican Town Committee. She stated she was speaking tonight on the appointment of Richard Smith to the Police Commission. She stated she reviewed his resume in the agenda package and it only listed him as a former

member of the Conservation Commission. She commented perhaps there was something else that he failed to mention. She stated she believed this same Richard Smith is the Chairman of a major political party. She continued reading from a prepared statement regarding this appointment and his ability to be non partisan on this Commission and be counter intuitive to the Police Commission's mission. She also spoke of the appointment of civic leaders, not entrenched political leaders.

B. Genovese – 19 Belmont Street – stated she was here tonight concerning the Fowler Field area. He stated she has attended the design workshops last week and expressed concern with the proposals being made, which she did not feel were in the best interest of Milford. She spoke of the use of the ball fields, pointing out she believed those are the only lighted fields for youth baseball. She asked the Board to look into this and made sure they don't take away the last places Milford citizens can enjoy.

R. Smith – Sixth Avenue – commented he did not plan to speak but when he sees the Chairman of the Republican Party speaking, it is likely to be an attack and he must counter respond. He went on to explain his experience with electronic investigations. He also pointed out the Minority Leader of the Board of Aldermen is the Chairman of his district. He stated Ald. F. Smith is Chairman of the 3rd District and the 5th District Chairman is on the Board of Finance. He stated he did not feel political involvement and engagement should keep someone from being further involved. He also stated there are a number of Republican Town Committee members who serve on various Boards and Commissions. He went on to quote Robert Frost. Mr. Smith asked for the support of the full Board and stated he would make this Board proud of his contributions to the Police Commission.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on June 4, 2012.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 7, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Special Organizational Meeting of the Board of Aldermen.

None.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

Chairman Vetro extended a Happy Independence/Happy 4th of July to all and wished everyone a safe holiday. He asked everyone remember the meaning of this day.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations:

Mayor Blake stated he was respectfully asking the Board take action on items 8a-8i and ask any questions. He too wished everyone of Happy 4th of July, remarking about the celebration of our nation's birthday. He stated at the June meeting a request was made that an update be made regarding the school construction projects. He stated the Chairman of the Permanent School Facilities was present tonight, along with the architect, Bill Silver

Mr. Woods explained the phases of the projects at Foran High School, the roof project, Phase III – Asbestos/Lead abatement and roof work at Jonathan Law. He also explained the work at John F. Kennedy Elementary School, asbestos floor tiles and finally he explained the alterations and addition at East Shore

Middle School. He went on to explain the range of bids that came in for the project. Mr. Woods also explained the \$12,000,000 bond, which he stated included short term interest and contingency. He stated the Committee has had extensive discussions with Milford Public Schools and have decided to focus on the addition of the class rooms, art/music, media center and cafeteria. He stated they received approval from the State today to go back out to bid, with bids being opened in the next 4-6 weeks. He stated the Committee will be looking for a Phase II and doing the other work originally proposed.

Chairman Vetro asked the amount the State would be reimbursing.

Mr. Woods stated it would be about 55%. He went on to explain how the reimbursement works. He stated as the City pays the long term bonds with interest, the City receives reimbursement from the State equal to that. He reiterated he believed it would be 55% although it is not official.

Ald. P. Smith asked if the bids were from the full project or scaled down project.

Mr. Woods replied the entire project, not including the boys' room and girls' rooms.

Ald. P. Smith asked for clarification if the numbers included the art/music room, media center, breezeway, etc.

Mr. Woods stated the bid included the roof, windows, tile, site work, etc.

Ald. P. Smith asked what the lowest bid was.

Mr. Woods replied \$15,555,000, but you have to add the 10% for contingency and another 10% for financing.

Ald. P. Smith asked if the costs would be higher splitting the project.

Mr. Woods stated the Committee wants to make sure that whatever they build in this phase it will not be torn out in another phase. He stated they also need it to be stand along. He also stated there could be savings if the entire project was done at once.

Ald. Vitali asked if \$22,000,000 was projected for the entire project.

Mr. Woods stated the construction phase was \$12,800,000 which included financing and contingency. He stated if there is a Phase II, it will be around \$6.8M, for a total \$19.2M.

Ald. Vitali stated it was his recollection if it was done in one phase it would be approximately \$15,000,000 to \$19,000,000, so basically you are paying now or later. He reiterated he recalled if it had been done as one phase it would have been around \$17.M.

Mr. Woods stated you needed to add the contingency and financing to that number.

Ald. Vitali asked Mr. Silver what the cost would be for a new school that size.

Mr. Silver responded approximately \$26,000,000.

Ald. Anderson commented many times there is a break off point (dollar amount) of the number of contractors participating. He stated if the project is done in phases they may see more bid participation.

Ald. Veccharelli asked if it is possible to make Phase I into \$10,000,000 and Phase II into \$10,000,000, especially if the \$10,000,000 is where they will likely get.

Mr. Woods stated they attempted to scale the project back.

Ald. P. Smith commented according to the minutes, there was discussion at the Permanent School Facilities Building Committee meeting about long term viability of the building. She stated the question to the Committee would be whether or not the Committee is aware of those plans. She also stated when this Board voted on the \$12,000,000 she did not recall any discussion of phases. She expressed her disappointment they were going through this now.

Mr. Woods stated Dr. Feser is commissioning a comprehensive study of at least 10 years into the future. He stated she also assured the Committee ESMS is a part of that continued viability into the future. Regarding the phases, Mr. Woods stated they are doing the phases based on the charge of the aldermen. He stated if there is a Phase II it would be seamless and the two would mesh together.

Mayor Blake stated the completion date of the project has not changed, whether or not there are phases. He also stated even the highest level of funding proposed back in February would not have been enough to found the entire project.

Ald. Veccharelli asked if they could bid for Phase I and immediately bid for Phase II and perhaps they would get the best bidding.

Mr. Woods explained Phase I has been cleared to go out to bid. He stated in order to bid Phase II they would have to go back to the State for approval.

Ald. Anderson praised Mr. Woods's leadership on this Committee, which we stated has been to the City's benefit, adding the Committee has done a yoeman's work. He also commented regarding the 55% reimbursement to the City for the work.

Ald. P. Smith stated the former Mayor stated reimbursement would be around 45%-55%. She also commented about breaking the project into the two phases and that the Committee does a great job. She expressed some concern with Phase II being properly funded in February 2013.

Ald. Vitali questioned the process and asked why the project was not bid first and then get the proper bonding. He stated he hoped in the Phase II they would get the bids first and then go for the bonding.

Mayor Blake stated the bonding process is the same as the last 7 years. He stated the only difference in this project is that the architectural engineering fees were bonded the year before.

Ald. Vitali stated they needed to be more realistic and get the bids and then bond.

Mayor Blake commented nothing is set in stone, but it is how it has been done.

Ald. P. Smith questioned the completion date of the project.

Mr. Woods stated the project is still anticipated to finish on time.

7. Unfinished Business.

None.

8. New Business (from Mayor's Report Items 8a-8i)

8a. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the appointment of (D) Jennifer Ibarra, 50 Ridge Street, to the Tree Commission to fill the present vacancy, (three-year term expiring 12/31/14. Motion carried unanimously.

8b. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the appointment of (D) Richard Smith, 59 Sixth Avenue, to the Police Commission to fill the present vacancy, (three-year term expiring 12/31/13).

Ald. Vitali reading from a prepared statement stated he was personally and deeply surprised that the Mayor would put forward Mr. Smith's name for this appointment. He stated Mr. Smith is the Chairman of the Democratic Town Committee. Ald. Vitali also pointed to Mr. Smith's biography which did not include any mention of his current political affiliations and that he was not being opaque and lacked transparency. He continued reading stating members of the Police Commission must maintain neutrality. He stated this appointment is just another one of the recent debacles citing the way the ESMS addition was handled, and the clandestine change of insurance. He stated he was opposed to this appointment and would be voting no.

Mayor Blake stated he took exception to the remarks made by Ald. Vitali. He stated his appointment was based on competency. He stated Mr. Smith is a graduate of Yale University/Trinity and the director of forensic technology. Mayor Blake also pointed out that Mr. Smith tonight offered additional information as to his background and capabilities. He stated this appointment is based on competency and capability.

Ald. P. Smith stated being district chairman, that person is the spokesperson for their party as well as the strongest and most partisan. She stated this is a vital commission in the City. She stated she herself has served on other boards and commissions such as the library board and board of finance, but that these are commissions where party is not considered. She stated she was not in favor of this appointment.

Ald. Anderson stated since this Board took office there have been vacancies that have been filled by both parties. He noted one of those selections was of someone who had run for public office. He also stated this nominee has great intellect and someone who looks at issues passionately and will make a great impact without partisan and that he supports this appointment.

Ald. F. Smith stated he has a personal involvement since the nominee is his brother. He stated these civilian boards and commissions are not formed with specialists, but those with local civic duties. He spoke of Max Case and the capacity he served and was always impartial. Ald. Smith stated he has not petulant interest in this appointment and that his vote is as an alderman and involved public servant. He stated when he comes to this

meeting and to other boards and commissions he does so objectively. He stated he believed the nominee would be objective and wise.

Chairman Vetro stated he has served on a number of commissions and pointed out you take an oath to do so. He stated he has known the person for a number of years and believes he will do a fine job and that he is in favor of the appointment.

Ald. Dickman commented regarding the chairmanship, stating those positions are elected in each of those districts. He stated this appointment is not elected, but an appointment. He stated he wondered how he would be able to vote A-politically. He stated he would like to table this matter so he can give it more thought. .

Ald. Dickman and Ald. P. Smith made and seconded a motion to table to appointment.

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

On the main motion, motion carried 8 yes (Anderson, Gasper, Golden, Nunno, Shaw, F. Smith, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 6 no (Bier, Dickman, German, Giannattasio, P. Smith, Vitali).

Chairman Vetro stated he would entertain a motion to re-order the agenda and bring forward item 8i.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to re-order the agenda and bring forward item 8i. Motion carried unanimously.

8i. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Gasper made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the appointment of (D) Aaron Sanner, 859 West River Street, 06461, from an Alternate to a Regular member of the Inland Wetlands Agency, to complete the unexpired term of (D) Sally Lee, (Five-year term expiring 12/21/12). Motion carried unanimously.

8c. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution RE: Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Programs, Tax Credit for Saint Gabriel School. Motion carried unanimously.

8d. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Allocation Transfer #17 (Vehicle Acquisition Program).

Ald. P. Smith asked what items, if any were pushed forward a year.

Mayor Blake stated some items were removed. He stated one of the items was the \$375 grant from the federal government for a police boat. He also stated the catch basin and that vac all were removed. He stated those are the notable exceptions. Mayor Blake stated on the fire department list they bonded some of those items last year such as the Quint truck.

Ald. P. Smith asked if the city would be selling off the existing vac all. She also asked if the scuba marine boat would be coming off or if that is an additional boat.

Mayor Blake stated the vac all trade-in was \$20,000. He stated he will be coming to the Board in the next month or so with a request to sell that. He stated he was looking to sell the old recycling trucks and hopefully add revenue to the City. He stated he hoped to have all of that to the Board in August. As to the boat, he believed that could be removed.

Motion carried unanimously.

8e. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve Allocation Transfer #18 (Communication Systems).

Ald. P. Smith asked for a brief overview.

Mayor Blake explained all emergency radios would be narrow banded. He stated those departments include Public Works and Fire Department. He stated they do have an additional in which to do this, but the City is moving forward now.

Motion carried unanimously.

8f. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Allocation Transfer #19 (Wastewater – Radio Narrow Banding/Nitrogen Monitoring/Engineering).

Ald. P. Smith asked if this is in follow up to work after budget.

Mayor Blake explained there are three components to the transfer to pay for narrow banding and continued with a lengthy explanation.

Ald. P. Smith asked if the City was still on the hook for the \$300,000 in Nitrogen credits.

Mayor Blake explained they are credited in a calendar year. He stated the budget line item was approved over three years ago. He stated he was hopeful they would see the credit in 2013.

Ald. Bier stated when this Board passed the budget they asked for an explanation. He asked if there was one now as to why the City paid more. He asked if there are any assurances that can be taken.

Mayor Blake deferred to Jim Cooper, Superintendent of Wastewater who was present.

Mr. Cooper explained in calendar year 2011 they were dealing with a process that has a lot to do with nature. He also noted they were without a plant foreman for a while and that once one was hired things began to turn around. He stated they mostly don't get results until the end of the year.

Ald. Bier asked if additional training would be required with the new equipment.

Mr. Cooper explained the equipment is on-line. He also stated the fees to Fuss & O'Neil was for training for personnel.

Ald. Shaw stated her understanding is right now they are positive and due to get a credit.

Mr. Cooper responded yes.

Ald. Veccharelli thanked Mr. Cooper for turning this around.

Ald. German asked about the \$400,000 credit and if it was due to environment.

Mr. Cooper stated there are a lot of factors such as nature, waste control and lack of formal personnel training.

Ald. F. Smith asked if they were talking about the new Housatonic Treatment Plan or Beaverbrook.

Mr. Cooper responded Housatonic.

Ald. F. Smith asked if the increase in Nitrogen was part of this and also what degree the equipment helps.

Mr. Cooper stated there foreman do a very nice job and that it is difficult to find someone with the qualifications and licensing as well.

Ald. P. Smith asked about any ongoing annual maintenance contract that may not have been considered during budget negotiations.

Mr. Cooper stated AECOM was included.

Motion carried unanimously.

8g. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request to authorize the City of Milford to accept the Justice Assistance Grant for the Summer 2012 Violence Reduction Initiative Program in the amount of \$40,000.00 and to authorize the Mayor and the Police Department to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate the receipt of said grant funds. Motion carried unanimously.

8h. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the Resolution Re: Establishment of an Accountant Related to the Juvenile Diversion Program. Motion carried unanimously.

9. New Business not on the Agenda which may be introduced by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting.

None.

10. Budget Memo Transfers:

(a) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Budget Memo Transfer #14, Funds 10 & 12, FY 12. Motion carried unanimously.

(b) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Budget Memo Transfer #15, Funds 10 & 12, FY 12. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Refunds

(a) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$9,127.48. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report of Standing Committees:

- a. Ordinance Committee – no report.
- b. Public Safety and Welfare Committee – no report.
- c. Public Works Committee – no report.
- d. Claims Committee – no report
- e. Rules Committee – no report.
- f. Personnel Committee – no report.

Chairman Vetro asked if any of the aldermen had a Report for any of the Special Committees.

13. Report of Special Committees:

- a. Liaison Sub-Committee – Board of Education – no report.
- b. Liaison Sub-Committee – Flood & Erosion Board – no report.
- c. Liaison Sub-Committee – Park, Beach & Recreation Comm. – no report.
- d. Liaison Sub-Committee – Planning & Zoning Board – no report.
- e. Liaison Sub-Committee – Sewer Commission – no report.
- f. Liaison Sub-Committee – Harbor Management Commission – no report.
- g. Liaison – Council on Aging – no report.
- h. Permanent School Facility Building Committee – no report.
- i. Liaison Sub-Committee – Library Board –no report.
- j. Liaison Sub-Committee – Fowler Memorial building – no report
- k. Liaison Sub-Committee – Milford Redevelopment & Housing Partnership – no report.
- l. Golf Course Commission – no report.
- m. Inland Wetlands Agency – no report.
- n. Liaison Health Department – no report.
- o. Devon Revitalization Committee – no report.
- p. Human Services Commission – no report
- q. Liaison Pension & Retirement Board – no report.
- r. Milford Government Access Television (MGAT) – no report.

14. Relative to Item 14 of the Agenda, “Executive Session”, I respectfully submit the following for your consideration and action.

Executive Session. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting is required for any items to be considered in executive session. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting is required to go into executive session.

The Chairman shall announce, in public session, those items to be covered in executive session and call for a vote to enter executive session. If a two-thirds (2/3) vote, to enter executive session, is obtained, the hall shall be cleared and executive session declared.

None.

Being no further business to discuss, Ald. Vitali and Ald. Anderson moved to adjourn at 9:24 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary