

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2013**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, September 9, 2013 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman P. Vetro called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. Chairman Vetro asked those present to join in saluting our flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and remain standing for a moment of silence for former alderman Terry Munk who passed away last week.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Anderson
R. Dickman
D. German
A. Giannattasio
J. Golden
R. Nunno
S. Shaw
F. Smith
P. Smith
G. Stanford (7:35 p.m.)
N. Veccharelli
P. Vetro
R. Vitali

Also Present

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake
L. Stock, City Clerk
S. Fournier, Mayor's Admin. Asst.

Excused

B. Bier
G. Gasper

2. Public Statements

Public statements are limited to the legislative function of the Board of Aldermen. He stated only residents; taxpayers or electors may address the Board. He encouraged speakers not to express derogatory or offensive attacks. The time limit granted to each speaker shall be three (3) minutes. He asked each speaker to adhere to the three-minute limit.

A. Petrahai – 32 Orient Avenue – spoke about the efforts of the Mayor in working with FEMA during recent storms. He also spoke about the changing climate and the bridge at New Haven Avenue and that it was time to lobby the government for more money. He also spoke about the school pointing out there are 192 less students which means less classrooms.

E. Bonessi – Beach Avenue – stated he is the Warden of the Borough of Woodmont and that he has provided the aldermen with a lot of information. He also stated there are burgesses and other officers present tonight to answer any questions. He also stated there are a lot of people here tonight that will tell the Board how they feel about the Station 5 firehouse.

R. Scofield – stated he was here tonight on behalf of the residents at Viscount Drive. Reading from a prepared statement he spoke about CT General Assembly issue 13-234, the sun downing of the renters rebate program. He stated he was here tonight to call upon legislative leaders to restore that rebate program. He stated the loss of that program would be a detriment to the citizens. Mr. Scofield also stated that program is essential for the seniors to maintain their daily needs. He implored legislative leaders to re-evaluate their decision to take away the renters rebate program.

J. Prisco – 11 Riverdale Road – thanked the Mayor, Board of Aldermen and Recreation Department for the basketball courts at Anderson Avenue and that he was happy they were finally fixed after so many years, but pointed out there was still much more work that needed to be done in that area.

D. Austin – 14 Village Road – stated he was here tonight regarding the firehouse. He stated the sale to the Borough is a good idea for the City and excellent for the Borough. He went on to provide a lengthy history of the 1959 pumping of sand. He also spoke of the two properties that were given to the City by the Borough for no monies and the history of Hawley Park that was Borough owned. He explained the long history of how the City's Flood and Erosion Board was formed, because that Board was needed in order for the City to apply for grant monies back then. He also stated that the residents in the Borough pay city taxes as well as Borough taxes. He also pointed out there are no signs in the Borough that say "Borough Residents Only." Mr. Austin also talked about the library which is used by all of Milford. He stated they also pay for their own lifeguards. He stated they are not bad people and that they do what they can for the City. He stated the transfer of the firehouse to the Borough would be an asset for both the Borough and the City and stated he supports that transfer and hoped the Board would support it.

B. Wagner – 29 Clinton Street – commented the current Borough Hall was her 2nd grade before finally moving to Seabreeze School. She stated growing up in Woodmont she has watched the Borough over the years as a child to becoming an adult. She also stated she is an active volunteer firefighter and pointed out that the volunteer company no. 5 is still an active group. She also stated she is involved with the amateur hand radio group who would like to have their meetings at the fire station. She asked the Board to support the transfer to the Borough.

P. DelVecchio – 56 Mark Street – stated she is speaking on behalf of the Borough. She stated the firehouse would be an investment for all of Milford. She also stated a shelter is needed at that end of town and that they need some place in Woodmont that they can walk to, drive to and is on high ground. She also stated the residents of Woodmont are willing to maintain it and that the facility could surpass what they do now. Ms. DelVecchio also stated obtaining firehouse 5 would be a way of preserving the history of Station 5 Company. She asked the Board to please pass the transfer at which point she asked those in support of the transfer to stand in support. She asked the Board to consider it their heartfelt plea.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on August 5, 2013.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2013.

Ald. Nunno stated on p. 4 (bottom), it should be added that he stated to Mr. Bonessi that "*he disagreed*"

Motion carried unanimously with the correction noted above.

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

None.

Ald. Vitali stated the Board would be remiss if they did not take a moment to remember 9/11. He stated the City of Milford lost three young men that day, Michael Miller, Avnish Patel and Seth Morris. He requested a moment of silence. (Moment of Silence)

Chairman Vetro thanked Ald. Vitali for bringing it up.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

Chairman Vetro stated the annual campaign kick-off for the United Way of Milford Campaign would take place on Thursday, September 26, 2013 at Bic Headquarters.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations (8a-8j)

Mayor Blake stated he would respectfully request the Board's action on agenda items 8a-8f and that he would be happy to answer any questions as they come up.

7. Unfinished Business

Board of Aldermen approval is requested per the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Board dated July 17, 2013, for the conveyance of 128 Kings Highway, formerly Fire Station #5, to the Borough of Woodmont for the consideration of \$1.00 with the condition that the Borough of Woodmont shall be the sole owner of 128 Kings Highway and shall use said property solely as the Borough Hall for the purpose of conducting the Borough's business as a municipality, except the Borough shall allow the property to be used by the City of Milford as a center for community meetings. If at any time the Borough of Woodmont discontinues or abandons the use of the property as the Borough Hall, ownership of 128 Kings Highway shall revert back to the City of Milford.

Ald. Stanford and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to remove the item from the table. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Stanford made and seconded a motion to approve the request per the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Board dated July 17, 2013, for the conveyance of 128 Kings Highway, formerly Fire Station #5, to the Borough of Woodmont for the consideration of \$1.00 with the condition that the Borough of Woodmont shall be the sole owner of 128 Kings Highway and shall use said property solely as the Borough Hall for the purpose of conducting the Borough's business as a municipality, except the Borough shall allow the property to be used by the City of Milford as a center for community meetings. If at any time the Borough of Woodmont discontinues or abandons the use of the property as the Borough Hall, ownership of 128 Kings Highway shall revert back to the City of Milford.

Ald. Nunno asked Mr. Bonessi how much money the Borough currently had in its bank account.

Mr. Bonessi replied \$220,000 is what they receive from the City which is their annual operating budget. He explained that money is earmarked for public works. He stated the Borough budget is approximately \$120,000, \$116,000 of which is all earmarked for police protection and other items that the residents vote on.

Ald. Nunno recalled there was a time when the Borough had approximately \$2,000 in their account.

Mr. Bonessi stated that simply was not true. He explained there have been earmarked projects such as sand replenishment, also storm water replenishment and that at one point there may have been \$600,000 in their reserve funds. He stated they currently have approximately \$120,000.

Ald. German stated at the last meeting there was some concern as to whether or not the Borough wanted the fire station. He stated that has been confirmed and that it was important to move forward. Ald. German stated there would be no cost to the City and that the property it would be maintained by the Borough. He also noted Mr. Bonessi and the burgesses have done a lot of work to secure funds for the renovations of the building.

Chairman Vetro asked about fees associated with the use of the building.

Mr. Bonessi explained he has been in contact with the boy scouts and that they would like to be able to use the building for meetings for in-kind services.

Ald. Anderson stated he received an email from a constituent asking Borough representatives to respond. He stated the property is listed for \$762,960, which is far in excess of the \$520,000 mentioned at the last meeting. The State of Connecticut is providing \$500,000 and there is a grant in the amount of \$1,200,000. In addition, the Borough owns Clinton Street appraised for \$280,060. He stated the question the constituent was asking was whether the proceeds would go towards the cost and also that the Borough had not agreed to maintain the fire station as a shelter. He stated each year the City returns over \$200,000 to the Borough. Ald. Anderson stated the person watched the last meeting and was looking for clarification of the numbers. He stated he would be voting in favor of this motion, but asked Mr. Bonessi if he had a response for the constituent.

Mr. Bonessi stated the \$200,000 is actually \$220,000 from the City. He pointed out Milford Public Works does not handle snow removal in the Borough, or street sweeping or cleaning. Mr. Bonessi recalled that the Public Works director was asked that specific question during budget deliberations and his response was that the Borough of Woodmont "is a bargain." He reiterated the \$220,000 was not for use for the fire house. Mr. Bonessi stated regarding the statement concerning the shelter, that it would likely be a part of Phase III. He explained the fire department took the generator, which was disappointing. He also stated they would have to speak with the fire department and health department regarding a possible shelter, but it was his understanding it would be fine. He stated for now they are planning on use for the entire first floor. He stated they are hoping to obtain a grant to put in an elevator for the second floor.

Ald. Anderson also commented regarding the policy regarding a fee for use of the building and asked Mr. Bonessi to consider a sliding scale.

Ald. P. Smith commented regarding the use of the facility as a shelter and inquired if the agreement should be modified to reflect that. She stated she agreed there needs to be a second shelter in Milford, but on the City side it should have done its due diligence in its consideration. She pointed to the Hazard Mitigation Plan which she stated notes that East Shore Middle School should be the second shelter for that area. She noted East Shore

Middle School is quite larger and is in the process of a major renovation. She stated the City needs to evaluate what it plans to do and also that the City has infra structure to maintain an emergency shelter. She stated regarding the two properties it was her recollection the two properties were to be sold to offset the \$2,000,000 for the new fire house on New Haven Avenue. She reiterated she City needed to do its due diligence before proceeding.

Mayor Blake stated the City's emergency plan is forever changing and adjusted before any natural disaster. He stated as an example, Storm Irene, where Platt Tech was identified as a shelter. He stated it is a team that selects that facility that includes the Emergency Management Director, Police Chief, and Fire Chief. He stated they are constantly making adjustments based on the nature of the storm. He stated this building would add one more tier and usable property.

Ald. Shaw thanked all of the people from Woodmont for coming out. She stated regarding the community, that is what it is about – community. She stated having a borough hall makes it a strong community. She stated this is revenue neutral and it serves a function beyond the emergency shelter. Ald. Shaw stated she is in support and asked the Board to support it as well, adding it is an integral part of the community.

Ald. Vitali thanked Mr. Bonessi for coming out. He stated at the Board meeting last month Mr. Agro came before this Board and commented it was once stated that if the two firehouses were sold those monies would come back to the city. Ald. Vitali stated in the future he would like to see those types of comments in writing. He stated he is in favor of this but would like to see a few things happen. He stated he is not in favor of the \$25.00 fee to residents, adding he agreed with Ald. Anderson with waiving the fee. He reiterated he is in favor, but many things have come up that should have been in writing and expressed his hope that would happen in the future.

Ald. Veccharelli stated when he thinks of Woodmont he thinks of Milford. He stated he knows firsthand the firehouse will need some work, commenting he worked there for many years. He stated the Borough acquiring the firehouse would be a great asset to Woodmont and great for the city. He stated the city would not have to pay for maintenance, heat, utilities, etc. He also commented it is a great location. He stated selling the current Borough Hall would put that property back on the tax rolls. Ald. Veccharelli stated the City of Milford would be a partner and that also that it would be a nice upgrade from the Borough's current building. He stated he was very happy and hopeful his fellow alderman would vote in favor.

Ald. Nunno stated the last two storms were devastating, but neither one was a Category 1 hurricane. He stated if they had been the location of the firehouse would not be the place to go. He stated there are other more appropriate locations. He also stated there are plenty of places to hold a meeting in Milford.

Ald. P. Smith commented she understood the need for flexibility if there was a change in the last storm she did not hear about it. She stated more communication was needed. She addressed the comment that this purchase is revenue neutral, stating that every taxpayer in Milford is paying off the new \$4 million dollar firehouse. She also commented it is not a matter of district, but that there are other parcels in the city that could be sold as well. She stated the taxpayers should get money back for the \$4 million dollars fire house.

Mayor Blake stated the folks in the Borough are also Milford taxpayers and they have been maintaining the current Borough Hall. He also stated there was only one shelter during the last storm. He pointed out Milford has the largest coastline in Connecticut and there was a great deal of devastation. Mayor Blake stated the

American Red Cross has pulled out of Milford for the most part, so responsibilities' have been delegated to the Health Department. He explained with each natural disaster they have to evaluate the city's shelters and that it is done by circumstances and the particular event.

Ald. F. Smith noted the large contingent of motivated freeholders from the Borough. He stated if this sale passes tonight the bone of the criticism is the implied understanding that the new fire station coast was to be offset from the sale of this property. The people of Woodmont must realize this is a sacrifice for other residents in Milford that have no interest in obtaining this building. He stated he was in favor.

Chairman Vetro thanked everyone for attending tonight and letting the Board their comments. He also commented he had the pleasure of attending a borough meeting recently and it was warming to his heart to see the residents come together. He commended Warden Bonessi and the burgesses for their work putting this together. He stated he was proud to represent the Woodmont area residents and would be voting in favor of this.

Ald. P. Smith commented the \$500,000 grant came through to renovate the building as a neighborhood center and tonight this Board heard from Mr. Scofield that the residents at Viscount Drive were losing their sun downing renter rebate program. She commented it seemed grossly unfair.

Ald. Vitali stated what was being heard tonight was all side specific. He stated everyone is from Milford and that we need to help each other when we can. He cited as an example the Boys and Girls Club and that he would like to see a club on the east side of town as well. He stated he believe in being equitable and doing the right thing.

By roll call vote, the motion carried 11 yes (Anderson, Dickmen, German, Giannattasio, Golden, Shaw, F. Smith, Stanford, Veccharelli, Vetro, Vitali) and 2 no (Nunno, P. Smith).

Ald. Anderson requested a 5 min. recess. The Board recessed at 8:50 p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the Board in public Session at 9:01 p.m.

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

8a. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the appointment of (R) Thomas E. Bach, 214 Broadway, 214 Broadway, 06460 as a member of the Flood and Erosion Control Board to fill a vacancy. (Term to expire 12/31/15) Motion carried unanimously.

8b. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request per the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Board dated August 26, 2013 for the acquisition of sidewalk easements on properties located at 156 and 262 Seaside Avenue, and to authorize the Mayor and City Attorney to sign any documents and take all steps necessary to effectuate the acquisition of said easements.

Ald. P. Smith questioned the acquisition of the sidewalk and asked for a further explanation.

Mayor Blake explained this request is similar to the easements this Board approved on Gulf Street a few months ago. He stated there is no cost to the City. He also stated that discussions with the homeowners had taken place.

Motion carried unanimously.

8c. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to approve the request by the Golf Commission for the use of available funds from the Golf Course Open Space Fund in the Special Revenue Fund 76, for the purpose of maintaining the municipal Orchards Golf Course, which maintenance shall include, but not be limited to, improving drainage, planting new trees for providing a buffer for neighboring properties and the replacement of trees and other plantings lost due to weather or disease; and to authorize the Mayor, Finance Director and Golf Commission to take all steps necessary to effectuate said transfer.

Mayor Blake stated several members of the Golf Commission were present to answer questions. He explained the Commission essentially wished to use the monies from the Fund 76 and make improvements to the greens, tees, boxes, etc.

Commissioner W. Healey stated the Commission was looking to use Golf Commission open space monies. He stated each year monies are deposited into the account through the management company. He stated over the years with numerous storms they have lost several trees which have resulted in some safety issues and also some drainage issues. He stated they do not have a cost as yet, but the Commission did hire an engineer who has developed a list. Commissioner Healey stated if the request is approved the Commission would go to the Purchasing Agent to proceed with an RFP.

Ald. Veccharelli recalled the open space fund was initiated with the construction of the golf course. He asked if the request was specific to the golf course open space or any open space.

Mayor Blake explained there is a recreation areas and open space account which was set up a few years after the golf course opened. He stated money from that fund could be used for maintenance of the course subject to the approval of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

Ald. Veccharelli pointed out Lisman Landing is an enterprise fund as well as the golf course and that the landing is a true asset to the City of Milford and does not cost the City of Milford anything. He stated both facilities have been managed quite well. Ald. Veccharelli stated it was his understanding there was a small account that was for open space in the City. He also stated he would like to see the Golf Commission come before this Board with the exact amount of repairs/improvements. He stated without a dollar amount it would be premature to approve. He stated he was not against the projects, but would like to see a dollar amount.

Commissioner Healey explained the golf course generates the funds. He also pointed out there are a number of open space funds. He also stated they would like to get the work done in the off season so as not to affect any playing time. Commissioner Healey stated they basically were looking to withdraw from their own account.

Ald. P. Smith stated this Commission is very careful with every dime. She also pointed out the city does not fund public works parks department to due maintenance. She stated the fees from golf course revenue take care of the regular maintenance and that it is a long term investment in the course. Ald. P. Smith stated the request tonight was for their proposals and then they would come back to this Board with a dollar amount. She also

recalled the city lost out when they did not take action to obtain the property adjacent to the course. She stated the course is a real jewel in the City.

Ald. P. Shaw asked how she was able to approve this tonight without knowing the dollar amount.

Commissioner Healey explained there is a plan as to the work they want to do. He stated they are not asking for a blank check, but would like to draw from the funds to start the projected work.

Chairman Vetro asked if there was some type of a ceiling on the dollar amount.

Commissioner Healey stated they are looking to do work between 2 green and 3 tee, which area suffered extensive flooding during the storm. He stated the cost is approximately \$2,500-3,000. He also stated the work is important because of the safety issues to the trail. He stated although they would like to extend the green at hole #1, the Commission realizes the cost could be upwards of \$50,000. He stated they would like to clean up along North Street and plant trees to create a buffer.

Chairman Vetro commented it would have been nice and would have been a better presentation if the Board could have known the dollar amount.

Commissioner Amato suggested it would be his recommendation as the Vice Chairman of the Commission that the Board approve a figure not to exceed 1/3 of what is in the open space account. He stated if they need funds beyond that they would come back to this Board. He stated as someone who is at the course and plays in a number of leagues he hears complaints from the senior league, youth league, women's league about the minor things, i.e traffic areas because of erosion, safety, diseased trees, etc. He stated currently there is \$150,000 in the account, with another \$30,000 going in. Commissioner Amato stated it was important they address these issues right away and that they would not exceed that figure and would come back to this Board if additional fees were needed.

Commissioner Healey stated the Commission would like \$50,000 to get started and would come back to the Board after that.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Dickman moved to amend the motion and insert after "use of available funds '*not to exceed*' (NTE) \$50,000."

Ald. Shaw stated she still wanted the Commission to be more specific as to what they were spending those monies for. She asked what the first round of money would be for.

Commissioner Healey stated they would be working on the pathway between #2 & 3 because of flooding and damage from the storms, clean up and improvements along North Street and tree plantings along Kozlowski Drive. He stated they would have to put off hole work on #1, 2, 6 for now.

Ald. Veccharelli asked when the Commission's year starts.

Commissioner Healey stated it is a calendar year.

Ald. Veccharelli asked about ticket sales.

Commissioner Healey explained they get a flat fee. He stated approximately 20,000 rounds have been played to date.

Ald. Veccharelli stated he wished to clarify that the Commission was basically looking to take money they already receive in a flat fee from their budget. He stated 1% from the open space might not seem like a lot of money, but it's the only money taken from the enterprise fund. He stated it seems a little selfish. He stated the Commission should use the funds they are given. He also reiterated those monies are for all open space which was why the fund was designed.

Ald. Giannattasio commented it sounded like Ald. Veccharelli is trying to punish the Golf Commission for being successful. He stated what he was hearing was that they want to make improvements to the course to keep the people coming back. Ald. Giannattasio commented you have to put money back to your business to be successful and that this is good planning on their part to make the course aesthetically pleasing and worthwhile. He stated he was in favor of the amendment and in favor of giving them what they need to do their job. He stated the Commission needs to do what has to be done to continue to be successful.

Ald. F. Smith stated it was his understanding this Fund 76 account is earmarked for recreation and the golf course. He asked about the accounting of the Fund.

Mayor Blake explained there are several open space funds in the City. He stated there are open space revenues that are generated from developers. He stated in this particular fund all the monies come from the fees paid for from rounds.

Ald. P. Smith encouraged her colleagues to go back and look at the enterprise funds. He stated they are self-sustaining. She stated here amendment says up to \$50,000 and that they would then come back with their bids. He also pointed out the Commission was well suited to determine the priorities of the course.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Stanford made and seconded a motion to move the question.

Chairman Vetro asked if there was anyone else who wished to speak on the amendment that had not done so.

Ald. Anderson read from the aldermanic budget.

Commissioner Healey stated he felt the Golf Course is an open space that is why they came before this Board.

Commissioner Amato pointed out that Ald. P. Smith attends all of the Golf Commission meetings and has a full understanding of what they do. He stated the Commission makes every effort to keep the course at a premium level. He also stated they have been able to keep costs down for their senior leagues, youth leagues, women's leagues, etc. He stated it is a good functional course and that John Casey, the former City Engineer did a great job, however, there are issues that nature has presented them with over the years. He stated this is all part of normal maintenance.

By roll call vote, the amendment carried 11 yes (Dickman, German, Giannattasio, Golden, Nunno, Shaw, F. Smith, P. Smith, G. Stanford, P. Vetro, Vitali) 2 no (Anderson, Veccharelli).

On the main motion, the amendment carried 11 yes (Dickman, German, Giannattasio, Golden, Nunno, Shaw, F. Smith, P. Smith, G. Stanford, P. Vetro, Vitali) 2 no (Anderson, Veccharelli).

8d. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Stanford made and seconded a motion to approve the request to Amend the City of Milford Capital Improvement Plan 2012-2017 (as adopted by the Board of Aldermen on November 8, 2012) to add the project: Transfer Station Replacement Scale and Software. Motion carried unanimously.

8e. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution Re: State of Connecticut Local Capital Improvement Program Assistance Program (LoCIP) – 2013.

Ald. P. Smith asked if this goes hand in hand with item 8f and also questioned the \$378,000.

Mayor Blake responded the \$378,000 is the amount of LoCIP funds received this year. He explained it was anticipated this year the replacement of the scale and software along with road repairing. He stated last year it was the police software and road repaving. Mayor Blake stated each year there is generally one project.

Ald. P. Smith asked if the Resolution should be re-qualified to add the additional projects and make it more specific.

Mayor Blake stated the Board could choose to do that, but it is something the Board has adopted over the years and is recommended by the City Attorney.

Ald. P. Smith stated in light of earlier discussions this evening regarding the Borough and the Golf Course Commission, it seems the Board is being asked to go back and forth with the rules and how things finalized.

Mayor Blake stated in order for the City to get LoCIP reimbursement the language must be specific. He reiterated if the Board wished to change the language they could do so.

Ald. P. Smith stated she wanted to be clear that the Mayor was saying these items are subject to change at the discretion of the Mayor's office.

Mayor Blake stated it is based on the bid. He explained the monies could only be used for Capital Improvement Plan. He added in the past the monies were used almost exclusively for road repairs.

Motion carried unanimously.

8f. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution Re: Cash Advance for State of Connecticut Local Capital Improvement Program Assistance Program (LoCIP) – 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

8g. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution Re: Certifying Douglas Edo as Emergency Management Director of the City of Milford.

Ald. F. Smith asked why the fire chief is appointed to this position.

Mayor Blake explained the City has had a tradition of appointing the fire chief to this position. He continued with an explained the background.

Motion carried unanimously.

8h. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution Re: Milford's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (Plan reviewed and approved by FEMA pending adoption by the Board of Aldermen).

Ald. P. Smith asked about property acquisition and if that is something that would come before the Board of Aldermen.

Mayor Blake explained it is a specific program through FEMA, that they are grants for the purchase of property. He went on to explain the requirements for acquisition of property. He stressed they are grant funded and not eminent domain. He also commented the FEMA program is competitive.

Ald. P. Smith commented regardless of the funding, by approving this, it is like the Board saying they are okay with the government coming in and taking property.

Mayor Blake emphasized they are not taking property. He stated the property acquisition is only one program and the elevation program is another example. He stated this is an important piece of grant opportunities for the City.

Ald. P. Smith asked if this was similar to in the past where there were opportunities for low interest rates.

Mayor Blake mentioned a program that took place earlier in the day at City Hall for residents who were affected by the storm. He also stated there are local programs out there too.

Ald. Anderson commented the Hazard Mitigation Plan is an important document for the community and provides guidance. He added it is very detailed and well done and gave kudos to the City.

Motion carried unanimously.

8i. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Allocation Transfer No. 2 (South Street Retaining Wall).

Ald. P. Smith asked if this is the same area as the sewer project.

Mayor Blake stated this approval is near Hillside Avenue, which area was damaged and eroded by Storm Sandy. He stated the project is similar to the reventment project on Trumbull Avenue.

Ald. P. Smith asked if the reimbursement rate was 75%.

Mayor Blake responded yes.

Ald. P. Smith asked if any remaining funds would be returned to the unreserved undesignated Fund 10 account.

Mayor Blake replied yes. He also stated the City would use only what it costs.

Motion carried unanimously.

8j. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to approve the request to accept 2013 Port Security Grant Program Award in the amount of \$25,000 and to authorize the Mayor, Finance Director and Police Chief to take all steps necessary, including signing all documents, to effectuate the acceptance of this grant and implementation of the award. 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

None.

11. Refunds

(a) Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$54,343.16. 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.

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 – Ald. Anderson reported there has been a change in vendor for the Meals on Wheels program.
- 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. Executive Session. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting is required for any item 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. Veccharelli and Ald. Vitali moved to adjourn at 10:12 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary