

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 1, 2012**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, October 1, 2012 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman P. Vetro called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Chairman Vetro asked those present to join in saluting our flag.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

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

Also Present

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake  
Jonathan Berchem, City Attorney  
Linda Stock, City Clerk  
Peter Erodici, Finance Director  
Steve Fournier, Mayor's Admin. Asst.

Excused

G. Gasper

Chairman Vetro deferred to the Mayor for a presentation.

Mayor Blake stated he had a special proclamation in recognition of National Breast Health month. He stated tonight two of his favorite people, Mary Ann Nilan and Suzanne Manning to join him and State Representative Kim Rose for a special proclamation. He stated October 19, 2012 is Get Your Pink on Day and encouraged everyone to wear pink. He continued reading the Proclamation.

State Representative Kim Rose stated she was pleased to be here, adding Milford is very lucky to have Mary Ann and that they are true survivors. She went on to read a Citation from the Connecticut General Assembly.

Ms. Nilan thanked everyone, stating Milford is a wonderful community. She provided a background of the Get In Touch Foundation which she stated was formed in 2004. Ms. Nilan stated she was pleased to announce there are programs in all 50 states and in 21 countries. She stated the program is also available on your iPad or iPhone. Ms. Nilan commented they are changing the world one day at a time. She also stated she looked forward to the raising of the Get Your Pink on flag tomorrow morning, here at City Hall. Ms. Nilan thanked everyone for their support, stating she was very grateful.

## 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.

M. Casey – 29 Lansdale Avenue – spoke of a VFW ceremony he recently attending and how the symbolic “empty chair” which represents those missing soldiers. He suggested Milford public officials do something similar stating it would be a meaningful gesture.

A. Petrahai – 32 Orient Avenue – commented regarding his taxes, which he stated went up along with his sewer tax. He stated it was time for change. He spoke about the recent closing of a Sikorsky plant in New York and stated they would not be coming here because taxes are too high. Mr. Petrahai also spoke about the situation regarding the girl who attends Trumbull Vo Ag who has to walk 2 miles to get her bus. He stated it is too far to walk and that it is dark and that something needs to be done.

L. Davies – 20 Pamela Drive – thanked everyone for the opportunity to speak. She stated she was here regarding the Cole Bros. Circus that was at the Connecticut Post Mall earlier this year. She stated she has spoken with Mayor Blake and Ald. Stanford about this situation. She stated her goal is to have an ordinance in place. She continued reading from a prepared statement. She stated an ordinance would protect the people and children and the animals from mis-treatment and abuse. She also noted there is a similar ordinance in Stamford. She stated she did not bring enough copies and asked if someone could make copies for the Board.

Ald. Stanford stated she would be willing to make the copies and prepare for the Board.

M. DeGrego – no address given – also spoke of the chair/table depicting the MIA. He also noted last month marked the 3,000 death in Afganistan. He also asked if the Board would consider a moment of silence for our troops after the reciting of the pledge of allegiance.

## 3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on September 10, 2012.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 10, 2012.

Ald. Stanford stated the minutes should reflect that Ald. Dickman was not present at the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

## 4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Special Meeting.

None.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

Chairman Vetro wished everyone a safe and Happy Columbus Day. He stated the City is closed for the holiday and expressed his hope everyone would be able to take time to spend with family.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations:

Mayor Blake commented while City offices may be closed on Columbus Day, the City is never closed. He stated he would respectfully ask the Board for their consideration and action on items 8a-e on the agenda.

7. Unfinished Business.

None.

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

8a. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request to allow the City of Milford Fire Department to seek Request for Proposals to provide third party billing and collection services on behalf of the City of Milford Fire Department for its emergency medical services as well as other services provided by the Milford Fire Department.

Mayor Blake acknowledged Chief LaVecchia who was present.

Chief LaVecchia stated the City of Milford presently engages in these services, but is not getting paid. He stated basically they are providing the service, but not billing for the service. He stated this proposal will allow the City of Milford to bill for the services they provide, not AMR.

Chairman Vetro asked what the patient can expect from services.

Chief LaVecchia explained the three services which includes basic life support, paramedic service and hostile transport. He stated the fire department holds the PSA for basic life support and AMR holds the PSA for transport. He stated it is the level of care that determines whether a paramedic rides to the hospital with AMR. He stated if this passes they will no longer require AMR to have a paramedic on board and Milford would provide the paramedic service.

Chairman Vetro expressed concern with double billing. He asked where the billing would come from.

Chief LaVecchia replied they are seeking a provider. He also noted Medicare only pays the provider.

Ald. Stanford asked the cost of service for the collection agency.

Chief LaVecchia responded that is the reason for the request for proposal.

Ald. Stanford asked if there was a ballpark figure.

Chief LaVecchia replied it was best to keep it open at this point. He explained once the proposals come in they would pick the best rate for the best services.

Ald. Giannattasio asked how this would impact the current contract with AMR and if there would be any negative impact.

Chief LaVecchia stated they hold the PSA for paramedic services, but not transport services. He also stated the AMR contract expired in November, 2011, but they continued service. Chief LaVecchia stated they have put AMR on notice that the department wishes to carry the paramedic.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if AMR bills for their paramedics and the fire departments.

Chief LaVecchia responded no, stating there is only one bill.

Ald. Dickman asked how many opportunities the fire department had over the last year to bill.

Chief LaVecchia stated that information is available, but he did not have it with him.

Ald. Dickman asked how much revenue could have been garnered.

Chief LaVecchia stated there are two other towns he knows of that bill and they generate approximately \$300,000.

Ald. German asked how this would affect the current fire staff and if it would impact other duties.

Chief LaVecchia responded there would be some impact and that he would be discussing that with the union.

Ald. German asked if additional staff would be needed.

Chief LaVecchia replied not to start, but if so they would consider it at a later date.

Ald. Giannattasio commented if additional staffing is needed, it might seem cheaper to keep AMR, especially when you consider health costs for additional personnel.

Chief LaVecchia recalled the Board of Aldermen cut a firefighter position off the rescue truck 2 years ago. He stated it was too early to determine if additional staffing was necessary. He stated it would depend on the number of calls and where the calls are.

Ald. Vitali stated he was confused by the comments. He asked for clarification as to whether the fire personnel currently travel with AMR and asked why that would change.

Chief LaVecchia stated the paramedic starts advanced life support whether they ride in or not. He stated it is up to the paramedics on the call.

Ald. Vitali asked how that is different.

Chief LaVecchia explained AMR would not have a paramedic on Board with this proposal.

Ald. Shaw asked if there were any other areas for possible billing.

Chief LaVecchia responded HazMat. He explained they are currently allowed to receive payments for incidents, but don't always receive them. He stated having a billing agency would allow them to collect.

Ald. P. Smith expressed concern there was only one piece of paper before them tonight. She stated as with the open space position the full plan was not in place. She asked how the plan would be billed out, who would do the billing and what impact it would have to AMR and how it would affect the fire department. Ald. Smith stated she could not vote on this until there was a plan in place, stating what was in front of the aldermen tonight was just a piece and too preliminary.

Mayor Blake stated the first step is to get the rate from the State that they can bill out for. He stated the second step is the request in front of the aldermen to put out for proposal. Mayor Blake stated additional steps would come be the Board shortly.

Ald. P. Smith stated she would like to know what that road may look like.

Ald. Veccharelli asked if AMR charges for transport.

Chief LaVecchia stated it is the same as what is on the rate schedule for the fire department.

Ald. Veccharelli stated he did not see transportation costs in the packet. He asked of an explanation of how the fees would be billed.

Chief LaVecchia explained the difference between billing with a paramedic and Paramedic Intercept Service. He stated the agreement with AMR is that they provide two ambulances with four paramedics. He stated in the future the fire department will ask AMR to provide an ambulance with two EMTs. Chief LaVecchia also provided the Board with some background from when AMR purchased the ambulance service from Chamberlain Ambulance. He also touched on how the department implemented paramedic engine companies in 2001 and noted all engines have paramedic equipment. He stated the town is well covered.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald Vitali made and seconded a motion to table the matter. Ald. P. Smith stated this information before them was too preliminary and that more details were needed and that she would like to see a plan in place before voting.

Chief LaVecchia stated the request before the Board is only for the purpose of obtaining billing agencies.

Ald. P. Smith expressed her appreciation of the information the Chief was able to provide, but stated a full plan would help with future decisions.

Mayor Blake stated the billing component was needed before moving forward.

Ald. P. Smith stated she respectfully disagreed and that did not feel a vendor would drive this entire proposal. She also noted there have been a number of questions tonight regarding manpower.

Ald. Shaw raised a point of order stating a motion to table was not debatable.

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

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

8b. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution RE: Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of up to \$17,500,000 for the Costs Associated with City of Milford General Obligation Refunding Bonds. Motion carried unanimously.

8c. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Shaw made and seconded a motion to approve the request to authorize the City of Milford to apply for a Housing Rehabilitation Program Grant through the State of Connecticut's Department of Economic and Community Development as described in the memo.

Ald. Anderson recognized Mr. Ivers who was present and asked if he could provide a description of the program. Ald. Anderson asked if there is an advisory committee or revolving committee until funds are expended and the track record.

Mr. Ivers stated the City has provided low cost loans and technical assistance but by the Community Block Grant Program. He stated funding is typically made available with zero interest deferred payment. He stated 4 years ago they received a grant through the HUD grant program. He went on to explain the details of how the program will work, but that they were not yet clear as to the income guidelines.

Ald. Anderson asked how it is rated.

Mr. Ivers stated it is put out through the bid package.

Ald. Anderson asked if there would be a list of eligible contractors.

Mr. Ivers stated one requirement is that the contract be registered with the Department of Consumer Protection.

Ald. Anderson asked if it is a contract between the City and the Contractor.

Mr. Ivers stated the contract he has been using was developed by the City Attorney's Office many years ago. He stated it is fairly extensive.

Ald. Anderson suggested the contract may wish to relate to the State since they are the source of the funding. He also asked how inspections are scheduled and carried out.

Mr. Ivers responded with regard to inspections that each project is different. He stated it can depend on the size of the project. He also spoke about grant fund environmental remediation, asbestos removal, oil tank removal, etc. He stated some of the small projects are generally mechanical system upgrades.

Ald. Shaw asked if there is a waiting list.

Mr. Ivers stated there are approximately 15 people on a waiting list.

Ald. P. Smith asked when they would receive this grant, if approved tonight.

Mr. Ivers stated it would be a few months.

Ald. P. Smith asked about outside grants and some mortgage grants.

Mr. Ivers stated they are limited to environmental remedial costs.

Ald. P. Smith asked if it is a State application or if they come through his office.

Mr. Ivers stated they come through his office.

Ald. Veccharelli asked if it is Mr. Ivers' office that cuts the check.

Mr. Ivers explained his office prepares the check and it is released to the contractor by signature of the homeowner. He added he signs off that he is satisfied with the progress to date.

Motion carried unanimously.

8d. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Bid Waiver for Solar Hot Water Incentive Grant Application.

Ald. P. Smith asked if the City is acting as the agent.

Mr. Ivers explained the City is acting as the funding source and explained the structure of the program.

Ald. P. Smith asked if it falls short, where that money would be made up.

Mr. Ivers explained they have a guaranteed fixed cost. He stated the City will also receive credits and points for doing a clean energy project.

Mayor Blake commented another building on New Haven Avenue received installed solar panels.

Motion carried unanimously.

8e. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the request to authorize the City of Milford to accept the 2012 Port Security Grant Award in the amount of \$375,000 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.

Mayor Blake thanked the Milford Police Department for their work with this grant and acknowledged Lt. Marshner as one of the leaders in the department as well Deputy Chief Butler, Chief Mello and others. Mayor Blake commented in the past a police boat was on the list, but because of this grant it could be removed. He also pointed out this would not cost the taxpayers because of the grant.

Ald. P. Smith noted this is a FEMA project and asked if there were any stipulations that go with it.

Mayor Blake stated there currently is a mutual aid agreement in place with other cities.

Deputy Chief Butler explained because of Milford's geographical area and with this grant they would be available to respond to those regional areas.

Ald. P. Smith asked when the boat was due to arrive.

Deputy Chief Butler responded they were hoping for next boating season. He stated they are doing their due diligence but they don't have a date as yet.

Ald. P. Smith asked about maintenance costs for the department's current boat.

Deputy Chief Butler stated that boat is currently out of service. He stated there are two other boats they have use of. He also stated there is grant money out there for docking and maintenance of the boat, which they are exploring.

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. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$29,724.96. 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

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

- a. Liaison Sub-Committee – 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.

Chairman Vetro reported item 14a had been removed from the agenda. He stated he would entertain a motion to go into Executive Session to consider items 14b, 14c and 14d as follows:

(14b) Status report and consideration of settlement of Park Circle, LLC v. City of Milford, RE: 12 Edgewood Avenue and 1 Park Circle; and

(14c) Status report and consideration of settlement of Edward Carpino v. City of Milford, RE: 33 Deerfield Avenue; and

(14d) Status report and consideration of settlement of 321 BPR, LLC v. City of Milford, RE: 326 West Main Street.

Chairman Vetro stated the full Board, along with the Mayor, City Attorney and City Assessor would attend Executive Session.

Ald. Alderson and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss items 14b-d as announced by the Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 8:55 p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the Board in public session at 9:12 p.m.

14b. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to authorize the City to enter into settlement RE: Bruce Kay, et al v. City of Milford, RE: 68 Point Lookout, in accordance with the recommendations of the City Assessor and City Attorney as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

14c. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to authorize the City to enter into settlement RE: Kahuna Realty Group, LLC v. City of Milford, RE: 262 Depot Road, in accordance with the recommendations of the City Assessor and City Attorney as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

14d. Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Nunno made and seconded a motion to authorize the City to enter into settlement RE: 321 BPR, LLC v. City of Milford, RE: 326 West Main Street, in accordance with the recommendations of the City Assessor and City Attorney as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business to discuss, Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden moved to adjourn at 9:16 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber  
Recording Secretary