

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 5, 2009**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, October 5, 2009 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman B. Blake called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m. Chairman Blake asked those present to join in saluting our flag asking David Sulkis to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Bier
J. Blacketter
B. Blake
V. Ditchkus, Jr.
A. Giannattasio
M. Hardiman
S. Manning
R. Nunno
J. Patterson
J. Rosen
J. Toohey
N. Veccharelli
P. Vetro
R. Vitali

Also Present

Mayor J. Richetelli, Jr.
L. Bull DiLullo, Mayor's Admin. Asst.
W. Smith, Jr. City Attorney

Excused

S. Willey

Mayor Richetelli stated for the record that Ald. Willey had been detained at work and would arrive late.

Chairman Blake stated there was a special presentation tonight and called upon Ald. Manning and Mayor Richetelli.

Mayor Richetelli thanked Ald. Manning for her efforts in the "Get In Touch Foundation" and called upon Mary Ann Nilan to join them for the reading of a proclamation declaring October 16, 2009 as "Get Your Pink on Day". He stated Ms. Nilan is a breast cancer survivor and congratulated her on forming the "Get in Touch Foundation", which is recognized nationwide.

Ms. Nilan thanked the Mayor and the City of Milford for his honor and recognizing this foundation. She stated October 13, 2009 will mark 5 years she has been cancer free.

Chairman Blake extended congratulations to Ms. Nilan and Ald. Manning on behalf of the Board.

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. The time limit granted to each speaker shall be three (3) minutes. He asked each speaker to adhere to the three-minute limit. Chairman Blake commented with the late hour he would ask all speakers to please keep to the three-minute time.

D. Sulkis – stated he is the City Planner. He stated he has been told his testimony which he would like to read into the record is 5-minutes long and begged the Board’s indulgence.

Chairman Blake interjected at the 3-minute mark and asked Mr. Sulkis to summarize his comments.

F. Goodrich – stated he would be willing to give Mr. Sulkis his 2 ½ minutes and continued reading Mr. Sulkis’ statement.

K. Rose – 292 Naugatuck Avenue – continued reading Mr. Sulkis statement.

J. August Harrigan – 107 Oronoque Road – continued reading Mr. Sulkis statement.

E. Harrigan – 107 Oronoque Road – stated she is the Assistant City Planner and a resident and continued reading Mr. Sulkis statement.

S. Warakomowski – 362 New Haven Avenue – stated he is the owner of Tri-City Heating and Cooler and also a member of the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Heating and Cooling associates. He stated because of the nature of his business he pulls permits all over the state and Milford is the worst. He stated it is obvious there is a problem and commented when his Board conducts there State meetings; Milford is often a topic of conversation. He stated the issues needed to be addressed.

M. Lofthouse – 54 Maple Street – stated in reading the report it was fine until he got to the land use “czar” and asked the Board not to implement that part of the report. He stated if the Board were truly for the citizens of Milford they would not implement that. He stated the other recommendations would work. He reiterated there was no need for a “czar” either by Mayor or Board of Aldermen appointment. He continued by reading from a prepared statement stating he has done his homework in reading the report and other reports and that he had 6 pages of notes. He asked the Board to do their job and put everything in place except the land use “czar” and asked the Board to be smart in its decision.

J. Jansen – 22 Russell Road – asked the Board not to just rubber stamp what a 4 person committee did. He stated the Ordinance was written by a lawyer, not a part of Milford. He asked the Board to go slow with this and use it as a guide. He stated the report did give some good points, such as fixing permitting and the intake process, but that he had concerns with the recommendations of the Inland Wetlands. He stated that department is not broken and should not be a part of this. He stated the previous speaker summed it up well, but reiterated he wanted to Board to go slow in its decision.

T. Chaucer – 104 Hawley Avenue – stated he was here to speak about the Historic Properties Study Committee and encouraged the Board to pass this. He stated he was not prepared to speak regarding this report that has been discussed this evening and asked if copies of the report were available here tonight. He stated if not, he

would question if we really were “customer friendly”. He stated he agreed there is a problem with the Building Department, but there has been no explanation to the public. He expressed his hope the aldermen would go slow adding there is no hurry.

R. Platt – 132 Platt Lane – stated he first has a minor complaint. He stated he is unable to get public access without a special box. He also stated, for the first time he was unable to print the agenda for tonight’s meeting and asked someone to fix that right away. He stated he was happy to see the appointment of the Historic Properties Study Committee on the agenda tonight, but he was very disappointed that an amendment that he had requested to the demolition delay Ordinance was not on the agenda. He stated it was his hope the 50% provision in that Ordinance would be changed. He also expressed concern with a house on Rogers Avenue, where the owner has taken down the pillars. He stated if something is not done we are dismantling our historic piece.

P. Fulco – 10 Kendall Drive – stated he is the Chairman of the Inland Wetland Agency and in that capacity he is very interested in the Kimball report and its implications. He stated he first wanted to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Kathy Kutcha and Mary Rose Palumbo. He also stated he wished to recognize Kathy Kutcha, the office clerk he took the initiative to take a DEP course so she could better understand her job and the workings of a wetlands office. He stated this was done completely on her time. He also pointed out this office has enjoyed a great customer service record. He went on to say there were just some things in the report he could not agree with such as the cross-training of the Inland Wetlands Officer and the Zoning Enforcement Officer and expressed concern zoning issues would dominate time over wetland issues. He stated he also took issue with the report in that it indicates the Inland Wetlands Office did not need a full time officer, which he stated is a mystery to him. He asked the Board to read the annual report put out by the Inland Wetlands Office. He also expressed his hope there would be more discussions and debate regarding this. He also expressed his disappointment that the Ordinance Committee basically rubber stamped this during the Ordinance Committee meeting. He stated keeping Inland Wetlands and Zoning separate is vital.

K. Rose – 292 Naugatuck Avenue – stated she was here to read a letter from Jeanne Cervin, Chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission, who was unable to attend.

B. Wright – 20 South Street – commented she has heard this Board has already made its decision. She stated after reading the job description for this new position she has decided she could apply for the job. She continued reading from a prepared statement asking the Board to delay their decision tonight.

K. Alagno – President & CEO of the Milford Chamber of Commerce. She stated the Chamber has 750 business members in its ranks and that 90% are small businesses and they cannot afford delays. She stated the Board wholly endorses the KRIT report. She stated it is well written and thought out. She pleaded with the Board, no more delays.

B. Genovese – 19 Belmont Street - stated she is Vice President of the Milford Preservation. She stated she was unable to be here last month regarding the demolition delay Ordinance. She stated the City Historian’s name was not put in. She also stated there is a problem with that 50%. She stated if we continue on this path there will be nothing left. She also referenced Rogers Avenue and Gulf Street as an example and commented on the importance of history and its impact to all of us. She stated the need to protect the history of our City and asked the Board to review the Ordinance again, especially the 50%.

J. Prisco – 11 Riverdale Road – stated there are two projects that still are not done. He stated the Devon project was bonded for several years ago and it is still not done. He also stated there still are no guardrails on Anderson Avenue. He asked about having a temporary barrier. He also referred to a job being done recently where there were 5 men at the location as well as many, many trucks and asked how much that costs.

L. Napoli – 53 Yankee Hollow – he stated he pays \$100,000 in taxes in this City. He stated he is actually afraid to go to the Planning and Zoning Office and stated if he has to go he sends his contractor. He stated you get absolutely no help and the attitude is one of the biggest problems there.

S. Studer – 75 Broad Street – stated he is the Chairman of the KRIT committee and serves along with Mr. Ruben, Mr. Novack and Mr. Oliver.

Chairman Blake suggested he reserve his report for later in the evening, however, if he wished to speak as a taxpayer or citizen he may do so.

Mr. Studer commented speaking as a taxpayer that the Committee did a very good job and they put the City first.

J. Beard – 762 Wheelers Farm Road – stated he serves on the Economic and Industrial Development Commission and that he is the current Vice President of Milford Progress. He stated in his 25 years he has heard a lot of complaints about the process. He stated many years ago, himself, Mr. Gregory and the then City Attorney, Don Blanchard came up with some ideas, but they were never implemented. He stated for the first time in 25 years, there is an opportunity to embrace change and if it doesn't work, then you make change again.

L. D'Amato – 183 Quarry Road – he stated there are over 300 businesses that he rents space to that have concerns. He stated the system has to be fixed and that the report is defining enough for the Board to understand. He reiterated it is time to fix a problem and urged the Board to implement this report and get Milford, this Country and the people back to work.

L. Carroll – 19 Sailors Lane – stated he is an attorney that practices law here in Milford and that he has represented clients 100's of times before Planning and Zoning. He also noted he did get the report on-line and it was also available at the City Clerk's office. He stated the four people who served on the KRTI committee were knowledgeable and insightful. He also commented the Planning and Zoning Board members are fine outstanding citizens. He stated the problem is the process before you get to the Planning and Zoning Board and that the process needs to be refined. He reiterated the problem is not with the zoning, but with the process. He encouraged the Board to seriously consider the KRIT report and adopt it.

M. Case – 57 Plains Road – stated he was the city attorney for six months in 2008 and in that brief time he was asked to look into some of the problems. He stated he has read the KRIT report and urged the Board to adopt the Ordinance this evening.

D. Guaglianone – 73 Cooper Avenue – stated for over 6 years he has been the line producer to MGAT, and also serves as the advisory representative for the State. He provided the Board with his personal background and provided the Board with the number of broadcasts. He stated as of December 31, 2008 there were 171 broadcasts with 56 live broadcasts at a cost of \$55.00 per broadcast. He went on to compare the costs of the surrounding towns. He stated the city grant is \$25,971 and the Board of Education grant received in 2009 was

\$20,228 for total monies of \$46,199. He spoke as to Milford's investment and also noted the Board would soon see 5 new cameras in the chamber.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on September 14, 2009.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Ditchkus made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on September 14, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Board of Aldermen held.

None.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

Chairman Blake commented regarding the agenda, especially item 8f which concerns the Board finally accepting the Kimball report. He stated this has been a long time coming. He explained tonight they would have a blueprint for repairing the problem and that the report lays out a plan. He stated as they heard during public comment, sometimes we are resistant to change and too comfortable with the familiar. He stated there is no way one cannot nod their head in agreement with this report, stating it is less fragments, more focuses and more streamlined. He spoke as to the members of the KRIT team who brought great skills and yielded a great final project and stated the sooner it is enacted the sooner the City would yield good results. Chairman Blake went on to recognize and thank each member of the Committee stating they were talented, capable people who brought a skill to the team and yielded a great final project. He stated the sooner the report is enacted the sooner the citizens would yield good results.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations:

Mayor Richetelli stated on the agenda tonight under New Business were items 8a-8f which he stated he was prepared to discuss and answer any questions the Board might have, and particularly questions the Board may have regarding the Kimball report. He stated he too wished to commend the members of KRIT. He stated the Committee was put together in an A-partisan, non-partisan way through the Board of Aldermen. He stated the Committee was professional, fair, courteous and non-political and that he also wished to thank Chairman Blake for his efforts and cooperation. He stated the matter is not republican or democrat, but a Milford issue that needed to be addressed. He stated he was pleased and proud everyone was able to work together to put this team together.

Mayor Richetelli stated he also wished to make the Board aware of item 6a on the agenda regarding the Resolution of the Board of Aldermen RE: Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) Energy Purchasing Program Authorization to Sign Participation Agreement (February 5, 2007) and that he was providing the Board with a copy of the new executed agreement. He went on to explain the background which dates back to 2007. He also explained they were able to get better rates by going out to bid and that the projected savings amounted to approximately \$800,000. He stated present at tonight's meeting was Andy Merola from CCM is any Board members had questions. Mayor Richetelli also reported just this week a check was received for UI incentives for energy efficiency and as part of the contract negotiations the City realized a savings of \$409,000. He stated it would be his recommendation this to used toward repaying debit of energy efficient portion of the City's debt.

Finally, Mayor Richetelli reported that City Attorney, Win Smith had been appointed to the State Ethics Commission and stated it was a great achievement for the City of Milford and extended his congratulations.

7. Unfinished Business:

None.

8. New Business:

8a. Ald. Vetro and Ald. Ditchkus made and seconded a motion to approve a request to accept a Project-Related Community Grant from Iroquois Pipeline Operating System in the amount of \$19,200 to be used by the Fire Department as follows: a) \$9,000 for the current year Code Red System; and b) \$10,200 for a Live Fire Extinguisher training system.

Mayor Richetelli that the Iroquois Gas for making this grant available stating they are a good community partner. He explained the history with the Iroquois Gas dating back to the 1980's. He also recognized Ruth Parkins, Public Affairs Representative from the Iroquois Gas.

Ald. Manning asked to go back to item 6a. She stated she had a question concerning Appendix B and asked the date. She also asked if a copy of this could be submitted to the Clean Energy Task Force.

Mayor Richetelli responded he would make it available to them.

Ald. Manning asked if this was current or previous.

Mayor Richetelli replied it is current.

Ald. Rosen asked who was authorized to send out messages under the current Code Red System.

Mayor Richetelli responded the Emergency Management Director for the City of Milford, who is the Fire Chief. He explained this is a multi-department effort that could give information out through the fire chief. He stated it would be any emergency related information that needs to go out to the residents.

Ald. Rosen acknowledged it is a great program, but that he would like assurances that it would not be over used and that the integrity of its use would be maintained.

Mayor Richetelli stated the safeguard of this is that the Emergency Management Director has the final say.

Ald. Toohey asked about the contract from last year to this year. She noted the minutes last year were 17,000 and this year to date they have used 25,000 minutes. She asked why it is so much higher.

Mayor Richetelli noted the presence of Assistant Chief Daniel Johnson. Mayor Richetelli stated the contract last year was limited to 25,000 minutes. He also stated because of the number of minutes previously they had to limit calls because of the time limitations and that is why unrestricted is very important.

Chief Johnson stated there are at least 20,000 homes in Milford so unlimited minutes give the ability to have multiple departments utilize the system in emergencies.

Motion carried unanimously.

8b. Ald. Vetro and Ald. Ditchkus made and seconded a motion to approve the request for the Resolution RE: Agreement between the City of Milford and the State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for a Home Elevation Grant on 45 James Street, Milford. Motion carried unanimously.

8c. Ald. Vetro and Ald. Ditchkus made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution RE: Agreement between the City of Milford and the State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for a Home Elevation Grant on 32 Morehouse Avenue, Milford. Motion carried unanimously.

8d. Ald. Vetro and Ald. Veccharelli made and seconded a motion to approve the request for Resolution RE: Appointment of Historic Properties Study Committee.

Ald. Ditchkus pointed out an error in the 3rd paragraph beginning “Whereas” stating the word “District” should be changed to “Properties”.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Veccharelli made and seconded a motion to amend the motion have the 3rd paragraph read “appoint a Historic Properties Study Committee”. Motion carried unanimously.

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

8e. Ald. Vetro and Ald. Ditchkus made and seconded a motion to approve the request to authorize the donation of the Fire Department’s 32 year old Canteen Truck to the Ridgefield Fire Department (per attached request of the Fire Chief dated 9/30/09).

Ald. Blacketter asked about the disposal of the truck and how we assess other possible needs in the community.

Chief Johnson stated the truck is of no value to the fire department; it doesn’t run well and is not dependable.

Chairman Blake asked about scrap value. He also questioned if any other local charity such as the United Way or some other agency who may have expressed interest in the vehicle.

Chief Johnson explained they were looking for the truck to go to another fire department to possibly use it. He reiterated there is no value to the truck. Additionally, he stated they have had difficulty getting parts for the truck.

Ald. Vetro asked if all other means had been exhausted.

Chief Johnson stated they received that truck about 32-33 years ago and that they have used it for a long time and it has served its purpose.

Ald. Toohey pointed out the truck doesn’t have the proper hook ups to it would not qualify through the health department.

Ald. Vetro suggested agencies such as Red Cross, who could have needs or possibly the fire explorers who could use it.

Chairman Blake suggested tabling this item for a month or two to inquire if other agencies may be interested.

Ald. Toohey asked if they had already committed the truck to Ridgefield and further if there were anywhere to store it for another month or two.

Fire Inspector Vargo stated they thought it would be best to have the truck go to another fire department and have it utilized to assist firefighters in the course of their job.

Ald. Bier commented with that said, it should be sent off to Ridgefield.

Ald. Nunno suggested when a vehicle is no longer useful, perhaps it could be sold possibly through e-bay or some other entity.

Ald. Patterson commented if it is hard to get parts he would think another city agency would have the same problem.

Ald. Ditchkus stated it was his understanding Ridgefield is a volunteer department. He also stated he would rather see the department's maintenance people working on other vehicles. He stated they needed to move on from this and give it to someone who wants to use it.

By roll call vote, the motion carried 13 yes (Bier, Blacketter, Blake, Ditchkus, Giannattasio, Hardiman, Manning, Patterson, Rosen, Toohey, Veccharelli, Vetro, Vitali) and 1 no (Nunno).

The Board took at 5-minute recess at 9:43 p.m.

Chairman Blake reconvened the Board in public session at 9:59 p.m.

8f. Ald. Vetro and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve the request to accept the report of the "Kimball Report Implementation Team" and to authorize the Mayor to take all steps necessary to implement the recommendations of the report.

Chairman Blake introduced the members of the KRIT team for comment. He also stated they had other resources on hand this evening for questions and acknowledged Mr. Sulkis, Ms. Harrigan, Mr. Fulco and also Attorney Sgrignari and the City Attorney.

Ald. Blacketter commented it had been mentioned the Committee had a presentation and suggested having them give their presentation.

Mr. Studer stated he served as the Chairman of the Committee and thanked the Mayor and Chairman for their earlier remarks and also their support throughout the process. Reading from a prepared statement (TAPE)

Chairman Blake commented it seemed the concern is if the implementation plan is adopted, the City Planner would no longer be accountable to the Planning and Zoning Board.

Mr. Rubin responded that is not the case and in fact they think he will be more accountable.

Mr. Oliver commented it was not the intention of this Committee to compromise any of the Boards or Commissions that review plans. He stated it is the hope the land use departments would be better able to coordinate.

Mr. Novack added there has been so much interpretation and that he would continue to provide support to the boards and commissions.

Ald. Blacketter asked how the recommendation would be carried out and to what level of authority.

Mr. Studer explained the Committee has provided a roadmap essentially, with the hope all of the recommendations would be implemented, but ultimately it is the responsibility of the director. He stated they are not looking to put in place a land-use “czar” and had been mention in public comment, but someone who can work with and communicate with the public.

Mayor Richetelli stated if the Board were to pass this tonight, he sees the Kimball report as a blueprint and building structure by the various agencies. He stated the first step would be the Ordinance which creates the department and the second would be to discuss job descriptions, etc with the bargaining units. He stated at some point civil service would have to sign off and the final portion would be a budget amendment. He stated if this were implemented there would be one new department where currently there are three, but there is a process to go through and that there are administrative and managerial changes.

Ald. Vetro expressed his appreciation of the amount of time the Committee spent on this, but understood this was just a recommendation. He stated he would have reservations if this plan is implemented and it doesn’t work out, is there a plan B.

Mr. Studer responded there is no plan B. He stated this is the plan that will work if everyone puts their minds to it. He stated if the plan does not work or is ill failed, the Board of Aldermen could change it.

Ald. Vitali commented he had done his homework for this evening and read the reports, so he took offense to the shaking of papers during the public session that the aldermen needed to be prepared. He also stated this Board heard tonight that some did not give their communication or input into this plan. Further, he stated the plan does not speak about taking anyone out of a union and questioned where this gray area is.

Mr. Rubin stated perhaps did make two mistakes in not have more substantive discussions with the Finance Director and the MIS department. He stated they did speak with the tax office. He also commented there may have been a miscommunication with the Inland Wetlands Commission and that the report may have been written that well. He stated with respect to the Building and Planning and Zoning Departments there substantive discussions. With regard to Planning and Zoning this Board heard how resistant change can be. He noted the City Planner did not have a single comment. He noted there is not a problem with the Planning and Zoning Board. He agreed there had been changes implemented from the Bernstein report by the City Planner. He stated hesitancy to change could easily lead someone to say they did not have opportunity for input.

Ald. Vitali asked if this report is a Danbury model.

Mr. Rubin responded it is not, that it is different in terms of complexity. He explained they selected the aspects of a customer applicant center.

Ald. Toohey addressed the Inland Wetlands Office stating year after year this Board takes more and more from that department. She asked if discussions would be open to not make the changes to that particular department. She asked if they would have that option to discuss this part of the report, which is working.

Mr. Studer responded in many communities the Wetlands Office is part of the land permitting process. He also pointed out they were looking to be more efficient utilizing employees they already have. He stated the inclusion of the Wetlands office works and it would help achieve effectiveness.

Ald. Blacketter asked about the Executive Director job and questioned who would develop the job description.

Mayor Richetelli replied if it is the intention of the Board with this he would move to get this underway as quickly as possible and to get an Executive Director in place. He stated he has discussed with Chairman Blake and would consider an interim director who could help with the implementation while a more extensive and thorough search for a director is conducted. He commented the studies have been done and the findings are accurate and with this Board's legislative approval they could move forward.

Ald. Blacketter asked if it was the intention to have the executive director assist with this implementation.

Mr. Studer replied yes. He explained they would have that individual have some input as well.

Ald. Manning questioned the removal of the Assistant City Planner and asked if they had a chart which shows keeping the Assistant City Planner. She stated she would not be keen on removing this position.

Mr. Studer replied there always is flexibility. He stated if the Board in its wisdom sees fit to keep the position, they could do that.

Mayor Richetelli stated he wished to follow up on Ald. Manning's questions. He asked if it was her intention to make this implantation revenue neutral and if not the case, an additional position may cost more.

Mr. Studer explained they looked at this from a prospective of revenue neutrality. He stated if he were asked if they needed a director or an Assistant City Planner he would say a director. He stated this decision was a revenue neutral issue. He also stated it was efficient without undermining the process.

Mr. Oliver noted of the three building officials, one of those positions is vacant.

Mayor Richetelli asked if there is a direct correlation with the number of permits.

Mr. Rubin stated this should help with the efficiency of the staff in that department.

Mayor Richetelli asked if the administrator having managerial duties would alleviate some of the burden on the City Planner and the Chief Building Inspector.

Mr. Studer responded yes.

Ald. Manning asked for an explanation of the revenue opportunities.

Mr. Ruben referred to p. 26-27 of the report. He stated Mr. Raucci was helpful in that he increased building fees a while ago. Mr. Ruben pointed out land use fees have not changed in quite some time and that the fees in Milford are quite low as compared to other communities.

Ald. Veccharelli stated this Board has heard about the Building Department and not Inland Wetlands. He stated is what he is seeing is this takes one person out of Planning and Zoning and one person out of Inland Wetlands.

Mr. Studer explained the two positions are still there.

Mr. Oliver added potentially the Inland Wetlands position would move to customer service.

Ald. Veccharelli stated each one has lost a position and they were both functional and satisfactory.

Mr. Studer explained what they are proposing is a new hire for the director. He stated what they have asked is that the Inland Wetland person be able to help out in other tasks. He further stated the Bernstein report stated the City was out of whack compared to the norm in other communities. He also pointed out the building official is currently a vacant position.

Ald. Veccharelli commented it was his understanding the current Assistant City Planner also doubles as the Zoning Enforcement Office.

Mr. Studer responded yes.

Ald. Veccharelli stated he did not like the idea of losing the Assistant City Planner position. He also stated it would cut the zoning staff. He also stated in looking at the City Charter the Mayor appointed all of the directors when the Mayor took office, but it seems like those days are over. He commented on the days when a Mayor could replace these employees and expressed his hope the Mayor would have spoken with these two directors and then the problem would have been fixed and they would not where they are today. He stated a director would just be another layer to manage these people. He reiterated he did not want to see a cut to the department and that he would like to make a recommendation that the Assistant City Planner's position be put back.

Mayor Richetelli stated the position he would consider most crucial would be that of the customer service represent who would interface with all of those divisions. He also stated with regard to the Assistant City Planner, if the Board wished to amend KRIT's report to include the Assistant City Planner position, he could support that as long as the Board understood it would no longer be revenue neutral. Mayor Richetelli also stated that customer service in Milford needs to be superior or exemplary and not just satisfactory as Ald. Veccharelli pointed out.

Ald. Ditchkus commented with this new position the City Planner would be at odds with the Planning and Zoning Board and they would butt heads. He stated whoever is selected for the director position is not beholden to the Mayor, but to the taxpayers of the City of Milford. He stated the main issue is and has been the process. He referred to the comment made during the public session “the director is at the whim of the mayor” and went on to read language from Mr. Sulkis written statement. Ald. Ditchkus stated this plan would be flexible throughout the years and this Board may deem it necessary to make changes. He asked if it would be the director who makes those decisions if truly necessary.

Chairman Blake stated to the KRIT team they could have one more assignment. He asked if the Board could charge the Committee with investigating the effects of keeping an Assistant City Planner and also if it is cost effective.

Ald. Hardiman asked if the newly formed position is at well or a union position.

Attorney Sgrignari explained this individual would be a department head pursuant to the Charter and exempt to the bargaining units.

Ald. Patterson expressed concern with cross-training the Zoning Enforcement Officer and the Inland Wetlands Officer, stating both have specialized training. He questioned what would happen when it gets busy. He stated he would be concerned it would take away from their specialization. He also stated since the Assistant City Planner doubles as the Zoning Enforcement Officer he could not support eliminating the Assistant City Planner position. He also stated the Inland Wetlands office is governed by State statute as well as local Ordinances.

Mr. Studer stated to Ald. Patterson his point was well taken. He stated the level of staff is adequate for today’s economic status, but adjustments could always be made.

Mr. Rubin added in time with the implementation of tools would benefit the city departments.

Mayor Richetelli pointed out the Board has appropriated \$242,000 for the technical part of this process.

Mr. Novak commented in municipal government it is beneficial to cross train employees and cited a number of reasons, including attrition.

Mayor Richetelli followed up to the comments of Ald. Patterson and stated it is essential the Board understand that Inland Wetlands first priority is to that agency, first and foremost.

Ald. Manning addressed the use of technology and MIS and its role and how they would implement these changes. She also asked if there are any dollar costs.

Mr. Rubin replied they would rely on existing technology the City already has. He also commented the MIS department was very helpful during this process. He also spoke to the technology aspect which would include organizing permit data, i.e. excel spreadsheets, etc. He stated it would come down to the pace of the implementation and that someone from each department would have to step forward to help.

Mr. Novack commented many departments still use a typewriter.

Mr. Oliver commented as to the use of forms and opening the process and making it more transparent and developing it.

Ald. Blacketter expressed concern with implementation and if a plan had been formulated. He also stated she was concerned with the approach of having an interim director and then having a final director come in.

Mr. Studer stated the benefits of having an interim director outweigh not having someone. He also stated with the proper interim it gives more time to search for a director.

Ald. Veccharelli stated he would ask for an amendment on the Ordinance to include the Assistant City Planner position. He referred to the organizational chart. He stated he hoped the Board would not remove this position.

Chairman Blake stated he would rather wait on that amendment until the KRIT team has provided the Board with their research in keeping this position.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Manning made and seconded to amend the report on page 6 (chart) to include the Assistant City Planner position.

The Board took a 5-minute recess at 11:11 p.m.

Chairman Blake reconvened the Board in public session at 11:27 p.m.

Ald. Veccharelli reiterated his amended was to change the chart on page 6 removing the position of the Assistant City Planner.

Ald. Ditchkus raised a point of order. He stated it was his understanding the chart is what the KRIT committee wanted and further if this Board wished to make a change they would also need to change the wording of the report otherwise it could give a false assumption as to what this Board was doing.

Chairman Blake read the language of item 8f and stated the intent of the amendment was to remove any language to reference the removal of the Assistant City Planner position.

Ald. Veccharelli replied that was the intent of his amendment.

Chairman Blake asked Ald. Ditchkus if that resolved his point of order.

Ald. Ditchkus responded yes and stated he wanted to make it clear this amendment does not change the report.

Chairman Blake stated the amendment qualifies the motion being made tonight.

Ald. Toohey stated the Chairman had requested the panel take a look at the chart. She questioned if the amendment reinstating this position would change those numbers.

Chairman Blake stated he asked the KRIT team to look into those figures and report any changes.

Mr. Rubin stated they may have under estimated the cost. He stated the approximate cost would be \$92,000.

Ald. Bier asked if the Board approved this amendment to the KRIT report and then when it is time to vote on the director's position if it could be modified again.

Mayor Richetelli explained the Board is being asked to endorse and accept the report to give administration a blueprint to move forward. He stated if it is the intent of the Board to add the Assistant City Planner it would be implemented, but the dollar amount would be an additional amount. He stated the fringe benefits would not adjust, but the salary along would be the difference. He reiterated if the Board passes this amendment there would be a different salary amount.

Ald. Patterson referred to p. 25 and read the language and stated he believed it would increase revenue.

Mr. Rubin stated some of these items will take some time. He stated they were not saying the Board would see a \$200,000 plus savings right away, and that it would take time. He stated it wished to be clear on this as not to mislead the Board.

Ald. Nunno commented the fees Milford charges are not in keeping with other communities. He asked if the KRIT committee could do an analysis to make sure they are revenue neutral.

Mr. Rubin stated the Committee did not give a dollar amount on fees and that they left that up to the Board.

Ald. Blacketter pointed out the Ordinance coming up may need to reflect the Assistant City Planner position.

Ald. Bier asked if this passes he did not want to see it changed again because the Board is looking to be revenue neutral.

Ald. Blacketter stated this could be an investment and that they could bring in other revenue. She also commented the Executive Director could have certain strengthens.

Ald. Giannattasio responded to Ald. Nunno's point concerning raising fees to the public. He stated they were not necessarily creating a revenue neutral position because the cost would be to the taxpayers.

Ald. Ditchkus stated the topic of fees was not a charge of the Committee. He stated it is the head of the department, this Board or the Mayor. He stated he agreed with Chairman Blake that they needed to see if that position is needed.

Ald. Veccharelli stated the benefit would be to the taxpayers trying to get their permits through and that they all needed to pitch in for the good of the City and streamline the process. He stated it is important the people that use this process are happy.

Ald. Ditchkus questioned if the Assistant City Planner position would move to another position within this plan.

Mr. Studer stated there are the positions of Customer Service and also the Administrative Assistant position.

By roll call vote, the motion carried 8 yes (Blacketter, Hardiman, Manning, Nunno, Patterson, Rosen Veccharelli, Vetro) and 6 no (Bier, Blake, Ditchkus, Giannattasio, Toohey, Vitali).

Ald. Manning stated the Chairman earlier recognized the City Planner and other and asked if they could be given the opportunity to speak.

Mr. Sulkis thanked the Board for the opportunity. He stated in his earlier remarks he never said KRIT recommended taking him out of the union. He stated that was the Bernstein report that made that recommendation and it appears implemented in the Ordinance.

Attorney Sgrignari explained it was never the intention of the City to remove that position from the collective bargaining unit.

Ald. Bier asked if there would be substantial customer service changes.

Mr. Sulkis replied in his department they have already streamlined the permitting process. He explained the monthly process in his office. He stated change if properly implemented would help. He also thanked the Board for reinstating the Assistant City Planner position and pointed out indirect savings of keeping that position. He went on to explain her work in CAM zones and flood regulations, which she is administrator. He stated this contributes to lower insurance rates for those who live on the shoreline. He also stated she is one of the most technically savvy individuals on his staff.

Mr. Fulco thanked the Board for restoring the Assistant City Planner position, adding this would remove the burden from Ms. Palumbo.

Chairman Blake commented although they are eliminating a building inspector and an administrative assistant position, this will make this revenue positive.

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. Vetro and Ald. Ditchkus made and seconded a motion to approve Budget Memo Transfer No. 1, Fund 10, FY 2009-2010. Motion carried unanimously.

(b) Ald. Vetro and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve Budget Memo Transfer No. 2, Fund 10, FY 2009-2010. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Refunds

(a) Ald. Vetro and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$14,811.44. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report of Standing Committees:

a. Ordinance Committee – Ald. Patterson stated the Committee met earlier in the evening to consider two Ordinances.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to waive the reading of the Ordinance in its entirety. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Patterson and Ald. Ditchkus made and seconded a motion to approve an Ordinance repealing §6-5 through 6-12 of the code of Ordinances of the City of Milford and substitution §6-5 through 6-14 by Regulating the Demolition of Certain Buildings.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Manning moved to amend Sec. 18-205 (a) to add the “*assistant city planner*” after the city planner in the first sentence of this paragraph.

Attorney Sgrignari suggested the same amendment in Sec. 18-204 and explained that position reports to the Executive Director, therefore that amendment should be noted in this section as well.

Ald. Veccharelli stated he wished to include in his amendment Sec. 18-204, adding the “*assistant city planner*”.

Ald. Patterson stated he wished to clarify that position reports to the director and not the City Planner.

Attorney Sgrignari replied, yes that is the structure.

Ald. Blacketter asked why the Assistant City Planner would not report to the City Planner.

Attorney Sgrignari stated it was his understanding of the KRIT report they were attempting to free up administrative staff for day to day activities. He added that language coincides with the theme of the report.

By roll call vote, the amendment carried 11 yes (Bier, Blacketter, Blake, Hardiman, Manning, Nunno, Patterson, Rosen, Veccharelli, Vetro, Vitali) and 3 no (Ditchkus, Giannattasio, Toohey).

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

The Board recessed at 12:04 a.m. Chairman Blake reconvened the Board in public session at 12:05 a.m.

b. Public Safety and Welfare Committee – no report.

c. Public Works Committee –Ald. Vetro reported the haz waste event was held last Saturday and thanked all those residents who participated.

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 – 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. Milford Academy Community Campus Bldg. Committee – no report
- o. Courthouse Expansion Committee – no report.
- p. Liaison Health Department – no report.
- q. Milford Legislative Action Committee – no report.
- r. Devon Revitalization Committee – no report.
- s. Human Services Commission – no report.

t. Liaison Police Commission – Ald. Vetro reported there were two recent promotions in the Police Department, Sgt. Alexopolous to Lieutenant and Officer Dumas to Sergeant.

- u. Liaison Pension & Retirement Board – no report.
- v. 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.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Patterson moved to adjourn at 12:06 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary