

**BOARD OF FINANCE  
PUBLIC HEARING – MAYOR’S PROPOSED BUDGET 2012-2013 and  
BOARD OF EDUCATION PROPOSED BUDGET 2012-2013  
FEBRUARY 8, 2012**

The Board of Finance held a Public Hearing on Wednesday, February 8, 2012 regarding the 2012-2013 Mayor’s Proposed Budget and 2012-2013 Board of Education Proposed Budgets. The meeting was held in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman Lema called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Board Members Present

Brian Lema, Chairman  
Joseph Agro, Jr.  
Scott Marlow  
Mikel Montano

Also Present

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake  
Peter Erodici, Finance Director

Excused: Joseph Fitzpatrick

Chairman Lema stated they were here tonight for the public hearing regarding the Mayor’s Proposed Budget FY2012/2013 and the Board of Education’s Proposed Budget for FY2012/2013. He stated most that were present were familiar with the process. Chairman Lema stated they would first address the Mayor’s Proposed Budget and then the Board of Education budget.

**Speakers regarding the Mayor’s Proposed 2012-2013 Budget:**

P. Mangels – 311 High Street – stated he was privileged this year to serve as the President of the Downtown Business Association. He stated he was not here about any one item, but about the downtown in general. He stated the change in the downtown in the last 10 years has been amazing. He commented Milford is well on the way and stated to have a strong community you need a strong downtown. He spoke of the many events that occur downtown and also pointed out the downtown business through these events have donated more than \$10,000 to various charities. He asked the Board to support the concept of downtown, whether it was to eat, shop, etc. He stated it is an extraordinary area and they needed everyone’s support. Mr. Mangels also mentioned they would be hiring a marketing person to help to market the downtown area. He also stated Mayor Blake has stated a number of times that he believes in the downtown.

J. Prisco – 11 Riverdale Road – stated he is a senior citizen, but hoped the Board would think of all of the tax payers. He stated he was in favor of the Mayor’s budget.

F. Burn – 99 Pine Knobb Terrace – stated he had one question tonight. He stated he noticed it had been reported in the newspaper that the infrastructure problem had been fixed and that the public works issue had been taken care of. He stated his concern is where he lives and that there are no sewers. He asked if there is any consideration for sewers in that area.

Chairman Lema explained this is a public hearing and that they are only here tonight to hear from the public. He stated perhaps someone could address his question at another time.

J. Herbert – 16 Broad Street – stated he too was here regarding the downtown. He asked the Board to please make some room in the budget for projects for the downtown. He stated for over 10 years the downtown merchants have been working hard to grow the downtown business area. Mr. Herbert stated every year they spend countless hours putting together projects. He noted these functions such as the downtown wine trail, which has raised thousands of dollars, the lamplight stroll, with carriage rides, etc. He pointed out these are all put on by volunteers. Mr. Herbert stated they have increased the traffic downtown because of these activities. He stated they want to take it to the next level, but they need help to do that. He stated they have the best and most diligent volunteers, who are the downtown business owners. He stated he would love to see this Board earmark funds to accomplish this. Mr. Herbert stated they were looking to partner with the City and expressed his hope that would happen.

L. Herbert – 16 Broad Street – echoed the comments of the previous speaker, who she stated is her husband. She stated it is critical for everyone who lives and works downtown to come together to take it to the next level. She stated having a viable downtown that is alive, vibrant and full of life makes the downtown. He stated it just not the business owners to accomplish this, but also the residents of Milford. She stated they need more services and business downtown. She reiterated they needed to take it to the next level. She stated the downtown is the heart and soul of Milford and that they need your help.

L. McIntyre – stated she is the owner of Villa Gourmet downtown. She stated the downtown is so rare and precious and has to be maintained. She likened the downtown are to a Norman Rockwell photograph. She stated an enormous amount of time marketing downtown Milford. She stated it only makes perfect sense to partner with the downtown business.

Chairman Lema asked if there was anyone else wishing to speak on behalf of the Mayor's budget. Hearing none he stated they would continue the hearing until tomorrow, February 8, 2012 when they will begin hearing from the department heads. He then opened the public session for the Board of Education at 7:25 p.m.

#### **Speakers regarding the Board of Education Proposed 2012-2013 Budget:**

C. Berni – Centennial Drive – stated here just is no logic as to why the public hearing comes before the Board of Education has had the opportunity to present their budget. She cited the slogan, "Small City With A Big Heart" and reminded the Board that kids are the future. Mrs. Berni pointed out this year's budget includes a very small increase. She stated because of budget cuts last year, class sizes increased. She asked the Board to please leave the education budget as is.

P. Mulhall – 49 Crescent Drive – asked the Board to fully fund the education budget as presented to the Board of Education. She stated the budget has been examined and brought forward by people who understand education. She also pointed out there are new mandates that are occurring with no money behind them, so every penny of the budget is needed. She asked the Board to please fund the budget fully.

J. Prisco – 11 Riverdale Road – asked the Board of Education to approve the budget. He stated it is a good budget this year and expressed his hope the Board would approve it.

Chairman Lema asked if there were any other speakers regarding the education budget.

Being no further speakers, Chairman Lema stated the Board would stand in recess until tomorrow, Thursday, February 9, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

The Board recessed at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber  
Recording Secretary