

**BOARD OF FINANCE
PUBLIC HEARING – MAYOR’S PROPOSED BUDGET 2011-2012 and
BOARD OF EDUCATION PROPOSED BUDGET 2011-2011
FEBRUARY 9, 2011**

The Milford Board of Finance held a Public Hearing on the 2011-2012 Mayor’s Proposed Budget and 2011-2012 Milford Board of Education Proposed Budget on Wednesday, February 9, 2011 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman Lema opened the public hearing to order at 7:07 p.m.

Board Members Present

Brian Lema, Chairman
Joseph Agro, Jr.
Joseph J. Fitzpatrick, Jr.
Paul Beckwith, Vice Chairman
Scott Marlow

Chairman Lema stated tonight was the public hearing before the Board of Finance regarding the Mayor’s proposed budget followed by the Board of Education’s proposed budget. He explained He asked the speakers to please reference any line item so that the Board members could follow along. He also stated the Board cannot answer questions, only listen to comments from the public.

On the Mayor’s Proposed 2010-2011 Budget:

K. Bonetti – 157 Seaside Avenue – stated she was not here to speak about the budget, but here to talk about the process. She stated she did not understand why public comment takes place first. Mrs. Bonetti stated basically the charter calls for public comment, but it does not specify when. She stated her goal is to understand why public comment would be before each department has presented its budget. She stated she would suggest in the future the public comment come at the end so the public could make educated comments on the proposed budgets.

Chairman Lema commented by way of information, that the Board would be having individual meetings with the department heads. She also stated there would be another public hearing before the Board of Aldermen and that the public would be allowed to comment at that time.

Mr. Agro commented he was disappointed to see such a small turnout. He suggested the Board consider a short recess, perhaps 10 minutes in case others may come. He stated he was making this request only as a matter of consideration.

Chairman Lema stated he would take the recommendation under advisement, but would continue at this time with the Board of Education side of the budget.

On the Board of Education Proposed 2009-2010 Budget:

M. Olsson – 112 Hilltop Circle – commented that it is the percentage of the increase that people see and asked the Board not to get caught up with the numbers. She spoke of the many things the Board has had the ability to

do such as purchasing a wheelchair van, looking at energy education programs to reduce funds, etc. She also pointed out there are a number of mandates that come down from the State without any funds attached to them and asked the Board to keep that in mind as well.

S. Glennon – 99 Carlson Drive – stated this is the first time she is coming before the Board as a taxpayer without children in the system. She stated she was here because she truly believes in the value of our schools and what they bring to the community. She also pointed out there are major issues with State mandates. She asked the Board to proceed with the assumption that State funds may not come this year. She also spoke of the dedication of Mr. Cummings in presenting this budget and commented there would be no better way of showing support of a new superintendent of schools than by supporting the Board of Education budget.

K. Bonetti – 157 Seaside Avenue – stated she too is in support of the education budget. She stated last year the Assistant Superintendent was placed into a situation to put a budget in place and did it well considering what he had to do.

Chairman Lema addressed those just coming into the meeting and stated they were addressing comments on the Board of Education budget and asked if anyone else wished to speak on the education budget or the Mayor's proposed City budget.

The Board took a 5-minute recess at 7:21 p.m.

Chairman Lema reconvened the Board in public session at 7:30 p.m. and asked if there were any other speakers for either side of the budget.

K. Huber – 277 Roses Mill Road – stated parents do care about the budget and that she too cares about the budget. She echoed the comments of a previous speaker regarding the format of the budget. She stated the process is backwards in that public comment comes before the Board of Education and other city agencies have presented their budgets to the Board of Finance. She stated she has been asking for years and was again renewing her request to have this Board look into the process. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak tonight and reiterated she does care deeply about the education of our children.

Being no further speakers, Chairman Lema stated the Board would stand in recess until tomorrow, Thursday, February 11, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

The Board recessed at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary