

**BOARD OF FINANCE  
BUDGET DELIBERATIONS - PROPOSED BUDGET 2013-2014  
FEBRUARY 25, 2013**

The Milford Board of Finance held a budget deliberations session on Monday, February 25, 2013 in Conference Room B of the Parsons Complex. Chairman Lema reconvened the session at 6:37 p.m.

Board Members Present

Brian A Lema, Chairman  
Joseph J. Fitzpatrick, Jr.  
Scott Marlow  
Mickel Montano  
Joseph Castignoli

Also Present

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake  
Peter Erodici, Finance Director

**(4801) Council on Aging** – Janice Jackson, Director, Mary Allen Herma and Philip Caporusso, Chairman of the Finance Committee were present. Ms. Jackson stated they have 8 full time employees, 29 part time employees and 9 teachers for a total of 46 employees. She stated there is a 4% increase in their budget this year, primarily due to healthcare costs. She also spoke of the large increase to workers compensation costs.

Mr. Castignoli asked about vehicles.

Ms. Jackson stated they have several large cars. She continued with an explanation of her handout.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if seniors pay for meals.

Ms. Jackson replied yes. She stated the continental breakfast is free, although donations are accepted, which they do get. She also explained they get a lot of donations for their continental breakfast.

Mr. Caporusso added there has been a gradual increase.

Ms. Jackson stated there is a \$3.00 minimum meal.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked how they paired with other senior centers.

Ms. Jackson stated some in surrounding communities are more, some less, but charge for classes. She stated they do not charge for classes, but donations are accepted.

Mr. Fitzpatrick recommended they charge for classes.

Mr. Caporusso stated he would make that suggestion to the Board.

Mr. Castignoli asked about the cost of workers' compensation.

Ms. Jackson explained they have disputed many of the cases.

Mr. Castignoli commented as cases fall off the rates should go down. He also asked about light duty for employees.

Ms. Jackson explained generally others will work those hours. She stated there is a minimal amount of light duty.

**(4803) Fine Arts Council** – Van Parker, Director and Dolores Hannon, Co- President and Sandy Morgan, Co-President were present. Mr. Parker distributed a copy of their PowerPoint program which he stated they distribute to those interested in using the facility. He continued with an explanation of the handout. He commented they will be looking at raising members dues, but want to be sensitive to the community, Mr. Parker stated they are a thriving arts center here in Milford which is a tribute to the quality of the town.

Mr. Marlow asked what other grants the center receives.

Mr. Parker stated they received a grant from the Connecticut Department of Tourism, New Haven Foundation. He also stated they would be seeking a grant to repair the roof, which is leaking.

Mrs. Hannon added she has spoken with Mr. Ivers regarding the grant. She explained it is an aging building that needs work. She also spoke of the refurbished firehouse. She stated they are very grateful for what they have received to date. She also talked about the student theatre program, Boys and Girls Club who they work alongside with. Mrs. Hannon stated Ms. Morgan is on the MBA Board and that they have worked well together to bring people to the downtown.

Mr. Parker talked about two dance troupes they are working with from NYC.

**(4805) C-Med** – Chairman Lema stated the grant amount is based on per capita.

Mayor Blake added that Milford has one member on the Board.

**(4811) Borough of Woodmont** – Mr. Ed Bonessi was present for questions/comments. He stated Mr. Schmeisser was unable to attend tonight due to another commitment. Mr. Bonessi stated the Borough was asking for the same amount as last year. He stated they do all of the plowing, street lighting and paving. He also spoke regarding snow removal from the most recent storm and stated some patchwork, and storm drain work scheduled in April and May will have to wait until they receive reimbursement for the snow removal.

**(4812) Transit District** – Henry Jadach, Executive Director was present for questions/comments. Mr. Jadach stated they provide bus service, including daily service to Norwalk. He also stated they run the parking program at the train station. He stated the budget amount they are asking for amounts to 10% of their operating capital. Mr. Jadach stated if the State budget goes through as proposed they will have trouble. He stated they do over 400,000 rides on buses and 60,000 in vans. He also stated the current wait list at their parking lots is approximately 4 years.

Mr. Marlow asked if ridership is up overall.

Mr. Jadach replied yes, especially the route to Norwalk. He also stated he wished to clarify comments made regarding the Fine Arts Building. He explained it was a grant from the Federal Government as well as contributions and that they sub-lease it. He stated he is also looking into grants to help them with their roof.

Mr. Castignoli noted this year's budget is \$30,000 more than last year.

Mr. Jadach stated that most due to medical expenses. He went on to explain how they are unique in how they administer their policy. He added that utility bills are up as well. Mr. Jadach stated he appreciates what they receive and do not want to cut any services. He stated they are always looking to find ways to make it work.

**(4133) Probate Court** – Judge Beverly Streit Kefalas was present for questions/comments. She explained each municipality pays for operational expenses, which is by Statute. She also stated the Statute allows for shared expenses with Orange, which is based on per capita. She noted a nominal increase in her budget which is due to envelopes. She explained they have mandatory notices that are required to be mailed. She pointed out they expect to be fine with postage, even with the increase.

**(4131) Law Department** – City Attorney Jonathan D. Berchem was present for questions/comments.

Chairman Lema stated he would recuse himself from this department and the Ethics Commission and turned the meeting over to Vice Chairman Marlow.

Attorney Berchem stated his budget is essentially the same as last year except for contractual wages. He also provided an overview of his law books account.

Mr. Castignoli asked about the account for other legal fees.

Attorney Berchem explained that line item is for outside counsel for matters outside his expertise. He stated the line item for miscellaneous professional fees is for appraisals, expert witnesses, etc.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if the police department case was all outside counsel fees.

Attorney Berchem explained it was covered by the City's insurance company.

**(4131) Ethics Commission** – City Attorney Jonathan D. Berchem was present for questions/comments. Attorney Berchem stated this budget is used as needed. He referenced Section 2-30 which indicates the members shall participate and coordinate in training. He added it is a conservative budget, however, if they had to hire counsel they could fall short.

**(4193) Public Library** – Mrs. Jean Tsang, Library Director and Mr. Peter Vita, Library Board Chairman were present for questions/comments. Mrs. Tsang stated this would be her last budget as she will be retiring later this year. She stated many of her expenses are set fees and are necessary to maintain the building, software, general library operations, etc.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about line item 4977 0190 in the amount of \$3,000 for computers.

Mrs. Tsang explained their computer get a lot of wear and tear as they are used extensively by the public.

**(4123) Community Development** – no one was present from Community Development.

**(4155) Economic Development** – no one was present.

**(4340) Animal Control** – Rick George, Animal Control Officer and Janet Perreault were present for questions. Mr. George stated their budget is status quo. He also stated their arrangement with Orange is working well. He also stated their biggest costs are veterinary costs.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked what Orange contributes.

Mr. George responded \$75,000.

Chairman Lema asked if the monies received from Orange is actual money dollar for dollar.

Mr. George explained there is a mini budget within which they draw off of as needed. He also commented about the educational program, which he stated is growing leaps and bounds.

**(4610) Health Department** – Dr. McBride was present. He stated they have had some significant personnel changes with the retirement of Joan Cagginello, Nurse Administrator. He explained he is looking to fill that position as well as delegate some of those responsibilities. He also spoke of the school nurses who they utilize to man the shelters during disasters. Dr. McBride stated what they are looking to do is consolidate some of those responsibilities. He stated what they are proposing is a deputy nurse administrator and changing the existing community coordinator position to a title of deputy director position, noting they do have someone that could assume that position. He stated those are the significant personnel changes.

Chairman Lema recalled doing a reclassification of that position last year.

Mayor Blake stated it was a nurse position three years.

Chairman Lema asked which position was changing.

Mayor Blake stated the current community coordinator would become the deputy director. He explained the nurse administrator would have a reduction in duties and the deputy director would have an increase. He added the costs of each position would offset.

Dr. McBride stated he expected to have those numbers tomorrow. He also took the time to comment regarding the City's response and support during the storms regarding the shelters.

**(4998) Education Health Services/School Nurses** – Dr. McBride was present for questions.

Chairman Lema stated this was addressed in the previous department.

Mr. Erodici pointed out the nurses have not settled their contract negotiations at this point.

**(4821) Visiting Nurse Association** – Dr. McBride was present for questions. Dr. McBride stated he spoke with the VNA who asked that he speak about their Well Child Clinic which is running monthly. He stated use of the clinic is down and they are renegotiating it and are going to be adding a First Time Mother's Program.

Mr. Erodici added that Mr. John Quinn, President and CEO want to attend tonight, but had the VNA Board meeting tonight.

**(4310) Police Department** – Chief Keith Mello and Assistant Chief Tracy Mooney were present. Chief Mello stated his budget reflects a 5.2% increase over last year. He also pointed out 88% of his budget is wages. He also spoke of numerous mandates that have driven costs up as well as the rising cost of goods and services. Chief Mello stated in looking at the budget they know another \$150,000 is needed to meet the previous year. He expressed concern regarding the gas/propellants account which will likely need more. He stated this budget provides an adequate level of funding services. He stated his point is there is no more room for any reductions.

Mr. Castignoli pointed out there is a 7% increase over 4 years. He stated that number was less 4 years.

Chief Mello explained 6.8% was due to wage increases. He also spoke regarding the vehicle replacement plan.

Chairman Lema asked if the \$40,000 figure shown is for a vehicle.

Chief Mello replied yes, it is a vehicle and package for fitting the vehicle.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about line item 4112 9950 OT-CSU

Chief Mello explained how they further broke down their overtime accounts. He stated this account provides for officers at bus stops.

Mr. Castignoli asked about line item 4112 9948.

Chief Mello stated this account was put in place approximately 5 years ago for the community police sub-station. He stated there are areas in the city that require a lot of resources. He also stated this goes to their core mission.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about line item 4792 000 Rental Costs.

Chief Mello explained the account is used when they have to rent cars for their undercover division.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about line item 4971 0000 Vehicles and Equipment.

Chief Mello stated they no longer make the Crown Victoria vehicle. He explained this account is to fit all new vehicles.

Mr. Castignoli asked about line item 4944 0001 Personal Protective Equipment.

Chief Mello explained the federal government provided personal protection equipment after 9/11, but they did not provide replacement equipment. He stated this line item is used for replacement.

Chairman Lema asked who determines crossing guards.

Chief Mello explained the Board of Education determines the bus stop and the police department provides the crossing guards.

Chairman Lema asked about the 4 positions.

Chief Mello stated those were eliminated. He stated they are close to a combined police/fire dispatcher center and went on to provide the details.

Chairman Lema thanked Chief Mello and Assistant Chief Mooney for attending. He then asked the Board if anyone wished to go back to the Community Development Department for questions.

Mayor Blake stated their budget is nothing other than wage adjustments.

Chairman Lema asked the Board if anyone had any thought or direction for the Finance Department.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about sequestered positions.

Mayor Blake stated the teacher positions are paid out of Title 1 grants. He also stated there is a possibility of the grant positions in the Health Department being in jeopardy, but it was too soon to say with any certainty.

Being no further business the Board recessed at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber  
Recording Secretary