

**BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**PROPOSED BUDGET 2013-20114 – FINAL VOTING SESSION**  
**MARCH 6, 2013**

The Milford Board of Finance held a budget deliberations session on Wednesday, March 6, 2013 in Conference Room B of the Parsons Complex. Chairman Lema reconvened the budget session at 6:36 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

Chairman Lema stated the Board would be voting tonight on the City of Milford's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014. He stated they would proceed through each department budget.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budgets as presented: Accts. 4111 Board of Aldermen, 4112 Elections, 4115 Registrar of Voters, 4116 Milford Gov't Access TV, 4121 Mayor. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Ms. Montano made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget: Acct. 4122 General Expenses, with the following change: line item 4140 0001 Personal Property Audit to read \$25,000 for a new sub-total in Personal Services of \$76,101 and a new department total of \$419,861. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budgets as presented: Accts. 4123 Community Development and 4129 City Clerk. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Lema stated he would be recusing himself from voting on the Law Department's budget as his law partner is the City Attorney.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Ms. Montano made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: Acct. 4131 Law Department. Motion carried 4 yes (Fitzpatrick, Montano, Marlow, Castignoli and 1 recused (Lema).

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Castignoli made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: Acct. 4132 Ethics Commission, 4133 Probate Court, 4141 Board of Finance, 4142 – Permitting and Land Use. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Ms. Montano made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budgets as presented: Accts. 4143 Board of Assessment Appeals and 4144 Zoning Board of Appeals.4145

Pension Board, 4146 Flood and Erosion Board, 4147 Tree Commission, 4151 Civil Service Commission, 4153 Park, Beach and Recreation Commission, and 4155 Economic Development Commission, 4156 Conservation Commission, 4159 Veterans, Ceremony & Parade. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: Accts. 4160 Housing Code Board of Appeals, 4161 Housatonic River Estuary Commission, 4193 Public Library, 4210 Finance Department, 4215 Management Information Systems (MIS). Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Ms. Montano made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: Accts. 4219 Personnel, 4310 Police, 4320 Fire Department, 4331 Civil Preparedness, 4340 Animal Control. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Castignoli made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: Accts. 4360 Lighting, Hydrants, Water, 4420 Public Works Office, 4421 Highway/Parks, 4423, 4424 Engineering, 4429 General Garage and 4431 Solid Waste. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: Acct. 4503 Public Debt Service.

Chairman Lema thanked the Mayor and Finance Director for reducing those interest expenses over the year with the bond refunding; otherwise there would be a higher debt service.

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Ms. Montano made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget: Acct. 4610 Health Department with the following changes: line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages to read \$802,131 and line item 4111 9942 1/5 Fiscal Week to read \$3,996 for a new sub-total in Personal Services of \$841,627 and a new department total of \$924,529; and in Budgeted Positions change Administrator, Nurses to Director of Nursing, Grade/Step 53-1 in the amount of \$79,665 and Com. Health Coord. change to Deputy Dir. Of Health, Grade/Step 53-1, in the amount of \$79,665 for a new total in Position Totals to read \$802,131.

Mr. Erodici pointed out a typographical correction in the historical data section, but stated it would not affect the vote. He went on to explain in FY11 the approved salary and contracts expired. He stated that amount was reflected in Step 4 and that he has corrected that to read 53-4 in Grade/Step. He stated it does not affect the numbers in FY12 and noted it should have gone to 53-X salary, which was never calculated in. He stated this is more of a typographical error and would be corrected in the book that goes to the Board of Aldermen.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if the Sanitarian positions were union positions.

Mr. Erodici replied yes, they are in MSA.

Mayor Blake added the Civil Service Commission would also have to weigh-in.

Chairman Lema asked if that is the normal process.

Mayor Blake explained it is merely a change in duties.

Chairman Lema stated he was not sure this Board has enough information to recommend this change to the Board of Aldermen at this point.

Ms. Montano withdrew her second of the motion; Vice Chairman Marlow withdrew his motion.

Chairman Lema reiterated he was not comfortable recommending the changes to the Board of Aldermen with the limited information they have at this time.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: Acct. 4610 Health Department. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended as presented: Acct. 4620 Recreation Department. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget 4710 Employee Benefits, with the following change: line item 4211 9905 Pension: Fire/Police to read: \$2,224,654 for a new subtotal in *Employee Benefits* of \$19,903,270 and a new department total of \$19,924,920.

Mr. Fitzpatrick commented in had a figure of \$1,825,990 written down and asked what that figure reflected.

Mr. Erodicti stated that may have been the difference.

Mayor Blake stated this was originally funded out of the general operations budget, then it was switched over to essentially "fund the arc" from pay as you go. He explained this is for retirees who receive this supplement when there is a wage increase.

Mr. Erodicti added some unexpected retirements also played a role.

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: Accts. 4720 Insurance and Bonds, 4740 Claims and Refunds, 4790 Benefit & Salary Reserve, 4799 Unallocated Contingency, 4801 Council of Aging, 4803 – Fine Arts Council, 4805 C-MED, 4807 Regional Mental Health Board, 4811 Borough of Woodmont, 4812 Transit Authority, 4813 Bridges, 4815 Veteran Graves, 4816 Milford Flotilla 73, 4817 Human Services Department, 4818 – Historic District. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Lema stated he would be recusing himself from the voting on department 4819 Milford Progress, Inc., as he is a member of their board.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Ms. Montano made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget 4819 Milford Progress, Inc. as presented.. Motion carried 4 yes (Marlow, Montano, Fitzpatrick, Castignoli) and 1 abstention (Lema).

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Castignoli made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: Accts. 4820 Historic District II, 4821 Health Services/VNA, 4822 Cemetery Association, 4825 Beth El Shelter, 4826 Boys & Girls Club, 4992 Private School Textbook. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Agro made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4993 – Education Audit Fees, 4994 School Debt, 4995 Employee Benefits, Non-Teaching. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Lema stated the Board would come back to Education Operations after completing all of the City Departments.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Castignoli made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4997 – Education Health Insurance, 4998 Education Health Services: School Nurses. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Castignoli made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: Accts. 4154 Sewer Commission and 4426 Wastewater.

Mayor Blake commented regarding Wastewater and nitrogen credits. He stated this year they would be receiving a \$70,000-75,000 credit, whereas last year they paid over \$300,000. He stated this year they received a grant from the State DEP and were able to change how they monitor the system.

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Castignoli made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: Accts. 4790 Benefit and Salary Reserves and 4799 Unallocated Contingency. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: Acct. 0012 0000 Sewer Fund (Revenues) and Acct. 0012 0000 Sewer Fund (Expenditures). Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Castignoli made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: Accts. 0036 4157 Marina Enterprise Revenue and 4157 Harbor Management Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Castignoli made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4121 Golf Course (Revenues). Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Ms. Castignoli made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4121 Golf Course (Expenditures). Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Castignoli made and seconded a motion to approve account 4996 Education Operations as follows: line item 4001 0000 Lump Sum Appropriation as recommended by the Board of Education in the amount of \$88,843,283.

Mayor Blake commended school administration stating they came in with a very responsible budget. He stated they kept the increase to less than 2.5% over the last two years.

Mr. Castignoli stated he had concerns with Acct. 8111 Professional Development/Curriculum which he stated was excessively high and Acct. 1123 Hourly Aides. He stated did not see the need for the additional aides. However, he noted he was not in attendance for the Board of Education's presentation and may have a misunderstanding about these accounts.

Mr. Marlow recalled those costs were driven by the Common Core Standard and that there has been a change in how they do things in the classroom. He also stated it was his understanding hiring the aides would free up the administrators in the building. A brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Marlow commented the Superintendent and Board of Education did a good job bringing this budget in where they did. He stated he has seen much higher budgets in past years and that he really did not see any "fluff". He stated this is a responsible budget.

Mr. Fitzpatrick stated he is not comfortable with the energy specialist. He stated this is a 2.26% increase, with last year being 1.66% and they ended up with money at the end of the year.

Mr. Marlow stated he is comfortable with the 2.26% and reiterated it is responsible.

Mr. Fitzpatrick stated he would be more comfortable amending the budget to a 2% increase.

Mr. Castignoli stated he would be comfortable at the \$200,000 figure.

Chairman Lema stated he is more in line with matching the requested budget. He pointed out the Mayor has stated the 2.26% increase is reasonable. Chairman Lema stated he would be comfortable recommending this budget to the Board of Aldermen. He added at the time the Board of Aldermen vote they will have more information and would be in a better position to make any adjustment.

Mr. Castignoli asked where the Board of Education will end up this year.

Mr. Erodic stated the \$450,000 they ended the year with last year was placed into an account set up by this Board which was in accordance with Statute. Discussion ensued.

By roll call vote, the motion carried 3 yes (Lema, Montano, Marlow) and 2 no (Fitzpatrick, Castignoli).

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Castignoli made and seconded a motion to approve 0010 0000 General Fund Revenue, with the following changes: line item 3111 0001 Taxes PP Audits to read \$50,000 for a new subtotal in Taxes of \$1,555,000; and line item 3516 0000 Transportation to read \$47,330; and line item 3517 0000 Education Cost Sharing to read \$11,683,544 for a new subtotal in State Education Grants of \$12,228.874; and

line item 3643 0000 State Realty to read \$0 and line item 3643 0001 State Realty – Pequot to read \$0, line item 3647 0000 Private Exemptions to read \$423,565; and line item 3670 0000 Manufact. Machines/Equip to read \$0 for a new subtotal in *State PILOT Grants* of \$1,046,856; and line item 3658 0000 Property Tax Relief –Mun Rev. Share to read \$0 and line item 3659 0000 Misc. State-Hold Harmless to read \$1,253,450 for a new subtotal in *General Purposes State Grants* of \$1,363,450; and a new Total Revenue of \$194,507,618, as recommended by the Board of Finance.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Castignoli made and seconded a motion to amend the motion to exclude the Total Revenue. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Lema stated the Board would take a 5-minute recess to allow the Finance Director time to calculate the numbers. The Board recessed at 7:53 p.m.

Chairman Lema reconvened the Board in public session at 7:56 p.m.

(p. 4) Mr. Erodict pointed out line item 3133 0000 Current Taxes to read \$163,656,476, for a sub-total in Taxes of \$165,211,476; and (p. 8) Total Revenue to read \$194,507,618.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Castignoli made and seconded a motion to approve current taxes in the amount of \$163,656,476, with a sub-total in Taxes of \$165,211,476 and a new department total of \$194,507,618. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Erodict stated the proposed mill rate would be 26.32, which represents an increase of 0.72 mills.

Chairman Lema thanked Mr. Marlow for his efforts tonight and the entire Board and extended a thank you to the secretary as well.

Being no further business to discuss, Mr. Marlow and Ms. Montano made and seconded a motion to adjourn at the budget deliberation sessions regarding FY2013/2014. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber  
Recording Secretary