

**BOARD OF FINANCE
PROPOSED BUDGET 2009-2010 – FINAL VOTING SESSION
MARCH 18, 2009**

The Milford Board of Finance held a budget deliberations session on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 in Conference Room B of the Parsons Complex. Chairman Skudlarek reconvened the budget session at 6:43 p.m.

Board Members Present

Stephen J. Skudlarek, Jr. Chairman
Brian A. Lema, Vice Chairman
Joseph J. Fitzpatrick, Jr.
Paula Smith
Joseph M. Agro, Jr.

Also Present

Mayor James L. Richetelli, Jr.
Judy Doneiko, Finance Director

Chairman Skudlarek explained the purpose of tonight's meeting was the final vote of the Mayor's Proposed Budget for 2009-2010 and the Board of Education's proposed budget for 2009-2010. Chairman Skudlarek explained the process noting they would proceed sequentially through the budget book.

Chairman Skudlarek stated the Board would take a 5-minute recess. The Board recessed at 6:45 p.m.

Chairman Skudlarek reconvened the Board in public session at 7:00 p.m. and deferred to Vice Chairman Lema to proceed with the voting.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the following Mayor's recommended budgets as presented: 4111 – Board of Aldermen, 4112 – Elections. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4115 – Registrar of Voters line item 4112 0000 Overtime to read \$4,000; line item 4117 0000 Seasonal/Temporary to read \$15,000 for a new department sub-total in Personal Services of \$129,129 and a new department total of \$137,629. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4116 Milford Gov't Access TV, 4121 Mayor, 4122 General Expenses and 4123 Community Development. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4129 – City Clerk line item 4117 0000 Seasonal/Temporary to read \$6,000 for a new sub-total in Personal Services of \$336,718 and a new department total of \$379,781. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4131 Law Department line item 4117 0000 Seasonal/Temporary to read \$3,000 for a new sub-total in Personal Services of \$572,451 and a new department total of \$597,601. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4131 – Ethics Commission line item 4189 0000 Misc. Professional Fees & Svs. to read \$2,500 for a new sub-total in Personal Services of \$3,000; and line item 4712 0000 Training Expenses to read \$1,000 for a new sub-total in Operational Expenses of \$1,400 and a new department total of \$4,400. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4133 – Probate Court and 4141 – Board of Finance. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4142 – Planning & Zoning line item 4117 0000 Seasonal/Temporary to read \$0 with a new sub-total in Personal Services of \$340,288; and line item 4331 0000 Gas & Other Propellants to read \$1,500 for a new sub-total in Vehicle & Equipment Upkeep of \$1,500; and line item 4717 0000 Travel & Conferences to read \$3,000 for a new sub-total in Operational Expenses of \$28,725 and a new department total of \$373,013. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4143 – Board of Assessment Appeals, 4144 – Zoning Board of Appeals, 4145 – Pension Board, 4146 – Flood and Erosion Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4147 – Tree Commission line item 4168 0000 Secretarial Fees to read \$625 for a new sub-total in Personal Services of \$625 and a new department total of \$1,400. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4151 – Civil Service Commission, 4153 Park, Beach and Recreation Commission, 4155 – Economic Development Commission and 4156 – Conservation Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4158 – Inland Wetlands Agency line item 4112 0000 Overtime to read \$2,500 for a new sub-total in Personal Services of \$101,020 and a new department total of \$112,828. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4159 – Fowler Memorial Commission, 4160 – Housing Code Board of Appeals, 4161 – Housatonic River Estuary Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4193 Public Library line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages to read \$750,553 and line item 4111 9942 1/5 Fiscal Week to read \$3,629 for a new sub-total in Personal Services of \$819,811(Note: this is a technical correction). Line item 4980 0166 Periodicals to read \$9,000; line item 4980 0172 CD's to read \$750; line item 4980 0175 Books on CD to read \$2,000 and line item 4980 0176 DVD's to read \$3,000 for a new sub-total in Capital Outlays of \$130,050 and a new department total of \$1,036,011, with a technical correction under Budgeted Positions 26-X Supervisor of Circulation to read \$44,996 for a new

department total in Position Totals to read \$730,553. Motion carried 4 yes (Smith, Lema, Fitzpatrick, Agro) and 1 abstention (Skudlarek).

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4210 Finance Department line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages to read \$1,459,723 and line item 4111 9942 1/5 Fiscal Week to read \$7,259 for a new sub-total in Personal Services of \$1,515,782 (Note: this is a technical change); and line item 4331 0000 Gas & Other Propellants to read \$1,400 for a new sub-total in Vehicle & Equipment Upkeep of \$1,400 and a new department total of \$1,727,525 with a technical correction under Budgeted Positions 52-1 Accountant to read \$70,552 for a new Position Totals of \$1,459,723. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4215 – Management Information Systems (MIS) and 4219 – Personnel. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4310 Police line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages to read \$7,507,783 and line item 4111 9942 1/5 Fiscal Week to read \$37,344 for a new sub-total in Personal Services of \$9,009,715; and line item 4331 0000 Gas & Other Propellants to read \$185,000 for a new sub-total in Vehicle & Equipment Upkeep of \$187,750 and a new department total of \$10,120,491, with a technical correction under Budgeted Positions 4-N Police Officers (1) to read \$0 for a new Positions Totals to read \$7,507,583. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4320 Fire line item 4120 0000 Fire Trainees to read \$42,000 for a new sub-total in Personal Services of \$9,404,682; and line item 4331 0000 Gas & other propellants to read \$82,000 for a new sub-total in Vehicle & Equipment Upkeep of \$193,450 and a new department total of \$10,590,742. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4331 – Civil Preparedness. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4340 Animal Control line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages to read \$216,340 and line item 4111 9942 1/5 Fiscal Week to read \$1,075 for a new sub-total in Personal Services of \$282,227; and line item 4444 0000 Heating Fuel to read \$9,000 for a new sub-total in Property Upkeep to read \$28,250 and a new department total of \$355,177, with a technical correction under Budgeted Positions 25-4 Assistant Animal Warden to read \$43,886 for a new Positions Total of \$216,340. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4350 Building Inspection line item 4112 0000 Overtime to read \$5,000 for a new sub-total in Personal Services of \$391,921 and a new department of \$428,536. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4360 – Lighting, Hydrants, Water; 4420 – Public Works Office; 4421 – Highway/Parks. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4423 Building Maintenance line item 4444 0000 Heating Fuel to read \$400,000 for a new sub-total in Property Upkeep of \$1,479,861 and a new department total of \$3,018,579. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4424 Engineering line item 4112 0000 Overtime to read \$45,000 for a new sub-total in Personal Services of \$462,696 and a new department total of \$477,796. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4429 General Garage line item 4331 0000 Gas & Other Propellants to read \$300,000 for a new sub-total in Vehicle & Equipment Upkeep of \$685,500 and a new department total of \$1,210,167. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema stated he would recuse himself from voting on department 4431 – Solid Waste because of a conflict with his law firm.

Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Agro made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4431 Solid Waste line item 4790 9950 City Waste Removal Costs to read \$2,135,000 for a new sub-total in Operational Expenses of \$2,618,627 and a new department total of \$4,602,310. Motion carried 4 yes (Smith, Skudlarek, Fitzpatrick, Agro) and 1 abstention (Lema).

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4502 – Equipment Reserve Allocation and 4503 – Public Debt Service. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4610 – Health Department line item 4117 0000 Seasonal/Temporary to read \$15,000 for a new sub-total in Personal Services of \$786,262 and a new department total of \$881,762.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4620 Recreation Department line item 4117 0000 Seasonal/Temporary to read \$320,000 and line item 4161 0000 Fee Paid Officials to read \$30,000 for a new sub-total in Personal Services of \$744,265 and a new department total of \$834,665. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4710 Employee Benefits line item 4211 9909 Post Employment Benefits to read \$350,000 and line item 4221 9919 Self Insurance Contribution to read \$9,674,254 for a new sub-total in Employee Benefits of \$13,941,166 and a new department total of \$13,956,166. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4720 Insurance and Bonds line item 4825 0000 Workers Compensation to read \$1,407,607 for a new sub-total in General Charges of \$2,698,283 and a new department total of \$2,698,283. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4740 Claims and Refunds. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4790 Benefit & Salary Reserve line item 4199 0000 Other Wage Adjustments to read \$7,672 for a new department total of \$7,672.

Mayor Richetelli stated he wished to make the Board aware pursuant to decisions at the technical meeting on Monday and his negotiations with the individual collective bargaining groups. He reported the firefighters, Local 944 voted to ratify and also he receive word this afternoon that two additional unions, public works, Local 1566 and the Milford Employees (MEA) had voted to ratify. He reported two other bargaining units have reached a tentative agreement and will be taking a vote of their members. He stated 5 of the 8 city unions have responded favorably and that he expects to have 6 by tomorrow. He stated the other two unions are continuing fruitful negotiations.

Chairman Skudlarek asked what impact that would have to the original \$857,672 request.

Mayor Richetelli responded that money had changed to the \$7,672 figure because of the cooperation of the city unions to forego salary increases next year. He noted any department that does not would have compensating staff reductions.

Mr. Agro expressed his appreciation of the unions and their gesture to do this in light of the economic times. He commented he has been a member of this Board since 1975 and that this has been the most difficult budget deliberation session to date. He asked the Mayor to extend this Board's gratitude to those unions for their good faith gesture.

Chairman Skudlarek echoed the remarks of Mr. Agro.

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4799 Unallocated Contingency. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4801 – Council of Aging line item 4331 0000 Gas & Other Propellants to read \$21,500 for a new sub-total in Vehicle & Equipment Upkeep of \$21,500; and line item 4708 0000 Grant to read \$1,340,000 for a new sub-total in Operational Expenses of \$1,346,250 and a new department total of \$1,367,750. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4803 – Fine Arts Council line item 4708 0000 Grant to read \$71,250 for a

new sub-total in Operational Expenses of \$71,250 and a new department total of \$71,250. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4805 – C-MED and 4807 – Regional Mental Health Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4811 – Borough of Woodmont line item 4708 0000 Grant to read \$175,000 with a new sub-total in Operational Expenses of \$175,000 and a new department total of \$175,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4812 – Transit Authority. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4813 – Bridges Community Support line item 4708 0000 Grant to read \$372,500 for a new sub-total in Operational Expenses of \$372,500 and a new department total of \$372,500. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4815 – Veteran Graves, 4816 – Milford Flotilla 73, 4817 – Human Services Department and 4818 – Historic District. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Agro made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4819 – Milford Progress, Inc. Motion carried 4 yes (Smith, Skudlarek, Fitzpatrick, Agro) and 1 abstention (Lema).

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4820 – Historic District II, 4821 – Health Services/VNA, and 4822 – Cemetery Association. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4823 – Patriotic Organization Association line item 4708 0000 Grant to read \$4,000 with a new sub-total in Operational Expenses of \$4,000 and a new department total of \$4,000.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4825 – Beth El Shelter line item 4708 0000 Grant to read \$65,000 for a new sub-total in Operational Expenses of \$65,000 and a new department total of \$65,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4992 – Private School Textbook, 4994 – Education Audit Fees, 4994 School Debt, and 4995 Employee Benefits, Non-Teaching. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Skudlarek stated they would skip over 4996 Education Operations and come back to it.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4997 – Education Health Insurance Contribution line item 4221 0000 Contribution, Self Insurance Fund to read \$15,615,544 for a new sub-total in Employee Fringe Benefits of \$15,615,544 and a new department total of \$15,615,544. (Note: this is a technical change). Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4998 - Education Health Services: School Nurses. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented 0012 0000 Sewer Expenditures.

Ms. Doneiko pointed out they needed to do the department first. Vice Chairman withdrew the motion and Mr. Fitzpatrick withdrew the second.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4154 – Sewer Commission and 4426 – Wastewater. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4790 – Benefit and Salary Reserves line item 4199 0000 Other Wage Adjustments to read \$0 with a new sub-total of \$0 and a new department total of \$0. (Note: this is a technical change). Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4799 Unallocated Contingency. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 0012 0000 – Sewer Fund (Revenues) line item "Sewer Use Fees" to read \$5,192,667 with a new Revenues Total of \$6,674,667. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4157 – Harbor Management Commission (Expenditures) line item "Personal Services" to read \$133,072 for a new general operations total of \$306,545 and a new Total Budget of \$306,545. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 4157 – Marina Enterprise Revenue line item 3208 0000 Marina Fees to read \$98,959 for a new sub-total in Permits and Fees of \$217,209 and a new department total of \$306,545. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Chairman Skudlarek commented the Board would return to account 4996 Education Operations (p. 100). He noted the Board of Education presented a budget of \$83,863,950

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve account 4996 Education Operations as follows: line item 4001 0000 Lump Sum Appropriation to read \$83,863,950 as presented by the Board of Education.

Chairman Skudlarek pointed this amount represents a 2.49% increase as submitted by the Board of Education. He stated it was a good presentation and a very reasonable request. He also commented the great deal of duress and economic issues people are faced with. He stated the 2.49% increase was not out of line and commented he would be inclined to vote in favor of this.

Vice Chairman Lema agreed the Board of Education did an excellent job trying to keep expenses in line so he would be in favor of the 2.49% increase. He noted other wages and compensation make up about 90% of the budget adding any progress the Board of Education could make with representatives of the Board of Education would be welcome. He stated he would be willing to support this as proposed.

Mr. Agro commented the relationship with this Board and the Board of Education has increased greatly. He referred to the comments he made at the close of the presentation of the Board of Education, however, in light of what has been done on the City side he would not be a proponent of voting in favor of the budget as recommended. He stated the Board had a spirited discussion at Monday night's technical discussion. He also spoke as to the difficulties in the community. Mr. Agro also commented this Board took its responsibility very seriously and that they looked at these budgets very closely and made adjustments were they could. He also pointed out the unions have made concessions as well. He stated he would be hesitant to vote in favor of this number but would entertain another figure.

Mr. Fitzpatrick stated he could not vote for this increase. He stated between the Mayor's recommended budget with technical changes and what this Board has come up with over \$500,000 was reduced as well as the \$800,000 plus from the unions.

Ms. Smith stated she agreed with Mr. Agro and Mr. Fitzpatrick. She stated this Board reduced the city side of the budget another \$180,000 and also spoke regarding the reductions on the Board of Education side concerning healthcare contributions. She stated with all the cuts and the updated revenue information the budget is still \$1,300,000 short.

By roll call vote, the motion failed 3 no (Smith, Fitzpatrick, Agro) and 2 yes (Lema, Skudlarek).

Ms. Smith and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve account 4996 Education Operations as follows: line item 4001 0000 Lump Sum Appropriation to read \$82,563,950.

Ms. Smith stated this number represents an increase of 0.90% and the total savings they are looking for.

Chairman Skudlarek commented this amount would represent an increase of less than 1% and stated he could not vote for it.

Mr. Agro commented this was between two schools of thought, but he would not be inclined to vote for this motion, as it is much lower.

Chairman Skudlarek stated the Board might need to go into recess.

Mr. Agro stated as difficult was it is he was comfortable sitting here voting all night.

By roll call vote, the motion failed 3 no (Lema, Skudlarek, Agro) and 2 yes (Smith, Fitzpatrick).

Ms. Smith and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve account 4996 Education Operations as follows: line item 4001 0000 Lump Sum Appropriation to read \$82,863,950.

Ms. Smith stated this number represents a 1.27% increase.

Chairman Skudlarek stated although the amount is slightly more, the amount was still insufficient and he would not be in favor of it for the reasons he has previously stated.

Vice Chairman Lema stated he too would not be able to support this. He stated he appreciated the effort to bridge the gap, however he felt the Board of Education demonstrated their needs. He also stated he was not sure the Board of Education would have as much flexibility as the Mayor had with the city union groups. He stated this budget is 80% wages, although he stated he may have stated 90% earlier, irregardless he stated he felt the amount the Board of Education presented was appropriate.

Chairman Skudlarek spoke as to the current teacher contract noting it is in the 3rd year. He stated he was reluctant to “paint” the Board of Education into a corner.

Ms. Smith stated the municipal side employees have been very good at working with the Mayor to reach concessions. She also pointed out they reduced the police, solid waste, etc. and that it was not unreasonable to ask for \$1,000,000 off the top from the Board of Education. Ms. Smith also reiterated these are very difficult economic times and that everyone is touched by it. He stated they are asking a lot from the municipal side and reiterated it was not unreasonable to ask for a comparable decrease from the Board of Education side.

Vice Chairman Lema pointed out the only increases on the Board of Education side come from salary and benefits, as well as transportation costs. He also spoke as to the non-discretionary spending adding effectively this Board could end up voting for positions.

Mr. Agro asked the Chairman is he could re-read the motion.

Chairman Skudlarek stated the motion is to approve 4996 Education Operations as follows: line item 4001 0000 Lump Sum Appropriation to read \$82,863,950.

Mr. Fitzpatrick stated the municipal budget is going up 1.49% and the Board of Education budget is going up 1.84% even with this \$1,000,000 reduction request. He stated he agreed with Ms. Smith if the municipal side could do it, the educational side could as well. He stated he just could not see putting the burden on one side and that it needed to be a sharing process. He also noted there have been substantial increases on the Board of Education side over the years and it is the time for savings to come.

By roll call vote, the motion failed 3 no (Lema, Skudlarek, Agro) and 2 yes (Smith, Fitzpatrick).

Mr. Agro and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve account 4996 Education Operations as follows: line item 4001 0000 Lump Sum Appropriation to read \$83,046,000.

Mr. Agro stated he really was not prepared to do this, but if his numbers were correct this would be a 1.49% increase over last year. He stated the difference represents the conciliatory requests of the Mayor of the unions on the city side. Mr. Agro stated they are dictated by the times and that these truly are difficult times. He stated he is not comfortable with the number but it is something he is able to justify because of the negotiations on the city side. He also pointed out the comparison values stating they really were not comparing apples to apples and that growth on each side is difficult to measure.

Chairman Skudlarek reflected on comments he has made in past years in his other capacity as a taxpayer. He stated he has been warning about the spirally cost of education which is a concern to all. He stated he did not want this to seem conflicting with his previous statements. He expressed his hope the Board of Education would be able to make the adjustment, but stated he could not vote for it adding to really was a disservice.

Mr. Fitzpatrick stated when the Board met on Monday for their technical discussions he felt they should come close to what the city side gave up and that he still feel they need to look at this. He too expressed his hope they would be able to make up the difference somewhere in their budget, but that he was comfortable with this figure and would vote in favor of it.

By roll call vote, the motion carried 3 yes (Smith, Fitzpatrick, Agro) and 2 no (Lema, Skudlarek).

Chairman Skudlarek noted for the record the increase reflects 1.49% over the current year with the final lump sum recommendation being \$83,046,000.

Mr. Agro stated to those present this was an extremely difficult decision. He stated he wished to apologize in advance if this causes any person any difficulties and reiterated he agonized over his decision.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes: 0000 General Fund Revenue line item 3112 0000 Prior Year Taxes to read \$2,200,000 for a sub-total in Taxes of \$2,218,000; line item 3513 0000 Special Education to read \$250,000 for a new sub-total in State Education Grants of \$11,884,478; and line item 3643 0000 State Realty to read \$549,728; line item 3643 0001 State Realty - Pequot to read \$568,831; line item 3646 0000 Total Disability Exemptions to read \$0; line item 3647 000 Private Exemptions to read \$455,560; line item 3648 0000 to read \$181,415 for a new sub-total in State PILOT Grants of \$3,616,318 and a new Total Revenue of \$175,227,211 (without current year taxes). Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Skudlarek recessed the Board at 8:29 p.m. to allow the Finance Director to calculate the figures.

Chairman Skudlarek reconvened the Board at 8:53 p.m.

Vice Chairman Lema and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the General Fund Summary of Expenditures in the amount of \$175,227,211; and line item 3111 0000 Current Taxes to read \$144,973,262 as

recommended by the Board of Finance; with a mill rate calculated at 24.69 mills as recommended by the Board of Finance. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Skudlarek thanked the Board for their efforts noting they were substantial. He commented it is not always easy to agree, but thanked each member for their input and putting together a thoughtful budget.

Mr. Fitzpatrick added this was an extremely difficult budget, but felt this Board did the right thing and expressed his hope the Board of Aldermen would as well.

Mr. Agro spoke on how they arrived at the budget, adding it was difficult but expressed his pleasure working with everyone to accomplish what they did.

Being no further business to discuss, Mr. Agro and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary