

**BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 28, 2011**

The Milford Board of Finance held their Regular Meeting on Monday, March 28, 2011, in Conference Room B of the Parsons Complex. Chairman B. Lema called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Board Members Present

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

Also Present

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

Consideration of Minutes of January 31, 2011

Mr. Agro. and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held January 31, 2011 as presented. Motion carried 4 yes (Fitzpatrick, Agro, Lema, Marlow) and 1 abstention (Beckwith).

Correspondence - None.

New Business

- A. Mr. Beckwith and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve Budget Memo Transfer #8 (FY11). Motion carried unanimously.
- B. Mr. Beckwith and Mr. Agro made and seconded a motion to approve Budget Memo Transfer #9 (FY11).

Chairman Lema noted for the record that the City Clerk was present if the Board had any questions.

Mr. Agro asked if the transfer was the result of an "I told you so" or if it was something new.

Mrs. Stock explained the State will not be paying for maintenance for the voting machines. She stated this was originally due in February but it has been pushed to May. She stated they opted for an 18 month extension and went on to explain how reimbursement and the inspection agreement work.

Mr. Marlow asked how many companies provide services for these machines.

Mrs. Stock replied she was not sure, but this particular company does provide service to many cities.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if these are the machines that read and count the ballot.

Mrs. Stock responded yes.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked how many machines they have.

Mrs. Stock replied 15 or 16.

Mr. Fitzpatrick commented it seemed like a lot of money for an 18 month contract.

Mr. Agro remarked it was his understanding they also certifies the machine.

Mrs. Stock stated Mr. Agro was correct. She stated if there is any problem with the machine the company is responsible.

Mayor Richetelli stated the Secretary of State's office approves of this company.

Motion carried unanimously.

- C. Mr. Agro and Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve consideration of an Ordinance Appropriating \$1,685,000 For Land Acquisition And Road Improvements And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,685,000 Bonds Of The City To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose.

Chairman Lema stated he would recuse himself from discussing and ultimately voting on this matter. He stated although he is not currently involved with this matter, he is familiar with this property from work his office has done for over 20 years. He turned the meter over to Vice Chairman Beckwith.

Vice Chairman Beckwith asked the Mayor for some background with regarding to this Ordinance.

Mayor Richetelli explained he tries to do one bond authorization per year. He stated in each of these cases he would do his best to explain. He gave a brief description of why they are where they are (referencing the map). He explained this property has been on the radar screen for more than a decade and explained how they arrived at where they are regarding the Oronoque Road property.

Mr. Marlow asked where the easement was located.

Mayor Richetelli (referring to the map) stated it is south of River Highlands Drive.

Mr. Agro asked for clarification regarding the \$1,100,000; however the document states \$1,200,000.

Mayor Richetelli stated the purchase price is \$1,100,000, plus financing costs and other additional costs.

Mr. Agro commented this piece of land has had the attention of the city for many years. He spoke of its value referring to it as a island with difficult accessing it. He stated the purchase of this property would also protect the integrity of the farm land that surrounds it, adding Milford needs more places like this one. He stated if it were available in a reasonable market, it would be very valuable. He spoke of the importance of keeping it unified for environmental sanctity and the importance of doing this now.

Mayor Richetelli stated this proposal comes before this Board having come from bond counsel.

Mr. Agro asked if the city had negotiated with those people with an opportunity to sell.

Mayor Richetelli responded they negotiated with their attorney.

Mr. Agro asked if there was a contract.

Mayor Richetelli responded it is pending approval from Planning and Zoning, Board of Finance and Board of Aldermen. Brief discussion.

Mr. Fitzpatrick stated he would like to see the monies go into open space.

Mayor Richetelli explained the monies would go into the general fund, and that the hope was it could lower taxes.

Mr. Marlow stated he would be in agreement with purchasing the property, but asked the goal of this purchase.

Mayor Richetelli stated at this time they would only land bank the property. He stated if they did not exercise their option the property would be gone and likely become a “junk” yard. He reiterated they had not specific goal in mind at this time.

Mayor Richetelli explained the second part of the Ordinance, regarding the intersection of Old Gate Lane and New Haven Avenue. He gave a brief history of this project dating back to 1999. He stated because of soil conditions and drainage this area has lagged behind. He stated the original goal was to improve the intersection. Mayor Richetelli explained the city would be responsible for the design work under the STP Urban Project and will have to complete the job to DEP and DOT standards. He stated the money being requested would finally complete the project.

Mr. Marlow asked if there would be any liability if the work is not what the State wanted.

Mayor Richetelli stated it is not a state road. He stated he has discussed this with the city’s state leaders for years and they just don’t foresee any monies coming forward to complete this.

Mr. Marlow asked if the city would manage the property.

Mayor Richetelli responded yes.

Mr. Agro commented for the record that he owned with his father the area from the dog kennels to the land taken. He stated it has since been sold out of his family. He stated this is something that needs to be done, noting drainage has historically been a big problem in that area. He asked if the elevation on the road would continue to be difficult.

Mayor Richetelli stated they are looking into electronic message boards so that trucks will see them clearly and know they cannot pass through.

Mr. Agro also pointed out it is a dangerous section for pedestrians and suggested sidewalks are a part of the design. On another note, he asked if they take this out of that project is it likely they will get the work done for the flooding issues on Bridgeport/Naugatuck Avenue.

Mr. Beckwith stated both projects are worthwhile.

Staff Report

Ms. Doneiko reported the note sale would take place on April 13, 2011. She also reported \$20,715,000 in notes would mature in November. Ms. Doneiko also reported this would be her last meeting as she was retiring as of April 1, 2011.

Mr. Agro thanked Ms. Doneiko for her hard work. He stated it has been a pleasure to work with her and wished her best wishes on her retirement.

Chairman Lema echoed those comments as did Mr. Fitzpatrick.

Mr. Beckwith stated he was approached last week by a fellow worker who has a child in the school district. He referenced the school district's March E-Blast wherein the Acting Superintendent stated their request for an increase was denied by this Board. Mr. Beckwith stated the comment is untrue and misleading. A brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Agro agreed it was a mis-characterization of their discussion during the technical discussion session of the budget.

Being no further business, Mr. Beckwith and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The Board adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary