

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 8, 2007**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, January 8, 2007 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairperson T. Beirne called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. asking everyone present to stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

P. Beckwith
T. Beirne
B. Bier
B. Blake
V. Ditchkus, Jr.
J. Garbus
B. Genovese
M. Hardiman
B. Lambert
J. Patterson
J. Politi
K. Rowland
J. Toohey
N. Veccharelli, Jr.
P. Vetro

Also Present

Mayor J. Richetelli, Jr.
J. O'Connell, Mayor's Admin. Asst.
A. Jepson, City Clerk
J. Doneiko, Finance Director

2. Public Statements

Public statements are limited to the legislative function of the Board of Aldermen. The time limit granted to each speaker shall be three minutes. Residents, taxpayers or electors may address the Board. Chairman Beirne explained the Board does not respond to questions.

M. Ziebel – 10 Silver Street – spoke regarding the \$36,000 grant for elderly residents. She applauded those for putting this together and stated it was warranted but stated she had several questions. She referred to an article in the newspaper that spoke of unsafe housing. She asked what type of housing, elderly, senior housing, residential or what. She also asked what is considered unsafe. She asked if it is boarding or private or residential type housing. She also asked if it is not a crisis but needing intervention who dictates that criteria. She stated she hoped her questions would be answered this evening.

J. SantaBarbara – 31 Hitching Post Lane – stated he was speaking against the Connecticut Municipal Consortium for Fiscal Responsibility Law. He stated it was his understanding Milford was considering joining. He also stated he had the opportunity to intern with the Connecticut Intern Association. He also commented that between 1965 and 1979 there were approximately 15 teacher strikes and that since the law was amended there have been no strikes, no jailing and no disruptions to our children. He spoke of the 636 teacher contracts

negotiated and that a total of 75 were settled through binding arbitration. He explained binding arbitration is a back up and that it is to bring the groups together. He stated the change being proposed would leave teacher negotiators powerless and erode the positive environment created for our students. He emphasized children need consistent strong schools and stressed the importance of making education a top priority.

F. Goodrich – 70 Regent Terrace – stated he is also a member of the Planning and Zoning Board. He spoke of a letter written by Ald. Patterson wherein Ald. Patterson stated Planning and Zoning had lied about the property on Orange Avenue. He stated he had a copy of that letter which he distributed to the Board. He asked for an apology from Mr. Patterson.

J. Prisco – 11 Riverdale Road – spoke regarding senior citizens and tax relief for senior citizens. He stated he was glad to see some of the finally getting it. He stated it was time to stop talking about it and do something. He also spoke of the increase in electrical bill and the affects on senior citizens. He also asked about these meetings being taped and noted he saw in the paper that we would be on television but all he sees is Stratford. He asked the Board to get after them and do something.

D. Worroll – 457 Swanson Crescent – commented that most of the time the City reads about the confrontations of this Board and not the good things the Board does. He spoke of a charity event at AMF Bowl where both parties came out and bowled. He stated he had the opportunity himself to bowl with his son as well as Ald. Toohey's son and that the event raised \$4,000 for the fire department's Toys for Tots Program. He stated everyone had a great job and he thanked all those members of the Board who attended.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on December 4, 2006.

Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro moved to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2006 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Board of Aldermen Special Meeting.

None.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

Chairman Beirne reported he spoke with Dan Thomas, City Assessor regarding the reval. He reported over 2,000 hearings will be heard by the end of January with the balance being held by mid February. He stated the date to file has been extended to March 1, 2007. He stated the Mayor would be looking for the Board's approval for two alternates to the Board of Assessment Appeals. He also reported there would be a special meeting held on January 31, 2007 regarding post employment benefits and that the actuary or lawyer would address the Board.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations.

Mayor Richetelli asked the Board to consider items 8a-8f and that he would be happy to discuss those items. He also asked the Board to consider two items under 6b and consider referring those two items to the Ordinance Committee. He also spoke regarding appointing two alternate members to the Planning and Zoning Board. He spoke regarding a bill passed last year by the General Assembly, Bill 50-93 that allows for senior relief. He

explained there are some guidelines but unfortunately no state reimbursement. He stated he would ask the Board to refer this item to the Ordinance Committee and meet with the City Attorney, Fire Department, Planning & Zoning and other city agencies. He also stated that the Board of Aldermen in their package is the number of tax relief programs the City offers. He explained it had been included so that when constituents, senior citizens, retirees, etc ask there are ten different programs. He also requested this matter be referred to the Ordinance Committee. Mayor Richetelli also pointed out the first meeting in January this Board approves appointments to the various Boards and Commissions under item 8a and also the Mayor's appointments under Item 6a.

6a. Mayor's appointments:

Milford Council on Aging, two-year term expiring 12/31/08

(D) Lillian Holmes, 100 Oxford Road, reappointment

(R) Michael Petrucelli, 4 Bayberry Lane, reappointment

(U) Philip a. Caporusso, D.M.D., 46 Shadows end Lane, reappointment

(R) Joyce Elwell, 41 Eveningside Drive, reappointment

Conservation Commission, three-year term expiring 12/31/09

(U) Oden H. Seaholm, 11 Wayland Road, reappointment

(D) Vincent Piselli, 361 Meadowside Road, new appointment

(R) Maureen Mauro-Desantie, 1089 West River Street, new appointment, to fill the unexpired term of William Sahlmann (resigned), term to expire 12/31/07

Fowler Memorial Commission, three-year term expiring 12/31/09

(U) Russell W. Edwards, 138 Melba Street, reappointment

(R) Gregory Smith, 235 Plains Road, reappointment

Human Resources Development Agency, two-year term expiring 12/31/08

(D) Diane Candido, 4 Topfield Road (City Administration Representative), new appointment

Inland Wetlands Agency, three-year term expiring 12/31/08

(R) Robert C. Nunno, 9 Elm Street, new appointment

Alternate, term to expire 12/31/09

(R) John F. O'Connell, 283 First Avenue, new appointment

Planning and Zoning Board Recommendation (Pending Planning and Zoning Board Approval), three year term expiring 12/31/09

(R) Allan E. Cegan, 1037 New Haven Avenue, reappointment

Milford Redevelopment & Housing Partnership, five-year term expiring 11/30/11

(R) Hilary Haig Holowink, 59 Trumbull Avenue, reappointment

Veterans Graves Preservation Commission, one-year term expiring 12/31/07

(R) Linda Natoli, 297 Forest Road, reappointment

(U) Thomas Cody, Jr., 13 Dock Road, reappointment

(R) Suzanne DiBiase, 77 Lindy Street, reappointment

On behalf of all your fellow citizens the Mayor thanked those who have taken on this responsibility to make our City better. Mayor Richetelli asked if after the names were read if the Board would consider re-ordering the agenda and bringing forward items 8a and 8g.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Hardiman moved to re-order the agenda and bring forward items 8a and 8g. Motion carried unanimously.

8a. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Hardiman moved to approve the following Mayor's appointments to the Boards and Commissions.

Board of Assessment Review

Alternate, term to expire 12/31/07

(U) Kenneth Hawkins, Sr., 78 Lafayette Street, new appointment

(D) Henry B. Healey, 192 West River Street, new appointment

Building Code Board of Appeals, five-year term expiring 12/31/11

(U) William J. Evasick, 15 Maple Street, reappointment

Civil Service Commission, three-year term expiring 12/31/09

(D) Henry B. Healey, 192 West River Street, new appointment

Ethics Commission, three-year term expiring 12/31/09

(D) Lisa Bull, 122 Pumpkin Delight Road, new appointment

Board of Finance, three-year term expiring 12/31/09

(R) Stephen J. Skudlarek, Jr., 119 Pine Knob Terrace, reappointment

(D) Joseph J. Fitzpatrick, Jr., 7 Flax Mill Terrace, reappointment

Fire Commission, three-year term expiring 12/31/09

(D) Carmen Corvino, 31 Chapel Street, reappointment

(R) Howard S. Stein, 391 Herbert Street, new appointment

(D) John F. Healy, Jr., 146 Pond Point Avenue, reappointment

(U) William A. Brennan, 51 Milford Point Road, new appointment, to the unexpired term of Phillip Ucci, Sr., (deceased), term to expire 12/31/08

Golf Course Commission, three-year term expiring 12/31/09

(U) William D. Healey, 37 West Shore Drive, reappointment

(D) Daniel W. Worroll, Jr., 457 Swanson Crescent, reappointment

(Recommendation of Park, Beach & Recreation Commission)

Harbor Management Commission, five-year term expiring 12/31/11

(R) Richards Winters, 65 Ranch Road, reappointment

(U) Gary V. Montano, 48 Point Lookout, reappointment

(D) Robert M. Brennan, 984 East Broadway, new appointment, to fill the unexpired term of Albert Hotchkiss (deceased), term to expire 12/31/08

Alternates, two-year term expiring 12/31/08

(R) David R. Newman, 57 Elder Street, reappointment

(R) Ronald Miller, 306 Naugatuck Avenue, new appointment

Board of Health, three-year term expiring 12/31/09

(U) Dr. Joseph Reingold, 77 Plains Road, Unit #216, reappointment

(R) Dr. Constance Young, 37 Loomis Street, reappointment

Human Resources Development Agency, three-year term expiring 12/31/09

(U) Cynthia W. Boynton, 26 Burwell Avenue (Consumer Representative), reappointment

(R) Raymond W. Ferguson, 27 Nutmeg Lane (Organized Labor), new appointment

Library Board, three-year term expiring 12/31/09

(D) Scott Barnett, 1201 New Haven Avenue, new appointment

(U) Suzanne E. D'Anna, 88 West Main Street, reappointment

(R) Peter Vita, 52 Sparrow Bush Lane, new appointment

(D) Maria Librandi, 21 Timber Trail, new appointment, to fill vacant position, term to expire 12/31/07

Park, Beach & Recreation Commission, three-year term expiring 12/31/09

(D) Daniel W. Worroll, Jr., 457 Swanson Crescent, reappointment

(U) Ann Fabian, 294 Welches Point Road, reappointment

Police Commission, three-year term expiring 12/31/09

(R) Carol Faruolo, 19 Fenway North, reappointment

(D) Alberta Jagoe, 1 Morningside Drive, reappointment

Sewer Commission, three-year year term expiring 12/31/09

(R) Paul Austin, 136 Platt Lane, reappointment

(U) Donald F. Anderson, Jr., 33 Driftwood Lane, reappointment

Transit District (Advisory Board), two-year term expiring 12/31/08

(D) John Piselli, 139 Westfield Road, reappointment

(R) Anthony Piselli, Sr., 124 Wheelers Farm Road, reappointment

Tree Commission, three-year term expiring 12/31/09

(U) Kate D. Orecchio, 165 North Broad Street, reappointment

(U) Mary A. Ludwig, 28 South Street, reappointment

(R) James T. Malaney, 64 Wilcox Road, new appointment, to fill the unexpired term of John S. Westermann (resigned), term to expire 12/31/08

Zoning Board of Appeals, five-year term expiring 12/31/11

(D) Howard F. Haberman, 42 Maple Street, reappointment

Alternates, three-year term expiring 12/31/09

(D) Ronald Spangler, Jr., 86 Naugatuck Avenue, reappointment

8g. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Hardiman moved to approve the following Board of Aldermen appointments:

Animal Shelter Commission

(D) Edward Leuchtner, 25-B Forest Road, reappointment, term to expire 12/31/11

Economic Development Commission

(R) John T. DePalma, 27 Crestwood Road, (Citizen, four-year term) new appointment, term to expire 12/31/10

(R) Cyrus Settineri, 151 Platt Lane, new appointment, term to expire 12/31/10

Flood & Erosion Control Board

(R) Richard Winters, 65 Ranch Road, new appointment, term to expire 12/31/11

Historic District Commission

(R) Timothy A. Clark, reappointment, term to expire 01/01/12

Alternate

(U) Dr. John W. O'Neil, 133 North Street, reappointment, term to expire 1/1/09

Human Resources Development Agency

(D) Gary Johnson, 70 Terrace Road, reappointment (Chamber of Commerce Representative, three-year term, term to expire 12/31/09

(D) Alan Chapin, 78 Barton Road, reappointment (United Way Representative, three-year term, term to expire 12/31/09

Inland Wetlands Agency

(R) Joel F. Levitz, 44 Point Beach Drive, new appointment, term to expire 12/31/09

(R) Lynne McNamee, 27 Anderson avenue, new appointment, to fill the unexpired term of Peter Vita (resigned), term to expire 12/31/08

Alternate

(D) Barbara C. Bell, 24 Winthrop court, reappointment, term to expire 12/31/09

Pension and Retirement Board

(U) Joseph R. Sartor, 290 Roses Mill Road, reappointment, term to expire 12/31/09

(D) William Shea, 255 Housatonic Drive, reappointment, term to expire 12/31/09

(R) Richard Elwell, 41 Eveningside Drive, reappointment, term to expire 12/31/09

(R) James R. Whitaker, 43 Ardmore Road, new appointment (BOE Maintenance Local 2018), term to expire 12/31/09

(U) Mark E. Bouteiller, 204 West Main Street, new appointment (Public Works – Local 1566) term to expire 12/31/09

Alternates

(U) Gary Nosal, 133 Foxwood Close, new appointment (BOE Maintenance – Local 2018), term to expire 12/31/09

(U) Gary Baker, 262 Woodruff Road, reappointment (Fire – Local 944), term to expire 12/31/09
(D) Tyler S. Lewis, 11 Earle Street, new appointment (Public Works – Local 1566), term to expire 12/31/09
(D) Christopher Dunn, 82 Crestwood Road, reappointment (Police – Local 899) – term to expire 12/31/09
(R) Bernard F. Joy, Jr., 4 Harborview Avenue, new appointment 0 to fill vacant position – term to expire 12/31/08

Motion carried unanimously.

City Clerk Alan Jepson asked all those individuals present to come forward and be sworn in for their position.

The Board recessed at 8:02 p.m. Chairman Beirne reconvened the Board at 8:16 p.m.

6b. Mayor Richetelli asked with all due respect that this honorable Board refer the following items to the Ordinance Committee for consideration and action:

1. Request from the Tree Commission to revise Article XVII, Sec. 18-201 of the Code of Ordinances to allow for the appointment of two alternate members of the Commission.
2. Senior Citizen Property Tax Relief – HB5093 was passed by the General Assembly last session. The Act allows towns to freeze property taxes on homes owned by people age 70 or older. Homeowners must meet the income limits for the “circuit breaker” program, which gives elderly homeowners a credit against their property taxes. Those income limits are currently \$27,700 for individuals and \$33,900 for married couples.

Unlike the “circuit breaker” program, the Act does not provide State reimbursement for lost revenue to a town that freezes taxes but it allows the town to put a lien on the property. Upon sale of the home or death of the owner or surviving spouse, the town can collect the lost tax revenue.

I respectfully request that the ordinance Committee study this program with the Assessor, Tax Collector, city Attorney, and Mayor to determine if it should be enacted in Milford.

Ald. Toohey and Ald. Patterson moved to forward items 6b-1 and 6b-2 to the Ordinance Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Unfinished Business:

None.

8b. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Ditchkus moved to approve the request for Resolution RE: Acceptance of United Way Venture Grant to the Milford Health Department for Case Management for Elders in Troubled Housing.

Ald. Lambert asked that her constituent Ms. M. Ziebell be recognized.

Ald. Politi raised a point of order stating she wished to clarify the amount of the grant is \$36,000

Ald. Patterson raised a point of order stating they did not vote of the previous motion on the table.

Regarding Item 6b-1 and 6b-2 motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Ziebell asked for clarification as to what type of housing this represented, i.e. multi-units, residential, senior housing, elderly disabled?

Mayor Richetelli stated Dr. McBride was present and might be able to elaborate. He stated that elderly individuals should be able to live safely in their own homes. He stated that agencies such as the Health Department, Red Cross, United Way and many other city agencies the goal is to be aware of those small problems before they become big ones. He read the language contained in the Resolution.

Dr. McBride greeted the Board and wished all a Happy New Year. He stated the Mayor basically took the words out of his mouth. He spoke of Searide and the work they have done and that it is driven by a housing situation that is troubled. He explained that the police or fire departments or a neighbor may give a complaint and that many times the individuals are elderly and/or disabled. He explained that in working with this grant they are able to extend these kinds of services so people can stay in their own homes. He stated since it can be driven by a complaint they work with multi-dwellings as well as single residences. He stated they needed to have ways of reaching out and also be sensitive to their needs. Dr. McBride referenced “dumpster therapy” and spoke of it and how sometimes it doesn’t work and can be traumatic. He expressed his gratitude to the United Way to share their vision with them.

Ms. Ziebell commented the article she read in the newspaper was so vague and that she was looking for clarification tonight. She asked what criteria is unsafe housing and also asked about those on limited income. She commented that what one sees as decay someone else may not and asked who makes that judgment call.

Dr. McBride explained there are measures as to what deems an unsafe house. He stated for the elderly it could be something like a trip hazard. He explained all the houses are first inspected by the Health Department’s Sanitarian. He stated with regard to a tenant it becomes the landlord’s responsibility. He stated a great deal of discretion is used and that it is all done to make sure that those homes are safe. He reiterated they look to make sure the home is safe and not a threat to the public.

Ald. Veccharelli thanked the United Way for coming up with the funds and this joint venture with the Health Department. He stated he has personally seen some of these issues and as a past member of the Milford Fire Department they would write it on a report. He stated this would pick up the pieces where the emergency people can refer it. He stated he was very happy to see this and very sorely needed.

Motion carried unanimously.

8c. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro moved to approve the request for Resolution RE: Authorization to Apply for and Accept a Grant from the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management to Update Softball and Baseball Fields in the City of Milford. (FY 06-07).

Ald. Lambert thanked the United Way and also Jim Amann but commented when she sees baseball fields getting \$50,000 and out seniors only \$36,00 it is unfair. She stated they needed to find a balance and prioritize.

Ald. Ditchkus stated he agrees with his colleague but that he is willing to take any money they can get from the State and commented this city certainly doesn’t get as much as some other cities.

Motion carried unanimously.

8d. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Ditchkus moved to approve Allocation Transfer No. 5 (Harbor Management Enterprise Fund).

Mayor Richetelli explained it was important the Board realize this item before them is the Harbor Management Enterprise and not the General Fund. He explained the outer channel from the yacht club out towards Charles Island and that because if tidal it brings the sand into the channel. He stated they have been asking for a number of years to get it dredge but that all of the assets from the Army Corp of Engineers is going down south and will not come back this way for many years. He explained in the meantime the channel would continue to narrow. He stated if we want to keep the channel open we will have to do the work ourselves. He explained they first would need to test the sand because DEP won't approve the dredging until the sand is tested. He stated they needed to start now if they are to be ready for this boating season. He stated if they did not do this it would put private and commercial boaters at risk.

Ald. Blake stated he understood the need and spoke of his own experiences. He stated once the soil is tested it would could the City \$200,000-300,000 to dredge this when it is the obligation of the Federal government. He stated they should pursue every avenue to get this reimbursed. He spoke of a conversation with Rep. R. Roy. He stated they did not have to apply for it prospectively but they should do this at some point

Mayor Richetelli reiterated they have been asking for sometime but no one has come forward with a check. He also added that no offer has come from Rep. Roy but if he is willing to sponsor legislation we certainly would take it.

Ald. Blake stated it may not have been an offer but it is eligible for reimbursement.

Ald. Ditchkus stated this has been discussed for many years that this channel needed to be dredged. He spoke of dealing with the Army Corp of Engineers and no money has come forward. He stated if they don't do something they may have to close the harbor.

Ald. Veccharelli asked if the Mayor had any idea as to cost.

Mayor Richetelli replied the estimates are sketchy but around \$200,000. He stated he would continue to ask our representatives, congresswoman DeLauro and others for help with this. He stated that two summers ago they did the east side of the harbor and that project came in significantly under budget and was a great success. He stated with that excess authorization this Board gave he would ask the Board to re-authorize that money. He reiterated that in the interim he would follow up with Rep. Roy and Senators Davis and Slossberg and Speaker of the House Amann.

Ald. Garbus stated he would recommend they move ahead with this project. He stated if they wait for the legislatures and federal government they could be very old people. He also commented this is the life line of the city.

Ald. Veccharelli stated he was very unhappy they had not been given the money to do this. He stated many people used that harbor to make a living and that they deserve to have that harbor open. He also stated that we

in Milford should not have to dig into our own pockets. He also suggested they contact Senators Dodd and Libermann. He stated they are not asking for a lot and have been doing so for a long time and now they are forced to do so themselves. He stated this is uncalled for especially when the citizens have taxes to worry about.

Ald. Politi noted she sits on the Harbor Commission and knows first hand they would love the support. She stated they are doing all they can do and gave credit to the Harbor Commission for dealing with this frustration. She also stated they are looking for ways to generate funds as well.

Ald. Rowland inquired if this happens every 8-10 years if they were looking to DEP for a way to prevent this.

Ald. Politi stated that was a topic at one of the last meetings and that they are looking at studies and ways to slow this down.

Motion carried unanimously.

8e. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Ditchkus moved to approve the Resolution RE: In Support of the Connecticut Municipal Consortium for Fiscal Responsibility.

Mayor Richetelli stated two members of the Connecticut Municipal Consortium were present, one from Granby and one from New Milford. He deferred to Mr. Mike Warko (sp).

Mr. Warko stated he is a lifelong 48 year resident of Connecticut and that he was speaking tonight on this bipartisan grass roots initiative that is pro local government, taxpayer and education. He explained how this evolved. He stated they were looking to bring forward perspective, fiscal autism and municipal authority and education. He continued with a lengthy presentation and expressed the importance of working together and also continuing to speak with our legislatures.

Ald. Blake thanked Mr. Warko for making the long trip here tonight and also noted the great name with a warm feeling and made a lengthy statement referring to planks and unfounded mandates, fairness and the need to address at the proper level. He also spoke of thresholds above and beyond \$400,000, the issue of binding arbitration. He stated the current way seems to be working and on a smooth streak and that they are negotiating in good faith. He stated the existing way may not be perfect but is working so that he is not ready for this.

Mr. Warko spoke of COGS in New England and the northwest corner of the state and issues with the Department of Labor. He quoted various studies concerning prevailing wages and referred to the Town of Granby and spoke of their debt service account. He also spoke of binding arbitration.

Ald. Ditchkus commented regarding a 6.1% increase this Board was criticized in accepting after binding arbitration. He also noted a big part of this city's taxes is our Board of Education and also spoke of increased hiring and that this was based on this arbitration award was based on this city's ability to pay.

Ald. Veccharelli commented he sees a lot of problems with this Resolution. He stated he did not like the idea of going into contract negotiations. He questioned the possibility of strikes occurring and if they keep negotiating it could go on forever. He spoke of the way it is set up now and that they are able to look at all concerns. He

reiterated his concerns with that they could end up on a merry go round of negotiations. He stated the current system works pretty well.

Mr. Warko commented that under current statute a strike is illegal. He asked the Board to ask themselves why CABA and CCM has listed this as high priorities.

Ald. Politi thanked Mr. Warko for his presentation. She stated the key using the word reasonable. She stated she is a former 8-year member of the Board of Education and member of CABA. She spoke of the tough reform and the term used during his presentation "reasonable". She recalled they faced that very issue he mentioned regarding binding arbitration. She stated if they had gone back to negotiations they may have come up with something better for them and the taxpayers.

Ald. Hardiman commented he has been a chief negotiator for many years and that he negotiates with his own union. He stated without binding arbitration in place it would have cost the city even more. He stated at least they are able to come up with a high/low.

Ald. Rowland commented there is a lot of a focus teacher. She asked if this also applies to police and fire?

Mr. Warko replied yes.

Ald. Rowland commented regarding a ruling by an arbitrator that went in favor of the city and that the police were very upset. She stated they needed to talk about these people who protect us, police and fire as well and teachers and if that would be affected she could not support this.

Ald. Lambert stated she was a selectwoman in Brooklyn, Connecticut and commented there are many towns that do not have to get involved. She also noted that many big cities have not come aboard. She spoke of priorities, equality. She stated you really cannot look at all 169 cities and town as equal and stated she is not in favor of this.

Ald. Patterson stated arbitration issue has been beat to death. He spoke of prevailing wages and too many unfounded mandates. He also spoke of their duty to the citizens of Milford and that they could not upset their lives.

Ald. Blake spoke of soaring cost because of having to start from scratch over and over in negotiating. He stated he did not feel it would be fiscally responsible.

Ald. Genovese stated she could not support this. She stated she has been in politics for 18 years and that our educators do a good job and that they have a good city attorney and that Attorney Lipton does a great job.

Ald. Beckwith commented in sat in the last negotiations of the Board of Education and commented it has to be done fair to both sides. He also stated neither side really negotiated seriously and that they knew it would end up with an arbitrator. He stated reform is a good thing and we will have to look at that sometime. He spoke at length of comparing towns and the need to have a level playing field. He also spoke of prevailing wages and upgrades of our schools and that's where it starts. He stated the reality is the system needs to be looked at and the need to force the sides to come together and become partners in the community.

Ald. Veccharelli reiterated the binding arbitration system works and we get a fair wage for fair work. He stated screwing around with binding arbitration is a problem and they will never agree so then where does it go from there. He also spoke of skyrocketing bills. He expressed his appreciation of these gentlemen coming out tonight but stated binding arbitration works.

Ald. Politi requested a 5-minute recess. The Board recessed at 9:33 p.m. Chairman Beirne reconvened the Board at 9:45 p.m.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Rowland moved to move the question. Motion carried unanimously.

On the main motion, the motion fails 7 yes (Beckwith, Beirne, Bier, Ditchkus, Garbus, Politi, Toohey) and 8 no (Blake, Genovese, Hardiman, Lambert, Patterson, Rowland, Veccharelli, Vetro).

8f. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Ditchkus moved to approve the request for Lease Agreement between the City of Milford and United Way of Milford.

Ald. Genovese reading from a prepared statement stated why she could not support this tonight. She impressed she supports the United Way and all charitable organizations and gives to most of them. She spoke of how she critiques every contract she looks out and is careful to read it very carefully.

Mayor Richetelli raised a point of order stating the lease passed out tonight is the most recent.

Ald. Genovese stated she spoke with the Mayor and City Attorney regarding the language concerns she had with this contract and continued reading from her statement. She spoke of the market analysis and gave an example. She spoke of her duty to look after the interests of the people who elected her and commented she is the longest sitting alderman and that she has been in politics for 18 years and that she must represent the interest of the taxpayers and the City of Milford. She expressed her thanks to some outstanding aldermen she has worked with and reiterated in her heart this was not in the best interest of the taxpayers. She also commented there was no ploy behind her decision to vote against this and stated this would be her last year as aldermen and that she would not be seeking re-election. She also commented this was not an issue with the United Way.

Mayor Richetelli explained when Milford Academy was purchased it was the right thing for the citizens of Milford. He explained many of the buildings were going to be destroyed and that the cafeteria, the brick building and administration (Stern Hall) buildings would be left. He continued how this Board established the Milford Academy Campus Building Committee and that it was determined that HRD would occupy Stern Hall and a permanent home for the Alternative Education Program and the possibility of the cafeteria being used for a possible culinary program. He stated it was later determined the Alternative Education Program did not want or need the cafeteria building so a suitable occupant was sought when the city was approached by the United Way. He explained how the United Way asked if this Board would be willing to lease this building for 20 years at \$1.00 per year. He stated the United Way is a good fit as well as a good financial fit. He referred to a comment made by Ald. Genovese that this building is in good shape however in reality there is \$300,000 worth of work to be done. He stated the United Way did an estimate of the cost and did so with due diligence and sought out an architect. He stated this relieves the City of renovating the building as well as the maintenance of that building and reiterated this agency is a good fit with the other occupants of that building.

Ald. Lambert stated she supports this lease and noted she has volunteered at that small area they currently have. She stated it is a good use of the property and they do so much for this city and that they would be able to expand their program.

Ald. Veccharelli stated he understood the concerns of Ald. Genovese and that they were from her heart and for the taxpayers and commended her for her beliefs. He spoke of the partnerships with other agencies in town and the United Way is just another partner. He stated the United Way is the unsung hero in Milford and noted they do so much and a lot we don't even see. He also spoke of the Chamber of Commerce building and that they need to get the most for our taxpayers. He spoke of the amount of work the building needs and that 20 years is not unreasonable. He stated it was not going to cost them and that they would fix it up and hand their shingle. He stated he did not see a problem with it and that it is a good partnership.

Ald. Ditchkus asked about the \$300,000 worth of work and asked what work would be done. He stated he did not want to find out later down the road it is only \$30,000

Mayor Richetelli responded the building has many needs and that the architectural assessment could be provided. He also noted any changes would have to be approved by the Milford Academy Study Committee.

Ald. Ditchkus commented on a personal note that he has had his own personal opinions and disagreements with the United Way but he is able to separate them out. He spoke of the terms of the lease and also asked when the contract would be signed.

Mayor Richetelli responded if the Board passes this tonight it could be signed immediately and the work would be done simultaneously with the work at the other buildings. He stated he would be coming to the Board next month with bonding. He explained the bid specifications had been approved and due back January 16, 2007 and at that time they would have a better idea as to cost at Stern Hall and Rosenbaum as well as the intersection.

Ald. Beckwith stated he has worked with both Gary Johnson and Peter Spalthoff and spoke of their work with the United Way. He stated this is a perfect fit and stated he is a member of that Committee and it just fits. He stated what United Way will put back into the City will certainly offset this.

Mayor Richetelli stated if the Board passes this he would ask them to take up Item #9.

Ald. Toohey stated she too had some issues with this until she saw the new lease. She commented there is some outlay and some cost to the City. She asked for clarification with regard to their current building and asked if they own that building and if it would be sold and if that would be to the open market.

Mr. Spalthoff responded he would not know until after tonight.

Ald. Politi stated she agreed with the sentiments of those speaking tonight and also commented the United Way helps us in so many ways and wished them well.

By roll call vote, motion carries 14 yes (Beckwith, Beirne, Bier, Blake, Ditchkus, Garbus, Hardiman, Lambert, Patterson, Politi, Rowland, Toohey, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 1 no (Genovese).

9. New Business not on the Agenda which may be introduced by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting.

Chairman Beirne moved to add new business, Item 9-1 and 9-2 to the agenda. Ald. Toohey seconded. Motion carried.

(1) Ald. Beirne and Ald. Dithkus moved to approve the request for the abandonment of two (2) sewer easements in favor of the City of Milford dated April 9, 1969 and shown on Map AB-409 in favor of two (2) new sewer easements and two (2) new sanitary storm drain easements as approved by the Sewer Commission on October 26, 2005 pursuant to the Milford Market Place Project Site Plan Review, and as further approved by the Planning and Zoning Board on September 5, 2006 pursuant to the same Site Plan Review, with revisions and clarifications approved on behalf of the City of Milford by Robert Wheway, PE, Codespoti & Associates PC on January 5, 2007, and administratively approved by City Planner David Sulkis, on property located at 1620-1634 Boston Post Road known as Map 100, Block 804, Parcel 8A and 1650 Boston Post Road known as Map 109, Block 804, Parcel 9 (collectively "Milford MarketPlace") and to authorize the Mayor to sign any documents necessary to effectuate the abandonment. Motion carried unanimously.

(2) Ald. Garbus and Ald. Blake moved to approve the request to authorize the Purchasing Agent to dispose of the following cafeteria equipment that is located in the DeFelice dining Hall at the former Milford Academy:

1-Blodgett Pizza Oven (4 door) gass

1-Garland Oven & Range (2 ovens) (10 top burners) gas

1-Pitco Frialator Stainless Steel with baskets (4) gas

1-Craig Manufacturing Stainless Steel Refrigerated display case

Ald. Blake asked if these items would be auctioned off.

Mayor Richetelli responded yes some of the equipment is fairly new, 10 years old or so. He stated he contacted the Board of Education to see if they could use this equipment and they could not. He stated it would go through the purchasing agent and he would run an advertisement and explained the bid process.

Ald. Ditchkus asked if there was any way of getting an assessment of these items.

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Budget Memo Transfers:

- a. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Ditchkus moved to approve consideration of budget memo Transfer #7, Fund 10, FY 2006-2007.

Ald. Rowland asked if that was for gas, propellants, etc.

Ms. Doneiko pointed out she was on the wrong transfer and that was the next item.

Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Rowland moved to approve consideration of budget memo Transfer #8, Fund 10, FY 2006-2007.

Ald. Rowland expressed concern other departments in the city and asked if they could check on this and see how they were doing.

Mayor Richetelli stated he would be meeting with the bigger users such as public works, police and fire and look at ways to cut back. He stated there was no doubt they would be short but should be able to cover it. He stated they have been blessed with the good weather so should see some savings in heating as well as sanding/salt. He stated there would be a shortfall in gasoline of all the departments of about \$400,000.

Ald. Rowland requested he bring additional information to the next meeting.

Mayor Richetelli stated they would not know until further into the fiscal year where those monies will come from.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Refunds:

- a. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro moved to approve consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$27,700.98. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report of Standing Committees:

a. Ordinance Committee – Ald. Toohey stated the Board approved two items earlier in the evening to forward to the Ordinance Committee.

b. Public Safety and Welfare Committee – Ald. Garbus thanked Chief LaVecchia for finalizing the poster for Civil Preparedness.

Chief LaVecchia stated it is about 99% complete but the biggest obstacle would be the distribution.

c. Public Works Committee

d. Claims Committee – Ald. Toohey reported the Claims Committee met earlier in the evening to discuss two matters and voted unanimously although reluctantly to forward both to the full Board.

Ald. Toohey and Ald. Ditchkus moved to approve Consideration of the Claim of Firefighter Gary A. Crolla (PPD Award H & H) as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Toohey and Ald. Ditchkus moved to approve Consideration of the Claim of Public Works employee Josh Thomas (PPD Award) as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Lipton noted the reluctance was not on the basis of merit but unfunded mandates.

- e. Rules Committee – no report.
- f. Personnel Committee – no report.

13. Report of Special Committees:

- a. Liaison Sub-Committee – Board of Education – no report.
- b. Liaison Sub-Committee – Flood & Erosion Board – no report.
- c. Liaison Sub-Committee – Park, Beach & Recreation Comm.
- d. Liaison Sub-Committee – Planning & Zoning Board – no report.
- e. Liaison Sub-Committee – Sewer Commission – no report.
- f. Liaison Sub-Committee – Harbor Management Commission – no report.

- g. Liaison – Ald. Lambert reported the Council met earlier tonight. She reported they are the owners of two new vans they recently acquired.

- h. Permanent School Facility Building Committee – Ald. Genovese reported a lot of work is being done at Law and that they would be concentrating on Foran next year.

- i. Liaison Sub-Committee – Library Board – no report.
- j. Liaison Sub-Committee – Fowler Memorial building – no report.
- k. Liaison Sub-Committee – Housing Authority

- l. Golf Course Commission – Ald. Toohey reported that during this warm weather other golf courses were open for this extended season of sorts.

- m. Inland Wetlands Agency
- n. Milford Academy Community Campus Bldg. Committee
- o. Courthouse Expansion Committee – no report
- p. Liaison Health Department

- q. Education Funding Committee – Ald. Polit reported this new Committee met on January 3, 2007 and gave a brief overview as to their goals. She reported she was elected Chair of the Committee and that Mrs. Staneski would serve as secretary. She reported their next meeting will be February 7, 2007 and that they would invite Jim Amman to share his perspectives as well as theirs with regard to this Committee. She also noted that meetings are open to the public.

14. Executive Session - A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting is required for any item to be considered in Executive Session. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting is required to go into Executive Session.

The Chairman shall announce, in public session, those items to be covered in Executive Session and call for a vote to enter Executive Session. If a two-thirds (2/3) vote, to enter Executive Session, is obtained, the hall shall be cleared and Executive Session declared.

Chairman Beirne reported he received a report from City Clerk Alan Jepson concerning the South of the Green Historic District and reported the results of the secret written ballot count conducted on January 5, 2007. He reported the Board would be asked to take action at next month's meeting.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Toohey moved to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 10:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Board Secretary