

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
BUDGET DELIBERATIONS SESSION – FY 2015-2016
APRIL 1, 2015**

The Board of Aldermen held a budget deliberation session on Wednesday, April 1, 2015 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman Vetro called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. Chairman Vetro asked those present to join in saluting our flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Anderson
M. Casey
D. German
A. Giannattasio
M. Hardiman
D. Kubek
S. Shaw
F. Smith
G. Stanford
N. Veccharelli
P. Vetro
R. Vitali

Also Present

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake
Steven Fournier, Mayor's Admin. Asst
Peter Erodici, Finance Director

Excused

B. Bier
S. Fontana
D. German
J. Golden

Chairman Vetro stated tonight begins the budget process for the proposed City and Education budgets for FY 2015-2016, with tonight being devoted to public comment. He stated the Board would hear comment regarding the education side of the budget followed by the city side of the budget.

Speakers regarding the Board of Education budget:

T. Jagordizinski - 27 Berkley Terrace – stated it is the sole responsibility of the Board of Aldermen to determine a reasonable spending budget. Reading from a prepared statement he spoke of the overspending by Milford compared to districts similar to Milford. He also spoke about academics and that Milford is ranked low in the State compared to its counterparts. As he continued reading he spoke of the success of AP classes and the decrease in the dropout rate, but that there is no new evidence of overall academic achievement. He stated the Board of Education made attempts to reduce in their budget, but it just was not enough. He stated Milford is a classic example of an overspending, underachieving district. He stated last year the Board of Aldermen made a small cut to the education budget which did not impact the overall budget. He asked the Board to make a decision regarding the budget.

C. Thomas – 8 Argyle Road – spoke in favor of giving the Board of Education more money. He stated last year they presented a 0% budget, but the Board of Aldermen still cut it on the last day of budget deliberations. Mr. Thomas stated this year the superintendent in a year when parents asked for a restructure of the district, the Board of Education approved it and with minimal increase to the budget. He asked the Board to pay attention.

He went on to speak personally of his own experiences as a teacher. He asked the Board to trust the superintendent and the Board of Education and listen to their requests and give them what they have requested.

T. Flannery – 41 North Street – reading from a prepared statement impressed upon the Board this extremely critical time as the district moves forward with the transition from a K-2, 3-5 district to K-3. She continued reading speaking of the cuts that have already been made regarding media aides and the funding of two additional resources officers. She spoke of the importance of the SRO's and their added resources for the schools in so many capacities. Ms. Flannery asked the Board to fund the Board of Education's budget as requested. She stated the quality of our schools plays a significant role in property values and ultimately the community. She continued reading speaking of attendance at meetings and sometimes parents are simply being parents and unable to attend. She spoke of the importance of MGAT filming of these meetings. She also pointed out to the Board that the voters would remember these important decisions come November.

A. Harrigan – 107 Oronoque Road – stated he agreed with the two previous speakers. He stated in a year of transition it was important to support the Board of Education's budget and their decisions as proposed.

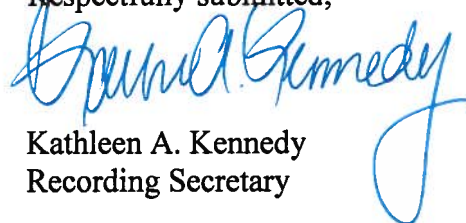
Speakers regarding the City budget:

C. Thomas – 8 Argyle Road – stated he had not planned on speaking, but because he had a vested interest he wished to speak in support of the library's proposed budget. He stated the new librarian has done a great deal of work and that the library itself and its programs have grown under her leadership. He asked the Board to please listen to them when they present their budget.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to recess until April 22, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board recessed at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathleen A. Kennedy
Recording Secretary