

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
BUDGET DELIBERATIONS SESSION – FY 2016-2017
APRIL 7, 2016**

The Board of Aldermen held a budget deliberation session regarding the Board of Finance's recommended budget for fiscal year 2016-2017, on Thursday, April 7, 2016 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman Vetro called the meeting to order at 7:01 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
E. Beatty
B. Bevan
B. Bier
M. Casey
D. German
A. Giannattasio
J. Grant
M. Hardiman
S. Shaw
F. Smith (7:06 p.m.)
N. Veccharelli
P. Vetro
R. Vitali

Also Present

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake
Steven Fournier, Mayor's Admin. Asst

Excused

J. Golden

Chairman Vetro stated begins the public portion of the budget deliberation process. He stated the Board would hear from those present who wished to speak regarding the Board of Education's proposed budget.

Speakers regarding the Board of Education budget:

Mike Brown - 67 Milford Point Road - stated it was his opinion the Board of Finance exceeded its authority when they cut the Board of Education's budget request by \$174,000. He stated the Board of Finance did not rely on the information from the education chairwoman and relied on misinformation. He asked the aldermen to at least restore \$134,000 back to the education budget.

Tessa Marquis - 67 Milford Point Road - stated it seemed like a personal agenda was in place by one Board of Finance member. She asked this Board to refund to money back to the Board of Education. She also asked the Board not to fund another sign study, but instead to fund education.

Carol Thomas - 84 Thompson Street - stated it is an insult to the superintendent of schools when the Board of Finance cut the budget presented by the Board of Education. She stated it was the lowest

budget presented by the Board of Education and asked the aldermen to reinstate the budget originally presented by the Board of Education.

Ms. Thomas stated she had a letter to submit on behalf of Kara Flannery, 41 North Street, who was unable to attend. Letter submitted to the secretary by Carol Thomas on behalf of Ms Flannery.

Bob Thomas - 84 Thompson Street - stated the money is for the education of our children. He asked the aldermen to restore the monies that were cut.

Speakers regarding the City budget:

Tammy Jackson - Executive Director of Literacy. Read from a prepared letter. She spoke of the more than 35 languages spoken in Milford and the need for tutors. She stated the literacy center is more than reading, citing several personal stories. She continued reading, pointing out for 22 years they have supported their budget from fundraisers, personal donations and the Milford community, but they are not able to obtain the funding they have received in the past.

Taft Clark, Jr - 87 Carriage Path South - asked this Board not to fund the concierge, Clerk A position in DPLU. Reading from a prepared statement he spoke concerning the role of that position that provides no benefit to the department. He went on to explain his work and the permitting process.

Ann Marie Schuck (sp) - 67 Milford Point Road - stated she was here tonight to speak regarding the Stowe Barn proposal. She spoke of her arts background, stating she did not want to see this property be sold and should remain for the citizens of Milford.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Shaw made and seconded a motion to recess until April 14, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board recessed at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Kennedy
Recording Secretary