

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
BUDGET DELIBERATIONS
APRIL 16, 2008**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held a Budget Deliberations Session for the FY 2008-2009 on Wednesday, April 16, 2008 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman Blake called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the second night of budget deliberations. He asked Joe Prisco to lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Bier
J. Blacketter
B. Blake
V. Ditchkus
A. Giannattasio
B. Lambert
S. Manning
R. Nunno
J. Patterson
J. Toohey
N. Veccharelli
P. Vetro
R. Vitali
S. Willey

Also Present

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

Excused

M. Hardiman

Chairman Blake stated he mentioned at the last meeting that the Fire Department had moved their presentation to next week, April 23, 2008 and that Community Development was rescheduled from last week to this evening and asked if they would come forward.

#4123 – Community Development – R. Gregory was present for questions. Mr. Gregory started out by explaining his job, how he does it and how it relates to the budget. He stated his job is to sell Milford. He spoke as to his relationship with the media and positive stories regarding Milford. He asked the Board to keep his advertising budget at \$6,000 reiterating his job is to sell Milford and that is done via ads, promotions, etc all from that account. He also addressed the amount of work they have been able to do on the inter-net. He addressed in his budget the line item for memberships and conferences that he goes to and that he has been limited in picking and choosing which to attend and asked if that budget could also remain in tact. He stated it is that networking at conferences which allows him to sell Milford.

Ald. Lambert commented on the excellent job done on behalf of Milford. She asked about line item 4776 0001 Cell Phones and noted it is zero and asked if that is correct.

Mr. Gregory explained that last year AT & T decided his phone was so old they would no longer support it and that since the Mayor had asked for all departments to come in with less he eliminated that line item and now has his own personal phone.

Ald. Nunno asked about free publications and if Mr. Gregory could list those publications that they spend the majority of the budget.

Mr. Gregory responded the opportunities for free stories come from the Chamber, local publications and also Milford Living. He stated there are some regional publications and occasionally national advertising, but essentially it is all done locally and regionally.

#4155 Economic Development – Mr. Robert Gregory explained they decided to reduce this budget and keep it open with \$1.00. He explained the history of this Commission.

Ald. Giannattasio asked about the Showcase Cinemas located on Cherry Street.

Mr. Gregory stated there have been at least 25 rumors and so far none have proved to be any real solid development leads. He stated he refers all of these inquiries to National Amusement in Boston.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if it is a priority.

Mr. Gregory responded it certainly is a prime location he speaks of often when he talks about Milford, adding it is a very desirable location.

Ald. Giannattasio thanked Mr. Gregory for his hard work and success of our City.

#4340 - Animal Control – no one was available. Chairman Blake moved this agency to next week.

#4157 – Harbor Commission – Mayor Richetelli stated he received a call from Ray Swift that he was unavailable tonight due to an injury and that he sent his apologies.

Chairman Blake wished him well and stated they would see if he were available next week.

#4610 – Health Department – Dr. Dennis McBride was present for questions/comment.

Chairman Blake asked Dr. McBride to give a thumbnail sketch of some of the hurdles and/or challenges for the upcoming year.

Dr. McBride spoke as to the environmental inspectors and their responsibilities i.e. complaints both in housing and environmental. He also spoke as to the sanitarians who spend a lot of time on these issues. He addressed the school health people who address all the school health issues that can be very difficult and the many programs they have to help families. He also spoke as to the department's asthma program and the need to keep kids under good medical control. He spoke as to the number of families dealing with the stresses of everyday and the increased number of kids they are seeing for mental health issues and substance issues.

Ald. Vitali commented he serves as liaison to the Board of Health and expressed his appreciation of the department's work and the health services they provide in the schools and also keeping our kids in school, which is the initiative of our community based health centers.

Dr. McBride concurred stating they are really like to community center located in the school. He commented a lot of people are stressed over lack of ability to have primary healthcare. He stated they need to have a whole community investment to make it work and the community has to grasp it.

Ald. Vitali asked if there is conversation to this or if there is a roadblock.

Dr. McBride stated he had the opportunity to speak with the United Way and they did a need assessment. He stressed the need for careful planning to be successful and with community leadership that could happen.

Ald. Willey asked about line item 4723 0000 Uniforms & Weather Gear. He noted currently there is a credit and then an amount requested of \$8,000. He asked if he could elaborate.

Ms. Doneiko stated the department buys the flu vaccine and explained it is charged as expenditure prior to the fiscal year. She continued the vaccine is administered during the next fiscal year and that is money coming back into the account which is usually 100% expended.

Ald. Willey asked the size of the department and if they require 11 and also if he would provide an overall view on size of the team.

Dr. McBride stated there have been no increases since he has been here. He explained the responsibilities of the inspectors and also the positions in his office, which include a clerk and secretary. He stated he feels his department is fairly lean in terms of the number of restaurants, food establishments and inspections they conduct. He also spoke as to preparedness activities they have brought into the community, many of which are funded by grants. He stated those activities are integrated into the job. He reiterated this is a lean, bare bones department.

Ald. Blacketter asked about line item 4117 0000 Seasonal/Temporary.

Dr. McBride explained that account is identified for the part time community nurse. He explained they have to have a nurse observe the student taking the medication.

Ald. Giannattasio asked about line item 4416 0000 Pest Control and asked if any of that relates to spraying for West Nile.

Dr. McBride stated that account is for spraying for West Nile. He stated it has been a very proactive, successful program.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if there are grants available for that program.

Dr. McBride responded none that he is aware of.

Chairman Blake commented he has heard that West Nile is related to the lobster decline.

Dr. McBride expressed his concerns and stated he has heard the allegations that the lobster decline is related. He spoke as to the larva and explained it is better for the environment and people to avoid direct spraying.

Mayor Richetelli stated he personally served on a Mosquito Committee and that they did spray way back when, but that the program today is not spraying but treating the marshes and targeting the mosquito larve. He stated this is one of the City's better programs.

Ald. Toohey commented his department has held the line in spending and that though changes in employees expenses have gone down and she expressed her appreciation for this.

Ald. Manning asked about cell phones, the contractors, who has them and when the contract expires.

Dr. McBride responded they have 6 cell phones which are supported by the City Director, sanitarians and supervisors. He stated the cost is approximately \$300 per month. He also pointed out the cell phones are grant related and not paid for by the City.

Ald. Manning asked who the provider is.

Dr. McBride responded Nextel.

Ald. Manning asked when the contract expires.

Dr. McBride replied he did not know. He stated they went to Nextel because of the walkie-talkie capabilities.

Mayor Richetelli added the walkie-talkie feature provides a cost savings. He explained they previously had 2-way radios for the sanitarians, but this has worked out much better.

Ald. Ditchkus asked about line item 4998 0019 Thermocouple.

Dr. McBride explained its use.

Ald. Ditchkus asked how many grants the department receives on a yearly basis and if he could explain each.

Dr. McBride stated they have 3 preparedness grants and also a prevention grant that deals with asthma and went on to explain each. He stated some of the grants are through the United Way and in total they have about 10-12 grants.

Ald. Ditchkus asked regarding cells phones if in the event of a natural disaster they would be able to keep in touch with the various departments.

Dr. McBride responded they have looked at this and spent some time on the issue of communities to augment their capacity to communicate back and forth.

Mayor Richetelli added the community has 3 systems, Chief, Fire Department, Police Department and that there is a moved to a phone for the Health Director.

Ald. Ditchkus asked if it is more productive to have a cell phone in the field and if it allows them to get more done.

Dr. McBride responded it saves them a great deal of time especially for the sanitarians out in the field and when complaints come in. He stated they are also able to tie in with him if they need.

Ald. Veccharelli expressed his concern with drugs, alcohol and tobacco use that our children are using and noted the Health Director is the guy at the front line. He also expressed concern regarding driving by our children noting in the past few months Milford has lost several teens to driving. He asked about line item 4772 0000 Publications and asked if that is the account that gets the word out regarding these types of issues. He stated he does not feel the message is getting out there especially regarding smoking and asked if there is something in place they can build on.

Dr. McBride stated there really is no solution and that every community is wrestling with these same issues. He stated a community health center could be a step in the right direction, but it also takes parents, teachers, etc. He also commented kids need a place, environmentally that is safe for them to be kids, not just a pamphlet.

Mayor Richetelli added these types of issues; mainly those dealing with teens have been addressed in several youth forums over the last 1-½ years. He stated there also have been discussions with the school board, police chief and health director regarding the growing issue of heroin use. He stated right now they are addressing the issue of substance abuse.

Ald. Veccharelli replied the Mayor's point is well taken adding our children are precious and we have to take every step we can to protect them.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if there have been a lot of septic failures on the north side of the Boston Post Road and he has received questions regarding sewer failure in these areas.

Dr. McBride responded he has not assessed this as yet. He stated part of the issue is that people wish to expand and don't have reserve space. He also pointed out there are a lot of areas up there that are at risk, but reiterated he has not done a study as yet to make any recommendation.

Ald. Giannattasio asked about leeching fields.

Dr. McBride reiterated the need for reserve spaces and that some of these areas are marginal.

Mayor Richetelli added a section of North Milford has been on the capital improvement list; however there have been other priorities that need to take place and also are set by the sewer commission. He explained how the determination is usually made. He stated the future plan is to provide sewers in all of Milford, but right now it is a priority basis and spoke as to the interceptor project, pump stations, etc.

#4998 Education Health Services: School Nurses – Dr. McBride commented they have a very good cadre of very good school nurses. He stated they are asking for a part time nurse, no benefit who would supplement line item 4131 0000. Dr. McBride also spoke as to substitute school nurses. He explained when a school nurse has

to leave the building a substitute is required. He stated this position would serve as a substitute and float from school to school.

Ald. Manning asked about line item 4117 0000.

Dr. McBride explained those are clerks and explained there are 3 that cover 3 schools. He stated they have been there for years to help school nurses keep track of records.

Ald. Manning asked where they are located.

Dr. McBride responded East Shore Middle School, West Shore Middle School and Foran.

Ald. Willey stated it was his belief there was one housed at each elementary school and at those two middle schools.

Dr. McBride stated the two full time are at the high schools.

Ald. Willey asked if the middle schools have 1.5.

Dr. McBride stated it is less than two full time nurses.

Ald. Willey asked about line item 4712 9926 Education bonus.

Dr. McBride responded that was a contractual settlement.

Mayor Richetelli added that item was in the contract settlement last year that the nurses get a certain educational bonus for degree certification and that it was bargained through collective bargaining process.

Ald. Patterson asked Dr. McBride if he saw any problem in filling this position.

Dr. McBride responded no because of the type of work.

Ald. Manning asked if the clerks were filing records for the specific school they were at. She also asked how Law does it.

Dr. McBride responded he was not sure, but believed Law did their own.

Ald. Manning stated she just was not getting a clear picture of this and asked Dr. McBride if he could define it.

Dr. McBride explained these part time nurses take a tremendous workload off the school nurse. He also pointed out they get no benefits.

#4160 – Housing Code Board of Appeals

Chairman Blake asked for an explanation of this new item.

Mayor Richetelli explained they meet when required and in the past it has been once or twice a year and that the secretarial fee was paid from other accounts. He stated for accounting purposes, it was determined this should have its own account like all the other Boards and Commissions that incur fees.

#4161 – Housatonic River Estuary Commission

Ald. Lambert commented she was glad to see this changed to a grant for secretarial fees.

Mayor Richetelli explained the first request for this came about this past year. He continued with an explanation of this Commission.

#4992 – Private School Textbook State Mandate

Mayor Richetelli explained last year State law was passed to lend textbooks to the private schools. He gave a lengthy overview of the court cases and its impact, explaining basically it is permissive to lend these books to Laurelton Hall, Saint Mary's, Saint Ann's, Saint Gabriels' and that it is only for students from Milford at these schools. He stated the cost amounts to about \$30 per student, which amounts to one book per student.

Ald. Veccharelli commented it may be State mandate, but it is voluntary.

Mayor Richetelli stated it was his understanding that it is a local option but that a number of school systems have put it into place. He reiterated he did believe it was local option.

Ald. Vitali asked some of the other private schools such as Christian Heritage, Berean Assembly.

Mayor Richetelli responded they have not requested.

#4801 – Council on Aging – Janice Jackson along with Mary (no last name stated) and Ellie Gilberts (sp). Ms. Jackson stated they provide over 30,000 rides, 1,800 flu shots, 20,000 meals and 14,761 meals on wheels. She stated her staff consists of 12 full time employees, 25 part time and 17 teachers. She stated they also have 270 new members with 3,216 active members. She continued her presentation by reading from a prepared statement addressing such things as an antiquated copier, donations, activities at the center and some basic challenges as well as the challenge of hiring a driver.

Ald. Lambert commented it is a well-run center and also complimented the flu shot program. She asked if the Board could be provided with statistics as to the number annually.

Ms. Jackson responded she would do so.

Ald. Blacketter asked Ms. Jackson about line item 4708 0000 Grant and if she could provide specifics as to what expenditures come out of that.

Ms. Jackson responded some of that is for building improvements.

Mayor Richetelli added a request was made for new carpeting and tile which was included in the bonding package currently pending before this Board.

Ald. Manning asked about line item 4708 9966 Elderly Nutrition Contribution noting there are no expenditures and if someone could explain.

Mary explained that is for money set aside for the meals on wheels program to be used as needed.

Mayor Richetelli added the meals on wheels program are a federal program and in part they asked for a match. He explained in the event it is not funded it is budgeted here.

Ald. Blacketter asked about line item 4331 0000 Gas & Other Propellants.

Ms. Jackson responded that covers all 14 of their vehicles.

Ald. Blacketter asked if that is an increase or decrease.

Ms. Jackson replied it is an increase and that some months it is more than others.

Ald. Vetro thanked Ms. Jackson and her staff for the fantastic job they do.

#4803 – Fine Arts Council – Mr. Bill Meddick, Executive Director and Mrs. Alice Oliver, Treasurer were present for questions/comments.

Mrs. Oliver spoke as to what they do in Milford and why the grant they are requesting is so important to them. She also spoke as to their web site and continued reading from a prepared statement regarding their programs including arts, music, sand castle competition, New England Arts & Crafts, etc. She stated their events are sold out with standing room only at their theatre events. She stated the money is critical because of the their revenue comes from grants and that this money is for operating costs for things they are not able to get grants for. She stated the amount they have requested amounts to basically \$1.47 per person.

Mr. Meddick stated they have no cell phones. He also stated he would love to become partners with Dr. McBride for our youth. He spoke of the partnerships they have developed over the past year as well as two programs they have developed with the Milford Library. He also spoke as to their work with Letty Malone on the historic barns project and their partnership with the downtown merchants project. He spoke of doing projects with Walnut Beach and Stowe Farms and how the arts programs can provide benefits to our town.

Ald. Lambert asked Mr. Meddick if he would provide an itemized breakdown for their operational costs.

Chairman Blake asked when they foresee moving into the Walnut Beach facility.

Mr. Meddick spoke as to the conceptual ideas and the possibility of 2-3 years before they get in. He mentioned they are also working with Community Development to obtain additional grants.

Ald. Nunno commented he wanted to state publicly how much he appreciates the many contributions they have contributed to this City.

Ald. Vitali commented he and Mr. Meddick go way back in their work together and also thanked him for the number of festivities they provide for the City.

Ald. Veccharelli commented the Fine Arts Council is the replacement for the Capitol Theatre.

Mrs. Oliver stated she wished to point out that all of these activities happen because of Bill and 4 part time employees as well as the many volunteers and that they truly are all wonderful.

Ald. Blacketter made a lengthy statement concerning some of the social issues spoken about this evening.

#4805 – C-MED

Mayor Richetelli stated he would be happy to provide a basic overview and the fire chief could provide further details next week. He explained this is a regional dispatching system that keeps track of all transport ambulances. He stated it further is able to route ambulances to various hospitals. He stated this support is extremely important because it give emergency personnel the ability to talk with the hospitals. Mayor Richetelli also pointed out the fire chief has stated this service is invaluable to their department. He also added the number is based on population and the number of calls per year.

#4807 – Regional Mental Health Board – Claire Phelan, member of the Regional Team and Chair of the local entity of that Board. She made a statement as to the history of this agency. She stated as long as she can remember this Board has consistently honored their budget request and expressed her appreciation of that. She stated they sponsor a statewide conference and also “Tom Parsons Day.

#4811 – Borough of Woodmont – R. Austin, Warden and D. Schmeizer (sp) were present for questions/comments.

Mr. Schmeizer gave an overview of what they do in Woodmont. He stated they are moving towards focusing on particular areas of liability. He spoke as to repairs, capital repairs and ranking them as to priority. He also spoke as to the importance of keeping the sidewalks well maintained and some of the capital improvement plans, i.e. storm drains. He also addressed the contingency numbers, what develops on an emergency basis. He stated they try to save up and then spend down as needed on those improvements. He also pointed out that Woodmont residents pay an additional \$700,000 in taxes. He addressed the characterization that they are taking money from Milford.

Ald. Lambert stated they were looking for transparency and accountability. She also added tonight they received more of an explanation than they had last year.

Mr. Schmeizer stated there are several items that have reached a point where they need to be addressed. He stated Chairman Blake asked them to prioritize and list some of what they do. He continued with that list of the items that need to be addressed.

Ald. Lambert asked if their records would be made available at the City Clerk’s Office. She stated she would like to see those documents find a home.

Mr. Schmeizer responded they are Milford residents with their status on the books at the State. He stated historically they are a separate municipality explaining they have kept Milford separate from Woodmont. He also commented it was his understanding this is a grant. He also commented their records are available in Woodmont. He also pointed out they have been very open to say addressing what you want and how can we help. He stated they are open Thursdays from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. if people what to come in.

Ald. Ditchkus stated it was his understanding the taxpayers give back money to the city and the Borough takes off certain services that the city does not provide, i.e. snowplowing, lighting, etc. He asked if someone could elaborate on that.

Mr. Schmeizer spoke as to the coordination with the Borough and the City Attorney's Office, i.e. public sidewalks, beautification, etc. He stated they are an active and proud participant of Milford. He added the money they are asking for is only a fraction of what they give back.

Ald. Ditchkus commented they really are an entity on their own, but with the community.

Ald. Giannattasio asked if they go out to competitive bid for their services.

Mr. Austin responded when they cannot negotiate with their current contractor, yes they would go out to bid. He explained some of that history.

Mr. Schmeizer addressed how they are cost effective.

Ald. Giannattasio asked how the proceeds from Woodmont Day are allocated.

Mr. Austin stated Woodmont Day has nothing to do with the Borough. He explained it is the Woodmont Civic & Recreation which is a non-profit organization. He stated they only help with extra police, the port-a-potty and beach patrol adding the organizers of Woodmont Day have their own insurance and get their own permits.

Mr. Schmeizer used a condominium association as an analogy.

Mr. Austin added they have beach patrol from Memorial Day through Labor Day, which is a Borough expense. He also pointed out that any money received from parking tickets goes into the City's general fund. He also stated they keep the Woodmont library open at their expense and that it is open to the whole city, as well as the beach.

Ald. Vitali stated he would like to have a better understanding of the advantages of being a borough.

Mr. Austin responded that has long been a discussion. He stated it is a historical acronym that people find quaint and charming. He also stated it is another forum for people to come to for action close to home. He stated its about retaining the charm and the residents don't begrudge paying taxes.

Chairman Blake commented last year the Borough was asked if they could get by with a 10% decrease. He asked if this year they would be amendable to a 10% increase. He continued his comments concerning last year and the fiscal increase.

Mr. Schmeizer stated he would respectfully ask this Board to adopt the Mayor's and Board of Finance's increase.

Chairman Blake stated he was asking if they would be amendable to an increase.

Mr. Schmeizer responded their capital needs are such that they need to make the investment now.

Ald. Lambert commented they entered into good faith negotiations with the Mayor and Board of Finance.

Mr. Austin and Mr. Schmeizer both agreed they wanted more, but did not get it.

Ald. Lambert stated the Board was accused of acting in bad faith.

Mr. Schmeizer responded the concern was they had not gone through all the numbers. He also spoke as to the accounts in the newspapers, which were not accurate. He stated they want to be on the same page.

Ald. Nunno asked how much is in that account.

Mr. Schmeizer asked what account he was referring to. He stated the revenue line item appears \$265,000. He stated by the end of the summer another \$65,000 will be expended. He explained the number raised by the Borough and those amounts.

Ald. Veccharelli asked about regarding and replacement of hydraulics and if it were possible to get any grants.

Mr. Austin responded they have talked with many legislatures, but this Board is the only ones to really help. He stated they try and keep on trying.

Mayor Richetelli commented he believed they do receive some and spoke as to Locip and town aid road money, noting it is minimal. He stated they are also eligible for FEMA reimbursement.

Ald. Ditchkus spoke as to the mention of the 10% stating that was a blanket question asked of everyone.

Mr. Schmeizer stated the \$180,000 is actually less than 2-3 years ago.

Ald. Lambert thanked Mr. Schmeizer for coming this evening and commented she believed the dialogue was very good this year.

#4121 – Golf Commission – R. Austin, Chairman and D. Worroll, Vice Chairman were present for questions/comments.

Ald. Manning asked for an explanation regarding depreciation.

Mr. Austin deferred to the Finance Director.

Ms. Doneiko explained it is an enterprise account and that it follows the accepted accounting principles.

Ald. Lambert asked if they could get the numbers for the open space over the last three years.

Mr. Austin responded it is an average of \$33,000 per year.

Mr. Worroll stated the golf course is doing very well and that they are coming off a very good season. He acknowledged the two Board of Aldermen liaisons but stated it is important the rest of the Board know what they do. He spoke as to the new tees and the upgrades to the sand traps happening now. He also stated he was happy to announce they had 5,000 rounds.

Ald. Toohey pointed out this is an enterprise fund. She also commented weather plays a big part as to how well they do, but without a top course such as it is people would not come out. She stated it all comes back to the Commission and what they do and the fact they are always planning ahead for capital improvements, etc. She thanked the Commission for their efforts.

Ald. Veccharelli asked if the total revenue operation is \$70,000. He also noted there is a private contractor and asked how much he makes.

Mr. Worroll responded it is based on the number of rounds. He stated they really were under no obligation to disclose what he makes. He explained the contractor is paid a certain amount to manage the course.

Chairman Blake asked when the contract comes up.

Mr. Austin responded they have a letter of intent that it is coming up. He stated they expect some heavy bidding.

Ald. Ditchkus stated the City does make money and also there is no overhead, i.e. equipment.

#4812 – Transit Authority – H. Jadech, Director was present for questions/comments. Mr. Jadech gave an overview of what they do. He stated they have a fixed bus route, dispatch door to door, etc. He spoke as to the fixed services to Norwalk, shuttle to the rail station and also commuter rail. He stated this requests account for 14% of their overall budget.

Ald. Lambert stated they are asking everyone to provide specifics for their expenditures and if they could do the same. She also thanked him for the transportation they provide to our community.

Chairman Blake asked how they would be affected if this grant were reduced by 10%.

Mr. Jadech responded with increasing energy costs, healthcare, etc. they would have to cut services.

Ald. Willey asked about State funding this year.

Mr. Jadech replied he did not know what it would be. He stated he believed it depends on how legislation works on some transit bill up this currently.

#4813 – Bridges Community Support – B. Kasden, CEO and C. Phelan, Chairwoman of the Board. Mrs. Phelan stated they have the data that he has heard being requested by the Board and would provide that to the

Board. She expressed her appreciation of what the City gives them. She also spoke of the good mental health services they bring to their clients.

Mr. Kasden added he too is appreciative of the of the funds they receive commenting there are not too many cities that provide funding for mental health services. He provided an overview of what they do at Bridges explaining they service clients in Milford, Orange and West Haven adding the configuration was set up many years ago. He stated 70% of their funds are from the State of Connecticut with some federal grants. He stated they have been very aggressive in obtaining grants. He stated they provide 24/7 service and provide services to over 5,000 Milford residents with more than 6,400 calling for services. Mr. Kasden continued reading from his statement explaining the numerous other services they provide and also spoke as to their close relationship with the shelter here in Milford. He also stated they purposely have not filled 20 positions because of a potential shortfall in their budget. He stated he is very proud to be here in Milford doing what they do adding the irony is as the economy gets worse more people are coming in. He also spoke as to their long waiting list.

Ald. Lambert asked if West Haven and Orange have increased their contributions this year.

Mr. Kasden responded he anticipates a 5% increase this year. He stated West Haven has not been a contributor for a number of years, but they have had conversations with the mayor there and he has submitted a request to West Haven.

Ald. Lambert asked Mr. Kasden if they would put together itemized numbers for the Board.

Ald. Vitali thanked Mr. Kasden and Mrs. Phelan for an fantastic presentation. He spoke as to societal ills and his work in the middle and even elementary schools. He stated Bridges does a yeoman's job and applauded their work with kids. He asked about the 12 positions they have not filled and if he could see there being more.

Mr. Kasden stated they could fill positions for a brief period of time and then cut them if they do not receive the funding.

Ald. Nunno asked Mr. Kasden if he believes there is an increased use of heroin.

Mr. Kasden replied he would say yes, but they still see a lot of alcohol. He stated he could see Bridges as a partner in this. He noted 90% of the people they see, both children and adults include substance abuse.

#4815 – Veteran Graves – No one present. No questions asked.

#4816 – Milford Flotilla 73 – Mr. Jack Bradley was present for questions/comments.

Mr. Bradley thanked the Board for supporting them in the past. He stated they have approximately 5,200 members with their main goal being boating safety. He stated they also conduct vessel inspections as well as safe boating classes. He stated they have also conducted classes at the fire department and will be doing an on-water training upcoming. He stated they rely on their volunteer service and have an auxillary of 37,000. He also stated they support a number of city events, i.e. Oyster Festival Kayak Race, downtown treasure hunt. He stated they have also been going into the schools talking with students in grades K-3 teaching them about boating safety and the importance of life jackets, etc.

Ald. Willey asked the overall budget is.

Mr. Bradley responded it can vary depending on maintenance, but estimated it at \$28,000 to 35,000.

Ald. Willey asked the source of the rest of their funding.

Mr. Bradley stated it comes from the boating safety classes.

#4817 – Human Services Department – Lisa Diamond Graham, Director and Melissa Dubiel, Administrative Assistant were present for questions/comments.

(Ald. Manning left at 10:25 p.m.)

Ms. Diamond Graham described their program operations, explaining they are basically two separate agencies. She explained each of the positions in the department, the services they provide for clients i.e. children, youth and family services, low-income families, elderly disabled.

Ald. Lambert asked about line item 4710 0001 Youth Network Grant and asked what that is.

Ms. Diamond Graham explained they are a fiduciary agency for this grant, which is through the YMCA. She explained it is comprised of all the agencies that provide services for youth.

Ald. Lambert stated they have been asking all night for agencies to submit an itemized budget to the Board.

#4818 – Historic District – no one was present. No questions asked.

#4820 – Historic District II – Art Paulson was present for questions/comments. He expressed his appreciation of the role of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen in putting this Commission together. He explained they meet on the average once a month unless they have requests for Certificate of Appropriateness. He stated these are all projected expenses. He stated the average cost of advertising a hearing is \$73.00. He also stated they have an application fees of \$50.00. He also spoke as to the signage they plan to install at an estimated cost of \$850.00 and that the Commission plans to continue with correspondence to the district and get information as well as questions and answers to anyone. He stated they are also continuing their work on their Rules of Procedure.

#4819 - Milford Progress, Inc. – Ms. Lynda Smith Tellier, Kathy Alagno, Robert Kapusta were present for questions/answers.

Mr. Kapusta stated he has been with this organization since its inception. He stated they are a 502C4 organization with its purpose being to foster and develop economic resources for the City of Milford. He spoke as to the benefits of the downtown area and how actively involved they have been for all these year. Mr. Kapusta gave an overview of Milford Progress speaking as to curbing, lighting, etc in the downtown as well as signage.

Ald. Ditchkus asked about the traffic study that included New Haven Avenue at Factory Lane.

Ms. Alagno responded that was started back in former Mayor Lisman's day. She explained the study and how long it took to get it on DEP's list.

Ald. Ditchkus asked if that light would be re-timed in the future.

Ms. Alagno stated it was addressed and that it is better than it was and that they have had discussions with the police department.

Ald. Vitali asked about the sidewalks, brickwalks and lampposts and if that entire expense was borne by Milford Progress. He also asked if someone could explain "by owner of building" and if the \$20,000 is their entire operation budget.

Mayor Richetelli spoke as to the lamplight program; sidewalks and brickwork that was started in the early 1980's under then Mayor Jagoe and that much of it was done through a grant. He stated they are no longer eligible for a community block grant but noted the Board appropriated money for old lamplights and finished sections that had not been completed. He continued with a complete background of the programs reiterating it date back to the 1980's. He pointed out the only area of the green not finished is in the bond authorization pending before this Board.

Ald. Vitali asked about cost to property owners.

Mayor Richetelli responded the only cost to property owners is minimal and that it would be electricity.

Ald. Vitali asked about the entire operating budget.

Ms. Alagno responded it is and explained it goes to the particular project they have chosen.

Ald. Nunno asked about the business owners with regard to sidewalk, curbing.

Mayor Richetelli responded he just answered that with a lengthy explanation and it is none.

Ald. Blacketter asked for clarification regarding Milford Progress and Chamber of Commerce. She stated there is some confusion with the two. She also stated she looked at Ordinance and the boundaries of downtown that they have jurisdiction over and it appears they are definitely out of that.

Ms. Alagno explained they are concentrating on downtown Milford, but working on other areas incorporating the work. She stated the Chamber is their administrator and went on to explain the monies for the three organizations are totally separated. She also spoke as to the multiple tasks in one building.

Ald. Blacketter commented regarding the signage study that was done a few years ago and never implemented.

Ms. Tellier responded they are in Phase I of the study and will be going into Phase 2. She explained the process has to go through several offices.

Ald. Lambert addressed a comment made regarding the work in the 1980's and that it was a grant. She asked if that was for sidewalks and lighting at that time.

Mayor Richetelli responded yes and that it included lamplights, granite curbing, brickwork and sidewalks. He explained it was through the Community Development Block Grant.

Ald. Lambert stated it was her understanding that the project was stopped because an individual refused to pay the electricity in that area.

Mayor Richetelli responded a small amount may be connected to a house or building but the rest is part of the City's electric bill.

#4821 – Health Services/VNA – no questions.

#4822 – Cemetery Association – no questions.

#4825 – Homeless Shelter/CPAC – Mrs. Toni Dolan and Mr. Bob Harama, President were present for questions/comments.

Mrs. Dolan gave an overview of the shelter “The Beth El Shelter” and what they do. She stated it is a 34-bed shelter and soup kitchen that serves those in need. She stated they serve between 50-70 meals a day and have seen that grow recently. She also stated their food is provided through a grant and explained the program. She also explained the shelter allows residents to stay 90 days and noted they are the only shelter between New Haven and Bridgeport and the only one that allows females and families. Mrs. Dolan stated the incoming funding is decreasing but there needs are increasing. She asked the Board to considering keeping their budget as is.

Ald. Veccharelli commented during the cold months it is difficult to find a spot in the facility.

Mrs. Dolan responded some of the publicity generated recently was unfair to Milford. She stated they do help the homeless, but there is a population out there that does stay out in the cold. She explained a pilot program they attempted to put together.

Mayor Richetelli stated he too recognizes there is a population that lives in outside, but having a no freeze shelter at Beth El may not be the vest solution. He stated they would continue to look into that and find the best way to address it.

Ald. Lambert thanked Mrs. Dolan noting they broaden the horizon for a lot of families.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to adjourn.

Ald. Ditchkus asked if the Chairman was closing the proceeding or if they would be reconvening at the next meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 1115 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary