

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
BUDGET DELIBERATIONS SESSION
APRIL 23, 2018**

The Board of Aldermen resumed their budget deliberation session on Monday, April 23, 2018 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. He 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
K. Fortunati
C. Gaynor
D. German
A. Giannattasio
J. Grant
F. Smith
A. Sutton
J. Tranquilli
N. Veccharelli
P. Vetro
R. Vitali

Also Present

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake
P. Erodici, Finance Director
S. Fournier, Mayor's Admin Asst.
J. Rohrig, City Clerk

Excused

J. Golden
M. Hardiman

Chairman Vetro reconvened the budget proceedings in public session at 7:04 p.m. He stated they were here tonight to continue the aldermanic budget process. He commended Ald. Grant in completing the Boston Marathon in superb fashion, making Milford proud.

4159 Veterans Ceremony and Parade Commission – Tom Flowers, Chairman was present to answer questions/comments. He stated the majority of funds in the budget are to purchase flags to place s on the veterans' graves at Milford's three (3) cemeteries.

Chairman Vetro commended Mr. Flowers on the Commission's work and for the parades they bring to Milford.

4815 Veterans Graves - Mayor Blake stated he could answer any questions.

4816 Milford Flotilla - Bob Fasula (sp), Commander 243 was present for questions/comments. He provided the Board with an overview of the fundraising the Flotilla does. He expressed the Flotilla's deep appreciation for what the city has done to support their efforts. He explained the handout provided to the Board explaining their work with the United States Coast Guard as well as a history of the work of Milford Flotilla. He stated Milford Flotilla also provides boating education to the public.

Ald. Anderson asked how many are at the Flotilla building on Helwig Street and how many volunteers there are to run a program.

Mr. Fasula (sp) stated they meet twice a month with 30-35 in attendance. He stated they also teach a Saturday boating class. He also pointed out they are throughout the community and do not necessarily meet just at the building. He also spoke of the training they are required to take.

Ald. Anderson asked the number of vessels.

Mr. Fasula (sp) replied 1.

Ald. Anderson asked if they patrol the Housatonic River.

Mr. Fasula (sp) stated they patrol up to New Haven and through Milford and to the Housatonic up and back. They get their gas from Coast Guard auxiliary.

Ald. Anderson asked about the importance of the relationship with the Harbor and Mr. Swift.

Mr. Fasula (sp) stated they assist with providing packets to boaters that come in. He stated they often lend each other help whenever needed.

Ald. Giannattasio questioned the \$9,000 recommendation that is less than what was requested in previous years.

Mr. Fasula (sp) stated they are actually uncomfortable with their request, so they really sharpen their pencil. He stated they are pre-conditioned before coming in.

Ald. Beatty asked about the 73 rescue operations and whether they do salvage.

Mr. Fasula (sp) stated they do not do salvage. He explained if there is a threat of life they assist when asked, but also notify Boat Two. He stated it is not just about the vessel, but about safety as well.

4822 Cemetery Association - Mayor Blake stated he would be happy to answer any questions.

No questions were asked.

4610 Health Department – Deepa Joseph, Director was present for questions/comments. She provided the Board with a snapshot (handout) of the things happening at the Health Department over the last year. She pointed out there was no funding this year for PTLI, so they did not run the program.

Ald. Vitali asked about the cut by the Board of Finance in the amount of \$14,000.

Mayor Blake stated it was a citywide reduction done by the Finance Director which reflects an adjustment to wage/steps accounts.

Ald. German asked if all the positions were currently filled.

Director Joseph replied yes.

Ald. German asked if they were down a position from a year ago.

Director Joseph stated no, two years ago they were down one nursing position,

4821 Health Services (VNA) – Deepa Joseph, Director was present for questions/comments.

No questions were asked.

4998 Education Health Services/School Nurses – Deepa Joseph, Director was present for questions/comments.

No questions were asked.

4817 Human Services Department - Deepa Joseph, Director was present for questions/comments. Director Joseph stated referenced the second handout and provided the Board with an overview. She pointed to increased grant funding by 97% which has been a great help for the assistance they provide. She stated the department has also partnered with TEAM. She also spoke of the numerous holiday programs they run. Director Joseph stated they have also partnered with Milford Public Schools for various programs. She also provided the Board with a snap shot of their grant funding as well as the state funding they have received that allows them to do more in the community.

Ald. Anderson commented about TEAM and stated he was happy to learn this. He asked about their partnership with the senior center and Housing Authority.

Director Joseph explained their partnership with the case manager at the senior center to ensure the needs of seniors are met. With regard to housing, Director Joseph stated they go to the housing facility to assist with the completion of necessary paperwork for the rent rebate.

Mayor Blake stated Rebecca Flynn, Coordinator from TEAM will do a presentation at a later meeting.

Ald. Giannattasio asked for clarification regarding the PLTI.

Director Joseph stated it comes from the parent trust fund and that it was partly a timing issue and explained the process.

Ald. German asked Director Joseph about the timing of working with both departments.

Director Joseph stated difficult to quantify, it depends on issues that come up. She also pointed out there are several vacancies in the Human Services Department, so she is spending a little more time there currently.

Ald. Veccharelli asked how many people, if any succumbed to flu.

Director Joseph stated the number through March was 419.

4826 Boys and Girls Club - Meghan Altomare, Executive Director was present for questions/comments. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to be here tonight and continued with an overview of what they do at Boys and Girls Club (handout).

Chairman Vetro asked if they are at maximum.

Director Altomare stated they are at max only with regard to transportation from JFK and PD.

Ald. Vitali asked about the \$100,000 request that was cut \$30,000.

Director Altomare stated when they were cut by the State and looked for other opportunities, therefore the request.

Ald. Vitali asked if they would continue to serve the amount of kids they do.

Director Altomare stated they always figure out a way to get it down for the kids.

Ald. German asked about upcoming fundraisers.

Director Altomare stated there gala would take place this Thursday followed by their 2nd annual golf tournament. She stated they have Pumpkins on the Pier and pumpkin eve and their adult dodgeball tournament that was recently completed.

Ald. German asked the recourse for families that are unable to pay.

Director Altomare stated 26% of the kids that attend are on scholarship.

Ald. Fortunati asked how much funding they receive from the state.

Director Altomare stated they receive \$17,000

Ald. Gaynor commented about the enthusiastic, active staff at the club. She asked what would happen if they were to receive additional funding.

Director Altomare stated it would be to serve more kids, which is what it is all about.

4215 Management Information Systems (MIS) – Jean Lasczak, Coordinator was present for questions/comments.

No questions were asked.

4210 Finance Department – Mr. Erodici, Finance Director was present, along with Ariane Swift, Accountant, Marianne Klinga, Tax Collector and Mr. Thomas, Assessor for question/comments. Mr. Erodici stated he was pleased to have staff here. He provided an overview of the departments which includes accounts payable, administration of benefits, wage step structure, additional work and challenges. Mr. Erodici commended the division head and all the employees in the Finance Department. He also commented about turnover in the Finance Department, primarily due to retirement. Mr. Erodici also spoke about the financial system conversion project that is going through on currently and will include payroll and HR. Mr. Erodici asked for the Board's continued support regarding the budget presented.

Chairman Vetro thanked Mr. Erodici and his staff for maintaining the City's AAA bond rating.

Ald. Vitali asked about line item 4977 0000 Office Equipment

Mr. Erodici stated that line item falls to the tax office. He explained the receipt machines they use to validate bills that come in bill counters, etc. She stated they are replacements of older machines.

Ald. Vitali asked about line item 4977 0190 Computers?

Mr. Erodici stated it is the entire Finance Department which includes, but is not limited to computers, hardware, and software.

Ald. Vitali asked about the cut in budgeted positions and questioned the cuts

Mr. Erodici stated the cuts were due to increases in the steps due to the new people recently hired.

Ald. Anderson asked about the use of credit cards by Milford residents. He asked the transaction fee and where those fees are shown in the budget.

Mr. Erodici stated credit cards are fairly new to the city. He stated the city clerk's office, harbor, police, fire and recreation are some of the departments using credit cards.

Mrs. Klinga added there is a 2 ½ percent fee.

Ald. Anderson asked about budgeted positions and questioned the increase for the Account and Treasurer.

Mr. Erodici explained they were step increases.

4141 Board of Assessment Appeals – Daniel K. Thomas, City Assessor was present for questions/comment.

No questions.

4115 Registrar of Voters – Registrars Keri Rowland and Debra Fellenbaum were present for questions/comments. Mrs. Rowland spoke of the uniqueness of their department in that they are co-

department heads. She stated they take great pride in their working relationship. Mrs. Rowland provided the Board with an overview of some of their work that included a new system that has been put in place to register on line; they go out to the high schools to register new voters. She also spoke about the amount of time it takes for a registrar to become certified in the State. She stated 175 poll workers were hired in the last presidential election and applauded their hard work. She also spoke of the Election Day registration and electronic management system.

Mrs. Fellenbaum provided a bulletin received from the secretary of state in April. She too commended the work of their staff. She added their department also has two deputies and two assistants. Early voting will have a big impact, which is an unknown for them.

Ald. Sutton commended them on their certification, which reflects positively on the City of Milford. Thank them.

Ald. Giannattasio asked about the high school registration.

Mrs. Rowland stated it is state mandated that they go to all four (4) schools, Foran, Law, Platt and the Academy.

Ald. Beatty thanked the registrars for being so helpful and their work regarding the educational piece.

Ald. Vitali asked about Lauralton Hall.

Mrs. Rowland stated because it is private school, it is not a mandate.

4129 City Clerk – Joanne Rohrig, City Clerk was present for questions/comments. Ms. Rohrig read from a prepared statement providing the Board with an overview of the department. She stated it is a lean budget. Ms. Rohrig thanked the Board, Mayor Blake, Mr. Moura and Officer Dempsey for their assistance in obtaining the much needed security system.

Ald. Sutton – commented the city clerk's offices along with tax office are the most visible departments in the city. He thanked the city clerk for the customer service provided.

4112 Elections – Joanne Rohrig, City Clerk, Kerri Rowland, Registrar and Debra Fellenbaum. Registrar were present for questions/comments.

No questions were asked.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to recess until April 24, 2018. Motion carried unanimously. The Board recessed at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Kennedy
Recording Secretary