

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
BUDGET DELIBERATIONS  
APRIL 25, 2007**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held a Budget Deliberations Session for the FY 2007-2008 on Wednesday, April 25, 2007 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman Beirne asked everyone present to stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

P. Beckwith  
T. Beirne  
B. Blake  
V. Ditchkus (7:17 p.m.)  
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

Excused

B. Bier

Chairman Beirne commented a great deal of time had been spent on the budget. He asked everyone to look at it and see if it could be cut.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Rowland made and seconded a motion to come out of recess at 7:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

4801 – Council on Aging – J. Jackson. R. Reilly and Mary Allen Hermansa were present for questions/comment. Ms. Jackson stated there are over 12, 000 seniors who participate in daily programs at the center. She stated if they were to cut their budget they would have to cut drivers. She commented during 2006 their ridership was up significantly and that it was an increase over 2005 of about 20%. She stated a lot of the rides were for medical appointments.

Mr. Reilly added they take a number of seniors to and from the doctor's in town and the population continues to rise. He stated as far as he could see he did not think they could cut their budget. Ms. Jackson read a letter from Henry Jadach. She also commented if transit is unable to provide rides and they can't provide these rides she wondered how these people would get back and forth to their doctor appointments. She stated if there budget is cut any further they will not be able to provide services to our seniors. She asked the Board to please not cut this budget.

Chairman Beirne asked if she stated it is 112,000 seniors they service.

Ms. Jackson replied yes.

Ald. Genovese asked if that is a repeat of the same people over and over.

Ms. Jackson responded yes. She explained they sign in when they go to the different classes or programs offered.

Ald. Genovese reiterated it is really the same people over and over. She also commented this is a grant and asked how much of the grant is salaries.

Ms. Hermansa stated their payroll is \$758,000.

Ald. Toohey commended the center for the phenomenal job they do. She asked what they were doing to move forward in this type of economic year. She asked what the senior center is going to do overall.

Ms. Jackson explained they have had several full timers leave through retirement and they are hiring part time people.

Ald. Toohey asked how many have gone full time since.

Ms. Jackson replied there are 11 full time and 40 part time.

Ald. Toohey asked how many have switched over from part time to full time.

Ms. Jackson stated she believe 2 people.

Ald. Veccharelli asked what they would be using the increased funds for which is approximately \$44,000 over last year.

Ms. Hermansa explained the increase is in the gasoline budget and that health benefits have also gone up. She stated they are also looking at another vehicle if they need it.

Mayor Richetelli asked how many active members of the senior center.

Ms. Jackson replied approximately 3,000.

Mayor Richetelli asked how many rides they provide per year.

Mr. Reilly replied 37,700 plus and that they are up about 2,600 riders from the previous year.

Mayor Richetelli asked how many meals per day.

Ms. Jackson explained they have two drivers that drive about 55 meals and also they have the mini lunch program and the Federal lunch program, which serves approximately 40 people.

Mayor Richetelli asked about participation pay and if it was part of that.

Ms. Jackson explained the rates each person pays.

Mayor Richetelli commented the people that participate in the program that is the only hot meal they get per day.

Ms. Jackson responded yes.

Mayor Richetelli pointed out this is an independent agency of the City because they are able to hire people at wages less than they pay in the City if someone is in a union. He also noted they take in thousands of hires of volunteers. Mayor Richetelli commended Ms. Jackson as one of the City's best.

Ald. Veccharelli asked if some of the monies are for another vehicle is another vehicle a definite or a possibility. He asked if they could go another year that could save the City some money.

Mr. Reilly stated they received some monies from Rotary and were able to purchase two vans. He stated they are not on a rolling stock so any vehicle they buy they pay for it themselves.

Ald. Blake commented regarding vehicle maintenance and repair and asked if that is part of their budget.

Mr. Reilly responded the City/Public Works does the work. He stated they would not be able to do what they do without them.

Ald. Toohey commented the seniors pay a nominal fee.

Ms. Jackson responded yes and stated last year they increased it from \$7.00 to \$8.00.

4803 – Fine Arts – B. Meddick and A. Oliver, Treasurer were present for questions and comment.

Mrs. Oliver stated they were here tonight to thank the Board for their continued support of the Fine Arts Council has received. She stated the support gives their grant application legitimacy. She stated the Fine Arts Council has been in existence since 1971 and that in 1995 they moved into their new location at the train station. She spoke of their holiday arts sale, summer arts & crafts fairs and the sand castle contest. She stated the Connecticut Tourism Board was a sponsor of a regional survey to assess people's needs in Milford, Orange and West Haven. She continued by reading from the web site.

Mr. Meddick stated he wished to clarify it is an Arts & Crafts Festival.

Ald. Rowland asked if they would state the web site address. She also asked specifically about state grants.

Mrs. Oliver stated the web site is [www.milfordarts.org](http://www.milfordarts.org). She also explained the Council got funding in the 1990s on a regular basis. She stated State tourism changed and gave a lengthy explanation. She spoke of the importance of matching money. She also commented sometimes they break even or make money. She stated

they were looking to the State to provide leadership in their peer group especially with the idea of giving to the Stowe Property. She also spoke as to a partnership they were beginning with Orange and West Haven.

Ald. Politi asked the amount of their operating budget.

Mrs. Oliver responded \$230,000.

Ald. Politi complimented and thanked Mr. Meddick and Mrs. Oliver for what they do and how great it is for Milford.

Mrs. Oliver acknowledged Donna Corey and added they have a fabulous Board of Directors this year. She also stated they have an experienced marketing person that will help with fundraising idea they can do themselves.

Ald. Garbus commented he has worked with Bill personally for many years. He also commented tourism is essential today which brings people to this area and a passive way of making money. He spoke very highly of the third district that he stated he is very proud of.

Mr. Meddick stated as part of the grant agreement they will do more with that cross industry to get the arts more involved in the different industries.

Ald. Toohey stated every year they tell this Board they will be adding programs. She asked what they are for this year.

Mr. Meddick replied they want to maintain programming for their youth and develop it even further. He stated they would also reevaluate some of their programs.

Ald. Toohey asked about expanding in Orange and West Haven and how it would impact them and/or bring in new ideas.

Mr. Meddick responded financially, it would not impact them at all. He stated they are meeting with them and looking at their structures. He explained right now it is guidance and resources they would like to tap into. He also stated they were looking to develop their region and impact the arts for themselves and tourism.

Ald. Veccharelli commented he enjoys their plays and that it has been going for a while and that it is great for the community.

Mayor Richetelli commented the Fine Arts Council is headquartered at the train station and explained that was given to them many years ago. He also commented they have had a lot of maintenance over the years and every dollar this Board gives them goes towards their maintenance.

4805 – CMed – Mayor Richetelli explained this is similar to the regional planning council.

Acct. 4807 – Regional Mental Health Board – Ms. Claire Phelan was present for questions/comments.

Ms. Phelan stated she was pleased to come before the Board tonight and thanked the Board for their continued support. She stated she has been coming before this Board for a long time for there 6% per capital. She continued with a lengthy explanation of their work.

Mayor Richetelli stated their budget is about \$118,000 and that they are mandated to review the program and identify the needs and review bonds. He stated Ms. Phelan is also an advocate in Hartford.

Ms. Phelan added they have become more and more aware. She also spoke as to those they serve and also regarding the COLA Program. She stressed the importance of funding these programs.

Acct. 4811 – Borough of Woodmont – Mr. Richard Austin was present for questions/comments.

Chairman Beirne asked if this Board was to cut the Borough's budget 10% where they would have to make cuts.

Mr. Austin replied they could close catch basins, not pave roads. He also stated if there is another Nor'easter it would affect clean up. He stated there are 703 pieces of property that put in over \$35,000 in taxes to the City. He also stated last year there was no increase and two years ago \$20,000, which he stated the Borough gave back to the City. He stated they would have to look at everything and prioritize as to what would be done. He explained street lights cost \$30,000, insurance is \$27,000 plus, they pay Public Works for snowplowing, repair of potholes and street sweeping at a cost of \$35,000. He stated he would probably use about \$143,000, which he would have to have.

Ald. Lambert thanked Mr. Austin for his report.

Mr. Austin stated that report goes to the State every year. He commented he has been doing this for 35 years so there are 35 years of reports available.

Ald. Lambert stated she would like to see if filed at the City Clerk's Office. She asked if there is a city fund audit that he also has.

Mr. Austin stated once the Board approves the grant it becomes Borough money. He explained they are separate from the City and that they do not report to the Mayor or Finance Director. He also stated by Charter there are things they are required to do such as streetlights, storm drains, etc. He referred to one at Dixon Street that has to be done and will cost about \$60,000 and also spoke of an erosion project coming up.

Chairman Beirne commented he believes the Borough does file with the City Clerk each year as a political subdivision.

Mr. Austin replied he has never done so before.

Chairman Beirne asked whom he files his report with.

Mr. Austin replied with the State of Connecticut and that he is required to file with the State.

Chairman Beirne stated that Bayview files with the City Clerk and that it was his understanding the burden had shifted.

Mr. Austin stated the Borough is a municipality.

Chairman Beirne reiterated he thought it had shifted.

Mr. Austin stated Mr. Jepson told him that he did not want their files.

Ald. Lambert asked if he could elaborate on their insured/uninsured funds.

Mr. Austin asked if she was referring to the report and stated he thought he was here tonight for the budget.

Ald. Lambert replied this is the budget. She asked if he had a back up account that is not taken up with bills.

Mr. Austin stated most of the money is encumbered and explained how that works and each account. He also commented if there were another Nor'easter and the monies were not encumbered, where would he go.

Ald. Lambert commented she was hearing him say they designate a certain amount and asked if FEMA guarantees a figure.

Chairman Beirne asked if this Board cuts their budget if the Borough has money available in their fund balance if they need it.

Mr. Austin commented if they were to take 10% the Borough would not disappear.

Ald. Patterson asked if they levy a tax on the Borough.

Mr. Austin replied yes and that it is less than a mil on 70%.

Ald. Patterson asked if this Board cuts this budget if the Borough would have to go back to the residents.

Mr. Austin replied they might.

Ald. Genovese spoke regarding the process discussed earlier on how Bayview Beach and asked if they were told would they follow the same.

Mr. Austin replied certainly, if it is the law, they would do it.

Acct. 4121 – Golf Course – Mr. Austin as available for questions/comments.

Ald. Genovese commented it is her understanding this is a Mayor's account and asked why that is.

Mr. Austin replied that is a different fund.

Mayor Richetelli added it is an Enterprise Fund 18 account.

Ms. Doneiko explained the golf course account was developed under the purvey of the Mayor's Office and stated it is not part of the General Fund.

Acct. 4812 – Transit Authority – Mr. Henry Jadach was present for questions/comments.

Mr. Jadach explained they provide a variety of things and also explained the change of fares for riders. He stated they also provide service for the senior center but it is not as personalized. He expressed his appreciation of the City's grants and because of that we are able to use that as leverage for their grants.

Chairman Beirne asked what they would do if faced with a 10% cut.

Mr. Jadach replied a cut would affect services and that it would be where the least amount of riders would be affected. He stated the drivers are unionized and receive minimal increases.

Ald. Blake asked about the old white band around telephone poles that has been changed.

Mr. Jadach responded that is Connecticut Transit. He stated it is a project that has been done all over the State.

Ald. Blake asked about advertising to raise revenue and if any thought had been given to increasing advertising. He also spoke as to glow in the dark advertising for at nighttime.

Mr. Jadach stated the design they have is appropriate. He explained they actively solicit businesses and will continue to tastefully advertise.

Ald. Politi asked the amount of their Operating Budget.

Mr. Jadach replied \$25,000,000.

Ald. Politi asked about ridership.

Mr. Jadach explained the route along Route 1, which incorporates Norwalk to Milford. He stated it also helps workers who come into Milford. He also spoke as to the van service, which they don't advertise.

Ald. Rowland noted their budget has steadily increased over the years. She asked what is driving those costs up.

Mr. Jadach stated State funding has traditionally been a problem. He stated fuel costs, natural gas, electricity at the train station, workers compensation, major medical costs to name a few, which are the same increases you see in the City's budget.

Mayor Richetelli added that ridership is not necessarily people that want to get off the road, but just need transportation.

Mr. Jadach commented that was very true. He stated they also have many youth and elderly that rides the bus. He stated they also run shuttle services from various locations to the train station and that it has been increasing steadily.

Mayor Richetelli asked if it would be fair to say that they are treated the same as bigger transits and also if we did not provide the services Milford does there would be many people who could not get to where they need to go.

Mr. Jadach responded yes, it was true and added it would be difficult for the many people that bus from Milford to Norwalk.

Acct. 4813 – Bridges Community Support – Mr. Barry Kasdan, CEO and Mr. Ray Vitali, Chairman of the Board were present for questions/comments.

Mr. Vitali stated he is Chairman of the Board for Bridges and that they would be happy to answer any questions the Board has. He stated before being asked that “no” they could not be cut. He stated their budget is true and honest. He also commented this is their 50<sup>th</sup> year so they must be doing something right. He stated as a Board they put a great deal of pressure on their CEO. He also stated keeping programs has been a challenge and that they have been very successful in helping their clients. He stated now they are being asked to give a 10% cut. He spoke as to COLA and United Way, who recently cut 20%. He spoke as to the wages of their clinicians and that they are not even close to what is out there. He spoke of being short staffed and that in order to keep their budget where it is they are about 10-12 staff members short, which he stated does not allow them to wholeheartedly meet the needs of their clients. He spoke as to incidents such as Columbine and most recently VA Tech. He stated there is a medical need in our community. He stated as a community they provide significantly less and more for the buck than the State. He also commented staying liquid and providing minimal services is better than closing their doors. He also spoke as to their upcoming conference and that they would continue to advocate to the State for funding. He commented everyone understands their plight and the job they do in the community but when it comes down to the “nitty gritty” and they have to cut behavioral services, that is a problem. He stated the Board provides the funding and they provide the services adding they have to live with the number they are given. He stated to cut this budget further would do a disservice.

Mr. Kasdan thanked the Board for what they have done to date. He stated they will not close their doors but services will be affected if they are cut. He stated over the last 20 years they have averaged fewer than 2%, yet they continue to expand and grow. He also added at any given time there are as many as 10 vacant positions. He stated they have 170 individuals on there waiting list who have applied for service and that they cannot provide them service right now. He also spoke as to the number of suicides and other incidents. He also noted they see over 4,000 individuals from Milford alone and that all city dollars go for outpatient services. He stated they are projecting a waiting list that could go to over 1,200 and over the next 12 months, even higher. He stated he would predict those individuals would end up in an emergency room somewhere. He spoke s to the staggering numbers in mental illness, depression and those unable to attend school for various reasons. He stated cutting this budget would do a disservice to the City. He stated he is projecting next year’s budget to be a deficit of \$500,000 and that really they are in a crisis situation. He stated the City has done its fair share, but it would be difficult to absorb another cut. He also added their staff has been stretched thin.

Ald. Blake stated that aside from Milford they serve 8 other communities and asked what dollar amount those other communities give.



Mr. Kasdan responded the monies Milford gives go only to the residents of Milford and that they are very careful with that. He stated they get \$80,000 from Orange to operate in Orange and do not get any funding from West Haven and explained they provide resources in the West Haven Mental Health Clinic. He added they continue to foster a partnership with them. He stated they are the only agency that provides evening services and that 82% of the people who receive services are from Milford.

Ald. Politi asked about a fee schedule and commented insurance companies are not very generous with reimbursement. She asked what they are reimbursed.

Mr. Kasdan explained the sliding scale for fee services. He stated he would have to get back to her with exact numbers, but that basically it was based on income and size of family.

Ald. Politi asked if the average insurance company reimburses any better.

Mr. Kasdan explained they go out and are supplemented by the State. He stated the insurance company still figures out non-traditional services. He also spoke as to Intensive Home Service and explained that program and how it works and billing.

Ald. Blake referring to their pamphlets asked about “Kid Crisis Service” and asked if they also pay any grant.

Mr. Kasdan responded the State gives them a grant to do that program and that no community has to put money forward to that. He also stated they would not have gotten that grant had it not been for their responsibility to West Haven. He stated West Haven is the second largest of those towns. He also explained how these programs impact our schools.

Ald. Toohey asked for clarification regarding fee for services and if there is insurance attached to this, i.e. medicare.

Mr. Kasdan explained an outpatient who works with the clinician, social worker, psychologist, psychiatrist are all billable. DCF he stated gives some money to supplement. He explained the numbers and how reimbursement works.

Ald. Toohey asked if some of the clients have insurance.

Mr. Kasdan responded yes, but sometimes it is costly for reimbursement.

Ald. Rowland asked Mr. Kasdan if it was his opinion that if their budget is cut we will pay more in the long run.

Mr. Kasdan responded it has already happened.

Ald. Rowland reiterated there are 170 people on a waiting list and asked if that meant she would not be seen if she called and said she was having a crisis.

Mr. Kasdan explained if someone remained in crisis they would continue to be seen. He stated if someone just called and was not in crisis they would go on a waiting list. He also explained how walk-ins are handled.

Ald. Genovese asked if those on a waiting list are from Milford.

Mr. Kasdan responded 80% on the waiting list are from Milford.

Acct. 4815 – Veterans Graves – No questions.

Acct. 4816 – Milford Flotilla – Mr. John Godfrey and Mr. Bob Desolo (sp) were available for questions/comments.

Mr. Godfrey thanked the Board for their support in the past. He also spoke of some of the events they help out with in Milford such as First Night, the Rape Crisis Harbor event, etc. He emphasized they are strictly volunteer and that they receive no money from the Coast Guard. He also stated all training is done in-house. He stated they are one of the oldest Flotillas formed in World War II. He also stated they have over 40 active members and that they have given over 84 public education classes. He explained they do search and rescue calls and that their vessel is in the water year round and that they are on call 24 hours a day. He reiterated his thanks to the Board for their support.

Chairman Beirne asked the same question he has asked all night, what would a 10% cut result in.

Mr. Godfrey replied not much, but that every dollar certainly helps. He reiterated they are volunteer and they do get some donations.

Ald. Blake asked the Flotilla's position on the Broadwater policy.

Mr. Desolo responded they do not have a position. With regard to the 10% cut, he stated they are trying to be sensitive to the community and be good citizens. He also pointed out they have been consistent.

Acct. 4818 – Historic District – no questions.

Mayor Richetelli advised the Board Historic District II is not on the list, but it is still there.

Ald. Rowland asked why this figure is different than the other one.

Mayor Richetelli explained there are start up costs, i.e. letterhead, envelopes, etc. He stated after that they will be the same as the others.

Acct. 4819 – Milford Progress – no questions.

Acct. 4821 – Visiting Nurses (VNA) – Dr. McBride was available for questions/comments.

Dr. McBride explained the work of the visiting nurses and stated basically they provide services for monthly well childcare. He stated they also provide immunizations in schools and for our citizens. He stated they have a nurse practitioner, nurse and clerk that provide services. He stated if there is a cut it would be the clinical program and result in a cut in services.

Acct. 4610 – Health Department – Dr. McBride was present for questions/comments. Dr. McBride stated essentially the Health Department provides disease control and prevention and environmental health. He stated they are responsible for reporting all diseases in the City. He stated another part of the program is the sanitarian, which is food services, restaurant inspections, housing within the community and environmental which includes complaints. He stated the rest of the inspections not just traditional restaurants, but all food inspections, such as Oyster Festival, etc. He stated they are understaffed so they do not get out to every fair or event.

Chairman Beirne asked if there were a 10% cut would there be a cut in services.

Dr. McBride replied they would have to look at it. He stated it could be wholesale programs, i.e. the Mosquito Program. He stated other plans they would like at are the Young Parent Program which is our young students in our schools that become pregnant. It would also be looking at our environmental services. He also stated they have had a growing number of complaints, not just in this area, but in housing, i.e. blighted houses. He pointed out the Board heard about mental illness, but that is spilling over to his department with regard to blights and issues within the home.

Ald. Blake asked how many cell phones his department has and the need and asked about an emergency situation.

Dr. McBride responded they have 6 cell phones and stated all the sanitarians have one as well as himself and the Environmental Chief. He stated they also have phones that are supported by grants. He stated cell phones are a tremendous instrument for them and that it is important they can have contact with central office at all times. He also stated they have a contract that has not changed for many years. He explained the sanitarians use it primarily as a walkie talkie (Nextel) and added they monitor the use of these phones.

Ald. Lambert asked about line item 4723 and if it was essential or if there is only certain cases it is needed.

Dr. McBride responded it is essential. He stated there have been many times they have gone out with the police or just the public and these uniforms held to identical his employees.

Ald. Lambert asked about line item 4782 and commented it appears it was not used in 2005 and asked if it is essential and if he could explain.

Dr. McBride explained over the past four years they have gone to digital, but there has been concern that digital may not hold up in court so they still use film.

Ald. Rowland asked about line items 4112 and 4117 and if he could elaborate.

Dr. McBride responded it is overtime and that they usually have to put extra money into that account. He stated this is for special events when the sanitarians have to go out after hours such as the Oyster Festival. He stated he feels there is a need to have more on duty especially at the end of that event. He explained their job is to prevent things and if you don't hear from his department they are doing their job. He added their presence is needed at these events.

Mayor Richetelli spoke as to line item 4189 and explained that is the Young Parent Program.

Dr. McBride stated if necessary that would be one of the programs where they would look to cut.

Mayor Richetelli explained the Young Parent Program is a separate program but it is also run in school. He stated they also provide after care. He added that pre 911 the role of the Public Health Department was much different and explained how it has changed since then.

Ald. Genovese asked about line items 4117 – Seasonal Temporary, 4713 – Membership and 4718 – Travel & Conference.

Dr. McBride responded line item 4117 is usually the nursing services not provided by the school nurses and they use temporary nurses part time. With regard to line item 4713 he stated he belongs to NATHO, CAHD and AHPA and that he is personally associated with and on the Board of Directors for NATHO. He explained the opportunity to network and bring things home. He spoke as an example of the “Walking School Bus Program”. He also spoke of his association with other agencies in the city, which is a strong coalition and attracts various grants.

Acct. 4998 – Education Health Services – Dr. McBride explained this is the parochial and public schools and that they have a very strong school nursing program. He stated the program continues to get stronger. He explained the current role of their nurses.

Ald. Rowland asked about seasonal/temporary and if he would speak to the issue if they were to cut this.

Dr. McBride responded that is the substitute nurses in the schools if someone is out sick.

Ald. Lambert stated in the past it was \$0 and now it is \$6,000.

Dr. McBride explained this is relatively new. He stated they have had nurses who have studied to become certified and that several have become certified which is quite an accomplishment.

Mayor Richetelli added it was bargained through the last bargaining agreement.

Acct. 4822 – Cemetery Association – no questions.

Acct. 4825 – Homeless Shelter (CPAC) – Ms. Toni Dolan was present for questions/answers. Ms. Dolan stated she was pleased to announce they are in their 25<sup>th</sup> year. She stated a 10% cut would mean closing their doors. She stated they are a 32-bed shelter and could not cut staff. She also stated they are required to serve at least 28 per State contract. She stated they also have 50 plus volunteers who put out a hot lunch every day. She also stated more and more people who are coming in who are working but not making ends meet. She explained their goal is to change the patter in their residents’ lives. On the administrative side she stated they have an administrative assistant and a full time clerk. She stated they also have a contract with Bridges with two beds reserved and a contract with the VA to provide 3 beds. She stated they get individual support from the churches as well as fundraising. United Way has cut their support she stated. She spoke of costs that have gone up such as liability insurance and health insurance. She also stated they entered into a contract with United Illuminating for cost assessment and that they have also changed their phone services to reduce costs. She stated they

continue to seek out alternative housing for their clients. She reiterated that many of their residents work but have services issues. She stated there goal is to break that cycle and help them.

4143 Board of Assessment Appeals – no questions.

Ald. Veccharelli requested a 5-minute recess at 9:31 p.m.

Chairman Beirne reconvened the Board at 9:43 p.m.

4215 Management Information Systems – J. Laszcak, MIS Coordinator was present for questions/comment. She stated she wished to point out some facts the Board may not be aware of. She stated 10 years ago she started as MIS Coordinator and that her first full year was FY98 and that she had 50 computers and 6 servers. Currently, she stated there are 450 PC's plus 29 servers. She also stated they have multiplied their PC's 9x and the number of servers time 5. She stated her Operations Account in 1998 was \$93,833 and in FY 2008 her Operations Account if \$90,000. She stated she had actually gone down \$3,000 and her department is still able to do the work and keep expenses down. She also explained how software maintenance has changed enormously. She stated they provide all software support for every department in the City except Police and Fire. She stated software services have gone up and that it is a fixed cost and any reduction would force her to move funds around reducing other services. She expressed concern of transfers that would be necessary and that she explained this last year that it was a fixed cost and it was still cut. She stated maintenance costs go up every year and they continue to provide more services then they ever did before. She stated if she is forced to make cuts, e-mail would be the first to be cut. She stated it is becoming a big problem for them with the requirements of FOIA, i.e. disk storage, etc. She stated e-mail has become the hot issue because of FOIA. She also commented many departments are cutting back on paper but it comes back to her with data imaging, etc.

Ald. Blake spoke as to a comment made. He stated Ms. Laszcak commented if they cut her account she would have to shift monies around.

Ms. Doneiko clarified if a department is transferring in the same group it only requires the approval of the Mayor. However, if it is wages it is Board of Finance.

Ald. Blake asked if they cut furniture or chairs but authorize a computer can they purchase the furniture and cut the computer.

Ms. Doneiko responded no, not if you completely wipe something out.

Ald. Toohey asked if it was correct the last time they hired someone was 1 ½ years ago.

Ms. Doneiko responded yes, it was a PC Lan/Wan Coordinator.

Ald. Toohey asked if they have hired someone who works for the Police and Fire Departments.

Ms. Laszcak responded yes that he works under her and he splits his time 50/50 between both departments.

Ald. Toohey asked if there are any additional personnel posted for the fire department.

Ms. Laszczak responded no.

Ald. Toohey asked what percentage is outside.

Ms. Laszczak asked if she was referring to the entire budget.

Ald. Toohey asked if the amount is \$30,000.

Ms. Laszczak stated that fee is for a consultant they hire.

Ald. Toohey asked what the fee is.

Ms. Laszczak responded \$125.00 per hour, which she commented is far below the industry standard.

Ald. Genovese asked about line item 4117 and asked when it is used.

Ms. Laszczak explained it is for the summer intern for inventor work on computers. She stated it also could be clerical issues. She also noted that account has been reduced significantly.

Ald. Genovese asked about line items 4189, 4712, 4718 and also 4777 0193, 4775, 4796, 4977 0123 and 4977 0190. She also stated she here Ms. Laszczak had mentioned she took software out. She also asked about office supplies and why they are so high.

Ms. Laszczak stated it is her operational expenses in general. She explained when you subtract the BR1 the entire budget is \$90,756 minus software services.

Ald. Genovese asked about line item 4712 – Training and 4718 – Travel & Conferences.

Ms. Laszczak replied she does not go to any conferences. She stated she goes to the MS Conference, which is a professional organization. She also stated she has 5 professionals that have registration fees.

Ald. Genovese asked what type.

Ms. Laszczak responded GIS, ESIR, NEARC, plus a number of other organizations. She stated there are 5 professionals in her office. She stated there is also training through New Horizons for individuals in the City.

Ald. Genovese asked why they would send someone from her office if someone else has already been trained.

Ms. Laszczak responded everyone is busy and it is very time consuming to have someone train another individual.

Ald. Toohey asked if it is true there is one individual who spends time between the Police and Fire Departments. She stated it is her understanding the Police Department is looking for a person and asked if they were going through her office. She also asked who that person would fall under and also asked about a budget for the police department for this person as she did not see it.

Ms. Lasczak stated the Police Department is only looking for advise from her department. She also stated there is an existing position in PD not in her department that was recently vacated.

Ald. Veccharelli commented he heard her say there are 450 PC that she takes care of and 29 servers. He asked why we have so many servers.

Ms. Lasczak replied they are collectively throughout the entire city. She explained there are 9 servers in MIS, 1 Public Works, 1 Health Department, 6 Fire Department, 5 Police Department and 7 Library.

Ald. Veccharelli asked if she could explain line item 4789 Supply Exchange.

Ms. Lasczak explained they print the grand list for the Assessor's Office. She stated this is done at least twice a year. She spoke as to the requirements of the report, forms, notices, also upkeep such as ribbons, toner, etc.

Ald. Veccharelli asked about line item 4777 where she asked for \$21,975 and Mayor recommended \$11,138.

Ms. Lasczak responded they are trying to get servers where they are functional. She stated the Health Department's server has already expired. She stated the server for virus control also expires this year. She explained she is trying to keep them independent. She stated they will have to do what they can with what they get.

Ald. Veccharelli stated he has asked in the past and added it would be worthy of having. He spoke of e-mail for the Aldermen, Planning and Zoning and Board of Education and that they would be better able to communicate between each other. He asked what the cost would be for something and that he would to see this looked into. He also spoke to the equipment this Board approved a few years ago.

Ms. Lasczak stated there was a meeting scheduled last year and there was a no show from the minority party.

Ald. Blake asked if she was referring to him and stated he called and left a message.

Ms. Lasczak stated she did not recall who it was.

Ald. Blake asked if it was public and if there are minutes.

Ms. Lasczak replied there are no minutes.

Ald. Blake asked about the particulars of this meeting, date, time, what was discussed.

Ms. Lasczak replied she did not recall the date or exact discussion.

Mayor Richetelli stated a number of things were discussed specifically FOIA.

Chairman Beirne asked everyone to calm down.

Ald. Blake stated she brought it up and stated he wanted to know the date of the meeting.

Mayor Richetelli replied he did not recall.

Ald. Blake asked where it was.

Mayor Richetelli replied he did not recall.

4219 Personnel Department – J. Boland, Personnel Director was present for questions/comment.

Mr. Boland spoke as to the question of the night, could his department handle a 10% cut. He stated like other small departments a 10% cut would mean a cut in personnel.

Ald. Lambert asked about line item 4712 and asked if that is contractual or a mandate.

Mr. Boland responded it is a mandated training for sexual harassment. He explained someone comes in and trains everybody.

Ald. Lambert asked if this has been done in the past.

Mr. Boland responded it was handled through the various departments.

Ald. Rowland asked about the Risk Manager position and asked if that person stays within this department.

Mr. Boland replied that position works with all departments, especially the Public Works Department, Fire and Police. He added that position is very involved with self-insurance and workers compensation.

Ald. Genovese asked about line item 4771.

Mr. Boland stated that is approximately \$400-500.

Ald. Blake commented some department heads are non-represented. He asked why some department heads get overtime when they are salary yet eligible for overtime. He also asked about underlings.

Mr. Boland responded it varies by contract. He stated supervisors are available for overtime per contract. He stated he was not sure what department he was referring to.

Ald. Blake noted the MIS Director gets overtime yet underlings don't.

Mr. Boland responded some jobs are set up as non-rep. He stated he would not have an explanation for that. He stated the MIS position has been that way for over 20 years.

Ald. Beckwith stated he would dovetail on the comments of Ald. Blake and asked about any history where that whole theory has been negotiated out.

Mr. Boland replied several have been put in but not taken out.

Ald. Beckwith stated it might be something to look into at some point.



4350 Building Inspection – T. Raucci, Jr. was present for questions/comment. He distributed an informational outline and proceeded to explain the handout.

Chairman Beirne asked if his budget were cut 10%, where could he do it.

Mr. Raucci replied he just did not see where he could make cuts. He stated it is a responsible budget and repeated he did not see any room to cut it 10%.

Ald. Genovese asked about line item 4112 Overtime and noted he asked for \$65,000 and was only getting \$20,000. She stated as she understood it that account is already over. She asked why so much. She also asked about line items 4117 and 4180.

Mr. Raucci replied over the last two years overtime has been well over \$50,000. He explained his overtime represented about \$19,000 and the rest was split through his department. He stated they used to be able to keep their heads above water with the amount of the workload but that has changed. He also stated that plans have to be reviewed within a specific time frame. He stated they work on Saturdays and stay late and come in early just to attempt to keep up. With regard to Seasonal/Temp he stated that is during the summer months and they would bring in an extra inspector. Acct. 4180 he explained they have used and as he understood that account is for a consultant, if needed.

Mayor Richetelli spoke as to the unprecedented growth in Milford, especially the Westfield Mall and former Ryder Park location. He reiterated what was stated earlier, there were three inspectors and another was added last term. He stated one person was hired and left the position to go back to New York and another inspector had some medical problems so they were down to two inspectors and that was when the transfer to the overtime account.

Ald. Genovese asked about line item #4476.

Mr. Raucci responded an example would be Merwin Avenue where the building collapsed. He stated that building had to be torn down immediately.

Ald. Genovese asked about line items 4712, 4713, 4718, 4773, 4775 and 4783. She also asked why so much upkeep, supplies.

Mr. Raucci spoke as to training requirements. He stated they are required to have 30 hours of training per year. He stated many of the classes are sponsored, but there are some that are sponsored by Engineering, etc. that require a fee to attend. With regard to membership, he stated there are some statutorily required memberships with municipalities. He stated every licensed inspector must be a member. Line item 4773 he stated is contractual, i.e. the copier, fax machine, etc. Also, line item 4783 he stated are everyday things, pens, paper, note pads, etc.

Ald. Genovese asked about line item 4977 0121 and stated he asked for this last year and also if he could explain another new desk and line item 4990 0501.

Mr. Raucci responded the desk was not funded last year. He also stated office furniture was not funded last year.

Ald. Genovese asked about the different pays.

Mr. Raucci explained the disparity with the Building Inspector and grade levels. He stated there is one at top grade and another a new hire and one at Step 2.

Ald. Genovese asked why they are still different.

Mr. Raucci reiterated they are different pay steps.

Ald. Rowland asked about fees generated in 2005-2006 and asked if he would explain the difference.

Mayor Richetelli stated that was not produced by his office and stated he might assume it was rounded up.

Ald. Rowland asked if they are generating fewer dollars if he could justify the need for a new position based on the numbers going down.

Mr. Raucci stated it was important to note that the building staff has been understaffed since his tenure. He stated he does not see a decline in building in the near future. He also noted permit fees paid are above and beyond.

Ald. Rowland stated his initial comment projected revenue slightly lower.

Mr. Raucci explained how those numbers are arrived at and stated they are beyond \$1,250,000.

Ald. Rowland asked if he thought they were anywhere near \$1,580,000.

Mr. Raucci replied he believed they might be.

Mayor Richetelli spoke as to expenditures and stated if an additional Inspector B is added to the budget that would correlate to the reduction of overtime and seasonal temporary. He stated if that position is taken out it would necessitate more overtime and seasonal temporary.

Ald. Patterson commented it was his recollection they had approved for larger projects to go to outsource.

Ald. Raucci thanked the Board for that and stated that only lessens the burden for larger projects.

Ald. Toohey spoke as to overtime and commented he a sense it would be a wash with regard to overtime, etc., but you still had to consider insurance, pension, workers compensation, etc.

Mr. Raucci stated when he took the job in 2001 Milford was 91% built and that there has been an increase very year since.

Mayor Richetelli stated that the fact they have building going on, especially commercial is a good thing and that it reduces the burden on the taxpayer as it brings revenue.

Ald. Blake asked if there was any discussion in the office or with personnel as to streamlining the operation and making the office more efficient. He also spoke as to the importance of customer service.

Mr. Raucci replied he recently had discussions with the Mayor and also with some of the builders in the community and essentially it comes back to the level of staffing. He spoke as to the statutory requirements that are required. He stated they are looking at other options to streamline and that he certainly would be open to examples.

Ald. Blake asked if he had any examples of those programs.

Mr. Raucci stated back in May 2006 he had a meeting with the gentlemen the mayor referred to, who was hired and left to go back to New York. He stated that gentlemen had experience and at that time went to what is called a "speedline".

Ald. Veccharelli commented it was too bad this was not an enterprise fund and commented that department is like a cash cow, but yet all you hear is that the department is understaffed. He stated trying to get a building permit is not an easy task and spoke of the length of time you spend in line waiting. Ald. Veccharelli also commented there is always going to be building in this town and that revenue is not relevant to the number of people that come in for their small jobs. He also commented how sorry he was to hear of these personnel issues but stated it is important to move the people in and out and expressed how much he regrets that people have to wait in such long lines.

Ald. Genovese commented she understands he is understaffed but she has gotten a lot of complaints of rudeness in the way people are treated.

Mr. Raucci thanked her for her candidness, but stated it was news to him of complaints of rudeness. He stated he believes his staff is exceptionally courteous.

Mayor Richetelli stated since he has been mayor he has only recommended one personnel increase and this year an additional inspector to help keep up with the means.

4360 Lights, Hydrants, Water – no questions

4420 Public Works – B. Kolwicz, Public Works Director and Kelly Hamill, Administrative Assistant and Jim Cooper were present for questions/comments.

Chairman Beirne asked the question he asked all night to the departments, where they would find 10% to cut.

Mr. Kolwicz responded this is a \$19,000,000 budget. He stated the first thing they would cut would be the administrative assistant position (jokingly), but stated there really just is no room for a cut. He stated this department touches everybody in this city with the exception of the fire department. He also stated many things are wages which are contractual.

Ald. Lambert asked if they had to reduce the bulk trash pick up from three to two if there would be a savings.

Mr. Kolwicz responded it would not offset anything in the budget. He stated they would still run into the same problems and they would still have to hire people back.

Mayor Richetelli added when they went from the five pickups to three they thought there would be a savings, but people put out twice as much so it was the same amount on the scale and more people needed for pick ups.

Ald. Lambert asked if he was advocating for five pickups.

Mayor Richetelli responded no, saying three is fine.

Ald. Genovese referenced line item 4432 and commented that every department that came before them tonight said they don't do it. She asked what buildings public works takes care of.

Mayor Richetelli stated they take care of all city buildings except for the fire department and animal shelter.

Mr. Kolwicz added the fire department cuts their own grass and the animal shelter has such a small area they do their own as well.

Mayor Richetelli stated the firefighters are also able to do the lawn and maintain around their building. He added the same is true for the animal shelter and that they have a small parcel and are able to maintain it while waiting for a call. He added this is an efficient way to do it.

Ald. Rowland asked about line item 4796 and 4977 and if someone could elaborate.

Ms. Hamill replied that is what they pay for their timekeeping system.

Mr. Kolwicz explained line item 4977 is one of the oldest computers and the last one to be replaced.

4421 Highway/Parks

Ald. Patterson asked about line item 4189.

Mr. Kolwicz explained that account is for additional contractors and equipment they might not use all the time such as a bulldozer, etc.

Ald. Rowland asked if he could explain the vacant positions.

Mr. Kolwicz responded they would be testing this summer for the light equipment position and also a driver and drainage driver. He stated the two other positions are still in court and that he could not speak as to them at this time. He stated the foreman position would go inside/outside.

Ald. Rowland commented the foreman position has been vacant since 2003. She asked if he was saying no one could fill that position.

Mr. Kolwicz explained the two persons that were vying for that position retired.

Ald. Rowland asked if this is a position they can cut to save money.

Mr. Kolwicz responded no.

Ald. Beckwith asked if there is a sufficient amount of sand on land.

Mr. Kolwicz responded they have some and gave an explanation as to what is done.

Mayor Richetelli clarified that each year they don't know what kind of a winter they will have, it could be a terrible one or a mild winter, so they budget for a moderate one. He stated if there is money left over it goes into a Fund 40 account. He stated they always try to stay ahead.

Ald. Beckwith stated he wished to dovetail on a comment made earlier by Ald. Rowland regarding personnel. He asked if that means the upkeep on the fields will take longer.

Mr. Kolwicz explained a lot of the grass cutting is when they hire summer help and kids come in. He stated they have over 800 parcels, some are very small and some are very large. He also stated that when people change jobs and somebody goes from building maintenance to sanitation they can go back to their original job if they find it was not what they expected.

Ald. Blake commented there are two positions the department has done without since 2003 and two more since 2005. He asked why it has now changed and they are now a necessity when the city has been able to get by.

Mr. Kolwicz responded "just get by" is what they have done and that it has not been easy. He stated the job classification has to go to the union and that is part of bargaining.

Ald. Blake asked what four positions he would eliminate if he could.

Mr. Kolwicz responded it is in the contract and that they just could not eliminate positions and that he believed there is a clause to that affect.

Ald. Blake stated the Mayor just testified to that with regard to the Building Department.

Mr. Kolwicz replied they are not the same as the Building Department.

Mayor Richetelli stated the workload of Public Works has gone up dramatically. He stated there is more open space, parcels, etc. and this department is being asked to do more with and more with this staff. He stated these positions are vital and when they are at full strength they are able to manage.

Ald. Politi spoke as to Mondo Ponds and how it has become so neglected.

Mr. Kolwicz explained that property was going to be managed by volunteer groups. He stated his department is working on the filtration system and working on the dams and walking bridges, etc. and that there is a lot of

work in that area. He stated it is not neglected and that every Spring they go through the property as well as the Beaverbrook property through an agreement they have with the water company and Kingdom Life.

Ald. Politi asked about line item #4112 and asked if that is due to snow removal.

Mr. Kolwicz responded that is snow removal, leaf pickup, accidents that the Police Department may call them for, trees, etc.

Ald. Genovese commented she understood this department wanted to keep those positions but stated that money that is sitting there is food on someone's table. She stated they are trying to find a way to cut in all departments where they can to help the seniors and those on fixed incomes. She stated they were just trying to find dollars.

Mr. Kolwicz commented it is capricious in any manor because "we" are all taxpayers too. He stated his hands have been tied with two of these positions. He stated they don't have enough people to do what they need to do now. He also reminded the Board that his budget for 15 years has been flat and that he always brings in a tight budget.

Ald. Genovese responded she believed this department is working, but the taxpayers are having a hard time.

Mr. Kolwicz reminded the Board that everything in this City is touched by Public Works.

Mayor Richetelli also commented the fact that those positions are not filled is not a dollar for dollar comparison. He explained some of those monies are transferred into overtime because of work not getting done adding we have all received the phone calls. Mayor Richetelli asked how long the list is for trees and sidewalks.

Mr. Kolwicz replied it is over three years for trees and that they have not done sidewalks for three or four years.

Mayor Richetelli also spoke as to potholes as another danger.

Mr. Kolwicz stated when they are at full staff they could address those as well as some of the needs of the roads, park, beach, etc.

Ald. Blake asked the actual overtime budget for last year.

Mr. Kolwicz responded it fell short.

Ald. Blake stated he was asking the actual budget with transfers.

Mr. Kolwicz replied he did not have it with him but could get it.

#### 4423 Building Maintenance

Ald. Blake noted \$800,000 for electricity and stated they have seen on paper we will be able to save over 19% and asked if that \$800,000 could be reduced.

Mr. Kolwicz stated he did not believe they would recognize that amount.

Mayor Richetelli spoke as to the generation cost and also pointed out there is transportation cost because UI owns the lines and that will not change.

Ald. Blake stated when the Board of Finance reviewed this account it was after UI increased the rates. He asked if 19% reflects production what percentage overall would be saved.

Mayor Richetelli replied they have not been able to calculate that. He reiterated the transportation cost would not change. He also pointed out the department asked for \$900,000 and was reduced to \$800,000.

Ald. Rowland asked if the generation cost is a different line item and the percentage.

Mayor Richetelli responded 50%.

Ald. Rowland asked about cell phones and how many the department has and if they could be cut.

Mr. Kolwicz explained the trade's people use them so they can be on a secured line. He stated foremen and superintendents have them on a 24-hr basis and use them all the time. He stated the rest of this department use them as radios.

#### 4424 Engineering Department

Ald. Rowland commented this department just hired an Engineer and that it is her understanding there are two other positions that have been vacant since 2004.

Mr. Kolwicz explained there would be some changes in those positions. He stated the Engineering Technician is like a rod man and explained how that position was. He also stated he has been working with the new Engineer. He deferred to the Mayor regarding the Administrative Clerk.

Mayor Richetelli explained they had a retirement in the Sewer Department and that position was retired at a salary of \$59,738. He stated they would not be filling that position and are putting the Clerk A from the Sewer Department into the Clerk A in Engineering. He explained this would save two positions and that they would cross-train that position. He stated they would be cutting two positions, an Administrative Clerk A at a salary of \$40,303 and the Sewer Administrator position with a salary of \$59,738.

Mr. Kolwicz interjected stating that persona that has moved to Engineering is also at a lower rate of pay, which is also a savings.

Mayor Richetelli stated it looks to a savings of \$100,000, plus benefits.

Ald. Blake asked if they could eliminate the Clerk Tech. Position and possibly two.

Mr. Kolwicz replied he would say no. He stated since he has been Public Works Director he has seen that department go from 17 employees to 10. He stated he just did not feel it would be possible. He also

commented last year it was the same question and that he had hoped they would have a new City Engineer sooner than they did. He stated they have taken it down to where they feel it is still manageable.

#### 4429 General Garage

Ald. Genovese asked about line item 4331 and how they keep track of that.

Mr. Kolwicz stated they have a gas buy system monitor on all gas pumped, either gas or diesel. He explained there is a gas ring around the rim of the gas tank and that it tells you the vehicle, time, etc. He stated the Board of Education also uses it and they are charged for them. He stated it really is worth seeing.

Ald. Genovese asked if that is all city cars.

Mr. Kolwicz stated you have to have the ring and sensor and a key or you can't pump it.

#### 4431 Solid Waste

Ald. Genovese asked about line item 4709 represents

Mr. Kolwicz explained it is a plan started a number of years ago when condominiums formed associations. He stated they come in and give them a bill annual and they pay them for what it costs them. He stated it is part of the Board's Code of Ordinances.

Ald. Blake asked about line item 4790 – Bulky Waste.

Mr. Kolwicz explained it is oversized waste and it is hauled out of town.

Ald. Blake asked the total figure in overtime for three (3) pickups and what it would go up to if they went to five (5).

Mr. Kolwicz responded it costs approximately \$90,000 each month. He spoke as to the collection in general and commented even when they were at five pickups they were still finding trash on the side of the road. He also noted they received only about a dozen telephone calls when they switched to three. He also commented there was a positive affect when the Mayor extended the hours at the transfer station.

Mayor Richetellil added the transfer station has been very successful. He also noted the \$90,000 figure was just personnel and did not include the tipping fee.

Mr. Kolwicz stated the tipping fee is approximately \$76,000 plus.

Ald. Toohey spoke as to bulk trash pick up and commented other cities and towns have done it as a call-in service. She asked if there would be any cost savings if they went that route.

Mr. Kolwicz responded that was the way they did it prior to 1990 and it just didn't work. He stated the way they do it is the most efficient.



4426 Wastewater – Mr. J. Cooper was available to answer questions.

Ald. Veccharelli thanked him for the work done during a recent storm.

Ald. Toohey asked about line item 4741 – Nitrogen.

Mr. Cooper explained they would have to purchase nitrogen credits as part of the DEP removal.

Ald. Rowland asked about line item 4971.

Mr. Cooper responded it is a Fund 12 so they don't get involved.

Mr. Kolwicz added they buy their equipment same as equipment acquisition. He stated basically Wastewater is a separate entity.

Mr. Doneiko explained that the State and Federal governments required this.

4154 Sewer Commission – no questions asked.

4502 Equipment Reserve Allocation – no questions.

4210 Finance Department – J. Doneiko was present for questions/comments.

Ms. Doneiko distributed a handout and proceeded to explain. She also explained the ECS budget and also spoke as to the decline in BOE percentage budget since 1998. She also explained her department is not just the Finance Department and includes the treasurer, accounting department, tax office. She provided the Board with a lengthy, detailed explanation as to how her department runs and each of the department that fall under her. She also explained the savings of doing reval in-house. She also pointed out that staffing has not increased since the late 1970's. She also explained some of the mandates of the Federal government under Medicare. She stated when you add it all together they are running a half billion-dollar office. She continued with an explanation as to what her office oversees, which includes beach stickers, school projects, passport office located within the library, police department private duty, etc. She also spoken regarding grants that these agencies have to do. She stated there are possibly over 1500 projects that the accountant oversees with no extra staff. She spoke of payroll checks, budget forms, etc which saves in printing costs. She also spoke of the many time saving measures her office has implemented including direct deposit, etc. Stated her department is extremely lean compared to other towns are size. She stated her department also administers all health plans for the city. She stated they do as much as they can with the staff they have. She stated this year's budget asks for one additional person and reiterated her staff has not increased since the 1970's.

Chairman Beirne asked if is \$800,000.

Ms. Doneiko replied he was only looking at contributions.

Ald. Blake stated he had a question about the material distributed and asked if the figures represent appropriations or government's budget.

Ms. Doneiko responded it was the governments and explained it was put together when the mayor's budget was put together.

Ald. Blake asked if there would be a more realistic figure from the State when the Board vote's on the budget.

Mayor Richetelli responded they would have more up to date figures and explained a lot of what they came out with already was restoring grants not in the budget. He also stated he spoke with Speaker of the House Amann and was advised it was around \$600,000 plus.

Ald. Blake asked about line item 4752 and asked what is still taking place. He stated the town of Orange spread their reveal out over 5 years and noted this Board considered that.

Ms. Doneiko stated there are still inspections that have to be done and mailers that will have to go out.

Mayor Richetelli commented the idea of doing a phase-in is not a new one. He stated they have done some calculations and will continue to do some to see if it helps or hurts. He continued with a lengthy explanation. He also noted that some towns have phased in and that his office is speaking with those towns.

Ms. Doneiko added that phase-in ultimately ends up costing the taxpayer more.

Ald. Patterson commented the tax collector elected to forego foreclosure. He has how much in revenue they would lose.

Ms. Doneiko responded she did not get those figures from her. She reminded the Board that they do not know which ones will be foreclosed on.

4503 Public Debt Service – Ms. Doneiko was present to answer questions.

Ms. Doneiko explained the bond process. She stated this is an amount due and payable and cannot be reduced.

Mayor Richetelli added the bottom line is \$6,020,774.

Ms. Doneiko also added the debt service would grow over the next few years.

Ald. Patterson asked about the school projects recently bonded for and asked about that money and where it comes back.

Ms. Doneiko stated in 1997-1998 there was a change in the procedure. She gave a detailed explanation of the new procedure. She also referred to page 4 of the budget book and noted a web site on education that shows the various projects, etc.

Ald. Patterson stated he still did not see it accounted for anywhere.

Ms. Doneiko reminded the Board they do not permanently finance that bonding numbers will be lowered. In the past we would bond the entire project. She also spoke as to the timing of the monthly reporting.

Ald. Lambert asked if they do not report for the month if it costs the city extra money.

Ms. Doneiko remarked there have been times it has been as long as nine months. He stated they eventually get the grant if they have spent the amount they stated. She stated it really is just timing.

Ald. Toohey stated they don't lose the money they get it at a later date.

Ald. Blake asked if the bond is more than 100% with contingency fee why they don't bond for 60-70%.

Ms. Doneiko stated they first look at the priority list. She stated they also authorize spending.

#### 4710 Employee Benefits

Ms. Doneiko reported at the end of FY06-07 there was \$600,000 in the fund balance. She noted there still are several months to go with claims. She stated the outside consultant wants the City to do a claims audit. She stated they are hopeful the fund balance will get better.

Mayor Richetelli asked what the fund balance is in health insurance.

Ms. Doneiko responded \$621,000.

Ald. Lambert asked about post employment benefits. She stated the Mayor recommended \$259,999 and the Board of Finance recommended \$9,000,000. She asked the ramifications if they only contribute the \$250,000.

Ms. Doneiko explained GSBY 45 and the liabilities as procedures.

Ald. Genovese asked about the contribution of medical benefits. She stated they keep funding this and it is outrageous. She stated \$25,000,000 is just too much.

Ms. Doneiko stated she is not involved in negotiations.

Ald. Blake asked about line item 4221 9919 and stated \$500,000 is being used in the fund balance.

#### 4720 Insurance and Bonds

Chairman Beirne asked the reserve balance.

Ms. Doneiko responded she did not bring that information with her. She stated 4823 and 4824 are down. She commented if they did not have the self-insurance it would be about \$1,570,000.

Chairman Beirne asked the fund balance amount.

Ms. Doneiko replied she did not know because claims still are coming in.

Ald. Blake commented line item 4825 went up almost 50% and questioned why.

Ms. Doneiko explained a large part of that is from the actuary. She stated a lot of claims appear to be coming to settlement. She stated it is also due to workers compensation and that they are receiving more claims for soft tissue injury. She stated all these factors contribute to this.

Ald. Blake commented it still sounds huge.

Ms. Doneiko reiterated a large portion of the calculation is from the actuary. She also noted they contribute to the Second Injury Fund and Third Party Administrator, Webster. She stated it is a big number that has been growing.

4790 Benefit and Salary Reserve

Ms. Doneiko reported there is one union contract that still has not been settled. She explained each time they do this they have to keep up the amount.

4799 Unallocated Contingency

4993 Education Audit Fees

4994 School Debt

4995 Employee Benefits – Non-Teaching

4997 Education – Health Insurance Contribution

Ald. Genovese gave the numbers she calculated and stated she was unsure their numbers were arrived at

Ald. Beckwith asked how much comes in from the Board of Education and co-insurance.

Ms. Doneiko responded \$1,200,000 and that it is already included in this figure.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to recess at 12:51 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber  
Board Secretary

