

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 7, 2007**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their Regular Meeting on Monday, May 7, 2007 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairperson T. Beirne called the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m. asking everyone present to stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

P. Beckwith
T. Beirne
B. Bier
B. Blake
V. Ditchkus, Jr.
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
M. Lipton, City Attorney
J. Doneiko, Finance Director

2. Public Statements

Public statements are limited to the legislative function of the Board of Aldermen. The time limit granted to each speaker shall be three minutes. Residents, taxpayers or electors may address the Board. Chairman Beirne also explained the Board does not respond to questions.

R. Dunphey – 1009 E. Broadway – questioned the Board regarding the assessment shift from commercial to residential. He commented most people are on a fixed income and can't afford to live here and need to move out of state. He asked if anyone could answer his question.

Chairman Beirne stated the Board does not answer questions during public session.

Mr. Dunphey continued that prices are going up such as gas, groceries, utilities, but salaries don't go up. He expressed his hope to the Board that they would consider this. He asked the aldermen to take his address and write to him and get him the answer he is looking for.

L. Flannigan – 44 Prospect Street – commented it is nice to have the ability to watch the budget deliberations and the ability to have our citizens hear the process. She also commented on how favorably the Board members

conducted themselves, but how one department head did not. She spoke of the audacity and arrogance that this individual spoke in defense of their own budget and commented it is a shame that longtime residents cannot do the hiring and firing in the city and maybe the aldermen do. She commended the aldermen for their gracious respect they showed. She stated the Board has a solemn decision to make regarding the budget.

G. Stanford – no address given – stated she was sad to hear the bids at Jonathan Law were rejected. She explained the set up at that school. She stated she was sad to hear the construction was postponed until next year and commented she wondered if anyone realized these bids would be lower next year. She also remarked she was amazed our kids do as well as they do given the circumstances at that school. She stated the kids at Foran spend most of their lunch looking for somewhere to sit and commented our school infrastructure is a disaster. She also spoke of the problems at Law where there is no elevator and that the kids are forced to eat in the cafeteria. She spoke of the fear of losing accreditation because of so many issues. She also asked that people stop saying Stratford is getting more than Milford and that she was tired of hearing that. She stated they are 90th in wealth with Milford 40th. She stated there is no one in Milford that doesn't want his or her taxes raised more than her. She also commented she has never heard anyone say they moved to Milford because of Eisenhower Park and questioned why the city is so willing to bond a park and not a new school on the north side. She asked the Board to set some priorities and take care of the "elephant in the room" – our schools. She also commented regarding a comment the Majority Leader made regarding special education kids taking kids' funds away and stated she does not have any understanding of state statute. She stated she wished to give the Board an assignment, to do their homework. She stated they owed it to these parents here tonight and also an apology to the kids who deserve more.

P. Staneski – Point Lookout – stated she wished to bring good news to the Board. She commented the month of May is "Respect Awareness" month and stated she distributed to each Board member packets. She stated over 300 students would receive respect stars and that 41 ambassadors would be honored on May 16, 2007. She explained the program. She invited members of the Board to march with them in the Memorial Day Parade and also that the Milford Youth Committee would march on Saturday, May 19, 2007 at 12:00 noon. She stated their organization is grateful to the City and the Devon Lions for their supports as well as Mr. Alan Jepson.

C. Kopazna – 99 Dewey Avenue – stated she is the Chairman of the Board for the Board of Education, reported the Board was pleased to announce recently the hiring of Dr. Harvey Polansky, new Superintendent of Schools. She stated Dr. Polansky has been spending time in our city and around the district. She stated she was pleased to bring forward Dr. Polansky.

Dr. Polansky stated it is with great pride and enthusiasm to come before this Board and community. He spoke of the responsibility to educate every student in Milford and stated our legacy is our children. He commented regarding shared leadership and coming together and working together through our differences. He also commented he was please to come before the Board to meet the needs of the community, students and parents.

R. Oliver – 3 Lafayette Street – stated he was speaking in support of the request for an additional inspector in the Building Office. He stated there has been an amazing amount of growth in our City with the building department doing the brunt of the work. He commented there are over 5,000 building permits as well as a lot of new code requirements. He stated plan reviews currently take over 60 days and that builders are waiting in long lines in our city hallways for the opportunity to see an inspector. He also noted the inspectors are conducting numerous inspections, i.e. footings; mechanical, electrical, etc with a number of on-call jobs being done as well. He stated last fall the inspection period for an inspection was 14 days and that builders just cannot afford this.

He stated waiting two weeks you could lose your opportunity. He also noted the department more than covers its own costs. He spoke of a state mandate that says if the building inspector cannot get on the job within a specified period they need to look at their manpower. He also commented that Milford is losing projects and that builders are going elsewhere because they just cannot wait, which means the City loses revenue. He implored the Board to vote for the additional position for the Building Department.

L.D'Amato – no address given – stated he reinforces the comments of Mr. Oliver. He stated he has over 250 commercial tenants in this city and that he cannot accept new tenants with retro-fittings because of the backlog in the Building Department. He stated this is a basic problem that has to be solved and that there is a real need for a fourth building inspector.

T. Collucci – no address given – stated he has been in business in Milford for over 30 years. He echoed the comments of Mr. Oliver and stated he is also in favor of adding a fourth building inspector to this department and commented on the benefits to this city in doing so.

J. Wicko – no address given – stated he is an architect in this city and spoke of the impact regarding the lack of manpower in the Building Department. He urged the Board to vote in favor of a fourth building inspector. He noted there are many times when plans come back over 30 days, which impacts the job. He also stated scheduling an inspection takes too long. He stated the norm is 2-3 days with the exception of Milford and that Milford is getting a bad reputation as being a hard place to do business because of the Building Department. He stated projects are not coming into Milford because of the lack of staff in that department. He also noted this office is extremely business and that hiring more manpower could save in the long run in overtime.

R. Standish – no address given – state he is a contractor in this City and also spoke of the issues of waiting in long lines at the Building Department. He stated if you want to get a permit you need to be in line at the Building Department by 7:00 a.m. and many times there are already four to five people in line for an office that doesn't even open until 8:30 a.m. He reiterated the need for another inspector in this office.

G. Field – no address given – stated he has been a local building in this city for 31 years. He stated he was in support of adding a fourth building inspector. He stated that many times it is a very hostile environment in that hallway.

S. Feher – 348 Housatonic Drive – stated for the record she is in the 3rd District and a taxpayer. She asked the Board to approve the Board of Education budget the way it is and that cutting it 10% would be a disaster and spoke of some of the cuts that had been mentioned. She also asked why there has been so much focus on the VO Ag Program and commented students have options. She suggested they attend another program or having their parents pay. She also spoke of a comment made by Ald. Garbus regarding special education children and implying they were taking money away from regular children and referred to the numerous mandates for special education kids and their needs. She stated this is not the first time he has mentioned something negative about education. She stated our children deserve the best and nothing less.

L. Mason – 211 Plains Road – stated this is her first experience at this kind of meeting. She stated she came her last week. She stated she came here last week and was shocked to hear this Board would consider cutting the education budget and that taking away from our children would have long term affects. She stated she wants the best for her children and noted this town has a lot to offer. She also spoke of classroom sizes and cutting the

budget would affect this. She mentioned the sign in front of City Hall that reads “Kids Count”. She asked the Board to please do their best and not cut the education budget.

K. Boath – 91 Hickory Avenue – stated she is here tonight like so many other parents regarding the education budget. She stated she was disheartened by the proposed cuts to the Board of Education budget and stated \$8,000,000 is an unfathomable amount of money. She read a list of what that type of a cut would do. She said parents are saying loud and clear, “find another solution and keep our children in tact”. She continued by reading from a prepared statement and read a quote in the newspaper by Ald. Rowland. She asked the Board to “represent us the way we intended you to do at election time”.

E. Capobianco – 11 Oak Ridge Lane – asked the Board to think about the proposed cuts and the impact it would have on our children.

M. Capobianco – stated he is a 5th grader at Mathewson School. He expressed his disappointment of the cuts to the education budget and stated he deserves the best Milford can offer.

R. White – 27 Orient Avenue – stated he is in favor of the Board of Education budget as approved by the Board of Finance. He stated the Board of Education budget should not suffer because of the recent reval noting that every city by State statute is required to go through reval.

S. Glennon – 99 Carlson Drive – commented this Board had asked great questions and that she feels they received candid, honest answers and that she believe it was made clear how devastating some of the proposed cuts would be. She noted it is a fact that everyone is working very hard to stretch the dollar. She also commented how Mr. Russell has worked hard to save on energy and take advantage of grants. She expressed the need to make headway with our legislatures as well as making headway at home. She also commented whether it is unfounded or under funded mandates, they affect the budget and asked the Board not to take it out on our children. She also noted things are much different now than they were 30 years ago and commented education must keep up with the times.

K. Bonetti – stated that budget time doesn’t just happen in May and noted it started 8 months ago. She read from a prepared statement commenting regarding the shell system of the budget and the nee sayers who have come out of hiding either in person or in writing who speak of statistics that are so stretched. She spoke of Mr. Schaefer and Mr. Russell who between them of decades of professional experience as well as the 100’s of required mandates. She asked the Board to ask questions and not vote on the budget based on a heartstring. She reminded the Board they are the elected stewards of our tax dollars and expressed hope they would pass the budget as presented.

K. Bates – 17 Eastern Parkway – implored the Board not to cut the proposed Board of Education budget. She stated Mr. Schaefer presented a detailed description that the proposed budget would only maintain the structure in the system and spoke of what some of the proposed cuts could do. She stated begged the Board to do their research, find out facts and please do not cut the budget.

C. Kopazna – spoke of the budget regarding salaries. She also spoke of the accusations in a letter recently to the local newspaper. She asked the Board to ask questions and get accurate answers. She read from a prepared stated regarding teacher salaries, long-term leave, etc. She also stated Mr. Schaefer prepared responses to the questions this Board had asked and that they should have or would be receiving them in the next day or two.

A. Arnold – 50 Herbert Street. – stated she has lived her for over 20 years and that in the 15 years in her home her taxes have doubled, and commented she is not complaining. She spoke of the comments made by a speaker earlier that we could lose our accreditation if we don't have a school system that supports our children. She spoke personally of her children and how the cuts would affect them and stated the proposed cuts are ridiculous. She stated we would suffer if we don't fix what needs to be fixed.

R. Arnold – stated he is a student at Harborside Middle School and also the Drama Director at Mathewson School and spoke personally of that work with those students and the light in their eyes. He spoke of what would happen if these cuts are made commenting it would be "lights out" for these students. He stated if you extinguish their lights you extinguish their future.

J. Prisco – 11 Riverdale Road – stated he is a senior citizen. He spoke of the \$50,000 the Board of Education spends for rental property and that it is his understanding the new property for the Alternative Education students will not be ready until September. He stated they need to push to get this done earlier otherwise another \$50,000 would have to be spent. He also asked about the phase-in and a Resolution coming up and asked the Board if they had been told it may not work.

Chairman Beirne reminded Mr. Prisco they do not respond to questions.

Mr. Prisco stated they needed to get the taxes down otherwise people would be hurt. He stated he is interested in the taxes and what will happen. He spoke of his own children and that he has a grandchild and a great grandchild that have gone through the Milford School System. He expressed his concern regarding the phase-in.

E. Tamas – 14 Wayland Court – stated it is around this time he gets aggravated by the Board of Education that threaten you with cuts. He noted each of the middle schools has two administrators and asked why. He stated by cutting three administrators you could save. He also stated you could get by with two and one special education administrator. He also commented regarding athletic trainers and asked why there are five. He spoke of the number of psychologists and stated you could get by with two. He stated none of this was ever even considered. He noted there were some good questions asked including one from Mr. Ditchkus that there would be doom and gloom and yet they still found 16 extra teachers. Mr. Tamas asked where that money came from. He also commented that Ald. Genovese had asked why the numbers did not add up and was given an answer it was because of the pre-K students. He noted they pay a sliding fee and asked why it is added-in. He stated he is tired of the threats every year and commented they use the same scare tactics each year by saying they will cut 50 teachers. He also spoke regarding the \$1,000,000 for substitutes is too much and that they don't give you the exact amount of time. He stated there is a lot that can be cut and stated he hoped the Board had the courage to do it.

R. Arnold, Sr. – 50 Herbert Street – stated he heard about the proposed 10% cut to the education budget. He stated the cuts would be so dramatic and would be irresponsible. He spoke of the process and stated the Board of Finance gave a budget they could live with. He stated the quality of life is contingent with the quality of education a person receives. He asked the Board not to be so drastic and not cut the budget.

K. Hope – Granville Avenue – stated she is a very concerned parent. She spoke of comments made by Ald. Garbus that we spend too much on education. She stated the Federal government requires every City to have a

fair, adequate, equitable education. She stated these kids do not have a voice but their parents do and added they are our future. She stated it is the right thing to have an education and shame on the Board if they take their rights away. She urged the Board to pass this budget as is.

J. Novack – 46 Oak Ridge Lane – stated she has three children in the school system and that it is appalling that education is being cut. She referenced the sign “Kids Count” and asked “do they”? She stated if this budget is cut then you are saying they don’t. She noted in Europe where she is from education is number one. She urged the Board not to cut the budget.

L. Lynch – 100 Wepawaug Drive – commented there seems to be some kind of an impasse and the need for a deep examination of the budget as approved by the Board of Finance. He stated special programs for children are essential. He also spoke of our ever-changing world and how it is contingent upon everyone in this room. He noted everyone on this Board has been through some type of education and asked the Board not to let our children miss out on something that will change their lives. He stated he moved here 11 years ago and that what he saw here was a beautiful community and that he wanted to settle down and raise his children here. He cautioned the Board in cutting the education budget and to examine in each person the need for each child to have an opportunity. He agreed, yes there should be more money coming in, but it is up to all of us to keep their hopes alive. He asked the Board to please listen to the recommendations of Mr. Schaefer and those parents here tonight and to think about what it means to the children.

R. Chapman – 44 Riverdale Road – commented he heard very good comments from both sides of the aisle. He asked why the Board of Education books come out at the last second. He also asked why they need new football fields at a cost of \$10,000 and then we are looking for money for new boilers. He also asked why a few years ago they relieved a person from their position in a school and created a new position. He stated he brings this up because he is one of those senior citizens mentioned on a fixed income. He stated he is retired, but pays his own health insurance. He stated just because of a reval doesn’t mean you have to raise taxes, he stated they needed to cut the mill rate. He also suggested the Board go by the governments’ chart for cost of living. He expressed his concerns about Milford Academy. He also stated it has always been his pet peeve why the Board can’t answer questions. He stated the public elects you and you can’t even answer questions. He also spoke of bus transportation and the fact the buses stop every few feet and even stop at driveways. He spoke of how they did pick-ups many years ago. He asked about state representatives that are never present but during election time you can’t get rid of them. He also commented regarding eminent domain.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen held on April 9, 2007.

Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro moved to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2007 meeting as presented.
Motion carried as unanimously.

Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro moved to re-order the Agenda and bring forward items 8b and 8e. Motion carried unanimously.

8b. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Ditchkus moved to approve the following Mayor’s appointments as alternates on the Tree Commission:

- (U) Irwin L. Langewisch, 85 Mary Ellen Drive (Term to expire 12/31/09).
- (R) Bryan J. Mancini, 47 Tumblebrook Drive (Term to expire 12/31/10).

Motion carried unanimously.

8e. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Rowland moved to approve the following appointments to the Historic District Commission #2 (South of the Green):

- (D) Arthur Paulson, 10 Pond Street (Term to expire 1/1/08)
- (R) Carol Malloy Smith, 21 Green Street (Term to expire 1/1/09)
- (U) Kevin Demarco, 21 LaFayette Street (Term to expire 1/1/10)
- (D) Collen Noyes, 16 Seaside Court (Term to expire 1/1/11)
- (R) Timothy (T.J.) J. Casey, Sr., 59 Green Street (Term to expire 1/1/12)

Alternates:

- (R) Robert M. Tyrell, 33 Sylvan Court (Term to expire (1/1/08)
- (U) Walter Ortoleva, 244 Seaside Avenue (Term to expire 1/1/09)
- (R) Arthur W. Stowe, 36 Fresh Meadow Lane (Term to expire 1/1/10)

Motion carried unanimously.

City Clerk A. Jepson swore-in those individuals present.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Board of Aldermen Special Meeting.

None.

5. Chairman's Report and Communications.

Chairman Beirne stated their tentative budget deliberations schedule reserved May 9, 2007. He stated that had been cancelled and that they would be meeting on Monday, May 14, 2007. Chairman Beirne read an article that appeared in the "Commercial Record" dated October 12, 1990 and commented it was de jay vu all over again. Chairman Beirne deferred to Ald. Politi regarding the status of the Milford Education Funding Committee.

Ald. Politi gave her report regarding the happenings of the Milford Education Funding Committee. She stated she provided minutes from each of the meetings previously held as well as the Committee's Mission Statement. She spoke of one mandate, House Bill 6956 and its affects and stated this proposal is still alive. She stated they sent out alerts and have sent letters to our legislatures. She gave the web site to obtain this information (www.ccmlac.org). She stressed the importance of continuing to contact our legislatures and continuing to advocate for Milford and encouraged the people to also do so.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations.

Mayor Richetelli asked the Board to consider items 8a-8e in addition to those the Board already took up. He also noted in each Board member's packet is an agreement regarding the Energy Program. He explained on April 24, 2007 CCM had a bid sale for energy generation. He stated under deregulation United Illuminating still owns the power lines so they cannot go out to bid for generation. He spoke of the rates for Trans Canada

and that it is a decrease from what the city was paying. He stated the city was able to lock in at the lower rate and that it should represent a considerable decrease in the amount they are paying United Illuminating. He stated the second item is the Cadley property and asked this be taken up in Executive Session. He stated he wished to clear up some inaccuracies during the public session. He stated the kids at Jonathan Law are not eating in the hallways and that just last year there was a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new cafeteria. He also stated the elevator issue was taken care of at Law and that they have a brand new elevator. He applauded the Permanent School Committee for not accepting the bids for the science lab and commented those bids were inflated. He stated they could wait until November and then get more “bang for the buck” and that they would combine it with Phase III. He reiterated his applause to the Permanent Schools Committee for saving tax dollars. Mayor Richetelli stated he also had good news to share and noted for the third year in a row the City of Milford received a Certificate of Achievement in Finance and that it is the highest award by the government’s Finance and Financial Reports. He congratulated Ms. Doneiko, the Finance Director and her staff for achieving this three years in a row.

Ald. Blake asked about Trans Canada and noted last week when the Board of Education presented their budget they gave their numbers and they were significantly less than what the city received. He asked why the city did not go out to bid when the Board of Education did.

Mayor Richetelli replied they took advantage of the best rates at the time and that simply they did not know any earlier. He stated the city locked in because it was in the best interests of the city.

7. Unfinished Business:

None.

8. New Business (from Mayor’s Report Items 8a-8e)

8a. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro moved to approve the request to accept a grant from the State of Connecticut Department of emergency Management and HomelandSecurity (DEMHS) in the amount of \$1,755.00 to be used by the Milford Health Department’s Milford Emergency Preparedness Coalition for training and equipment of the Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program and authorize the Mayor and the Health Director to sign all necessary documents and take all steps necessary to effectuate the grant and this program.

Ald. Toohey stated she would be recusing herself from this vote, as she is a member of this team.

Ald. Patterson stated he too would be recusing himself, as he is also a member.

Motion carried with two abstentions (Toohey, Patterson).

8c. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Hardiman moved to approve the request for the Sewer Commission’s recommendation that the city release all right, title and interest in certain sewer easements located at 38-40 Bridgeport Avenue and 44-50 Bridgeport Avenue as acquired by Certificates of Taking recorded in the City of Milford Land Records dated June 22, 2006 at Volume 3092, Page 741 and June 29, 2006 at Volume 3094, Page 381, because alternative sewer easements have been acquired, and authorize the Mayor to sign such release and take all steps necessary to effectuate this release.

Ald. Veccharelli asked if it might not be advisable to have Planning and Zoning recommend this also.

Mayor Richetelli stated the law does not require it and that it is the Sewer Commission that gives it. He explained this Board is the only Board that can release a sewer easement.

Ald. Veccharelli commented on the redundancy of checks and balances and that he did not want to overlook something. He stated he respects the Sewer Commission but that they always received approval in the past from Planning and Zoning. He stated he does not have a problem with approving this but reiterated he just doesn't want to miss something and that it is certainly worthy of discussion.

Mayor Richetelli gave a lengthy explanation of the original plan that included three (3) plans. He stated there is no application in at this time. He also stated both the consultant and the City Engineer concur this is an acceptable location for the city line. He reiterated it is this Board that can release this.

Ald. Genovese asked for an explanation as to why the New Haven Avenue neighbors don't want this.

Mayor Richetelli responded to Ald. Genovese that she is fully aware of that the neighbors do not want the pump station in a certain area. He also reminded her that the city sent out ballots to all the homeowners and there was no clear consensus.

Ald. Ditchkus commented the original easement was approved by Planning and Zoning, and that is the one the Board is being asked to release.

Mayor Richetelli stated the Sewer Commission originally approved it.

Motion carried unanimously.

8d. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro moved to approve the request for Resolution RE: October 1, 2006 Revaluation Phase-in.

Mayor Richetelli stated the Board was given information tonight and that also present this evening is J. Gabryszewski, Tax Collector and D. Thomas, City Assessor. He stated this is an important question before the Board and that it needs to be addressed fairly quickly as timing is of the essence. He stated he has also discussed this with other mayors around the state and from COG. He reminded the Board and those present that reval is State mandated as well as the methods and that the city waited as long as they could. He stated they wanted to hear from the people and they did. He also noted that reval doesn't help everybody, but the people most affect are aided and that it doesn't come without a cost. He also stated it would be extra work for the two departments and possibility of not having the tax bills printed by July 1, 2007 exists. He explained some of the consequences. He also spoke of the burden along the shoreline as well as other areas. He explained this shifts it 5 years out and divides it equally. He also stated it would be preferable to make a decision tonight.

Ms. Doneiko referred to the handout and explained it in detail. She also explained the mandate of reval and the consequences of not doing one.

Chairman Beirne referring to the handout asked to describe #1 house and #3 house and if you would pay this in the July tax.

Ms. Doneiko stated she would be unable to give exact numbers without an adopted budget. She continued with an explanation of the samples on the handout.

Ald. Patterson asked if page 1 represented the average.

Ms. Doneiko deferred to the Assessor.

Mr. Thomas responded it does to \$1.7.

Ald Blake asked why at the eleventh hour this is being presented to the Board and noted they met on the 25th of last month. He stated at that meeting many reasons were given not to do this and yet the next day in the newspaper there was an “Epiphany” and we were going to phase-in.

Mayor Richetelli responded that question had already been answered. He reiterated they waited to hear from the people and who would benefit. He stated they also needed to know the implications as well as an idea of what the mill rate could be. He stated they heard from the people who were most likely going to be affecting most from the reval. He stated the decision was made after very careful thinking and crunching of the numbers. He also commented although it may not help everyone it would help those hurt the most.

Ald. Blake asked who they heard from since April 25, 2007. He also commented there was no indication it was even being considered, but then in the newspaper there it is. He asked who they heard from within that 12 hour period.

Chairman Beirne interjected reminding Mr. Blake this is a town where respect shines.

Mayor Richetelli stated the recommendation came after a COG meeting he had.

Ald. Blake asked if the city was harmed because of the delay.

Ms. Doneiko referred the Board to page 6 of the handout.

Ms. Gabryszewski stated there was some discussion regarding the old assessment and the new assessment. She also spoke of the printing and that she would need to sit down with MIS. She also explained the character on the bill that is done and also the file layout that has to be revamped. She stated the time to have done this really was in March. She stated another way to do it instead of revamping the tax bill would be an insert with the bill.

Mayor Richetelli added these are fees the city would have paid no matter what.

Mr. Thomas agreed there was no question this is the 11th hour and that every assessment would have to be done twice. He also commented this would create program issues with administration software and that the company they use has not done this for sometime. He stated a lot goes into this and must be thought through.

Mayor Richetelli stated besides time, cost would be the same.

Mr. Thomas stated programming could be additional time especially in respect to getting the bills out on time.

Ms. Doneiko stated if the bills go out late the tax collector estimates bills would not go out until July 15 and then the tax bill would not be due until August 15. She explained the legislation allows municipalities to sent out tax anticipation bills.

Chairman Beirne asked what they would need to finance the city over 15 days.

Ms. Doneiko replied they were really looking at two months. She also stated most of the mortgage companies wait until the end to pay. She commented regarding payments that are due during that time, i.e. salaries, teach summer salary pay, etc. She stated she estimated they would have to finance \$30,000,000.

Chairman Beirne asked if they normally bill early June.

Ms. Gabryszewski stated it is July 15 by law and that you have to give one month to pay. She explained the process.

Ms. Doneiko cautioned the Board if they go forward with this they have to make sure the costs are put into the 2008 budget. She also stated costs and bond fees are also included.

Ald. Rowland asked if the phase-in was discussed at the workshop.

Mr. Thomas replied no.

Ald. Rowland asked when they were held.

Mr. Thomas replied they were held the 3rd week of October.

Ald. Rowland asked if they stated discussing this in March if that would have been enough time.

Ms. Doneiko replied possibly. She stated the last possible date would be two months prior.

Ald. Rowland remarked the Mayor stated in his opening comments that this has been discussed for a year.

Mayor Richetelli responded they began discussing phase-in almost around the time as reval. It commented the opinion of city staff is that phase-in not the right way to go. He stated it is impossible to talk about without a budget. He also added the grand list was set February 20, 2007 and they still do not know the mill rate. He also commented Milford is nor the last town nor the first town to do phase-in. He stated it is a difficult decision and reiterated some people will benefit but some will not and that they took great pains in deciding this. He stated he felt this was the best way to go. He advised the Board if they don't agree, don't vote. He also commented he never heard from any of the 15 members of this Board as to the way to go.

Ald. Blake stated to the Mayor he did not hear from this Board because the first time it was brought up was April 25. He also stated the Mayor used the reference "we". Ald. Blake stated there is a policy issue and that this Board makes the policy and that they should make that call and that the policymakers should vote on it.

Mayor Richetelli stated he has made a recommendation to this Board and that it is the “policymakers” as you call yourselves to make the decision.

Ald. Lambert asked if the median person is closer to the 2 or over the 2.

Mr. Thomas stated he does not have the specific numbers and stated 2.02 was actually the increase. He stated overall includes 1.86% and that motor vehicle and personal property stayed the same.

Ald. Beir asked what the median price of a home in Milford would be.

Mr. Thomas replied \$268,000.

Ald. Veccharelli stated the system does work. He stated collectively both sides have looked at this and one side introduced it. He stated the bottom line is will it help lower the burden. He stated the democrats brought it forward and the way the system works is we bring it forward, discuss it and if we are in agreement this is what we want to do, we go forward.

Mayor Richetelli stated he appreciated the comments of Ald. Veccharelli. He reiterated not all towns are doing this. He stated at this point it has been discussed for a long time. He stated it is the right way to go and will help the people hurt the most. He also pointed out as Ald. Blake stated to him “it is a slam dunk”.

Ald. Toohey spoke of a personal situation with a home she owned. She commented this is a difficult process to do and not a simple “slam dunk”, just less painful. He stated this comes with a price and she needed to be clear before voting.

Ald. Lambert added there is a lot of impact on this and it could be negative. She stated this Board would have to live with any decisions they make. She also commented with phase-in harder for accountability and that they also have to watch the mill rate. She reiterated the importance of not losing sight of the mill rate and that this Board is accountable to watch taxpayer dollars.

Ald. Politi commented the staff (Assessor’s Dept) never really on board and that it was mentioned and asked why.

Mr. Thomas spoke of the increased workload for his department with respect to data entry. He stated basically they would be doing this twice and gave an example i.e. a new deck. He also noted the mall would have to be entered twice.

Ms. Doneiko explained it is actually valued twice and explained that is what Mr. Thomas meant when saying it is entered twice. She spoke of some of the examples and stated it gets complicated and causes a lot of questions.

Ms. Gabryszewski added it is difficult because the taxpayers don’t understand it. She stated it will be like getting it for 5 years in a row no matter what and that the taxpayers don’t understand why taxes keep going up. She also spoke of the long lines at the window and predicted they will just get longer and longer and that there would also be more phone calls to the Mayor’s Office because of this.

Ms. Doneiko referred to page 2 in the budget and noted there is on growth on the grand list. She stated there are a lot of misconceptions, especially with regard to the mill rate. She also added generally it can be more expensive.

Mayor Richetelli agreed it is very complex and not something they do all the time and that is why the decision is so hard to make. He stated he trusts the decision of his department heads and that is why he waited so long. He also stated he has heard from too many people.

Ald. Vetro asked about those who have their taxes included in their mortgage and how that would be treated with the phase-in.

Ms. Gabryszewski explained they would pay it and send the homeowner a notice that taxes have gone up and you would need to sent a payment or they would revamp your bill.

Mayor Richetelli added in fairness, the bank would be doing that anyway.

Ald. Patterson and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to move the question. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli raised a point of order stating everyone should have one “bite of the apple”.

Ald. Ditchkus raised a point of order stating the motion was moved and carried.

Ald. Veccharelli stated it is his point of order. He stated everyone should have one change to speak and that he is just trying to be courteous to this Board. He stated this is the Board’s rule.

Chairman Beirne stated in all fairness that he asked if anyone had any other questions and after looking up and down both sides only Ald. Patterson raised his hand and asked to move the question.

Ald. Ditchkus raised a point of order. He stated the quest was moved and voted on and that it is over.

Ald. Ditchkus requested a 5-minute recess. The Board recessed at 10:46 p.m.

Chairman Beirne reconvened the Board at 10:58 p.m.

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

9. New Business not on the Agenda which may be introduced by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting.

None.

10. Budget Memo Transfers:

- a. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro moved to approve consideration of Budget Memo Transfer #15, Fund 10, FY 2006-2007.

Ald. Rowland asked about Acct. 4421 the \$100,000 and asked what positions.

Mayor Richetelli responded Highway/Parks.

Ald. Rowland asked the specific positions.

Mayor Richetelli stated he did not know.

Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Ditchkus moved to approve consideration of Budget Memo Transfer #16, Fund 10, FY 2006-2007.

Ald. Patterson asked about Acct. #4429 – Gasoline. He pointed out in FY06-07 \$250,000 and projected \$300,000, so why \$100,000 and asked about the \$50,000.

Mayor Richetelli responded it has been explained many times before that gasoline prices have been rising throughout the year and all departments have had to make transfers. He also reiterated the bid process and stated the bid came in hiring than projected.

Ald. Blake asked about the line item Heart/Hypertension and the increase and asked if this is an adjustment or in lieu of.

Attorney Lipton responded they had one add on. She explained they are still negotiating and do not know the final numbers.

Mayor Richetelli also reminded the Board of the bill floating around in Hartford and that it really does have legs and could add millions of dollars.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Refunds:

- a. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro moved to approve Consideration of Refunds in the amount of \$21,041.56.
Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Ald. Genovese and Ald. Vetro moved to approve the Suspense List in the amount of \$159,840.21.
Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report of Standing Committees:

Mayor Richetelli interjected and suggested it would be appropriate to go into Executive Session and asked the Board to consider re-ordering the agenda to do so.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Patterson moved to re-order the agenda and bring forward Item 14. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Patterson moved to go into Executive Session with the full Board, the Mayor and City Attorney for a status report regarding Sidepockets, Inc. v. City of Milford and an update on the Cadley property. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board went into Executive Session at 11:08 p.m.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Rowland moved to come out of Executive Session at 11:53 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

a. Ordinance Committee – Ald. Ditchkus reported the Committee met earlier in the evening and voted to forward to the full Board one Ordinance.

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Patterson moved to approve an Ordinance repealing and replacing Chapter 2.3 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Milford (Adult-Oriented Establishments).

Ald. Ditchkus deferred to counsel and noted to the home viewing audience there is some explicit language.

Attorney S. Bergthold explained the adult Ordinance to replace Chapter 2.3-13, which included modifications. He referred to his PowerPoint presentation and explained the Ordinance deals with conduct.

Motion carried unanimously (minus the hours of operation).

b. Public Safety and Welfare Committee – Ald. Garbus reported Chief LaVecchia has made up most of the posters and that HRD and Mr. Baldwin will contribute some of the funding, however it may not cover all of it.

c. Public Works Committee – Ald. Toohey reported the ball fields were discussed at the recent meeting and included upgrades, cleaning, etc. in anticipation of the upcoming season.

d. Claims Committee –

e. Rules Committee – no report.

f. Personnel Committee – no report.

13. Report of Special Committees:

a. Liaison Sub-Committee – Board of Education – no report.

b. Liaison Sub-Committee – Flood & Erosion Board – no report.

c. Liaison Sub-Committee – Park, Beach & Recreation Comm.

d. Liaison Sub-Committee – Planning & Zoning Board – no report.

- e. Liaison Sub-Committee – Sewer Commission – no report.
- f. Liaison Sub-Committee – Harbor Management Commission – no report.

- g. Liaison – Council on Aging – Ald. Toohey reported they held their annual awards ceremony. She stated this is when they honor all their volunteers.

- h. Permanent School Facility Building Committee – Ald. Genovese reported she and Ald. Hardiman have seen the media center at Law and the new cafeteria and that it is used as multipurpose.

- Ald. Hardiman added the elevators are also done.

- i. Liaison Sub-Committee – Library Board – no report.
- j. Liaison Sub-Committee – Fowler Memorial building – no report.
- k. Liaison Sub-Committee – Housing Authority – no report
- l. Golf Course Commission – no report
- m. Inland Wetlands Agency

- n. Milford Academy Community Campus Bldg. Committee – Ald. Beckwith reported the next meeting will be held on May 15, 2007 and that work has begun.

- o. Courthouse Expansion Committee – no report
- p. Liaison Health Department

- q. Education Funding Committee – Ald. Polit reported earlier in the evening.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Rowland moved to adjourn at 12:26 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Board Secretary