

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
BUDGET DELIBERATIONS SESSION  
MAY 11, 2016**

The Board of Aldermen resumed their budget deliberation session on Wednesday, May 11, 2016 in the aldermanic chambers of City Hall. Chairman Vetro welcomed everyone and asked those present to join in saluting our flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. Roll Call**

Board Members Present

B. Anderson  
E. Beatty  
B. Bevan  
M. Casey  
D. German  
A. Giannattasio  
J. Golden  
J. Grant  
M. Hardiman  
S. Shaw  
F. Smith (7:07)  
N. Veccharelli  
P. Vetro

Also Present

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

Excused

B. Bier

Chairman Vetro reconvened the budget proceedings in public session at 7:05 p.m.

**4116 Milford Government Access Television (MGAT)** – Kara Flannery, Chairwoman was present for questions/comments. Ms. Flannery discussed the function of MGAT and the need for updated technology. She discussed budget amounts for surrounding communities. Discussion ensued concerning programming and costs associated therewith.

**4825 Beth El** - Toni Dolan, Executive Director, Max Case, Secretary and Ed Davies, President were present for questions/comments. Ms. Dolan discussed the services provided by the facility. She indicated that the budget remained the same as last year. Discussion ensued concerning services provided and efforts made concerning homeless, panhandlers and families in need.

**4801 Council on Aging** – Janice M. Jackson, Executive Director and Mary Ann Herman were present for questions/comments. Ms. Jackson provided statistics of programs, events and staffing at the Milford Senior Center. Alderman German inquired as to the annual fee charged to members. Ms. Jackson responded the fee is \$15 per year and they ask for donations for attending programs. Alderman Smith stated the fee had been \$10 and was recently increased to \$15. Ms. Jackson stated that because of the increase they realize \$9,000 from memberships. Alderman Giannattasio inquired as to how many non-residents are members. Ms. Jackson response the Board voted to allow 35 non-resident membership at \$25.

**4826 Boys and Girls Club** – Megan Altomare, Executive Director was present. Ms. Altomare gave a brief history of the Boys and Girls Club. She discussed new programs and summer camps that are being offered. Alderman German inquired about waiting lists. Ms. Altomare indicated because of Simon Lake there are currently no waiting lists. Alderman German inquired about expanding into Woodmont. Ms. Altomare responded that she is still exploring that option, but currently there are no buildings available. Alderman Anderson inquired about space issues in the summer. Ms. Altomare responded that there is room for 180 children and currently 140 are enrolled. Alderman Anderson inquired as to competition from other camps offered in the area. Ms. Altomare responded that has not been an issue. The camps all work well together.

**4815 Veterans Graves**– No one in attendance.

**4816 Milford Flotilla** –Francine Vallillo, Vice-Commander and Dan Kiley were present for questions/comments. Ms. Vallillo provided a brief presentation on Milford Flotilla's activities. She explained they are part of Homeland Security and provided a handout of a class that was developed for the middle schools. Alderman Grant inquired as to other funding received by Milford Flotilla. Ms. Vallillo explained they receive no other funding except revenues from boating safety classes. Alderman Beatty asked about recent updates to boating regulations. Ms. Vallillo explained the new "Emily's Law" concerning towing licenses.

**4822 Cemetery Association** – No one in attendance.

**4123 Community Development** – Julie Nash, Community Development Director was present for questions/comments. Ms. Nash discussed that her budget remains the same as the prior year. Discussion ensued concerning the various initiatives Community Development had been involved in over the past year.

**4155 Economic Development** – Julie Nash, Community Development Director was present for questions. No questions were asked.

**4340 Animal Control** – Scott Ellingson was present for questions/comments. Mr. Ellingson provided a brief description Animal Control. He stated that the budget request remained the same as last year. Alderman Grant noted the amount of funds used under property upkeep was low. Mr. Ellingson responded the funds would be utilized by the end of the fiscal year. Alderman Bevan inquired as to how much Orange pays for service and if those services are similar to those provide within Milford. Mr. Ellingson responded that Orange pays \$75,000 and the services are the same.

**4803 Fine Arts Council** – Paige Miglio, Executive Director was present for questions/comments. Ms. Miglio provide a brief summary of the Fine Arts Council and its programs and events. She discussed damage to the building and the Good to Great Grant. Alderman Bevan inquired about membership dues. Ms. Miglio stated the dues have remained the same at \$25 for an individual and \$50 for a family.

**4812 Transit District** – Henry Jadach was present for questions/comments. Mr. Jadach gave a brief description of the services provided by the Transit District. Alderman Anderson inquired about additional bus shelters along East Town Road. Mr. Jadach responded he is working on those shelters, but because of permitting issues it takes longer than one would expect.

**4121 Golf Course** – Dick Austin, Chairman was present for questions/comments. No questions were asked. Alderman German stated the golf course looks great.

**4811 Borough of Woodmont** – Barry Bonessi, Borough Warden and Christopher Schmeisser were present for questions/comments. Mr. Bonessi stated the Borough is a municipality within a municipality and the Borough provides its own basic public works. He stated the Borough had requested \$452,000 or last year's budget amount with in-kind paving services. Alderman Shaw inquired about the in-kind services. Mr. Bonessi states that approximately 10 years ago the budget had been reduced and in-kind services provided. Alderman Shaw stated the Borough had requested \$452,000, does \$230,000 reflect what it needs. Ms. Schmeisser stated the Borough can work with \$230,000 and in-kind services for paving. Discussion ensued concerning bidding processes, Woodmont's mil rate and police services.

**4818 Historic District Commission** – No one in attendance.

**4820 Historic District II** - No one in attendance.

Mayor Blake stated the Milford Historic Preservation Committee was requesting a grant of \$650.00 similar to the two historic districts. The Committee's functions are similar to those of the historic districts and has obligations under FOIA. He also stated the Milford Historical Society has experienced increased expenses and would be asking for consideration during tomorrow night's deliberations. Alderman Casey asked if this would be a new line item and how much were they requesting. Mayor Blake responded this would be new line item and the amount is at the discretion of the Board. Alderman Bevan asked if the two historic districts could be combined into one. Mayor Blake responded they could not as each covered different areas. Alderman Giannatassio asked why no one was present. Mayor Blake explained they had meetings with the Mayor and individual aldermen. They are not on the agenda and the Board is under no obligation to act. Mayor Blake explained he was just conveying the message.

**4819 Milford Progress, Inc.** – No one in attendance. Alderman Vitali inquired as to amount MPI might have in reserve. Mayor Blake stated he would get that information for tomorrow night's meeting.

**4161 Housatonic River Estuary Commission** – No one in attendance.

**4162 Open Space** – Steve Johnson, Open Space Agent was present for questions/comments. Mr. Johnson discussed his position within the City, his role as a resource to many departments and various grants that have been obtained. Alderman Bevan inquired about a line item for city vehicle and gasoline. Mr. Johnson responded he uses his personal vehicle. Alderman German inquired about working with volunteers and public works. Mr. Johnson explained he continues to work with public works and volunteers such as Eagle scouts. Alderman Smith discussed the controversy when

this was made a permanent position. Alderman Giannatassio stated he was against making this a permanent position and still is against the position. He believe it should come from the open space fund as it was originally intended. Alderman Veccharelli asked how many grants had been obtained and their value. Mr. Johnson discussed the various grants and amounts received.

**4813 Bridges** – Barbara DiMauro, President/CEO, Kathleen Sheehan, Chief Financial Officer, were present for questions/comments. Ms. DiMauro gave a brief description of the services provided. She commented that Bridges is expecting cuts from the State and would appreciate any additional funding the City could provide. Alderman Shaw inquired as to the waiting lists. Ms. DiMauro stated currently the list contains 35 children and 40 adults. She is not certain how long the list will remain. They try to prioritize each as to risk and need. Alderman Vitali inquired as to how impactful a \$10,000 increase would be. Ms. DiMauro explained it might allow them to hire a part time position to address the wait list issues. Ms. Sheehan explained the additional \$10,000 will also generate billable revenue.

**4807 Regional Mental Health Board** - No one in attendance.

**4320 Fire Department** – Chief Doug Edo, Assistant Chief Gary Baker, Assistant Chief Bernie Begley and Battalion Chief Ron Wassmer were present for questions/comments. Chief Edo explained the budget amount requested remained the same as last year. Alderman Vitali inquired if the department could make do with no increase. Chief Edo responded he could work with no increase. Alderman Giannatassio inquired about equipment needs. Chief Edo explained medical supply costs go up. They may need to replace some ambulances and are currently working to determine which one have rot. Alderman German inquired as to how many vacancies. Chief Edo explained currently there are 5 vacancies and 1 pending retirement.

**4360 Lights, Hydrants, Water** – Chief Edo was present for questions/comments. Chief Edo commented there was nothing new to report. Alderman Vitali inquired as to how many hydrants are in the City. Chief Edo responded 1414. Alderman Grant asked about street lighting and plans for making more energy efficient. Mayor Blake explained the City had gone out to bid for generation and saved approximately \$1,000,000 for the period of the contract. This will again be going out to bid in hopes of driving the cost down.

**4331 Civil Preparedness** – Chief Edo was present for questions/comments. No questions were asked.

**4805 C-Med** – Chief Edo was present for questions/comments. – Aldermen Bevan asked for an explanation of C-Med. Battalion Chief Wassmer explained it is a communication agency that links the hospitals, ambulance, etc.

**4131 Law Department** – City Attorney Jonathan Berchem was present for questions/comments. Attorney Berchem explained the budget request remains the same as the prior year. Aldermen Casey inquired as to the furniture that was requested. Attorney Berchem responded it was to replace conference room chairs. Alderman Smith inquired as to outside counsel and which accounts paid for those service. Attorney Berchem explained the other legal account and miscellaneous professional fee accounts were utilized. Alderman Vitali inquired about outside counsel for labor contracts.

Attorney Berchem explained that outside counsel is still utilized for negotiating contracts, but that services of outside counsel have diminished by Attorney Kelly taking the lead on grievances and arbitrations. Alderman Bevan inquired as to law books and if they are all online. Attorney Berchem explained some are still in print. Alderman German inquired whether expenses would decrease in other legal and miscellaneous professional fees since not outsourcing was less. Attorney Berchem responded what needs to be outsourced cannot be predicted. It is dependent on what type of legal expertise is required for a particular matter.

**4132 Ethics Commission** – City Attorney Jonathan Berchem was present for questions/comments. Alderman Vitali inquired as to how the Ethics Commission meets. Attorney Berchem explained they are on demand. Alderman Vitali inquired as to how many times the commission has met. Attorney Berchem explained this commission is underfunded as it only takes one complaint and outside counsel must be hired per ordinance. Discussion ensued as to how commission members are appointed.

Alderman Giannatassio indicated the State is in a fiscal crisis and he felt it would be best to delay the vote until the State delegation provides firm numbers. Discussion ensued regarding postponing deliberations scheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup>. Alderman Giannatassio requested to be briefed as to the status of the State budget prior the May 12<sup>th</sup> session or any recommendation.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Giannatassio made and seconded a motion to recess at 10:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Toni Jo Weeks", written over a horizontal line.

Toni Jo Weeks  
Recording Secretary