

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
BUDGET DELIBERATIONS SESSION  
MAY 17, 2010**

The Board of Aldermen held a budget deliberation session on Monday, May 17, 2010 in City Hall for Consideration and Voting RE: the proposed general budget, revenues and appropriations for fiscal year 2010-2011, establishment of the 2010-2011 mill rate and the tax due dates. Chairman G. Smith asked those present to join in saluting our flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and remain standing for a moment of silence for our men and women serving our country.

**1. Roll Call**

Board Members Present

B. Bevan  
B. Bier  
B. Blake  
D. German  
A. Giannattasio  
F. Goodrich  
M. Hardiman  
B. Joy, Jr.  
J. Patterson  
G. Smith  
P. Smith  
P. Staneski  
N. Veccharelli  
P. Vetro  
R. Vitali

Also Present

Mayor J. Richetelli, Jr.  
J. Doneiko, Finance Director  
L. Stock, City Clerk

Ald. Vitali and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to come out of recess at 7:06 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman G. Smith read a statement regarding tonight's vote of the proposed budget and spoke of the process in getting this far. He stated a public hearing was held on April 8, 2010, which gave the citizens an opportunity to speak concerning both of the proposed budgets. He also stated this Board had the opportunity through budget deliberations to meet with the department heads concerning each of their budgets. Chairman G. Smith stated regarding the Board of Education budget, it is a single line item. He continued reading his statement. He also reminded the public there was no public commented this evening and reminded the Board of the aldermanic rules for tonight's voting process. Chairman G. Smith recognized Ms. Doneiko for technical corrections.

Ms. Doneiko referred the Board to p. 29 of the budget book (BOF recommended budget), Acct. 4142 Permitting & Land Use. She stated line item 25-X Adm. Clerk A/Customer Svc Rep should read ***Adm. Clerk A.***

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Vitali made and seconded a motion to approve the Board of Finance's recommended budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 with the following changes: Acct. 0010 4610 Health Department - remove

Budgeted Position Public Health Nurse Administrator with a salary of \$66,081; reduce line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages to read \$759,804 and line item 4111 9942 1/5 Fiscal Week to read \$3,785 for a new sub-total in *Personal Services* of \$804,089 and a new department total of \$896,989; and Acct. 0010 4997 Education Health Insurance Contribution reduce line item 4221 0000 Contribution, Self Insurance Fund to read \$15,508,419 for a new sub-total and department total of \$15,508,419; and Acct. 0010 4998 School Nurses – remove budgeted position “Nurse, Public Health – 10 month” with a salary of \$47,494; and reduce line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages to read \$1,150,252 for a new sub-total in *Personal Services* of \$1,211,043 and a new department total of \$1,254,771.

Ald. Blake and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to divide the question and take each department separately.

Ald. Blake reminded the Board this motion was not debatable.

Chairman G. Smith stated the motion may not be debatable, but it required a majority vote.

Ald. Veccharelli raised a point of order, stating each person can ask, and it must be allowed.

Chairman G. Smith asked the City Clerk to look up the rules. He stated Roberts Rules of Order stated it is generally accepted, so he would rule to allow the motion to be divided.

Mayor Richetelli pointed out a motion has been made and seconded so the Board needs to move on the motion on the floor. He stated according to the rules each majority and minority can make two amendments to a motion. He stated if there amendments any alderman wishing to make them may do so and make two amendments per department.

Ald. Patterson raised a point of order, stating a motion to divide the question overrides the original motion.

Chairman G. Smith stated the Board would take a 5 minute recess. The Board recessed at 7:16 p.m.

Chairman G. Smith reconvened the Board at 7:21 p.m.

City Clerk Stock read Rule 17 of the aldermanic rules, which states the majority and minority will offer two amendments.

Chairman G. Smith stated they may have read it differently, but all wanted the same result.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Giannattasio and Ald. P. Smith made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4115 Registrar of Voters as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following changes: Budgeted Positions – increase salary for the two Registrar of Voters to \$29,895 and increase line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages to read \$101,232 for a new sub-total in *Personal Services* of \$127,443 and a new department total of \$134,911; and Acct. 4122 General Expenses – increase line item 4140 0001 Personal Property Audit to read \$75,000 for a new sub-total of \$148,254 and a new department total of \$482,695.

Ald. P. Smith stated for clarification the increase reflects a wage increase in an Ordinance, which the Ordinance Committee approved at its meeting last month. She stated the change takes effect January 2011.

Mayor Richetelli referenced the personal property audit in the Board of Finance's recommended budget. He went on to explain the increase, explaining he was now recommending \$300,000 rather than the \$200,000. He stated this increase was due to the amount collected.

Ald. Veccharelli asked to have the amendment for Acct. 4122 General Expenses re-read. He also asked that a page number and line item be given.

Ald. Giannattasio referred the Board to p. 19 and re-read the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Blake made and seconded a motion to amend Acct. 0010 4112 Elections, line item 4701 0000 Election Expenses to read \$65,000 for a new sub-total of \$65,000 and a new department total of \$65,000.

By roll call vote, the amendment failed, 10 no (Bevan, Bier, German, Giannattasio, Goodrich, Joy, G. Smith, P. Smith, Staneski, Vitali) and 5 yes (Blake, Hardiman, Patterson, Veccharelli, Vetro).

Ald. Hardiman and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to amend Acct. 0010 4116 Milford Gov't Access TV, line item 4189 0001 Government Cable Service to read \$6,100 for a new sub-total in *Personal Services* of \$6,600 and a new department total of \$6,800.

By roll call vote, the amendment failed, 10 no (Bevan, Bier, German, Giannattasio, Goodrich, Joy, G. Smith, P. Smith, Staneski, Vitali) and 5 yes (Blake, Hardiman, Patterson, Veccharelli, Vetro).

Ald. Blake and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to amend Acct. 0010 4122 General Expenses, line item 4189 0000 Professional Fees & Svcs to read \$15,000 for a new sub-total in *Personal Services* of \$134,929; and line item 4781 0000 Duplicating Costs to read \$39,000 for a new sub-total in Operational Expenses of \$192,900; and line item 4879 0000 Miscellaneous Expenses to read \$1,000 for a new sub-total in *General Charges* of \$54,876 and a new department total of \$458,362.

Ald. Staneski questioned reducing line item 4189 0000 Professional Fees & Svcs. She stated her recollection is that account pays the Grant Coordinator position. She stated that account was \$15,000 last year and that it was revealed during budget deliberations reducing this account could reduce opportunity for more collaborative work with department heads and grant writing.

Ald. Blake stated the recommended figure bring the account in line with last year's figures. He further commented the Board should not wait for cataclysmic events that may or may not happen. He stated he was hoping not to increase taxes or at the least to keep them with last year. He stated he felt the reduction was responsible.

Ald. Vitali commented sometimes it is responsible to spend a little more to get more. He stated if there are grants out there and this Board asked if they have tapped every resource, he stated he wants to be able to say yes. He stated the proposed increase will increase the amount of time the person is on the job.

Ald. Joy questioned the reduction to duplicating costs, stating the amount being recommended is substantially less than fiscal year 08-09 and that transfers have already been made in this account this year.

Ald. Blake responded the City needed to make more effort to be green and suggested electronic submittals as one way. He also stated the amount reflects the same amount as last year.

Chairman G. Smith commented he is certainly sympathetic, however, he noted last year's amount has already been exceeded.

By roll call vote, the amendment failed, 10 no (Bevan, Bier, German, Giannattasio, Goodrich, Joy, G. Smith, P. Smith, Staneski, Vitali) and 5 yes (Blake, Hardiman, Patterson, Veccharelli, Vetro).

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Blake made and seconded a motion to amend Acct. 0010 4129 City Clerk, line item 4771 0000 Advertising to read \$9,500 for a new sub-total in *Operational Expenses* of \$37,605 and a new department total of \$372,517.

Chairman G. Smith deferred to City Clerk L. Stock for comment.

Mrs. Stock stated when she explained her budget they changed the amounts in Advertising and Postage, which did not change the bottom line sub-total in these accounts. She stated she also wanted to point out the legislature to go on-line for advertising did not pass.

Ald. Blake stated it was his recollection the City Clerk stated eloquently during budget deliberations that she could find other means to advertise for less.

Mrs. Stock responded they had talked about using the local newspapers; however there are many downsides to using a one-day a week newspaper. She stated they would be unable to meet the constraints of the legal deadlines. She stated whenever possible, they would pursue, however they are unable to make specified deadlines of a one-day a week newspaper.

Mayor Richetelli stated this is just another example of an unfunded mandate on the part of the State. He also pointed out they lobbied very strongly to advertise on-line, however they did not pass at the State legislature. He stated they needed to continue to lobby the local legislatures to move this. Mayor Richetelli stated in light of the legal obligations for advertising, it would be irresponsible to lower this account.

By roll call vote, the amendment failed, 10 no (Bevan, Bier, German, Giannattasio, Goodrich, Joy, G. Smith, P. Smith, Staneski, Vitali) and 5 yes (Blake, Hardiman, Patterson, Veccharelli, Vetro).

Ald. Blake and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to amend Acct. 0010 4131 Law Department, line item 4977 0115 Law Books to read \$5,000, line item 4990 0501 Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment to read \$0 for a new sub-total in *Capital Outlays* of \$5,00 and a new department total of \$548,784.

Ald. Goodrich stated he recollected from budget deliberations that law books were still needed by the department.

Ald. Blake stated during budget discussions the city attorney stated a vast amount of research is on-line. He also suggested you don't need to use Westlaw and the like and that places such as Case Law is available at no charge. Ald. Blake also stated his request account information on law fees and that he has called several times and not received a call or any information.

Mayor Richetelli stated currently \$8,000 has been spent from line item 4122 0000 Other Legal Fees, which is outside legal costs. In addition, he stated they are just about out of money in line item 4189 0000 Misc. Professional Fees & Svcs. He stated they would finish the year within budget. He stated all other legal fees are covered by the City's insurance carried.

Ald. Vitali asked Ald. Blake if he was suggesting the law department not use books and only use on-line services.

Ald. Blake stated the vast majority of lawyers are moving toward that. He also stated the practice of law is going digital and that it is the trend.

Mayor Richetelli reiterated the vast majority of money is not law books. He stated he fully understands the trend and stated it is a misnomer that it is just books. He stated a great deal of the money is for subscriptions for on-line services.

Ald. Staneski commented even if the money may be for just a few books, there are licensing fees to enable someone to do these searches on-line.

Ald. Blake stated he posed the questions directly to the City Attorney and the response was the account paid for the likes of Nexis Lexus, Westlaw, etc. He stated the same information can be provided through Case maker.

By roll call vote, the amendment failed, 10 no (Bevan, Bier, German, Giannattasio, Goodrich, Joy, G. Smith, P. Smith, Staneski, Vitali) and 5 yes (Blake, Hardiman, Patterson, Veccharelli, Vetro).

Ald. Blake and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to amend Acct. 0010 4142 Permitting and Land Use, line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages to read \$797,178, line item 4112 0000 Overtime to read \$25,000, line item 4117 0000 Seasonal/Temporary to read \$20, 000 for a new sub-total in *Personal Services* of \$852,834; and line item 4718 0000 Travel & Conferences to read \$2,000 for a sub-total in *Operational Expenses* of \$52,785 and a new department total of \$924,064.

By roll call vote, the motion carried 14 yes (Bevan, Bier, Blake, German, Giannattasio, Goodrich, Hardiman, Joy, Patterson, G. Smith, Staneski, Veccharelli, Vetro, Vitali) and 1 no (P. Smith).

Ald. Blake and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to amend. Acct. 0010 4193 Public Library, line item 4117 0000 Seasonal/Temporary to read \$78,000 for a new sub-total in *Personal Services* of \$827,654 and a new department total of \$1,043,619.

Ald. Staneski asked how Saturday and summer hours would be impacted with the cuts.

Mayor Richetelli stated keeping the library open Saturdays became an issue and was funded at the level to accommodate Saturday hours. He stated when it was not funded the library director went out to a local civic group for support who provided monies for those Saturday. He stated those monies are no longer available, so the money in the budget is the amount needed to keep it open on Saturdays. Mayor Richetelli stated the \$2,000 reduction proposed would not cover the 2% increase for salaries as well as the minimum wage increase. He stated the amount provided by the library director during budget deliberations was the correct amount.

Ald. Blake commented these are difficult times. He stated in dealing with departments with budgets over \$1,000,000 he had asked during budget deliberations to find a way to reduce, but keep those same services. He stated this reduction should not result in a reduction in services.

Chairman G. Smith stated it presumes the discussion has not already taken place. He stated the library is woefully underfunded.

Ald. P. Smith noted this budget is a 2% increase over last year's budget. She stated the library director provided facts and percentages of the uses of the library and that her request was responsible.

Ald. Veccharelli stated the budget is \$1,000,000 and they are getting more than last year. He also stated seasonal temporary is not for Saturday hours. He stated this Board has to find ways to cut corners and save money. Ald. Veccharelli also stated the audience tonight is hoping this Board finds additional funds that can be shifted. He encouraged this Board to work together on this.

Chairman G. Smith stated the figure being referred to is much more than \$2,000. He also stated the library is used a great deal by our youth as well as people who are out of work who need to use the computers available in the library. He stated \$2,000 will not change the situation.

Ald. Vetro stated the Democrats have made quite a few amendments to save the taxpayers' money, but they are not getting any cooperation from the other side and remarked they would be able to tell the taxpayers they can still go to the library on Saturdays.

By roll call vote the motion failed, 11 no (Bevan, Bier, German, Giannattasio, Goodrich, Joy, Patterson, G. Smith, P. Smith, Staneski, Vitali) and 4 yes (Blake, Hardiman, Veccharelli, Vetro).

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Blake made and seconded a motion to amend. Acct. 0010 4210 Finance Department, line item 4331 0000 Gas & Other Propellants to read \$1,500 for a new sub-total in *Vehicle & Equipment Upkeep* of \$1,500; and line item 4752 0000 Revaluation Operations reduce to \$30,000, line item 4784 0000 Printing & Binding reduce to \$40,000 for a new sub-total in *Operational Expenses* of \$183,917; and line item 4977 0000 Office Equipment reduce to \$0 for a new sub-total in *Capital Outlays* of \$4,913 and a new department total of \$1,627,083.

Mayor Richetelli stated the amount of money put towards reval each year is a small amount that goes into the overall reval account. He also stated the Board knows full well the reval is required by law and further if this went out to a private firm it would cost upwards of \$1,000,000. Mayor Richetelli stated by doing it in-house they save a huge amount of money, which he stated is an investment and a large savings for Milford. He stated when the city switched to doing it this way several years ago they saving the taxpayers. He stated reducing this

account could put the city in jeopardy. He also spoke regarding the line item for Printing & Binding and explained this line item is used for the printing of the tax bills. He stated if the city cannot send out tax bill they will not generate money. He stated to shortchange these accounts would be short-sided.

Ald. Blake stated those two line items were being reduced to last year's amount and there weren't any problems last year so he did not understand the problem with the amendment. He reiterated this was the amount allocated last year and the department got by.

Mayor Richetelli stated they are responsible to put aside a certain amount each year so they do not put a heavy burden on the taxpayer at reval time. He also stated doing it this way is the reason they receive such glowing reviews from bond counsel. Mayor Richetelli also pointed out just because last year's Board put a certain amount in an account does not mean it was the amount used or that the amount was responsible.

By roll call vote, the amendment failed, 10 no (Bevan, Bier, German, Giannattasio, Goodrich, Joy, G. Smith, P. Smith, Staneski, Vitali) and 5 yes (Blake, Hardiman, Patterson, Veccharelli, Vetro).

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to amend Acct. 0010 4215 Management Information Systems (MIS), line item 4796 0000 Software & Maintenance reduce to \$144,000 for a new sub-total in *Operational Expenses* of \$188,010 and a new department total of \$651,017.

Ald. Staneski stated it was her recollection the MIS Coordinator stated during her presentation the stated figure in line item 4796 0000 was a contractual amount.

Ald. Veccharelli stated they were looking to grab a few thousand wherever possible. He stated if they needed a transfer could be done but he hoped they could operate with the \$144,000.

Chairman G. Smith stated he agreed he would like to do better with the city budget, but the feasibility attached to this motion is hope.

Ald. P. Smith stated she recalled the MIS Coordinator stating maintenance had to take place. She stated it was also her recollection from budget deliberations that the upkeep alone with \$23,000-24,000 and that she had already exceeded the funds in the maintenance contract this year. Ald. P. Smith stated it was important they maintain their equipment as well as parts.

Ald. Blake stated he has a higher respect for the city department heads. He stated he believed this Board could challenge them and they would rise to and meet that challenge.

Ald. Joy stated they all have a similar respect. He stated this Board is the fourth Board to take a whack at these budgets and that the department heads already have not received what they wanted.

By roll call vote, the amendment failed, 10 no (Bevan, Bier, German, Giannattasio, Goodrich, Joy, G. Smith, P. Smith, Staneski, Vitali) and 5 yes (Blake, Hardiman, Patterson, Veccharelli, Vetro).

Ald. Patterson and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to amend Acct. 0010 4129 Personnel, line item 4151 0000 Pro/Spec. Svc reduce to \$3,000 for a new sub-total in *Personal Services* of \$254,283; and line item

4771 0000 Advertising reduce to \$3,000 for a new sub-total in *Operational Expenses* of \$7,775 and a new department total of \$262,658.

Ald. Joy stated it was his understanding line item 4151 0000 Pro/Spec Svcs was for the Lexington Group and that they are the current employee assistance group. He pointed out there are over 500 employees.

By roll call vote, the motion failed 9 no (Bevan, Bier, German, Giannattasio, Goodrich, Joy, G. Smith, P. Smith, Vitali) and 6 yes (Blake, Hardiman, Patterson, Staneski, Veccharelli, Vetro).

The Board recessed at 8:18 p.m.

Chairman G. Smith reconvened the Board in public session at 8:31 p.m.

Ald. Blake and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to amend Acct. 0010 4996 Education Operations to read \$84,479,005 for a new sub-total in *Education Operations* of \$84,479,005 and a new department total of \$84,479,005.

Ald. Blake stated tonight on the steps of City Hall there were kids, parents and taxpayers advocating that this Board invest in education. He stated folks have been making appeals to preserve education and the integrity of the community. He stated last year the Board of Aldermen was able to cut taxes without dismantling our school system. He stated last week Mr. Cummings made an eloquent presentation. Ald. Blake stated spoke concerning Mr. Cummings proposal and stated while it may be the best option and concept for Milford to move in that direction he stated it comes as a result of the reduction by the Board of Finance. He stated he did not want to see this implemented in haste and that he did not think this could be done in a few weeks or months. He stated he did not want to gamble unless he had done his due diligence. He stated his amendment would restore some of the amount of the Board of Finance cut, but it does not restore the full amount. Ald. Blake expressed his hope of they were able to get closer to the number requested the Board of Education would be up to the challenge and find a way to work with the monies proposed and take another year and see if it is in the best interest of Milford. He stated they needed to do this in a thoughtful and deliberate way. He reiterated in years past there have been proposed cuts without devastating our schools. He stated the Democrats have further cuts if the board endorses them they could have the best of both worlds; cutting taxes and maintaining our school system.

Chairman G. Smith pointed out the Board of Finance's recommended budget is an increase of \$1,402,384 over last year. He stated the amendment is an additional \$1,250,000 over that. He also asked how the proposed cuts tonight would cover that figure. He further stated he recalled Mr. Cummings saying he would consider it a mandate only if the full \$2,200,000 was reinstated. He stated the proposal tonight just would not do that.

Ald. Staneski commented she has heard all night how the previous Board cut taxes, provided senior tax relief and maintained the schools. She stated she sat on the other side when they received a \$1,300,000 increase and it did not maintain, instead building and grounds accounts were cut, high school courses were cut, academic support was reduced and much more, so stating the past Board reduced is a misnomer. She stated she hard Ald. Veccharelli specifically ask Mr. Cummings what it would take and Mr. Cummings replied the full 4.97% increase, in other words the full amount originally requested. Ald. Staneski stated the reductions proposed tonight amounted to \$73,173 if it had all passed. She stated they would be doing a disservice to the people



tonight putting back a small amount when Mr. Cummings specifically stated he needed all of the 4.97% requested.

Ald. Vitali stated he has been on the other side, “in the trenches” and that they have been through this before. He spoke of the number of school closings he has witnessed in the past. He stated the window of increase has gone from 1.35% to 6.01% over the years and they hear the cry every year that it is not enough, but it was done and the kids were not worse off. He stated the educational gap needs to be closed, which comes from better alignment of curriculum, commonality. He stated it is not about the money, it is pedigreed and what happens in the classroom. He stated you don’t want classrooms that are too large, but you also don’t want classrooms that are too small. Ald. Vitali noted the \$83,000,000 plus budget does not cover health coverage for the employees or the nurses. He also recalled that it was Ald. Blake that challenged the department heads to do more with less and stated that should include the education department. He stated he was not in favor of the process or the alignment, but stated the board of Education needed to come up with a plan. He stated this Board cannot tell the Board of Education what to do with the money, but the parents can and should go to the Board of Education. He stated he could not vote for this noting they are already receiving a 2.25% increase over last year. He stated it is up to the Board of Education to make changes and make things happen and that the process was now in their hands.

Ald. Vetro stated last year’s Board of Aldermen cut a little and there were still city services provided and the Board of Education was able to maintain schools the way they did and there were no layoffs and no school closings.

Chairman G. Smith reiterated it is still \$1,400,000 more than what was approved last year.

Ald. Staneski stated there were no layoffs because of the stimulus money which saved 30 teachers.

Ald. Blake stated this Board cannot and should not decide policy. He stated he agreed they provide the basic tools to make decisions. He stated they have tried to night to present budget adjustments to cover costs to fund this transfer to equalize what the Board of Finance did. He stated they “chopped” \$2,000,000 from the Board of Education budget and left the city side of the budget intact.

Chairman G. Smith stated this was being over simplified. He stated if someone asks for twice as much they receive less. He noted the city side of the budget did not ask for a 5% increase.

Mayor Richetelli stated it was important to understand the city side of the budget requested less than \$2,000,000, whereas the Board of Education requested over \$5,000,000. He stated the education budget represents 60% of the overall budget as compared to the city side of 40%.

Ald. Staneski added she believed the municipal side of the budget increase represents \$1.7%. She also pointed out the city employees took 0% last year to help with the tax cut last year. She stated this year they will receive a 2% increase which makes up the increase on the municipal side of the budget. She stated the municipal side came in with a very responsible budget.

Ald. Goodrich cited past figures of Board of Education increases while the city side remained flat.

Chairman G. Smith stated no one has received raises for two years which the Board of Education continues to increase each year and asked how that should be justified to the citizen. He stated the Department of Education has projected a decline in enrollment and that the State of Connecticut is number 1 or 2 in that decline. He also noted declining enrollment is a pattern in the state. Chairman G. Smith stated the Board of Finance did recommend a \$1,400,000 increase and yet enrollment is declining. He also spoke regarding mandates that come down from Hartford that administration has to deal with. He also pointed out on this Board there is a former Board of Education member, former administrator and former teacher who all bring expertise. He commented if this Board were able to give \$10,000,000 they could still implement any plan they wanted to.

Ald. Veccharelli stated he will feel personally responsible for the closing of Simon Lake and the reconfiguration of the school system. He stated they could continue going back and forth, but the end result is if they monies are not restored they will end up with a system they don't like. He gave a lengthy impassioned plea that it was all happening too quickly and that they needed to take more time

Chairman G. Smith spoke of the responsibilities of this Board.

Ald. Blake stated it all comes down to priorities. He stated they have attempted to make a number of cuts tonight and they have all failed. He asked if this Board really wanted to sink the Simon Lake ship and dismantle our schools.

Chairman G. Smith stated some unfair statements have been made and that he had hoped tonight would not dissolve into political posturing. He stated another \$1,000,000 is being proposed with no plan as to where to find those monies. He also reiterated, this Board allocates a certain number to the Board of Education and it is then up to them to spend it as they see it. He stated he does not have a say in the closing of Simon Lake School.

Ald. Vitali stated he has heard comments tonight that he (this Board) are against kids and stated to his colleagues they were on a slippery slope. He stated there are many plans out there. He also stated it was Ald. Blake who has continually stated tonight that department heads needed to do more with less. He stated he worked in the system for 44 years and continually had to do that, more with less. He stated as far as the question of why Simon Lake and not another school, is not a question for this Board but the Board of Education. Ald. Vitali also stated he takes great exception to comments from the other side of the aisle that he and his colleagues are against kids. He stated he is and always has been for kids. He stated he does fear this may be too fast and there are questions, could there be another school, perhaps another program. He stated what does matter is if there aren't kids in the buildings it is not cost effective. He stated he has all the confidence these parents will go before the Board of Education and continue to express their concern.

By roll call vote, the amendment failed, 10 no (Bevan, Bier, German, Giannattasio, Goodrich, Joy, G. Smith, P. Smith, Staneski, Vitali) and 5 yes (Blake, Hardiman, Patterson, Veccharelli, Vetro).

The Board recessed at 9:17 p.m.

Chairman G. Smith reconvened the meeting in public session at 9:24 p.m.

Ald. Blake and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to amend Acct. 0010 4310 Police, line item 4112 0000 Overtime, Regular reduce to \$380,000, line item 4112 9948 Overtime, COPSS reduce to \$35,000 for a new sub-total in Personal Services of \$9,202,690; and line item 4775 0000 Office Equipment Upkeep reduce to \$38,000.

line item 4781 0000 Duplicating Costs reduce to \$14,000 for a new sub-total in *Operational Expenses* of \$512,051; and line item 4990 0529 Office Furniture reduce to \$2,500 for a new sub-total in *Capital Outlays* of \$307,657 and a new department total of \$10,374,855.

Ald. P. Smith spoke regarding line item 4775 0000 and stated it was her recollection the Chief said there would be new costs regarding the maintenance agreement.

Ald. Blake stated it is still an increase of \$2,000.

Ald. P. Smith stated the community's police sub-station has been a huge win, especially in her end of town. She stated they have provided in-roads with the community so she would not vote for reducing that program.

Ald. Blake stated it is still an increase over last year. He also stated it was the Chief's own words that they would be transferring over \$100,000 from the wages account.

Mayor Richetelli stated it was important the Board keep in mind that all budgeted positions would be filled in the new fiscal year.

Ald. P. Smith noted in line item 4112 0998 that account was reduced last year from \$35,000 to \$25,000. She stated this is a \$5,000 increase for a great program.

Chairman G. Smith stated he may have been able to vote on this if it were separated out, however as it was amended he could not support it.

Ald. Staneski echoed the Chairman's comments. She stated the way the amendment was grouped she could not support it.

Ald. Staneski and Ald. Veccharelli made and seconded a motion to divide the question and separate out line item 4112 9948 Overtime, COPSS and keep that amount at \$40,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli raised a point of order stating there was still a motion on the floor for the amendment.

By roll call vote the motion failed 9 no (Bevan, Bier, German, Giannattasio, Goodrich, Joy, Patterson, P. Smith, Vitali) and 6 yes (Blake, Hardiman, G. Smith, Staneski, Veccharelli, Vetro).

Ald. Blake and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to amend Acct. 0010 4320 Fire Department, line item 4112 0000 Overtime, Regular reduce to \$390,000, line item 4112 9941 Overtime, Rescue Truck reduce to \$130,000, line item 4189 0000 Professional Fees & Svcs reduce to \$20,000 for a new sub-total in *Personal Services* of \$9,515,793; and line item 4749 0000 Special Equip Servicing reduce to \$65,000 for a new sub-total in *Operational Expenses* of \$350,050; and line item 4971 0000 Vehicles and Equipment reduce to \$20,000 for a new sub-total in *Capital Outlays* of \$188,500 and a new department total of \$10,689,253.

Ald. Vitali asked about the second rescue truck.

Mayor Richetelli there is a full time rescue truck (Rescue 1) and a second rescue truck which runs on overtime on peak hours. Mayor Richetelli noted the vast majority of calls in Milford are medical emergencies. He stated the Chief's goal for many years has been to provide a second rescue truck, staffed by two paramedics.

Ald. Staneski and Ald. Veccharelli made and seconded a motion to divide the question and taking line item 4112 9411 Overtime, Rescue Truck separately.

Ald. Blake stated he could support this if that is what it takes to reduce this. He pointed out the Chief stated during budget deliberations that \$35,000 was transferred. He stated this was an excess this year. Ald. Blake stated the proposal of \$30,000 is the same as last year. He stated the reduction is the same as last year and is responsible.

Chairman G. Smith asked about Prof. Fees and Svcs. He stated it is only a \$5,000 reduction, but he was not clear on what it is. He asked Ald. Blake why he wished to reduce it.

Ald. Blake responded it is the same figure allocated last year. He also stated it was reflected in last month's budget transfer as a surplus.

Ald. P. Smith stated if you looked at what has been expended through December 31, it is in excess of what was budgeted in 2010, so it is not an unreasonable request.

By roll call vote, amendment (Staneski) fails 10 no (Bevan, Bier, German, Giannattasio, Goodrich, Joy, G. Smith, P. Smith, Veccharelli, Vitali) and 5 yes (Blake, Hardiman, Patterson, Staneski, Vetro).

By roll call vote, the amendment (Blake) fails 10 no (Bevan, Bier, German, Giannattasio, Goodrich, Joy, G. Smith, P. Smith, Veccharelli, Vitali) and 5 yes (Blake, Hardiman, Patterson, Staneski, Vetro).

Ald. Blake and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to amend Acct. 0010 4421 Highway/Parks, line item 4518 0000 Sidewalk Maintenance reduce to \$8,000, line item 4532 0000 Gravel reduce to \$6,500, line item 4533 0000 Ice Control reduce to \$25,400 for a new sub-total in *Street & Highway Upkeep* of \$188,500 and a new department total of \$10,689,253.

Mayor Richetelli commented just because the Board made cuts last year doesn't mean it worked. He stated the Board in its wisdom last year put a figure on an account doesn't mean that it is what it cost for the year. He noted in excess of \$30,000 was spent because the city must salt the roads when it snows.

Ald. Blake stated they had a great deal of snow last year and the city got through it.

Chairman G. Smith stated it sounded like he was hearing statistics from one side and hope from the other side.

Ald. Goodrich suggested looking at fiscal year 08-09 and suggested splitting the difference.

Ald. Vitali commented during budget deliberations they have experts, directors, department heads come in who give their best guesstimate. He stated it is fruitless to bring these people here if this Board fails to heed their advice. He stated it is easy for one side to sit here and look good making cuts in front of our citizens, but they don't later see the transfers that occur to cover shortages in those accounts.

Chairman G. Smith noted when the public works director was present he received nothing but praise. He stated further to Ald. Vitali's point that these department heads are the experts and that this Board does not rubber stamp what the Board of Finance puts forward. He stated this Board is charged with putting the best amounts forward.

Ald. Blake stated they needed to investigate other than at budget deliberation time and that it was something that should be done 364 days a year and not just one night.

Chairman G. Smith asked Ald. Blake to enlighten the Board with his research as to how much salt is needed.

Ald. Blake stated he has spoken numerous times with the public works director and went on to reference a Latin phrase.

By roll call vote, the amendment failed 10 no (Bevan, Bier, German, Giannattasio, Goodrich, Joy G. Smith, P. Smith, Staneski, Vitali) and 5 yes (Blake, Hardiman, Patterson, Veccharelli, Vetro).

The Board recessed at 9:50 p.m.

Chairman G. Smith reconvened the Board in public session at 10:08 p.m.

Ald. Blake stated he planned to offer a series of amendments to the tune of \$1,400,000 in cuts, the total amount of the amendments. He read some of those possible cuts. He stated he would submit a written list to those contemplated amendment, but would not formally make any more amendments because his colleagues have stated it may be an exercise of futility. He stated the only amendment he would make at this time would be to the education operations budget. He stated the increase of \$1,250,000 did not pass but he would like to amend the Acct. 0010 4996 Education Operations, line item 4001 0000 Lump Sum Appropriation to read \$884,229,005, for a new department total of \$84,229,005. He stated this is an increase of \$1,000,000 and that he hoped the Board of Education, superintendent and the rest of the stewards of our children's education could find the tools to make the right decisions. Ald. Blake stated his statement was in the form of a motion.

Ald. Hardiman seconded the motion.

Ald. Goodrich stated the cuts passed tonight add up to \$100,000. He questioned where the balance of the money would come from for this proposed increase. He stated it this Board can't find the money, they simply could not do it.

Ald. Blake stated based on the course this Board has been on tonight, they have failed to find the cuts available.

Chairman G. Smith commented as to the spirited discussions tonight regarding the budget. He stated he knows that all 15 people on this Board have poured over this budget and that he personally has answered 100's of e-mails and well as phone calls from parents. He stated he has even taken time from his job to do this job. Chairman G. Smith stated he has been open-minded throughout the night and that they have had a lot of agreements tonight and every member knows that. He commended all 15 individuals for their work this difficult year.

Ald. Staneski reminded the Board it was Mr. Cummings who stated he would need all of the money back to make this work. She stated this type of a motion gives the parents here tonight false hope. She referenced the earlier comments of Ald. Vitali who stated so eloquently that it was time to do more with less.

By roll call vote the amendment fails 10 no (Bevan, Bier, German, Giannattasio, Goodrich, Joy, G. Smith, P. Smith, Staneski, Vitali) and 5 yes (Blake, Hardiman, Patterson, Veccharelli, Vetro).

By roll call vote, the main motion as amended carried 10 yes (Bevan, Bier, German, Giannattasio, Goodrich, Joy, G. Smith, P. Smith, Staneski, Vitali) and 5 no (Blake, Hardiman, Patterson, Veccharelli, Vetro).

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve Total Revenue for Fund 12 – Sewer Fund as required to raise the necessary funds to cover the costs as reflected on the expenditure side of the budget in the amount of \$7,512,967. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 0036 4157 Harbor Management Commission as recommended by the Board of Finance in the amount of \$315,194. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve the Total Revenue for Acct. 0036 4157 Marina Enterprise Revenue as recommended by the Board of Finance in the amount of \$315,194. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to approve expenditures and revenue for Acct. 0018 4121 Golf Course as recommended by the Board of Finance in the amount of \$70,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman G. Smith deferred to the Finance Director regarding Acct. 0010 0000 General Fund Revenue for a technical correction.

Ms. Doneiko stated the change came about when the assessor consulted with OPM regarding percentage realization fee. She explained the realization factor that needed to be factored in. She stated line item 3670 0000 Manufacturer Machines/Equip new total should read \$1,306,000, which reflects a reduction of \$448,764.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Vitali made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 0010 0000 General Fund Revenue, line item 3111 0000 Current Taxes to read \$300,000 for a new sub-total in Taxes of \$152,232,458.

Mayor Richetelli explained the number are what they anticipated and represent a fair number to package into the revenue. He explained the manufacturer's exemption was put in to encourage business to stay in Connecticut and businesses in Milford to stay. He stated over the years that State reimbursement has gone done, but that they are hopeful legislature will approve at the 80% level. He stated he also wished to make the Board aware of line item 3711 0001 Conveyance Tax, which he stated is current. He explained legislation has it sun setting. He stated they have received assurances from State legislatures' and leadership that they will attempt to raise this to a higher rate. He stated he must caution the Board if this did not happen it would be a \$380,000 reduction in revenue.

Ald. Vetro asked where the income from the Oyster Festival Committee is listed.

Mayor Richetelli explained it is not listed as revenue. He stated it is a direct reimbursement to the police department's overtime account.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board recessed at 10:28 p.m.

Chairman G. Smith reconvened the Board in public session at 10:49 p.m.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve an Ordinance establishing a budget for the City of Milford for fiscal year 2010-2011, setting the mill rate and establishing a due date in accordance with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes and the Charter of the City of Milford.

**Whereas:** The Board of Finance of the City of Milford has made estimates of the income and amount of money necessary to appropriate for the expenses of the City of Milford for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2010 and ending July 20, 2011, and has classified such expenses under appropriate headings, departments and appropriations as more fully appears in the proposed Fiscal Budget submitted to the Board of Aldermen in accordance with Article VI, Section 2 of the charter of the City of Milford; and,

**Whereas:** The Board of Aldermen, having met and conducted a public hearing, has considered said proposed fiscal budget and has made changes therein pursuant to Article VI, Section 3 of the Charter of the City of Milford; and

**Whereas:** The Board of Aldermen, in its deliberations and voting on said budget, has estimated revenues for the 2010-2011 fiscal year in the amount of \$175,546,458 and authorized appropriations for 2010-2011 fiscal year in the amount of \$175,546,458.

**Now, therefore be it and it is hereby ordained and enacted by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford as follows:**

That the proposed fiscal budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2011, as amended by the action of the Board of Aldermen pursuant to law, is hereby adopted and ordered to be filed with the City Clerk.

The taxes for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2011, at the rate of 28.44 mills upon the ratable estate within the limits of the City of Milford, are hereby laid and levied to meet the expenses of said budget. Said mill rate is set on the predication that it is estimated that \$471,223 of said levy will be granted for Elderly Exemptions (State of Connecticut), \$739,281 will be granted for a local tax relief program for the elderly, \$670,211 will be granted for a local tax relief program for Veterans and 97.85 % of the resulting levy will be collected during the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2010, provided that if the taxes of any person shall exceed Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00), the first installment thereof, but not less than one-half of the amount of such taxes shall be due and payable on the first day of July 2010 and the remainder due and payable on the first day of January 2011, but any taxpayer may pay the total amount of the tax for which he or she is liable at the time when the first installment shall become payable. Such tax rate shall apply to all districts of the City of Milford.

<b><u>TAXES TO BE RAISED</u></b>	<b><u>\$142,406,500</u></b>
<b><u>TOTAL APPROPRIATION</u></b>	<b><u>\$175,546,458</u></b>
<b><u>TOTAL REVENUE</u></b>	<b><u>\$175,546,458</u></b>

This Ordinance shall take effect in accordance with the Charter of the City of Milford

By roll call vote, motion carried 10 yes (Bevan, Bier, German, Giannattasio, Goodrich, Joy, G. Smith, P. Smith, Staneski, Vitali) and 5 no (Blake, Hardiman, Patterson, Veccharelli, Vetro).

Ald. Vitali and Ald. P. Smith made and seconded a motion to adjourn the budget deliberations sessions for 2010-2011 at 10:45 p.m.. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber  
Recording Secretary