

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
BUDGET DELIBERATIONS SESSION
MAY 19, 2011**

The Board of Aldermen held a budget deliberation session on Thursday, May 19, 2011 in City Hall for Consideration and Voting RE: the proposed general budget, revenues and appropriations for fiscal year 2011-2012, establishment of the 2011-2012 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 (7:51 p.m.)
P. Vetro
R. Vitali

Also Present

Mayor J. Richetelli, Jr.
P. Erodici, Acting Finance Director
L. Stock, City Clerk
L. Bull DiLullo, Mayor's Admn. Asst.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to come out of recess at 7:09 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Blake noted for the record that Ald. Veccharelli was at the emergency room with his wife.

Chairman G. Smith reminded the Board of the Memorial Day festivities that would take place on May 29, 2011, beginning with the wreath laying ceremony. He stated the budget for FY 2011-2012 had been thoroughly reviewed by the Board of Finance and that a public hearing was held on April 7, 2011, followed by meetings with each of the department heads and the Board of Education held on April 11, 14, 25 and 28, 2011. He thanked the Mayor, Board of Education and City departments for this input. He also noted this Board is made up of all volunteers. He thanked those for being present stating he admired and shared the passion of those present.

Ald. P. Smith referred the Board to p. 95 of the budget book, Education Operations.

Ald. Blake asked for clarification if they were re-ordering the agenda.

Chairman G. Smith stated there was no official order.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Vitali made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4996 0000 Education Operations as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following change: Increase the amount to \$85,459,589, which leaves a total increase over FY 2011 of \$2,230,584. The increase restores the \$1,530,584 in ECS funding recently reinstated by the State and \$700,000 in contractual wage increases for FY 2012.

Ald. Staneski stated she would support this. She stated for the record that at no time was there comment from that this Board would not restore the \$1,500,000.

Chairman G. Smith stated he too did not know of anyone who ever recommended that this Board would not include the ECS money.

Ald. Hardiman and Ald. Blake made and seconded a motion to amend the motion to read Acct. 4996 0000 Education Operations, increase the amount to read \$85,977,440 for a new department total of \$85,977,400, which represents a 1.5% increase.

By roll call vote the motion failed 8 no (Bevan, Bier, German, Giannattasio, Goodrich, Joy, G. Smith, P. Smith) and 6 yes (Blake, Hardiman, Patterson, Staneski, Vetro, Vitali).

Ald. Blake commented the level of funding being recommended by this Board is still better than the recommendation of the Board of Finance. He noted the Board of Finance did not have the same information that is available now. He pointed out the State is increasing grants going to municipalities and also the State tax will be going to municipalities. He asked the Board to consider that new revenue screens in the remainder of deliberations tonight. He stated additional grant money anticipated over last year is about \$500,000.

Ald. P. Smith agreed they did need to take that into consideration and also noted it is some benefit to the taxpayers. She also agreed they needed to make decisions in allocating those additional funds.

Ald. G. Smith maintained there is still 350 less students since this Board was elected last year, with about 628 teachers, which is an 11/1 teacher/student ratio. He asked the Board to keep those figures in mind. He also pointed out the Board of Education received over \$2,000,000 increase last year and this Board is considering a \$2,300,000 increase over last year and the Board of Education has told this Board they expect to lose additional students. He stated during the Board of Education's presentation there was discussion about the costs of special education. Ald. G. Smith stated Milford is a DRG "D" group and is below average for special education students. He stated some of the communities in the group actually spent less in their education budget and had higher test scores. He stated as of today there are 118 foreclosures in Milford and this year seniors and veterans will receive less from the federal government. He also pointed out there is still a 9% unemployment here and asked the Board to keep those figures in mind when voting tonight.

Ald. Patterson commented as to figures and pointed out that \$1,500,000 was coming from the State so the increase is only \$700,000 and not the \$2,300,000 alleged.

On the main motion, by roll call vote, the motion carried 11 yes (Bevan, Blake, German, Giannattasio, Goodrich, Joy, G. Smith, P. Smith, Staneski, Vetro, Vitali) and 3 no (Bier, Hardiman, Patterson).

The Board recessed at 7:27 p.m.

Chairman G. Smith reconvened the Board in public session at 7:38 p.m.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4115 Registrar of Voters, Acct. 4112 Elections, Acct. 4115 Registrar of Voters, 4116 MGAT and 4121 Mayor's Office as recommended by the Board of Finance.

Ald. Blake and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to amend the motion as follows: Acct. 4116 MGAT with the following changes: line item 4189 0001 Government Cable Service reduce to \$14,000 for a new department total of \$14,700.

Ald. Goodrich commented the monies in this account are needed for supplies and to pay for personnel.

Ald. Blake stated the amount recommended still is an increase over last year's budget of approximately 10%. He also stated the MGAT Chairman stated during budget deliberations that he was seeking grants of \$28,000 and that last year they received \$21,000. Ald. Blake stated he believed the amendment was sufficient.

Chairman G. Smith noted this Board has received complaints regarding writing and audio in the Board of Education room and also the MGAT recordings are made available to the public. He stated he would like to see the amount remain the same.

Ald. P. Smith pointed out MGAT also looks at major projects to undertake so it was important to keep them funded and to get the meetings to those citizens at home.

Ald. Giannattasio echoed the comments of Ald. P. Smith. He stated it was a senseless cut and that just because they were seeking a grant does not mean they will get it.

Ald. Vitali stated he would be in favor of the cut.

Ald. Hardiman commented they are working on a low budget to finish out the year and they may not make it.

By roll call vote, the amendment failed 7 yes (Bevan, Bier, Blake, Patterson, Staneski, Vetro, Vitali) and 7 no (German, Giannattasio, Goodrich, Hardiman, Joy, G. Smith, P. Smith).

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4123 Community Development, 4129 City Clerk, 4131 Law Department, 4132 Ethics Commission, 4133 Probate, 4141 Board of Finance, 4142 Permitting and Land Use, 4143 Board of Assessment Appeals, 4144 Zoning Board of Appeals, 4145 Pension Board, 4146 Flood & Erosion Board, 4147 Tree Commission, 4151 Civil Service Commission, 4153 Park, Beach & Recreation Commission, 4155 Economic Development Commission and 4156 Conservation as recommended by the Board of Finance.

Ald. Patterson and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to amend the motion as follows: Acct. 4131 Law Department with the following changes: line item 49770115 Law Books reduce to \$8,000 and line item 4990 0501 Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment reduce to \$0 for a new sub-total in Capital Outlays of \$4,600 and a new department total of \$508,537.

Ald. Goodrich stated this Board has been told repeatedly that the account entitled Law Books is also for on-line services which are needed in order to have proper access to various court decision.

Ald. Blake stated this department has only one full time attorney and two part time attorneys. He stated law firms much larger than this one don't spend as much on books. He also pointed out most firms use free on-line resources and cited Casemaker as one. Ald. Blake also noted the City Attorney stated during budget sessions that he was looking into Casemaker, which is a premier on-line website.

Ald. P. Smith pointed out a position is also being eliminated from this department.

Ald. Staneski stated that perhaps the account was entitled incorrectly. She stated it was her recollection the City Attorney stated they pay \$800 a month for on-line services. She stated to take this account down this Board would be straining the department's resources. She also questioned if a contract is in place for these services.

Mayor Richetelli stated several city attorney's have stated they buy very few law books, that the monies from this account are used for on-line subscriptions vital to the work of the office. He stated the City Attorney has stated these subscriptions are necessary to be kept up to date. He stated if there are free search engines, the department would certainly take advantage.

Chairman G. Smith stated his notes reflect the City Attorney saying he did not need the monies in seasonal/temporary and also the change in the Ordinance regarding the Claims Committee that is approximately \$4,000. He stated if this motion should fail he would be interested in reducing line item 4122 0000 Other Legal Fees and line item 4117 0000 Seasonal/Temporary, which he stated would accomplish the same thing and be in tune to the needs of the department.

Ald. P. Smith stated with upcoming labor negotiations she would be reluctant to reduce Other Legal Fees. She stated the amount in that line item is reasonable.

Ald. Blake commented regarding labor negotiations and stated it was his recollection it was being contracted out. He reiterated with just one full time attorney and two part time attorneys the amount for law books was obscene when you consider many large law firms don't expend that much. He stated \$4,000 was certainly sufficient for one full time and two part time attorneys.

By roll call vote, the amend carried 8 yes (Bevan, Blake, Hardiman, Patterson, G. Smith, Veccharelli, Vetro, Vitali) and 7 no (Bier, German, Giannattasio, Goodrich, Joy, P. Smith, Staneski).

Ald. Hardiman and Ald. Blake made and seconded a motion to amend the motion as follows: Acct. 4142 Permitting and Land Use with the following changes: line item 4112 0000 overtime to read \$27,013 for a new department total of \$960,720. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board recessed at 8:01 p.m.

Chairman G. Smith reconvened the Board in public session at 8:10 p.m.

Acting Finance Director P. Erodic noted a technical correction regarding Acct. 4133 Probate Court, line item 4782 0000.

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4159 Veterans Ceremony & Parade Commission as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following changes: line item 4783 0000 Office Supplies to read \$200; line item 4798 0000 Other Supplies & Charges to read \$3,387 for a new sub-total of \$3,537.00 and a new department total of \$4,187.00.

Ald. P. Smith pointed out the formerly name of this account was the Fowler Commission and the two departments were combined. She stated the total is the sum of the two departments being consolidated.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4160 Housing Code Board of Appeals and Acct. 4161 Housatonic Estuary Commission as recommended by the Board of Finance. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4193 Public Library as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following changes: line item 4117 0000 Seasonal/Temporary to read \$91,000 for a new sub-total in Personal Services of \$800,264.00 and a new department total of \$1,022,488.00.

Ald. Blake asked the purpose of the adjusted change from the Board of Finance's recommended amount.

Ald. P. Smith explained with the reduction of one position, Mrs. Tsang stated during budget deliberations she would be able to sustain library hours with an increase in the seasonal/temporary line item.

Ald. Blake questioned whether the elimination of the one position would eliminate Saturday hours. She asked if Mrs. Tsang has indicated the additional monies would allow the library to remain open on Saturdays.

Ald. P. Smith stated she could not guarantee hours, but she believed the increase in seasonal/temporary would maintain hours.

Mayor Richetelli stated the \$10,000 increase would help to that regard. He stated it was his intention to work with the library director and their board to keep the library open.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to amend the motion as follows: line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages to read \$735,465 and line item 4111 9942 1/5 Fiscal Week to read \$3,655 for a new sub-total in Personal Services of \$823,395 and a new department total of \$1,045,619.

Ald. Veccharelli stated basically they were looking to restore the Library Aide position.

Chairman G. Smith stated the amendment was to add much more than \$10,000. He recited the main motion was to add \$10,000 to the Board of Finance's recommended amount. He stated he was confident the Mayor would be able to work with the library director and the board to maintain current library hours.

Mayor Richetelli commented with regard to the recommended staff reductions that they would work with all of the departments to maintain current services.

Ald. Bier made a general comment with regard to restoring positions and other staff reductions. He stated the Board of Finance and Mayor put a lot of thought into this budget and therefore he would not vote to restore any of these positions. He stated as a resident you expect certain services to be in place and that these cuts are not easy, but that he had faith in the Mayor's plan that services would not be compromised. He stated he has seen personally the struggles of many residents in these economic times. He stated it is not easy, but he felt this Board should go with the Board of Finance's recommendations.

Ald. Blake stated when the Mayor's budget first came out the typical house would increase about \$155 and only \$106 if the \$1,500,000 was restored by the State. He stated since that time they have had some good fiscal news from the State. He stated his amendment would support a spending decrease, however balance the overall budget to keep the safety and welfare of the citizens of Milford. He stated he himself uses the library on Saturday and that he supports keeping the library open on Saturdays. He also noted Ald. P. Smith is the liaison to the Library Board. Ald. Blake stated he would support Ald. Veccharelli's amendment.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he too supports keeping the library open on Saturdays and that is what they are hoping to accomplish by increasing the seasonal/temporary line item by \$10,000. He asked Ald. Blake how much he was proposing.

Ald. Blake stated he would be happy to make a new amendment to remove the \$10,000.

Ald. Giannattasio stated his side was proposing to accomplish the same, but for less.

Ald. Blake stated to his knowledge no one had communicated with the library as to whether the library will stay open on Saturdays.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he heard the Mayor say he would work with the Library Director and its Board to accomplish this.

Mayor Richetelli stated it was his intention to keep the library open and reiterated he would work with the Library Director and the library board to see that the hours remain. He stated to insure this happens the recommendation is the additional \$10,000 being proposed tonight.

Ald. P. Smith commented all department heads have personally advocated for their departments. She pointed out it is a tough year for all departments.

Ald. Veccharelli stated he appreciated the first amendment for additional monies to the seasonal/temporary account, but he would like more assurances that the library will remain open. He stated the library is a nice resource for those who work Monday through Friday. He also pointed out the library is used frequently for those who are out of work and seeking jobs. He stated his recollection was the library board felt they needed

the position to remain open on Saturdays. He stated if his motion fails he will put the Mayor to the test to see if he can accomplish what he says he can.

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).

On the main motion, by roll call vote, the motion carries 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. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4210 Finance, Acct. 4215 MIS and 4219 Personnel Dept. as recommended by the Board of Finance.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to amend Acct. 4219 Personnel Dept. as follows: line item 4774 0000 Postage reduce to \$2,000 and line item 4977 0130 Office chair reduce to \$100.

Ald. P. Smith pointed out the postage increase was due to the change in the National Health Care bill.

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

On the main motion, by roll call vote, the motion carried 8 yes (Bier, German, Giannattasio, Goodrich, Joy, G. Smith, P. Smith, Vitali) and 7 no (Bevan, Blake, Hardiman, Patterson, Staneski, Veccharelli, Vetro).

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4310 Police Department as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following changes: line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages to read \$7,773,634 and line item 4111 9942 1/5 Fiscal Week to read \$38,689 for a new subtotal in Personal Services of \$9,273,960 and a new department total of \$10,436,328; and in the budgeted positions, restore Lieutenant Grade 7-N to \$75,380 for a new position total of \$7,773,634. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board recessed at 8:39 p.m.

Chairman G. Smith reconvened the Board in public session at 8:59 p.m.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4320 Fire Department as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following changes: line item 4111 0000 regular Wages to read \$7,493,645 and line item 4111 9942 1/5 Fiscal Week to read \$37,468 and in Budget Positions add Dispatcher/Step 3 position for a sub-total in Personal Services of \$9,273,960 and a new department total of \$10,614,109.

Ald. Staneski and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to amend the motion to restore the Firefighter position.

Chairman G. Smith explained one position is currently filled. He stated as the son of a retired Captain it would be difficult for him to vote against reducing a firefighter. He expressed his hope the department would be able to reorganize as stated during budget deliberations.

Ald. Staneski stated she heard the chief talk about a plan and sitting down and talking about a plan for reorganizing. She stated she hope other departments too would look into reorganizing their department.

Ald. P. Smith expressed her hope both fire and police chiefs would find a way to work together with overlapping areas of the respective departments.

Ald. Vetro thanked Ald. Staneski for amending the motion to add the firefighter position and echoed her remarks.

Ald. Staneski commented these departments do seek out other grants and thanked the chief for the information she received. She also offered kudos to all city departments for their hard work in their budget presentation.

Mr. Erodici stated the numbers reflecting Ald. Staneski's amendment would read as follows: line item 4111 0000 to read \$7,545,861 and line item 4111 9942 1/5 Fiscal Week to read \$37,730 for a new sub-total in Personal Services of \$9,446,417 and a new department total of \$10,666,767.

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

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

Ald. P. Smtih and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4331 Civil Preparedness as recommended by the Board of Finance. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4340 Animal Control as recommended by the Board of Finance.

Ald. B. Blake and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to amend the motion as follows: line item 4978 0703 Mower to read \$600 for a new sub-total in Capital Outlays of \$4,180 and a new department total of \$358,541.

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

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4360 Lighting, Hydrants, Water as recommended by the Board of Finance. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve Accts. 4420 Public works Office, 4421 Highway/Parks, 4423 Building Maintenance, 4424 Engineering, 4429 Garage and 4431 Solid Waste, as recommended by the Board of Finance.

Ald. Blake and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to amend the motion as follows: line item 4790 9950 City Waste Removal Costs to read \$2,000,000 for a new sub-total in Operational Expenses of \$2,494,600 and a new department total of \$4,410,485.

Ald. Blake stated the motion represents a \$100,000 decrease. He recalled the presentation by the SMART Committee in which they estimated the amount needed to be around \$1,815,000.

Chairman G. Smith pointed out the amount recommended by Ald. Blake is \$200,000 less than the previous year's budget and would reduce the present budget by \$300,000.

Ald. P. Smith stated her recollection is the costs would be based on a full year. She stated with a roll out of the program in late summer or early fall and the fact the residents would need time to adjust, the \$2,100,000 number was more prudent. She reiterated the time would allow people to become accustomed with the new system. Also, the lateness of the program in the year.

Chairman G. Smith stated he would be concerned reducing this line item so much beyond what the Board of Finance recommended.

Ald. Blake stated the figure he put forward was a conservative figure. He stated to Ald. P. Smith's point, it was the SMART Committee folks who stated the program would begin in July and that they have listed this on their documentation. He stated he could not see being more conservative than they already are.

Mayor Richetelli commented single stream is a new program and that much of the success and savings of the program depends on the time of year. He also stated the packers were ordered after the February bond authorization and will not arrive here until August, so it looks like the start date will be later than expected. He also pointed out the research done by the SMART Committee was of two other towns. Mayor Richetelli stated he is hopeful Milford will achieve more in savings, but this being the first year he would be more comfortable with the much less than \$2,100,000.

Ald. Joy added the success of the program would be due to the participation of the Milford citizens and that it will require some education. He recalled when the city first went to the blue bins and how long it took for residents to be receptive. He stated it may be pre-mature at this point, but that he would certainly look at it next year.

Ald. Staneski stated she did not want to receive calls from constituents that their trash is not being picked up.

Chairman G. Smith stated he has heard over and over that costs are going up. He pointed out the Public Works Department is already facing a \$200,000 reduction and he would not recommend any further cuts.

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

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

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4502 Equipment Reserve Allocation as recommended by the Board of Finance.

Ald. P. Smith asked if this account would come off the books next year.

Mayor Richetelli replied yes.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4503 Debt Service as recommended by the Board of Finance. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4610 Health Department as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following changes: line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages to read \$762,223 and line item 4111 9942 1/5 Fiscal Week to read \$3,797 and in the Budget Positions restore Sanitarian II, Grade 49/4 to \$61,381, for a new position total of \$762,223 and a new sub-total in Personal Services of \$806,520 and a new department total of \$899,420.

By roll call vote, the motion carried 13 yes (Bevan, Blake, German, Giannattasio, Goodrich, Hardiman, Joy, Patterson, P. Smtih, Staneski, Veccharelli, Vetro, Vitali) and 2 no (Bier, G. Smith).

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4710 Employee Benefits as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following changes: line item 4221 9919 Self Insurance Contribution to read \$11,980,386 for a new sub-total in Employee Benefits of \$17,207,980 and a new department total of \$17,222,980.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Blake made and seconded a motion to amend the motion as follows: line item 4219 0000 Unemployment Insurance to read \$215,000 and line item 4221 9919 Self Insurance Contribution to read \$11,311,791 for a new sub-total in Employee Benefits of \$16,494,385 and a new department total of \$16,509,385.

Mayor Richetelli asked the minority leader where he came up with his figures. He stated the numbers in the motion were calculated based on the number of anticipated staff reductions. He stated as late as this afternoon his office was in contact with the city's self-insurance and third party carriers to ensure they were getting the best possible numbers. Mayor Richetelli stated the consultants and administrators are paid to do this work because they are the experts in the field. He stated it would not be responsible to make such cuts as proposed.

Ald. Blake stated they have taken into consideration some of the positions that were restored. He stated this Board has heard in the past that the consultants have been "wrong, wrong, and wrong" and that the mayor has stated they have had a surplus because the consultants were wrong. Ald. Blake stated this amount is therefore reasonable.

Mayor Richetelli stated he was at a loss to understand where Ald. Blake has come up with the facts that the city was wrong. He explained the city tracks the numbers on a monthly basis with the consultants and finance department. He stated the information is based on actual claims. He stated in past years the city has built a surplus, but that was years ago. Mayor Richetelli stated the numbers in self-insurance are the best numbers for what the city will pay out in claims next year. He stated it would be irresponsible to reduce the number as the city would run into deficits. He reiterated it was just irresponsible.

Chairman G. Smith stated he would have great concerns underfunding an insurance account.

Mayor Richetelli stated the number read by the majority leader is a reduction from the number recommended by the Board of Finance.

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

On the main motion, by roll call vote, the amendment failed 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. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve Accts. 4720 Insurance & Bonds, 4740 Claims & Refunds, 4790 Benefit & Salary Reserve, 4799 Unallocated Contingency, 4801 Council of Aging and 4803 Fine Arts Council as recommended by the Board of Finance.

Ald. Blake and Patterson made and seconded a motion to amend the motion as follows: line item 4825 0000 Workers Compensation to read \$299,275 for a new sub-total in General Charges of \$1,779,760 and a new department total of \$1,779,760.

Ald. Blake stated the motion to amend was made in light of the recent revelations since the Board of Finance meeting. He stated another reason was the new Ordinance deals with workers compensation claims and also there will likely be fewer workers compensation claims from solid waste now with the new packers, so less claims. Ald. Blake also cited the new revelations from the workers compensation commissioners in Bridgeport and also new legislation which has been more conservative. He stated an approximate \$15,000,000 reduction is predicted.

Ald. Joy stated if he were an employee of Public Works sitting home watching this he would not be very happy and further that he did not like the direction of this conversation. He stated with regard to the claims Ordinance, the dollars are not changing just the direction of what comes to the Committee.

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).

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4805 C-MED as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following change: line item 4708 0000 Grant reduce to \$97,091 for a new sub-total in Operational Expenses of \$97,091 and a new department total of \$97,97,091.

Ald. Veccharelli questioned the recommendation to reduce. He stated he understood this number to be fixed.

Mayor Richetelli explained the city is a member of CMED and has one seat on the Board of Directors. He stated at the Board of Directors meeting last year, Milford was the lone “no” vote. He stated this year they were more aggressive and asked them to look at their budget. Mayor Richetelli stated they have a new executive director and they were able to reduce their overall budget, which resulted in a reduction for Milford.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4807 Regional Mental Health Board as recommended by the Board of Finance. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Vitali made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4811 Borough of Woodmont as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following change: line item 4708 0000 Grant to read \$220,000 for a new sub-total in Operational Expenses of \$220,000 and a new department total of \$220,000.

By roll call vote, motion carried 12 yes (Bevan, Blake, German, Giannattasio, Goodrich, Hardiman, Joy, G. Smith, P. Smith, Staneski, Vetro, Vitali) and 3 no (Bier, Patterson, Veccharelli).

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve Accts. 4812 Transit Authority, 4813 Bridges, 4815 Veterans Graves, 4816 Milford flotilla 73, 4817 Human Services Department (HSD), 4818 Historic District, 4819 Milford Progress, Inc., 4820 Historic District II, 4821 Health Svcs/VNA, 4822 Cemetery Association, as recommended by the Board of Finance.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to amend the motion as follows: Acct. 4813 Bridges increase grant to read \$363,188, for a new sub-total in Operational Expenses of \$363,188 and a new department total of \$363,188.

Ald. Veccharelli stated the amount he is requesting is the original amount approved by the Mayor and Board of Finance.

By roll call vote, the motion fails 8 no (Bevan, Bier, Giannattasio, Goodrich, Joy, G. Smith, P. Smith, Staneski) and 7 yes (Blake, German, Hardiman, Patterson, Veccharelli, Vetro, Vitali).

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4823 Patriotic Organization Association as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following change: reduce line item 4708 0000 Grant to read \$0, for a new sub-total in Operational Expenses of \$0 and a new department total of \$0. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4825 Beth El Shelter as recommended by the Board of Finance. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4826 Boys & Girls Club as recommended by the Board of Finance, with the following changes: line item 4708 0000 Grant to read \$60,000 for a new sub-total in Operational Expenses of \$60,000 and a new department total of \$60,000.

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

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4992 Private School Textbooks, 4993 Audit Fees, 4994 School Debt, 4995 Employee Benefits, Non-teaching as approved by the Board of Finance. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4897 Education Health Insurance Contribution as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following change: line item 4221 0000 Contribution, Self Insurance Fund to read \$17,233,513.

Ald. P. Smith pointed out this represents a \$317,170,000 reduction over the Board of Finance recommended amount.

Ald. Blake and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to amend as follows: line item 4221 0000 Contribution, Self Insurance Fund to read \$16,673,149.

Ald. Blake stated this represents a sizable increase over last year.

Ald. P. Smith stated there has been some discussion citywide, which holds true here.

Mayor Richetelli replied yes. He stated the explanation is the same as the city side. He stated they were on the phone today and went over the claims. He stated they are based on facts not fiction.

Chairman G. Smith asked Ald. Blake if there was a rationale for his figure.

Ald. Blake stated he reviewed the annual financial report and trends. He stated the number is still a sizeable increase over previous year. He also noted there has always been a sizeable surplus.

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

On the main motion, 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. P. Smith and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4998 School Nurses as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following changes: 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 \$1,254,772 and in Budgeted Positions restore the Nurse, Public Health – 10 months, Grade 30X to \$50,184 for a new Position Totals of \$1,150,252.

Ald. Veccharelli commented he was happy to make sure the nurses are covered with full time nurses.

Ald. Vitali commented as to the importance not only of the school nurse, but the safety of our children.

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

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve expenditures and revenue for Acct. 0012 0000 Sewer Fund in the amount of \$7,410,877, as recommended by the Board of Finance. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve expenditures and revenue for Acct. 0036 4157 Harbor Management Commission in the amount of \$323,977, as recommended by the Board of Finance. 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.

The Board recessed at 10:01 p.m.

Chairman G. Smith reconvened the Board in public session at 10:06 p.m.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4154 Sewer Commission as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following changes: line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages to read \$1.00 and line item 4111 9942 1/5 Fiscal Week to \$1.00 and increase line item 4112 0000 Overtime to read \$20,000 for a new sub-total in Personal Services of \$23,002.00 and a new department total of \$1,595,737. And in Budgeted Positions reduce Clerk A to read \$1.00 and Contractual wages to read \$1 for a new positions total of \$2.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. P. Smith and Ald. Vetro made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 0010 0000 General Fund Revenue as approved by the Board of Finance, with the following technical changes: line item 3516 0000 Transportation to read \$296,775, line item 3517 0000 ECS to read \$10,728,519, line item 3643 0000 State Realty to read \$459,393, line item 3643 0001 State Realty – Pequot to read \$391,547, line item 3647 0000 Private Exemptions to read \$370,170, line item 3670 0000 Mfr. Machine & Equipment to read \$1,110,891, line item 3658 0000 Municipal Video Trust, account number changed to 3658 0001 and line item 3658 0000 Property Tax Relief to read \$466,676, for a new department total of \$185,992,559. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board recessed at 10:08 p.m.

Chairman G. Smith reconvened the Board in public session at 10:21 p.m.

Chairman G. Smith thanked acting Finance Director Peter Erodi for stepping forward and getting this budget done.

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 2011-2012, 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, 2011 and ending July 20, 2012, 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 2011-2012 fiscal year in the amount of \$183,539,140 and authorized appropriations for 2011-2012 fiscal year in the amount of \$183,539,140.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF MILFORD AS FOLLOW:

That the proposed fiscal budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012, 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, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012, at the rate of 28.89 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 \$450,211 of said levy will be granted for Elderly Exemptions (State of Connecticut), \$782,305 will be granted for a local tax relief program for the elderly, \$699,133 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, 2011, 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 2011 and the remainder due and payable on the first day of January 2012, 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.

<u>TAXES TO BE RAISED</u>	<u>\$151,190,545</u>
<u>TOTAL APPROPRIATION</u>	<u>\$183,539,140</u>
<u>TOTAL REVENUE</u>	<u>\$183,539,140</u>

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

Ald. Blake thanked everyone on the Board. He stated the figure arrived at was a vast improvement over what was presented to the Board back in February and that the Board did a yeoman's work getting to where they are. He stated it was about an \$8,000,000 increase over last year.

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

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Goodrich made and seconded a motion to adjourn the budget deliberations sessions for 2011-2012 at 10:28 p.m.. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary