

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
BUDGET DELIBERATIONS – FISCAL YEAR 2014/2015
MAY 21, 2014 – FINAL VOTE**

The Board of Aldermen held a budget deliberation session on Wednesday, May 21, 2014 in City Hall for Consideration and Voting RE: the proposed general budget, revenues and appropriations for fiscal year 2014-2015, establishment of the 2014-2015 mill rate and the tax due dates.

Chairman Vetro welcomed everyone to the final meeting of the 2014/2015 budget deliberations session. He asked everyone present join him in the Pledge of allegiance.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to come out of recess at 7:12 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

B. Anderson
B. Bier
M. Casey
S. Fontana
D. German
A. Giannattasio
J. Golden
M. Hardiman
D. Kubek
S. Shaw
F. Smith
G. Stanford
N. Veccharelli
P. Vetro
R. Vitali

Also Present

Mayor B. Blake
P. Erodici, Finance Director
S. Fournier, Mayor's Admin. Asst.

Chairman Vetro stated this is the step in the budget process. He thanked the Mayor, Finance Director and his staff, department heads, Dr. Feser and her staff, as well as the Board of Aldermen and many others who put in many hours toward putting the budget forward. He stated each year the Board works hard to understand the needs and wants of the citizens, students and senior citizens in Milford and adopt a budget in the best interest of the City.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the following budgets: Acct. 4111 Board of Aldermen in the amount of \$6,305, Acct. 4112 Elections in the amount of \$130,000, Acct. 4115 Registrar of Voters in the amount of \$146,814 and Acct. 4116 MGAT in the amount of \$15,750 as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the following budgets: Acct. 4121 Mayor's Office in the amount of \$268,484 and Acct. 4122 General Expenses in the amount of \$434,866 as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the following budgets: Acct. 4123 Community Development in the amount of \$113,673, Acct. 4129 City Clerk in the amount of \$364,220 and Acct. 4131 Law Department in the amount of \$607,261, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the following budgets: Acct. 4132 Ethics Commission in the amount of \$800, Acct. 4133 Probate Court in the amount of \$16,941, and Acct. 4141 Board of Finance in the amount of \$1,050, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4142 Permitting and Land Use in the amount of \$1,029,387, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015.

Ald. Smith and Ald. Anderson moved to amend the motion for Acct. 4142 Permitting & Land Use with the following changes: Budgeted Positions, 50-X, Assistant City Planner restore \$77,790 for a new Positions Total of \$902,486 and a new department total of \$1,072,407.

Ald. Smith stated this position has been a source wide contention and source of consternation. He stated the position has been in this office for many years and is a position that is unique and far exceeds the responsibilities of the original position. Ald. Smith stated the Assistant City Planner is also the coordinator for all coastal sight plans. He also stated the person in the position is someone who is accomplished, respected and valued in the position. Ald. Smith also commented the Milford was affected by the recent storms that will affect the city for some time to come. He stated with these difficult times this person has been essential to the department throughout these difficult times. Ald. Smith cited various aldermen who have worked with many of the constituents along the shoreline. He urged the members of the Board to come up with a super majority restore the position. Ald. Smith also pointed out that in 2009 the Republican majority restored this same position and that he was asking for the same cooperation to restore the position. He also stated there is no redundancy between the city planner position and the assistant city planner position. He respectfully asked the Board to restore the position.

Ald. Giannattasio requested a 5-minute recess. The Board recessed at 7:24 p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the Board in public session at 7:36 p.m.

Ald. Shaw stated many of the aldermen have received a lot of emails from the public. She proceeded to read an email she received from a Hillside Avenue resident. Ald. Shaw stated she herself lives along the shore and that she has had the opportunity to speak with many Sandy survivors. She stated it is very clear that these people who have lost their homes and belongs are vulnerable citizens, adding they are simply homeowners and taxpayers. Ald. Shaw stated 5 years ago this position was eliminated and it was decided that there was a need for the Assistant City Planner and that was prior to the two storms. She also pointed out there are 5,000 homes in the flood zone. She stated if this is a budget issue she could not find it. She also spoke of the savings that

would be accrued with the reduction of the overtime/seasonal temporary account, especially in light of the building inspector position.

Ald. Stanford commented the loss of this position is not as important to many on the Board as it is to the many constituents. She questioned who would respond to the constituents.

Ald. Bier stated he wished to amend the amendment to as follows: in Budgeted Positions, eliminate 49-N, Building Inspector A in the amount of \$54,884 for a new Positions Total of \$824,396 and a new department total of \$973,803.

Ald. Anderson stated he would offer if the Building Inspector A position were eliminated he would recommend line item 4117 0000 be increased by \$20,000 for a new line item amount of \$55,500.

Ald. Veccharelli raised a point of order. He stated the amendment to the amendment is not germane to the question and is a separate item.

Ald. Anderson suggested combining the actions or each amendment or taking them up as separate amendments. He reiterated if the Building Inspector A position were eliminated he ask that \$20,000 be restored to the seasonal/temporary line item.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he wished to be clear in order to restore monies to the budget a 2/3 vote was needed and to cut from the budget it was only a majority vote.

Ald. Shaw stated she would support the elimination of the Building Inspector A position.

Chairman Vetro stated he wished to take up the amendments one at a time.

Ald. Anderson stated he would withdraw his second if Ald. Smith would withdraw his amendment. Ald. Smith withdrew his amendment and Ald. Anderson withdrew his second.

Ald. Bier and Ald. Golden moved to amend the motion as follows: in Budgeted Positions, eliminate 49-N, Building Inspector A in the amount of \$54,884 for a new Positions Total of \$824,396 and a new department total of \$973,803.

By roll call, the amendment carried 14 yes (Anderson, Bier, Casey, Fontana, German, Giannattasio, Golden, Hardiman, Kubek, Shaw, Smith, Stanford, Vetro, Vitali) and 1 no (Veccharelli).

Ald. Anderson and Ald. Hardiman moved to amend the motion the motion as follows: line item 4117 0000 Seasonal Temporary increase from \$34,500 to \$55,500 for a new sub-total in *Personal Services* of \$927,502 and a new department total of \$994,229.

By roll call vote, the amendment carried 10 yes (Anderson, Bier, Golden, Hardiman, Kubek, Shaw, Smith, Stanford, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 5 no (Casey, Fontana, German, Giannattasio, Vitali).

Ald. Smith and Ald. Anderson moved to amend the motion for Acct. 4142 Permitting & Land Use with the following changes: Budgeted Positions, 50-X, Assistant City Planner restore \$77,790 for a new Positions Total of \$902,486 and a new department total of \$1,072,407.

By roll call vote, the amendment failed 8 yes (Anderson, Bier, Golden, Kubek, Shaw, Smith, Stanford, Vitali) and 7 no (Casey, Fontana, German, Giannattasio, Hardiman, Veccharelli, Vetro).

Ald. Anderson raised a point of order regarding the main motion.

Mr. Erodici interjected stating when eliminating a position the Board needed to consider line item 4111 9942 1/5 Fiscal Week which should read \$4,105 for a new sub-total in Personal Services of \$927,502 and a new department total of \$994,229.

By roll call vote, on the main motion, motion failed 2 yes (Bier, Veccharelli) and 13 no (Anderson, Casey, Fontana, German, Giannattasio, Golden, Hardiman, Kubek, Shaw, Smith, Stanford, Vetro, Vitali).

Ald. Stanford requested a 5 minute recess. The Board recessed at 8:05 p.m.

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

Ald. Veccharelli read the motion that was on the table. Chairman Vetro stated he would have the secretary recall the vote on the main motion.

By roll call vote, the motion carried 10 yes (Anderson, Bier, German, Golden, Hardiman, Kubek, Shaw, Stanford, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 5 no (Casey, Fontana, Giannattasio, Smith, Vitali).

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the following budgets: Acct. 4143 Board of Assessment Appeals in the amount of \$2,650, Acct. 4144 Zoning Board of Appeals in the amount of \$10,525, Acct. 4145 Pension Board in the amount of \$4,050, Acct. 4146 Flood and Erosion Board in the amount of \$903, and Acct. 4147 Tree Commission in the amount of \$1,521, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the following budgets: Acct. 4151 Civil Service Commission in the amount of \$200, Acct. 4153 Park, Beach and Recreation Commission in the amount of \$1,600 and Acct. 4155 Economic Development Commission in the amount of \$2, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the budgets for Acct. 4156 Conservation Commission in the amount of \$1,105, Acct. 4159 Veterans, Ceremony & Parade Commission in the amount of \$5,600, Acct. 4160 Housing Code Board of Appeals in the amount of \$400, and Acct. 4161 Housatonic River Estuary Commission in the amount of \$0, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4162 Open Space in the amount of \$51,162, as recommended by the Board of for fiscal year 2014-2015.

Ald. Hardiman and Ald. Veccharelli moved to amend the motion as follows: in Budgeted Positions eliminate the Open Space Manager (Non-Rep) position for a new Positions Total of \$0 and a new department total of \$0.

Ald. Vitali asked if the amendment as presented was indicative eliminating the position from that account.

Chairman Vetro clarified this position would continue to be paid out of the Open Space Account.

On the amendment, motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4193 Public Library in the amount of \$1,086,579, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4210 Finance Department in the amount of \$1,757,333, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015.

Ald. Kubek and Ald. Anderson moved to amend the motion as follows: in Budgeted Positions, 52-1 Accountant 1 (Non-Rep) to read \$0, for a new Positions Total of \$1,445,268.

Mr. Erodici interjected stating that line item 1/5 Fiscal Week should read \$7,193 for a new sub-total in Personal Services of \$1,565,080 and a new department total of \$1,756,942.

Motion carried unanimously.

On the main motion. . . .

Ald. Bier interjected stating there was a discrepancy in the numbers.

Mr. Erodici re-read the numbers as follows the new sub-total in *Personal Services* should read \$1,486,993 and a new department total of \$1,678,855.

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4215 Management Information Systems (MIS) in the amount of \$744,975, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015, with the following technical change: line item 4117 0000 Seasonal/Temporary to read \$1, for a new subtotal in *Personal Services* of \$484,099 and a new department total of \$744,975.

Motion carried unanimously.

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4219 Personnel in the amount of \$207,878, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015, with the following technical changes: change the name of Personnel Department to *Human Resources Department*;

and change title of Personnel Director to Human Resources Director; and change title of Personnel Administrative Assistant to *Human Resources*, “*HR*”, *Administrative Assistant*. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4310 Police Department in the amount of \$11,553,889, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015, with the following technical change: change title of Deputy Chief (Grade/Step 8X) to its former title of *Captain*. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the budgets for Acct. 4320 Fire Department in the amount of \$11,284,771, and Acct. 4331 Civil Preparedness in the amount of \$94,901, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4340 Animal Control in the amount of \$328,819, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4360 Lighting, Hydrants, Water in the amount of \$1,795,000, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4420 Public Works Office in the amount of \$269,306, Acct. 4421 Highway/Parks in the amount of \$2,578,979, Acct. 4423 Building Maintenance in the amount of \$3,011,112, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson Acct.4424 Engineering in the amount of \$374,305, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015, with the following technical change: line item 4117 0000 Seasonal Temporary to read \$1 for a new sub-total in *Personal Services* of \$364,256 and a new department total of \$374.306. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4429 General Garage in the amount of \$1,257,650 and Acct. 4431 Solid Waste in the amount of \$4,739,382, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015.

Ald. Giannattasio and Ald. Casey moved to amend the motion as follows: line item 4112 0000 Overtime, reduce to \$450,000 for a new sub-total in *Personal Services* of \$1,953,087; and line item 4790 9950 City Waste Removal Costs reduce to 2,170,000 for a new sub-total in *Operational Expenses* of \$2,674,595 and a new department total of \$4,639,382.

Ald. Veccharelli asked Ald. Giannattasio if he could provide some justification for the new figures.

Ald. Giannattasio stated the reductions were in response to the figures of the tonnages provided by the Public Works Director who stated a savings could be expected. He stated he was only looking for a \$100,000 reduction and felt the taxpayers should recognize the savings.

Mayor Blake stated there would be some savings, but at this point the contract was still be renegotiated and that it has not been finalized. He stated they are working with the consortium and do expect it will be lower; however reducing it even by \$50,000 would be very high. Mayor Blake also stated the overtime account is used for bulk trash pickup. He stated with the reduction proposed it would essentially eliminate one of the bulk trash pickups. Mayor Blake asked Ald. Giannattasio if it was his intention to eliminate one of the bulk trash pickups.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he was not looking to eliminate a bulk trash pickup, but was merely looking for a savings.

Ald. Anderson stated he could not support this amendment as is, but if the maker were willing to divide the question he would consider it.

Ald. Casey withdrew his second and Ald. Giannattasio withdrew his amendment.

Ald. Giannattasio and Ald. Casey moved to amend the motion as follows: line item 4790 9950 City Waste Removal Costs reduce to \$2,120,000 for a new sub-total in Personal Services of \$2,674,595 and a new department total of \$4,639,382.

Ald. Anderson stated it was too deep a cut in that line item and that \$100,000 was too much of a cut especially in light of not having a formalized contract in place. He stated he could not support the \$100,000.

Mayor Blake pointed out that line item was exceeded this year by about \$28,000. He also noted the amount budgeted is less than what was originally budgeted. He stated it would be very tight with that amount of a reduction.

Ald. Casey withdrew his second and Ald. Giannattasio withdrew his amendment.

Ald. Giannattasio and Ald. Anderson moved to amend the motion as follows: line item 4790 0000 City Waste Removal Costs reduce to \$2,170,000 for a new department total of \$4,689,582. Motion carried unanimously.

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4503 Public Debt Service in the amount of \$9,850,465, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4610 Health Department in the amount of \$937,688, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4620 Recreation Department in the amount \$810,479, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4710 Employee Benefits as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015, with the following

technical changes: increase line item 4209 0000 State Survivor's Fund to read \$521,172, decrease line item 4221 9919 Self Insurance Contribution to read \$12,260,148 for a new department total of \$21,715,964.

Ald. German and Ald. Casey moved to amend the motion as follows: line item 4211 9905 Pension: Fire/Police/General to read \$2,924,654 for a new sub-total in Employee Benefits of \$20,841,242 and a new department total of \$20,862,442.

Mayor Blake stated he could not recommend this cut. He stated it would put the City in jeopardy with the rating agencies. He stated the city has a responsibility to appropriately fund the pension fund and keep the city's AAA rating. Mayor Blake stated the city would not receive the same bonding rate they currently have without appropriately funding its pension. He stated he would recommend staying with the recommendation of the Finance Board.

Ald. German stated last year was a \$2.2M contribution.

Mayor Blake stated it has increased. He explained why the actuary requested the increase, adding it is very complicated and convoluted. He went on to explain the process over the five-year period and the effects of the market down turn back in 2008. He stated last year the actuaries asked for the \$2.2M and that this year they were asking for almost \$4M.

Mr. Erodici stated he would help the board understand the variety of factors that go into the calculation. He also referred to the market down turn which was a huge loss which they were able to smooth over the last 5 years. Mr. Erodici stated they are in the final year of that smoothing process. He explained the terminology has changed as well as GASBY 67 & 68 replacing GASBY 25 & 27. He stated it still requires a contribution and pointed out the number was already reduced by the Board of Finance. He explained in the end you would have to make up any shortfall as it will not go away. He asked the Board to please take this into consideration in making their decision. He also stated the city's interest rates would go way up if the rating is lowered.

By roll call vote, the amendment failed 1 yes (German) and 14 no (Anderson, Bier, Casey, Fontana, Giannattasio, Golden, Hardiman, Kubek, Shaw, Smith, Stanford, Veccharelli, Vetro, Vitali).

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the following budgets: Acct. 4720 Insurance and Bonds in the amount of \$1,682,773, Acct. 4740 Claims and Refunds in the amount of \$640,000, and Acct. 4790 Benefit & Salary Reserve in the amount of \$99,061 as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4799 Unallocated Contingency in the amount of \$25,000, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4801 Council on Aging in the amount of \$1,345,500 and Acct. 4803 Fine Arts Council in the amount of \$67,500, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Golden made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4805 C-MED in the amount of \$95,151, Acct. 4807 Regional Mental Health Board in the amount of \$2,996, Acct. 4811 Borough of Woodmont in the amount of \$220,000, Acct. 4812 Transit Authority in the amount of \$345,242, and Acct. 4813 Bridges Community Support in the amount of \$350,000, Acct. 4815 Veterans Graves in the amount of \$2,850 and Acct. 4816 Milford Flotilla 73 in the amount of \$10,000, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Vitali and Ald. Shaw moved to amend the motion for Acct. 0010 4813 Bridges Community Support as follows: line item 4708 0000 Grant, add \$5,000 for a new total in *Operational Expenses* of \$355,000 and a new department total of \$355,000.

Ald. Vitali stated he was making this motion in light of the happenings this year and also the non-profits continue to take.

By roll call vote, the amendment failed 9 yes (Anderson, Bier, German, Hardiman, Kubek, Shaw, Smith, Stanford, Vitali) and 6 no (Casey, Fontana, Giannattasio, Golden, Veccharelli, Vetro).

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4817 Human Services Department in the amount of \$490,000, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the budgets for the following: Acct. 4818 Historic District in the amount of \$650, Acct. 4819 Milford Progress, Inc. in the amount of \$10,000, Acct. 4820 Historic District II in the amount of \$650, Acct. 4821 Health Services/VNA in the amount of \$41,000, and Acct. 4822 Cemetery Association in the amount of \$9,250, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015.

Ald. Stanford stated regarding Acct. 4819 Milford Progress that she had reviewed all of their minutes. She pointed out they have come before this Board each year seeking \$10,000 and received that amount without question. Ald. Stanford stated after looking at their accounts and the descriptions, it appears this group is a misnomer. She also pointed out they have not made much progress. She also questioned the administration costs. Ald. Stanford stated if their budget is approved this year she would like to have a progress report as to where they are with the signs, etc.

Ald. Vitali and Ald. Shaw moved to amend the motion for Acct. 0010 4819 Milford Progress Inc. as follows: line item 4708 0000 Grant, reduce to \$1.00 for a sub-total in *Operational Expenses* of \$1.00 and a new department total of \$1.00.

Ald. Shaw stated she wished to clarify this has nothing to do with their work because they do good work. She suggested a funding mechanism that gives them the exact amount they need for various projects. Ald. Shaw stated this Board has made some very tough choices tonight and this is yet another one.

Ald. Vitali stated they have provided Milford Progress with enough lead time. He stated he would be more than willing to revisit this next year and provide additional dollars if they are able to show some development.

Ald. Veccharelli spoke regarding the signage project. He stated one of the holdups has been getting permits from the State. He stated it seems they are very close to getting those signs. Ald. Veccharelli pointed out the group has done other good things around downtown, such as the bus shelter, lamplights downtown. He reiterated they have done good things and that it was his feeling to continue to support them as they will continue to work hard for the City. Ald. Veccharelli stated he did not think it would be wise to take away their funding.

Ald. Shaw pointed out they are not insolvent and that there is the willingness of this Board to fund programs. He also stated the City's Economic Coordinator is working on various grants for them. He also stated they could revisit this.

Ald. Giannattasio stated he agreed with the sentiments of both Ald. Shaw and Vitali, that they have money. He stated he would like to see a plan of work.

Ald. Anderson stated he too agrees with the sentiments of the previous three speakers. He stated he asked for the Bylaws. Ald. Anderson stated they were set up as a membership of 7 and that they currently have over 21 Board members. He stated he would support the amendment.

Ald. Golden stated she too looked at their line items and was in agreement with her fellow aldermen who spoke. She stated she would support the cut.

Ald. Stanford stated she would vote against giving them any money at all.

Ald. Veccharelli asked if the amendment is to leave \$1.00.

Ald. Vitali stated he wished to reduce the line item to \$1.00.

By roll call vote, the amendment carried 13 yes (Anderson, Bier, Casey, Fontana, German, Giannattasio, Golden, Hardiman, Kubek, Shaw, Smith, Stanford, Vitali) and 2 no (Veccharelli, Vetro).

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4825 Beth El Shelter in the amount of \$80,000 and Acct. 4826 Boys & Girls Club in the amount of \$70,000, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the following budgets for Acct. 4992 Private School Textbook in the amount of \$20,000, Acct. 4993 Education Audit Fees in the amount of \$22,300, Acct. 4994 School Debt in the amount of \$4,483,080, and Acct. 4995 Employee Benefits, Non-Teaching in the amount of \$1,198,596, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Giannattasio requested a 5-minute recess. The Board recessed at 9:21 p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the Board in public session at 9:33 p.m.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4996 Education Operations in the amount of \$89,513,231, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015.

Ald. Giannattasio and Ald. Casey moved to amend the motion for Acct. 4996 Educational Operations with the following change: reduce line item 4001 0000 Lump Sum Appropriation to read \$88,843,283 for a new sub-total in *Education Operations* of \$88,843,283 and a new department total of \$88,843,283.

Ald. Anderson stated he would not be in favor of flat lining education.

Ald. Giannattasio stated to the Board of Education's credit that they have recognized savings in energy and transportation. He stated the difference is \$669,948 and that he was confident with their realized savings in other areas they would make up the difference. He stated the prudent thing to do is reimburse the taxpayer first and foremost. He stated he did not feel this reduction would affect the Board of Education.

Ald. Anderson stated he appreciated the explanation and also that he was cognizant that Milford Public Schools has submitted a very tight budget that contains layoffs of teachers and paraprofessionals. He also recognized the reduction made by the Board of Education which was over \$500,000. He stated he would support which he would consider a reasonable reduction and that he would be prepared to support around \$300,000 which is the savings from this year's budget.

Ald. Casey removed his second and Ald. Giannattasio removed his amendment.

Ald. Giannattasio and Ald. Casey moved to amend the motion for Acct. 4996 Educational Operations with the following change: reduce line item 4001 0000 Lump Sum Appropriation to read \$89,213,231 for a new sub-total in *Education Operations* of \$89,213,231 and a new department total of \$89, 213,231.

By roll call vote, the amendment carried 9 yes (Anderson, Bier, Casey, Fontana, German, Giannattasio, Kubek, Smith, Vetro) and 6 no (Golden, Hardiman, Shaw, Stanford, Veccharelli, Vitali).

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4997 Education Health Insurance Contribution, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015, with the following change: decrease line item 4221 0000 Contribution, Self Insurance to read \$19,067,273 for a new sub-total in *Employee Fringe Benefits* of \$19,067,273, and a new department total of \$19,067,273. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4998 Education Health Services: School Nurses in the amount of \$1,354,872, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4154 Sewer Commission, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015, with the following technical change: line item 4117 0000 Seasonal/Temporary to read \$1, for a new department total of \$1,740,029. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 4426 Wastewater as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015, with the following technical change: line item 4741 0001 Nitrogen Credits reduce to \$1 for a new sub-total in Operational Expenses of \$555,311 and anew department total of \$5,939,347. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve expenditures and revenue for Acct. 0012 0000 Sewer Fund as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following changes: line item Sewer Use Fees to read \$6,528,976, Personal Services \$1,956,650 and Operational Expenses reduce to \$558,411 for a Revenues Total of \$7,679,376; and a new total budget of \$7,679,376.

Ald. German stated he wished to reduce line item 4112 0000 Overtime to \$0.

Mr. Erodici stated that is a drastic reduction.

Mayor Blake stated there are hefty fines if the city does not properly maintain the system. He explained this line item is used for emergency overtime in the event of storms, etc.

Ald. German asked if they could finally see a reduction in sewer fees.

Mr. Erodici stated the sewer fees are coming down. He stated what Ald. German is looking out reflects the total budget.

Mayor Blake stated the sewer user fee is also going down each year.

Ald. German asked if there is a healthy balance.

Mr. Erodici replied yes.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve expenditures and revenue for Acct. 0036 4157 Harbor Management Commission in the amount of \$265,642, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve expenditures and revenue for Acct. 0018 4121 Golf Course in the amount of \$72,000, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 0010 0000 General Fund Revenue as approved by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015, with the following technical changes: line item 3516 0000 transportation to read \$259,903, line item 3517 0000 Education Cost Sharing to read \$11,381,282 for a sub-total in *State Education Grants* of \$12,028,727; and line item 3643 0000 State Realty to read \$556,081, line item 3643 0001 State Realty – Pequot to read \$399,493 and line item 3647 0000 Private Exemptions to read \$455,892 for a sub-total in *State PILOT Grants* of \$2,026,247; and line item 3901 0000 Appropriated Fund Balance to read \$4,000,000 for a Total Revenue to be determined.

Chairman Vetro stated the Board would recess while the finance director finalized the mill rate.

Ald. Giannattasio requested a recess at 9:57 p.m.

Chairman Vetro reconvened the Board in public session at 10:25 p.m.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Anderson made and seconded a motion to approve an Ordinance establishing a budget for the City of Milford for fiscal year 2014-2015, 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, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015, 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 2014-2015 fiscal year in the amount of \$198,336,922 and authorized appropriations for 2014-2015 fiscal year in the amount of \$198,336,922.

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, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015, 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, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015, at the rate of 27.22 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 \$459,943 of said levy will be granted for Elderly Exemptions (State of Connecticut), \$838,963 will be granted for a local tax relief program for the elderly, \$566,586 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, 2014, 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 2014 and the remainder due and payable on the first day of January 2015, 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>\$168,576,521</u>
<u>TOTAL APPROPRIATION</u>	<u>\$198,336,922</u>
<u>TOTAL REVENUE</u>	<u>\$198,336,922</u>

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

Mayor Blake stated he wished to clarify taxes to be raised in the amount of \$168,576,521.

Ald. Vitali asked what last year mill rate is.

Mayor Blake stated the previous mill rate was 26.28 and this year's mill rate 27.22. He stated it represents a 2.2% spending increase.

Ald. Giannattasio asked what the mill rate would have been if the Mayor had not moved \$4M from the rainy day fund.

Mr. Erodici stated if the \$4M had not been transferred, the mill rate would have been 27.86.

By roll call vote, the motion carried 9 yes (Anderson, Golden, Hardiman, Kubek, Shaw, Smith, Stanford, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 6 no (Bier, Casey, Fontana, German, Giannattasio, Vitali),

Chairman Vetro adjourned the budget deliberations sessions for 2014-2015 at 10:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary