

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
BUDGET DELIBERATIONS SESSION  
MAY 27, 2009**

The Board of Aldermen held a budget deliberation session on Wednesday, May 27, 2009 in the City Hall auditorium Complex Re: Consideration and Voting on the proposed 2009-2010 Milford General Budget. Chairman Blake recognized Sgt. Sharoh of the Milford Police Department and asked him to lead the pledge of allegiance.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

J. Blacketter  
B. Blake  
V. Ditchkus, Jr.  
A. Giannattasio  
M. Hardiman  
S. Manning  
R. Nunno  
J. Patterson  
J. Rosen  
J. Toohey  
N. Veccharelli  
P. Vetro  
R. Vitali  
S. Willey

Also Present

Mayor J. Richetelli, Jr.  
J. Doneiko, Finance Director  
A. Jepson, City Clerk

Excused

B. Bier (medical)

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to come out of recess at 8:07 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Blake stated they are on the municipal side of the budget for fiscal year 2009-2010.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Veccharelli made and seconded a motion to make a technical change to Acct. 0010 4320 Fire Department as follows: line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages reduce to \$7,497,319 for a new sub-total in *Personal Services* of \$9,331,582 and a new department total of \$10,464,617. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to make a technical change to Acct. 0010 4817 Human Services Department as follows: line item 4710 0000 Grant, Youth & Family Services reduce to \$219,500 for a new sub-total in *Operational Expenses* of \$425,000 and a new department total of \$425,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Patterson and Ald. Toohey made and seconded a motion to reconsider Acct. 0010 4310 Police as follows: line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages to read \$7,503,283 for a new sub-total in *Personal Services* of \$8,951,650 and a new department total of \$9,968,826.

Chairman Blake stated the rules state the second must come from someone who voted in favor of the original motion.

Ald. Patterson raised a point of order citing Roberts Rules of Order which state it can be anyone.

Ald. Vetro requested a 5-minute recess. The Board recessed at 8:10 p.m.

Chairman Blake reconvened the Board at 8:29 p.m.

Chairman Blake stated the point of order was well taken and noted the motion was not debatable.

By roll call vote the motion failed 7 yes (Ditchkus, Giannattasio, Patterson, Toohey, Veccharelli, Vitali, Willey) and 7 no (Blacketter, Blake, Hardiman, Manning, Nunno, Rosen, Vetro).

Ald. Ditchkus and Ald. Toohey made and seconded a motion to amend the rules to permit the follow action be taken on the matter of business before the Board: restore the \$300 cut to those non-represented secretarial, clerk and other personnel whose salaries were cut and restore the \$300 on the appropriate pages of the “contractual wage adjustment” to the 43 non-represented personnel to ensure fairness to those employees.

By roll call vote, the motion failed 9 no (Blacketter, Blake, Hardiman, Manning, Nunno, Patterson, Rose, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 5 yes (Ditchkus, Giannattasio, Toohey, Vitali, Willey).

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Rosen made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 0010 0000 General Fund Revenue as recommended by the Board of Finance with the following changes: line item 3658 0000 read Municipal Video Trust Grant; and (p. 8) line item 3831 0001 Milford Power Plant PILOT should read \$3,425,0000.

Ald. Willey asked for clarification as to the items read.

Chairman Blake responded the two items are line item 3658 0000 and line item 3831 0001.

Ald. Patterson asked if there is a dollar amount to line item 3658 0000.

Chairman Blake responded no.

Ald. Blacketter asked for an explanation as to line item 3821 0000 Sale of Real Estate.

Mayor Richetelli explained it is the real estate the City owns which for various reasons would be sold. He stated they currently have two properties that will be sold in late June.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to go into recess to allow the Finance Director time to make necessary calculations to come up with the mill rate. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Patterson made and seconded a motion to approve an Ordinance establishing a budget for the City of Milford for fiscal year 2009-2010, 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, 2009 and ending July 20, 2010, 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 2009-2010 fiscal year in the amount of \$172,851,966 and authorized appropriations for 2009-2010 fiscal year in the amount of \$172,851,966.

**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, 2009 and ending June 30, 2010, 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, 2009 and ending June 30, 2010, at the rate of 27.50 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 \$509,100 of said levy will be granted for Elderly Exemptions (State of Connecticut), \$694,263 will be granted for a local tax relief program for the elderly, \$618,603 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, 2009, 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 2009 and the remainder due and payable on the first day of January 2010, 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>TAXES TO BE RAISED</b>	<b>\$142,923,017</b>
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATION</b>	<b>\$172,851,966</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$172,851,966</b>

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

Ald. Toohey stated she is in favor of keeping the taxes down, but she fears this Board destroyed public safety and welfare by cutting the police and fire departments so drastically. She also commented as to the potential effects of these cuts and commented during these economic times it is when those two departments in particular

are impacted as both of those department heads testified. She also pointed out this Board took money away from those two departments and only reduced the Board of Education \$117,000, which really was not much of a reduction. She stated she commends reductions but the Board still should have considered public safety and welfare. She stated the Board destroyed the City side of the budget and gave back 60% to the other side and stated the Board needed to be fair and cut monies appropriately. Ald. Toohey stated based on the cuts made to public safety and welfare and what could happen to our citizens, seniors, etc, she would have a hard time voting in favor of this.

Ald. Ditchkus echoed the comments of Ald. Toohey adding he could not agree more with some of her points. She stated the City side cuts have been drastic each year while the Board of Education is granted an increase. He also pointed out they have tried unsuccessfully to get the teachers to give concessions and that it was not pursued any further this year. He stated perhaps they would come to the table, but they were not given any incentives to do so. He also commented as to the total budget for police and fire as compared to the Board of Education that has a budget of over \$80,000,000 and was only cut \$117,000. He stated the Board should have been more conscious with public safety.

Ald. Nunno responded they were fair to all departments. He also stated Dr. Polansky came in with a very reasonable budget and that it was cut 1.4% by the Board of Finance. He reiterated everyone was treated equal.

Ald. Blacketter pointed out the final fire department budget is an increase over 2008-2009.

Ald. Ditchkus stated this Board cut the Board of Education to 1.4%, which is still an increase and the public should understand that.

Ald. Veccharelli stated they could sit here all tonight and throw stones at one another, but this Board came in with a pretty good mill rate and lowered the taxes this year. He stated collectively they have done the best job they could and that he realized there were some people hurt on the budgets, but all in all this Board did the best they could and worked hard to give the best deal.

Ald. Rosen echoed the sentiments of Ald. Veccharelli. He stated it was unfortunate Ald. Toohey and Ditchkus felt differently. He stated the budget is a collection of compromises and that Milford would continue to maintain the highest level of services.

Chairman Blake stated this would be the last budget season for the Board's esteemed City Clerk. He stated Mr. Jepson is not a political, but certainly a statesman. Chairman Blake thanked Mr. Jepson for his decades and decades of service.

By roll call vote, motion carried 8 yes (Blacketter, Blake, Hardiman, Manning, Nunno, Rosen, Veccharelli, Vetro) and 6 no (Ditchkus, Giannattasio, Patterson, Toohey, Vitali, Willey).

Ald. Vetro and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to adjourn the budget deliberations sessions for 2009-2010 at 9:17 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen K. Huber  
Recording Secretary