

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
BUDGET DELIBERATIONS SESSION – FY 2022-2023  
PUBLIC HEARING  
APRIL 4, 2022**

The Board of Aldermen held a public hearing concerning the Board of Finance's recommended budget for fiscal year 2022-2023, on Thursday, April 4, 2022 via ZOOM. Chairman Vetro called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. asking those present to join in saluting our flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. Roll Call**

**Board Members**

M. Arciuolo  
B. Broesder (arrived @ 6:13 p.m.)  
A. Giannattasio  
G. Harla  
S. Marlow  
J. Moffitt  
R. Pacelli  
M. Parente  
P. Vetro  
R. Vitali  
W. Willis

**Also Present**

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake  
J. Rosen, Chief of Staff  
K. Fortunati, City Clerk

**Excused:**

E. Beatty  
M. Casey  
D. German

Chairman Vetro welcomed everyone to the 2022-2023 budget deliberations. He stated tonight's meeting was the public comment portion of the budget process. He stated the Board would begin hearing from those who wished to speak regarding the education portion of the budget.

Chairman Vetro asked if there was anyone interested in speaking in regard Board of Education budget.

**Speakers regarding the Board of Education budget:**

Laura Fucci, 418 Anderson Avenue, read from a prepared statement in favor of the Board of Education budget. She discussed rising costs and the importance of counselor positions. Ms. Fucci commented on the impacts of the Covid pandemic to education, children and families.

Tessa Marquis, 84 Broad Street, read from a prepared statement opposing cuts to the Board of Education budget. She discussed the importance of mental, physical and emotional health.

Michael Brown, 84 Broad Street, read from a prepared statement supporting the Board of Education budget as passed by the Board of Finance. He discussed the importance of school counselors and the difficulties created by the Covid pandemic.

Sara Bromley, 27 Norway Street, stated she agrees with the prior comments concerning the Board of Education budget and supports counselors.

**Speakers regarding the City budget:**

Richard Smith, 59 Sixth Avenue, read from a prepared statement. He stated is the Chairman of the Board of Police Commissioners and discussed wages of the Chief and Assistant Chief. He stated the Milford wages are significantly lower than the State average. Mr. Smith provided and handout to the Board.

Sam Bergami, 310 Tanglewood Circle, stated he is the Vice-Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners and echoes the comments of Mr. Smith. He stated the full Board is in agreement.

Bill Bevan, 23 Merlin Circle, stated he is a member of the Board of Police Commissioners. He provided a summary of the budget process and stated the last 6 years the Milford Police Department has been defunded by providing less than the department requested budget. He stated crime is up and more officers are necessary. Mr. Bevan commented that the Chief's salaries need to be increased.

John Mager, 33 Brett Cliff Road, stated he is a member of the Board of Police Commissioners. He stated he echoes the comments of Mr. Smith. He discussed the difficulties presented by the budget constraints. He commented that Chief Mello is the most respected Chief with a nationwide reputation and that in order to retain such talent salaries must be increased.

Chip Rubenstein, Address Unknown, stated he is a member of the Board of Police Commissioners. He stated Chief Mello is held in high esteem and the City should focus on retention with reasonable compensation.

Susan Glennon, 99 Carlson Drive, stated she is Chair of the Board of Education. She discussed the relationship between the Board of Education and Police Department.

Anthony Giannattasio, 58 Rosebrook Road, stated he is a member of the Board of Aldermen and Milford resident. He spoke in favor of adding the 4 positions requested by the Police Department. He stated he will be offering an amendment during deliberations and is asking for support from his colleagues.

Ald. Harla and Ald. Giannattasio moved to recess until April 6, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board recessed at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Toni Jo Weeks  
Recording Secretary