

**BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 25, 2010**

The Milford Board of Finance held their Regular Meeting on Monday, January 25, 2010 in Conference Room B of the Parsons Complex. Vice Chairman B. Lema called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Board Members Present

Joseph J. Fitzpatrick Jr.
Joseph M. Agro, Jr.
Brian Lema
Paul Beckwith
Scott Marlow

Also Present

Peter Erodici, Jr., City Accountant

Mayor Richetelli stated Ms. Doneiko was ill and unable to attend, and introduced Mr. Erodici who was filling in for her.

Election of Officers

Mr. Agro and Mr. Beckwith made and seconded a motion to nominate Mr. Lema as Chairman.

Hearing no further nominations, Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Agro moved to close the nominations for Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Agro stated he wished to note for the record the previous Chairman, Mr. Skudlarek had served this Committee for 22 years and that it was a great pleasure to serve with him. Mr. Agro stated he also wished to thank him for his years of service.

Chairman Lema echoed the sentiments of Mr. Agro stating Mr. Skudlarek devoted his time and efforts to this Board and made his decisions for all the right reasons. He stated this Board would miss his knowledge and experience.

Mayor Richetelli stated he sent a letter to Mr. Skudlarek thanking him for his time.

Mr. Marlow and Mr. Agro made and seconded a motion to nominate Mr. Beckwith as Vice Chairman.

Hearing no further nominations, Mr. Agro and Mr. Marlow moved to close the nominations for Vice Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Minutes of November 30, 2009

Mr. Agro. and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held November 30, 2009 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence - None.

New Business

- A. Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Agro made and seconded a motion to approve Budget Memo Transfer #5 (FY10).

Mr. Agro stated it was his understanding the contingency balance was now \$25,000.

Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Mr. Agro and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve Budget Memo Transfer #6 (FY10). Motion carried unanimously.
- C. Mr. Agro and Mr. Beckwith made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of an Ordinance Appropriating \$9,640,000 for Various School Improvements and Authorizing the Issuance of \$9,640,000 bonds of the City to meet said Appropriation and Pending the Issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose.

Chairman Lema noted the presence of Mr. Cummings, Acting Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Russell, Deputy Superintendent.

Mayor Richetelli explained the breakdown of bids for the Foran project, which came in lower than previously estimated. He also stated he would recommend the elevator at Pumpkin Delight School.

Chairman Lema asked Mr. Cummings if he would provide an overview of the project.

Mr. Cummings spoke regarding the elevator at Pumpkin Delight. He stated Pumpkin Delight is the only elementary school that is a two-story building and the only access to the second floor is the stairway. He stated not having an elevator impedes student placement and limits options in the school. He also stated having the elevator installed would help the school currently and in the future in consideration of any re-organization in the district. He went on to explain the work at Foran High School, Phase III, which he stated includes a new three-story addition, a new main entrance, child study learning laboratory. He stated they school would be getting additional classroom space and would include relocating office administration and guidance, which currently utilizes two classrooms.

Mr. Marlow asked how many phases in the project.

Mr. Cummings stated both schools had a phase IV and V and explained each of those phases. He stated it was his understanding Phase IV at both schools has been delayed.

Mr. Marlow asked if the building is now ADA compliant or progressing.

Mr. Russell explained it will help, but there is still some ramping issues that have to be done as well. He stated the hope is when the asbestos tiling work is done, they will do the ramps at that time.

Mr. Beckwith asked about reimbursement from the State, especially in light of the influx of the State budget.

Mr. Russell stated the reimbursement would be around 39-40% depending on Milford's status in the state charge. He stated only \$18,000 was ineligible from the previous phase. He went on to explain how the reimbursement is calculated.

Mr. Agro stated he recalled a spirited discussion last year regarding the Jonathan Law, Phase III addition. He expressed hope this is a sign the economy is changing. He noted for the record this Board would be watching every nickel and dime, but noted these were some well deserved items.

Mr. Silver of Silver Petrucelli, architects on the project, stated if the bonding is approved by the Board of Aldermen and after the contract is signed in February, work could start as early as March with a completion date of March 2011.

Mayor Richetelli added both of these projects are ready to go, if this Board should approve the funding as well as the Board of Aldermen the projects would start very shortly.

Mr. Agro asked where they stood with regard to reimbursement for the Law project.

Mr. Russell explained the State moves very slowly. He stated as long as they submit their paperwork before June 30, it would go on the January 2011 docket and voted on the priority list in June 2011 and within a month of that they would receive a 40% reimbursement.

Mr. Agro asked about Law.

Mr. Russell stated it has already been submitted and that they expect reimbursement this summer.

Motion carried unanimously.

- D. Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Beckwith made and seconded a motion to approve consideration of an Ordinance Appropriating \$6,292,000 for Various Public Improvements and Authorizing the Issuance of \$6,292,000 Bonds of the City to Meet said Appropriation and Pending the Issuance thereof the Making of Temporary Borrowings for Such Purpose.

Mayor Richetelli explained the various items included in this bonding. He stated those department heads were available to address the Board as needed. He went on to explain the annual citywide road paving, sidewalks and curbing. He stated the City paves approximately 10 miles of road each year. Mayor Richetelli also explained the LoCip grant, stating it was his understanding it was still intact. He stated another project is the Parsons Government Center and City Hall, which is being requested for a third time. He stated City Hall and the Parsons Government Building were last renovated in 1986 and that there have been no major renovations or repairs since then. He stated he was asking to have the work done in phases.

Mr. Agro asked about South Broad Street parking lot.

Mayor Richetelli stated it is a municipal lot and noted this project had been removed by the Board of Aldermen the last time it appeared. He stated because it is a municipal lot and used on a daily basis by the public that it needed to get done for safety sake.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about any reimbursement for the projects.

Mayor Richetelli responded the city receives the \$350,000 from the State LoCip, which is spent on the roads.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about any stimulus funding.

Mayor Richetelli stated there was not any for these projects. He stated they have two projects which are “shovel ready”, i.e. Naugatuck Avenue flooding and the Old Gate Lane bridge, but that it does not appear they will receive any stimulus monies on these items.

Mr. Agro suggested it would be appropriate the Mayor speak to the City’s bond indebtedness.

Mayor Richetelli explained the reports received just last week from Moody’s and Standard and Poors regarding the City’s AA rating. He continued by reading the language from the Standard and Poors report and the Moodys report, regarding the City’s debt burden which is 1.4%. He noted the City continues to have a low debt burden.

Mr. Agro noted the presence tonight of the City’s police and fire chiefs and asked for some background from them regarding those items in the bonding.

Chief Mello stated it has been six years since he was appointed Chief. He stated their current radio system is obsolete and went on to explain some of the difficulties with the system. He stated the proposal includes six towers and that the antenna would change as well. He explained the communications rooms system would also be upgraded as well as portable and mobile units, which are beyond their shelf life. He also stated he believed they would be able to utilize towers with the fire department. He went on to explain the details of the system and how it would enhance coverage.

Mr. Marlow asked if this would bring coverage to 100%.

Chief Mello stated he has been told there is no 100% coverage, but that the new system would correct the deficiencies they have had in specific areas in the City.

Mr. Agro asked if this bonding request had anything to do with mobiles in vehicles.

Chief Mello replied no.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if this system was compatible with other towns and if they could tie into them.

Chief Mello stated they have looked into it, but that very few towns do that. He went onto explain the five different states, federal and law enforcement agencies and their emergency channels.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if they anticipated any problems with putting these towers in place.

Chief Mello responded no. He stated the equipment comes from Motorola and that they have specific vendors they deal with.

Sgt. Richards added all of the locations have current towers existing. He also stated they would be 90' towers.

Chief LaVecchia explained the fire department's radio system is twice as old as that of the police department and not nearly as sophisticated. He stated this request would upgrade the system to today's standard.

Mayor Richetelli added these items have been in the Capital Improvement Plan for 5 years. He went on to explain the concept regarding the fire stations. He stated it has been on the radar screen on the past decade as the look to realign those areas. He stated the goal has been to consolidate Stations 5 and 6 and give more coverage at Red Bush Lane areas.

Mr. Agro asked if this was in lieu of a new station.

Mayor Richetelli stated a new station would be geographically located between Stations 5 and 6.

Chief LaVecchia stated this was previously done at the other end of town when they consolidated Stations 3 & 4. He explained Stations 5 & 6 are located a quarter mile from the shore. He also noted they get full capacity from those stations. Chief LaVecchia also explained to the Board the department's ISO rating and the department being a Class 1 department. He stated ISO has taken a stronger look at the standards regarding coverage for towns. He stated this came about after nine firefighters died in South Carolina. Chief LaVecchia went on to explain a meeting the department recently had with ISO. He stated ISO has given the department 6-9 months to address coverage in the town or they risk losing its Class 1 rating.

Mayor Richetelli noted the figure being voted on tonight is for the land acquisition only.

Mr. Agro asked the time frame for implementation.

Mayor Richetelli stated it would be very soon, adding they have had discussions with the land owners.

Mr. Beckwith asked if the other properties would be sold.

Mayor Richetelli stated that would be something for future discussion.

Chief LaVecchia stated the department needs space and spoke of the possibility of continuing to use one of the stations for storage. He stated the department would certainly conduct a needs assessment in the future.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about the rescue vehicle.

Chief LaVecchia explained the department runs one full time and one part time truck. He stated the spare truck is over 15 years old with 150,000 miles.

Mayor Richetelli stated in the vehicle acquisition program replacement of pumpers is every 2 ½ to 3 years and the rescue truck every 4 years. He stated this purchase would be in line with that plan.

Chairman Lema asked about the technology upgrades.

Mayor Richetelli acknowledged the presence of Dan Thomas, City Assessor, regarding the upgrades and technology. Mayor Richetelli explained in the last bond authorization there were upgrades for the Permitting and Land Use Department and that the upgrades in this package were for the assessor's and tax offices.

Mr. Thomas stated the existing equipment is more than 20 years old. He explained the upgrades would enhance their programs and help with reporting standards. He also explained the need to be current with windows for reporting purposes.

Mayor Richetelli added the upgrades would assist the tax collect in allowing that department to do the tax bills in-house.

Motion carried unanimously.

- E. Mr. Beckwith and Mr. Agro made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of an Ordinance Appropriating \$2,623,500 Bonds of the City to meet Said Appropriation and Pending the Issuance thereof the Making of Temporary borrowings for Such Purpose.

Mayor Richetelli stated Mr. Macaluso from Westcott and Mapes, the design engineers on the project was present for questions. Mayor Richetelli stated the Rogers Avenue and High Street improvements have been in the Capital Improvement Plan for a number of years. He stated he received a priority list from the Sewer Commission that included eight priorities. He stated the Rogers Avenue Pump Station was number 2 on the list. He explained this would increase pump capacity for the downtown area. He stated the approximate cost of all priorities is \$40,000,000 and that this was just a small chunk of that.

Mr. Agro stated it was important to have an explanation of the upgrades for the treatment facilities.

Mayor Richetelli explained the \$64,000,000 in upgrades, adding a good part of the funding came from Clearwater funds. He stated other work was done to the pump stations.

Mr. Macaulso stated the Rogers Avenue project has been on the Capital Improvement Plan for 10 years. He went on to explain how the downtown sewer district was upgraded which allowed the business to connect. He continued with a lengthy explanation as to the work and the benefits to the downtown merchants.

Mayor Richetelli explained the final item on the agenda. He stated in April \$3,000,025 was approved and that the consideration tonight was for an amendment.

Mr. Macaluso explained when the low bid came in the Gulf Pond upgrade was included. He stated the other consultant on the project, AECOM came to him and stated they needed to replace the 24" force mains. He continued with a detailed explanation as to the project. He noted this area has had many problems.

Mr. Agro asked if the design phase included a 12" and 18" piping.

Mr. Macaluso responded they are replacing the 20" and 24" and explained it was to prevent leaks and that they would be wrapped with poly coating.

Mr. Agro clarified for background information for those new to the Board that none of this is new and that it has been looked at for many years.

Mr. Beckwith asked how much of the system has been replaced or upgraded.

Mr. Macaluso responded through the Capital Improvement Plan that both treatment plants are 95% complete. He also stated the West Avenue parallel Force Main followed by the West Avenue Force Main are done. Also, Indian Rive with 5,000 linear feet of replacement pipe. He stated the other project is East Broadway sewers with the creation of a new pump station. He stated a great deal of the work has been replacement and infills.

Motion carried unanimously.

- F. Mr. Marlow and Mr. Ago made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of and Ordinance Amending an Ordinance Appropriating \$3,025,000 for Replacement of the Buckingham Avenue Force Main and Authorizing the Issuance of \$3,025,000 Bonds of the City to Meet said Appropriation and Pending the Issuance thereof the Making of Temporary Borrowings for Such Purpose. Motion carried unanimously.

Staff Report

No report.

Being no further business, Mr. Beckwith and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The Board adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary