

**BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2012**

The Milford Board of Finance held their Regular Meeting on Monday, January 30, 2012, in Conference Room B of the Parsons Complex. Acting Chairman B. Lema called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Board Members Present

Joseph J. Fitzpatrick Jr.
Joseph M. Agro, Jr.
Brian Lema
Scott Marlow
Mickel Montano

Also Present

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake
Peter Erodici, Finance Director

Acting Chairman Lema welcomed Mickel Montano to her first meeting of the Board of Finance.

Election of Officers

Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to elect Mr. Lema to serve as the Chairman.

Acting Chairman Lema asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none he stated he would entertain a motion to close the nominations for Chairman.

Mr. Agro and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to close the nomination for Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Agro commented he was pleased Mr. Lema was willing to accept the nomination and stated he has been a strong presence during a difficult economic time.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

There being no further nominations, Mr. Agro and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to close the nominations for Vice Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Minutes of October 24, 2011

Mr. Agro and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held October 24, 2011 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

Chairman Lema reported the Board received a letter from Ms. Hannah Buckley of East Shore Middle School in favor of the proposed Ordinance for the renovations at East Shore Middle School. He stated he also received a letter from members of the East Shore Middle School Student Council, Julia Pereira and Katelyn Stokes. Chairman Lema proceeded to read the letter.

New Business

- A. Mr. Marlow and Mr. Agro made and seconded a motion to approve Budget Memo Transfer #3, Fund 10 (FY12). Motion carried unanimously.
- B. Mr. Marlow and Mr. Agro made and seconded a motion to approve Budget Memo Transfer #4, Fund 10 (FY12).

Mr. Agro welcomed the new Mayor. He stated generally the Board likes to have something read into the record regarding these transfers. He stated although the amount is small, he would like a brief overview.

Mayor Blake stated the transfer is to cover overtime expenditures for the school nurses. He too noted it is a small amount. He stated the overage was due to costs associated with clinics and overtime due to emergencies.

Motion carried unanimously.

- C. Mr. Marlow and Mr. Agro made and seconded a motion to approve the 2012 Regular Meeting Schedule of the Board of Finance.

Chairman Lema noted for the record the Board would be meeting the same time as in the past, which is the last Monday of the month.

Motion carried unanimously.

- D. Mr. Agro and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve consideration of An Ordinance Appropriating \$12,000,000 For Various School Improvements And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$12,000,000 Bonds Of The City To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose.

Chairman Lema noted members of the public were present tonight, along with officials from the City of Milford and Board of Education. He asked of any of those individuals present wished to give a presentation.

Mr. Richetelli from Milford Public Schools introduced the Chairperson of the Board of Education, Tracy Casey, Superintendent of Schools, Elizabeth Feser, Principal from East Shore Middle School, Cathy Williams, and Chairman from the Permanent School Facilities Building Committee, Matthew Woods, as well as faculty and staff from East Shore Middle School and the architect for the project, Bill Silver from Silver Petrucelli Architects. Mr. Richetelli stated Mr. Silver may be able to provide a brief explanation of the project. Mr. Richetelli stated East Shore Middle School has been in the Capital Improvement Plan for more than five years. He explained with the recently completion of the work at the high schools, East Shore was next in line. Mr.

Richetelli stated this Board last year approved bonding for the architectural portion of the work and that they were now ready to move to the next step.

Mayor Blake stated he graduated from East Shore Middle School more than 20 years ago and noted not much in the way of improvements have been made to the infra structure since then. He stated parents, teachers and students spoke at the last Board of Aldermen meeting of the horror stories at East Shore Middle School. Mayor Blake stated the project is approximately 40% reimbursable by the State. He also spoke regarding the second bonding Ordinance which he stated is also reimbursable by FEMA by approximately 75%. He stated basically half of what is being bonded tonight should come back to the City.

Mr. Silver explained the square footage differences at each of the three middle schools. He stated the last work to the middle schools was in 1984 and since that time the other two middle schools have received upgrades to their media centers and cafeterias. Mr. Silver continued with an overview of the proposed project at East Shore Middle School, explained the four significant addition area and that the plan is to keep the project as compact as possible to preserve the playing fields. Mr. Silver also explained the scaled back plan to \$12,000,000 from \$15,000,000, which he stated is a gross figure.

Mr. Marlow asked about infrastructure, technology, i.e. wiring.

Mr. Silver responded those items were in the base bid, but that they are on it for now.

Mr. Marlow asked about plant facilities such as heat and the like and if they would be more efficient.

Mr. Silver responded yes. He stated there would be air conditioning in the cafeteria as well as the media center. He stated there would not be air conditioning in the class room addition. Mr. Silver also pointed out there would be a total roofing replacement.

Mr. Marlow asked how soon they were likely to outgrow the expansion/addition if the extra classrooms are taken out of the project.

Superintendent Feser replied she did not feel they would outgrow the addition, citing declining enrollment.

Mr. Richetelli added with enrollment projections dictating a decline they did not expect to outgrow the addition for many years. He also stated the Board of Education is conducting a long range planning study of its buildings.

Mr. Woods stated the project went out to bid as originally designed with the various add/ded alternates. He stated the Committee plans on spending every penny of the \$12,000,000 if this Board approves it. Chairman Woods stated the first focus is the classrooms followed by the media center and art/music wing. He explained the plan is to build the structure. He stated the hope is whatever monies are left over in the contingency will be used for desks, chairs, Smart Boards, fixtures, equipment, etc.

Mr. Marlow asked the timeline for the work.

Mr. Silver responded they would go out to bid as soon as possible, with construction expected to start around April and a completion date around September 2013.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about the current population.

Mrs. Williams replied 508 students only.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if other schools have Smart boards and if they are necessary.

Mr. Richetelli stated as funds are available, they install Smart boards in the schools.

Superintendent Feser stated the Smart boards are not absolutely necessary, but they certainly enhance and contribute to education.

Mr. Fitzpatrick (in looking at the diagram presented) asked if the entire addition was being built.

Mr. Silver stated the total number of classrooms will be seven. He stated to be fully funded they need eight classrooms; otherwise teachers would still be on carts.

Mayor Blake provided the background of how the bonding amount was arrived at.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked what was spent on the other two middle schools for their expansions.

Mr. Silver provided the Board with a handout as to when the work was done at the other two middle schools, which was 1998 and 1999.

Mr. Agro commented he wanted to make sure they were not fixating on equalizing the square footage of the three schools. He stated it was important to know if this addition meets the vision of where the Milford Public Schools sees the schools in the future. He asked if it was necessary to equalize all of the three schools to square footage

Superintendent Feser stated the space at East Shore Middle School is truly inadequate.

Mr. Agro asked if the other schools could absorb some overage.

Superintendent Feser stated the other schools are to capacity as well. She also pointed out the schools need rooms to schedule and lay out their programs.

Mr. Richetelli added besides the square footage, the media center at East Shore Middle School was formerly two kindergarten classrooms, which is interior to the other two schools and middle schools in general. He also spoke of the lunch waves and how they currently have to accommodate all of the students.

Chairman Woods added Permanent Schools Building Committee focused on the needs at East Shore Middle School. He stated they did not focus on square footage, nor was it the goal.

Mrs. Casey spoke of developing consistency, which she stated includes experience. She stated they are at a point where solutions are necessary.

Mayor Blake commented last year the City bonded for the new firehouse and this year, these two bonds. He stated he anticipated another small bond request in March for Woodmont.

Mr. Agro commented after looking at the nearly \$16,000,000 in bonding and that he was nearly there was a sizable expected reimbursement.

Mr. Agro asked the Finance Director if he was comfortable with these bonding packages and if the City would still maintain its rating.

Mr. Erodi responded yes.

Chairman Lema asked if the asbestos tile and upgrades would complete those tasks at the school.

Mr. Woods replied no. He explained they are only replacing one half of the windows.

Chairman Lema asked how many schools still have asbestos tile.

Mr. Silver replied about half of the schools.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Agro asked if bids are still very competitive.

Mr. Silver responded yes and stated they have been reasonable and that they are hopeful they will see a 22% decrease like they saw when the Foran High School project went out to bid.

Superintendent Feser thanked the Committee for supporting this project. She also extended a thank you to Mayor Blake for bring the bonding Ordinance forward. She stated it would be good for the kids and the community.

- E. Mr. Agro and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve Consideration of An Ordinance Appropriating \$6,088,660 For Various Public Improvements And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$6,088,600 Bond Of The City To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose.

Chairman Lema noted for the record that the Public Works Director was present for any questions the Board may have.

Mr. Kolwicz stated the proposed bonding Ordinance is straight forward and includes citywide curbing and pavement which is done every year. He stated they did approximately 6 miles of road last year. He stated they don't have any bid prices as yet for this year. He stated the Ordinance also includes the Trumbull Avenue revetment. He stated a great deal of the work is the result of the storm and spoke regarding reimbursement from FEMA. He stated the number for the work is a real number and that they were able to get to this number after many working sessions. He also addressed the various public works capital improvements which included the construction of the trussed roof over the high bay area and general garage. Mr. Kolwicz stated they have reached a point where the works needs to get done and continued with a brief overview of the proposed project.

He continued with an explanation of the hydraulic and rotary lifts in the police bay garage. He also spoke regarding the surveying GPS equipment for the Engineering Department, which he stated would help the department greatly. He stated with this equipment they would be able to utilize the talents of the City Engineer. Mr. Kolwicz also pointed out the equipment is compatible with that of the police and fire departments.

Mayor Blake added these were the most critical of the Public Works projects. He also reiterated he would be bringing an additional bonding package to this Board next month concerning the Borough of Woodmont.

Mr. Fitzpatrick commented he has heard tonight the FEMA work is a 75% reimbursement, but that it is not approved.

Mayor Blake responded yes. He explained the process and how it varies as to the cost of the project. A brief discussion ensued.

Chairman Lema commented this project is basically to rebuild what was damaged in the storm this past summer.

Mayor Blake responded yes.

Mr. Agro stated it was his understanding the City owns the right of way and asked if they own the property to the high water mark.

Mr. Kolwicz responded yes.

Mr. Agro asked if there is public access.

Mr. Kolwicz replied yes and explained the ability to walk behind the high water mark.

Mayor Blake added this work will allow additional public access and maintain it as well.

Motion carried unanimously.

Staff Report – No report.

Being no further business, Ms. Montano and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary