

**BOARD OF FINANCE  
BUDGET HEARINGS - PROPOSED BUDGET 2011-2012  
FEBRUARY 10, 2011**

The Milford Board of Finance held a budget deliberations session on Thursday, February 10, 2011 in Conference Room B of the Parsons Complex. Chairman Lema reconvened the budget deliberations in public session at 6:31 p.m.

Board Members Present

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

Excused

Judy Doneiko, Finance Director  
Lisa Bull DiLullo, Mayor's Admin. Asst.

Vice Chairman Beckwith and Mr. Agro made and seconded a motion to re-order the agenda and bring forward department (4825) Beth El Shelter, followed by department (4826) Boys & Girls' Club. Motion carried unanimously.

**(4825) Beth El Shelter** – Toni Dolan, Executive Director and Richard Meisenheimer were present. Ms. Dolan stated Beth El Shelter, formerly known as CPAC has provided services to Milford for 30 years this year. She stated the needs have become very complicated. She stated being homeless is often a situation people find themselves in and is often uncharacteristic of the person. She went to explain the functions of the shelter such as providing free shelter in the winter months, providing meals to go, which is a bagged lunch. Ms. Dolan also stated the shelter serves meals everyday from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., serving 30-35 meals a day in addition to lunch. She stated they continue to work with other agencies and have partnered with VNA South Central. He also explained the nursing services that come into the shelter every other week. She stated they recently assumed the role of emergency services last year when they took over for the Red Cross. She stated they receive a grant from the United Way for those services and noted those services are for Milford residents only. She stated their contract with DSS was renewed. She stated they predict a cut in the second year of their contract. Ms. Dolan stated individual donations are down, they have not increased staffing, and health costs will be going up 30%. She also noted their snow removal is up this year due to the harsh winter. She asked the Board to please keep the grant amount requested the same.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about emergency services and how it is funded.

Ms. Dolan explained it is funded partially through United Way and through a grant.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about the meals program.

Ms. Dolan stated it is a grant.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if the increase in homeless was due to more foreclosures.

Ms. Dolan replied she really did not know.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about health costs.

Ms. Dolan explained they belong to CBIA. She stated they are a staff of 6 so they don't merit the rates of some programs.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about the Federal health program.

Ms. Dolan explained it is a trickledown effect.

Mr. Agro asked the amount of their total budget.

Mr. Meisenheimer replied \$615,000.

Mr. Agro asked if conduct a yearly audit.

Mr. Meisenheimer replied yes. He stated they have an outside audit conducted to keep with state requirements.

Mr. Agro asked the number of client visits.

Mr. Meisenheimer explained the average occupancy at the center. He stated most times they are at 100% and others just slightly less.

Mr. Marlow asked how long people typically stay.

Ms. Dolan explained the 90-day program, but that they are trying to move people in and out more quickly. She noted they tend to give extensions to those people who are working on their service plan, but that generally it is only a two-week extension.

Mr. Marlow asked if they have a volunteer staff.

Ms. Dolan replied yes, that they have about 30-35 people. He stated on the shelter they have 4 regular volunteers and of course their Board.

Mr. Marlow asked how they acquire food for the soup kitchen.

Ms. Dolan stated they have a grant through the Connecticut Food Bank. She stated they also receive donations from many, including Shop Rite, Whole Foods, Trader Joes as well as the local churches and general public.

Mr. Beckwith asked about the health insurance increase and if they pay towards it.

Ms. Dolan stated it is up 30% and that they pay the majority of their healthcare.

Ms. Dolan thanked the Board and for re-ordering the agenda to accommodate her long drive.

**(4826) Boys & Girls' Club** – Megan Utimari (sp) was present for questions/comments. She went on to give a brief background of Boys & Girls Club and how they started. She also explained how they service about 50-100 kids from the various schools. She stated they have a staff of 5 part-time people, plus her. Ms. Utimari also stated they are a 501(c) 3 organization and that they are in the process of being nationally recognized. She explained they expected to apply by April 1, 2011 and have their certification by June 1, 2011. She stated they have a Board of 23 and a strong volunteer basis.

Mr. Marlow asked the hours of operation for the club.

Ms. Utimari stated they run September through June after school, but they would like to expand to a summer camp.

Mr. Beckwith asked if they would receive additional funding once they become nationally recognized.

Ms. Utimari explained the association with the Connecticut Alliance Association.

Mr. Beckwith asked if there are other funds available.

Ms. Utimari stated they receive some grants. She stated they are also planning a large fall fundraiser. She also stated they are a United Way Agency.

Mr. Beckwith asked how many full time employees they have.

Ms. Utimari stated she was the only one full time.

Mr. Fitzpatrick shared a personal story regarding Boys & Girls Club.

Mr. Agro asked if they are only open during the school year.

Ms. Utimari responded yes.

Mr. Agro asked if they have an annual audit procedure in place.

Ms. Utimari stated they are in the process of doing so. She stated they have not completed a full fiscal year as yet.

**(4141) Board of Finance** – Chairman Lema noted the account represents secretarial fees. No questions/no comments.

**(4142) Department of Permitting & Land Use** – Jocelyn Mathiasen, David Sulkis, Thomas Raucci, Mary Rose Palumbo were present for questions/answers regarding their respective departments.

Ms. Mathiasen stated she has been the Director of the Department of Permitting and Land Use since August. She stated the department has been relatively flat since last year and that they are working hard to make sure the citizens of Milford have a good experience when seeking a permit. Ms. Mathiasen stated over the last year they have installed new software, new printers and are currently remodeling to create the centralized location of the

department. She stated this is only the second year as a department where three departments were merged into one.

**(4144) Zoning Board of Appeals**

**(4143) Board of Assessment Appeals** – no representatives present. No questions/comments.

**(4219) Personnel Department** – John O’Connell, Personnel Director was present.

**(4145) Pension Board** – John O’Connell, Personnel Director, was present to answer any questions. No questions/comments.

**(4151) Civil Service Commission** – John O’Connell, Personnel Director was present. No questions/comments.

**(4146) Flood & Erosion Board** – no representatives were present. No questions/comments.

**(4161) Housatonic River Estuary Commission**

**(4620) Recreation Department** – Bill McCarthy, Director was present for questions.

**(4153) Park, Beach & Recreation Commission** – Bill McCarthy was present. No questions/comments.

**(4156) Conservation Commission** – no representative were present. No questions/comments.

**(4147) Tree Commission** – no representatives were present. No questions/comments.

**(4157) Harbor Management Commission (Fund 36)** – Raymond Swift, Operations Director was present.

**(4817) Human Services Department** – Lisa Diamond-Graham, Director was present.

**(4819) Milford Progress** – Mr. Jim Beard, Vice President and Mr. Glenn Beck were present for questions.

**(4818) – Milford Historic District** – no representatives were present. No questions or comments.

**(4820) – Milford Historic District II** – Walter Ortoleva was present.

**(4159) Fowler Memorial Commission** – Lee D’Amico was present.

**(4823) Milford Association of Patriotic Organizations** – Mrs. L. D’Amico was present.

**(4822) Cemetery Association** – Jim Beard was present.

**(4813) Bridges**– Barry Kasden, President & CEO and Clair Phelan, Chairperson, Bridges Board were present.

**(4807) Regional Mental Health Board** – Claire Phelan was present.

**(4815) Veterans Graves** – Tom Cody was present for questions.

**(4816) Milford Flotilla 73** – Timothy Mulherin and Robert

**(4111) Board of Aldermen** – no representative was present. There were no questions/comments.

**(4115) Registrar of Voters** – Antoinette Carey

**(4112) Elections** – Linda Stock, City Clerk was present for questions.

**(4129) City Clerk** – Linda Stock, City Clerk was present.

Vice Chairman Lema recessed the Board at 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber  
Recording Secretary