

**BOARD OF FINANCE  
BUDGET DELIBERATIONS - PROPOSED BUDGET 2017-2018  
FEBRUARY 27, 2017**

The Milford Board of Finance held a budget deliberations session on Monday, February 27, 2017 in Conference Room B of the Parsons Complex. Chairman Lema reconvened the budget session at 6:36 p.m.

Board Members Present

Brian A Lema, Chairman  
Joseph J. Fitzpatrick, Jr.  
Joseph Castignoli  
Mickel Montano  
Lauren Secondi

Also Present

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake  
Peter Erodici, Finance Director

**(4193) Public Library** - Christine Angeli, Library Director was present for questions/comments. She stated the increase represents less than 1%, most of which is contractual. Ms. Angeli stated the capital account is flat, and pointed out she has been able to do this for the last few years.

Chairman Lema asked about line item 4193 0000 regular wage.

Ms. Angeli explained when the 16-17 budget was adopted by the Board of Aldermen the wage increase was not included. She stated once the contract was approved the wage increases were reflected, therefore the increase.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about 4703 0000 Bibliomation.

Ms. Angeli stated that is the name of the consortium, which includes many libraries throughout the State. She went on to explain the prior affiliation with the State which has since been reduced.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked who does the shipping of the books under the program.

Ms. Angeli explained it is the State that ships the books.

Mr. Castignoli asked what account in the budget was reduced.

Ms. Angeli stated it is line item 4796 0000 Computer Software and Maintenance.

**(4133) Probate Court** – Judge Beverly Streit Kefalas was present for questions/comments. She recalled last year she requested scanners which the department received and thanked the Board for approving that. She stated her digital photography account is slightly reduced. Judge Streit Kefalas stated the other slight increase in her budget is in other supplies and charges which is used for the shredding company that comes in and takes all confidential documents.

**(4123) Community Development** - Julie Nash, Director was present for questions/comments. She stated they are status quo, with the exception of the upgrade of computers this year. She explained the replacement cycle for computers.

Mayor Blake added that there are positions in the department that are funded through grant positions.

**(4155) Economic Development** – Julie Nash, Director was present for questions/comments. She stated the account is \$1, which she explained is a placeholder to keep the account open.

**(4219) Human Resources** - Tanya Barnes, Human Resources Director was present for questions/comments. She stated overall the budget is status quo. Ms. Barnes stated the line item for regular wages is a contractual increase. She also explained she adjusted the overtime line item 4112 0000 for staff that attends monthly meetings. She also stated they are looking to add one computer this year. Ms. Barnes stated they have been very busy over the past year, negotiating numerous bargaining unit contracts; they worked to implement a high deductible health account, held a health fair, fitness classes, two blood drives and numerous workshops.

Chairman Lema asked about the purchase of computers and the difference of purchase price for the computers.

Mr. Erodici stated the cost is from the State list and that the additional \$300 is for licensing.

**(4145) Pension Board** – Tanya Barnes, Human Resources Director was present for questions/comments. She stated there is a slight increase in this account.

**(4151) Civil Service** – Tanya Barnes, Human Resources Director was present for questions/comments. She reported this account is status quo.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about the auditors results and where they appear in the budget.

Mr. Erodici stated that information is found in the comprehensive blue book. He stated all the reports are included.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about the school board.

Mr. Erodici replied it is also found in that report. Also, the EDD01 which he stated is an educational report. He stated that report could be found on-line through the Federal Audit Clearinghouse.

**(4801) Council on Aging** – Janice Jackson, Director and Mary Allen Hermosa were present. She stated the department consists of 6 full time employees and 20 part time employees as well as the teachers who instruct classes that are provided. She continued went on to provide the Board with various statistics. Ms. Jackson also reported attendance in their classes has increased, as well as rides. She also reported they have 353 new members

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked the number of total members

Ms. Jackson replied they have approximately 3,000 members. She also reported they receive a grant from the United Way each year and a community development block grant.

Mr. Fitzpatrick commented that it should be mandatory for a member to pay their dues in order to take advantage of the programs offered.

**(4803) Milford Arts Council** - Paige Migliaro, Director was present for questions/comments. She reported this year they revamped their fees, which has provided a much needed boost in membership for the first time in 4 years. She also spoke of the grant from DECD and \$15,000 match from MPI and that they are midway through their renovations. Ms. Migliaro reported they are about to break ground on their patio. She stated with the added patio it will be a way to promote various activities and walk able events downtown. She stated last year they were looking to add an employee for their membership work. She reported they were able to accomplish that by replacing someone who oversaw the facility and it has worked out well. She stated the Milford Arts Council also oversees the firehouse gallery. She stated one of the goals going forward is ways in increase membership, attendance, etc.

**(4807) Regional Mental Health - Mayor** Blake reported the amount is based on a percentage per capital amount.

**(4812) Transit District** – Henry Jadach, Executive Director was present for questions/comments. Mr. Jadach stated they have a local fixed bus route service, and their coastal link, van service, service for seniors, and they operate the train station.

**(4827) Literacy Volunteers** - Tami Jackson, Executive Director was present for questions/comments. She stated the literacy center has been here in the city for over 20 years and services both adults and children. She stated she was here to ask for help to continue to provide the services they do, which includes tutoring over 120 kids. She stated they have a number of volunteers who work with them.

Chairman Lema asked if they receive State or Federal funding.

Ms. Jackson replied no, although they do a number of fundraising events.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked how students are referred to the center.

Ms. Jackson stated a lot is through word of mouth, also advertising.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about the money from Stratford.

Ms. Jackson explained the name changed last year to Literacy Volunteers of Southern Connecticut, to accommodate children from Stratford.

**(4828) Milford Historic Preservation Commission** – Mayor Blake stated this is a fairly new commission for historical homes around town and not necessarily contiguous to one another.

**(4116) Milford Government Access TV (MGAT)** - Kara Flannery, Chair was present for questions/comments. She explained the Area II Cable Advisory that distributes a small grant each year. She stated they are looking for an increase this year for technology which is very much behind. She also explained towards the end of the fiscal year the operator would work without pay. Ms. Flannery stated they would like to do more, but funding is necessary. She also stated they are pushing their content to UTube.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about equipment and why not under capital outlays.

Ms. Flannery explained all their equipment all comes from grant money.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about depreciation.

Mr. Erodici stated for depreciation it is \$5,000 or more and for the budget \$500 or more.

**(4310) Police Department** – Chief Mello was present for questions/comments. He stated there is an increase of \$214,000 which he stated is marginal. He stated those monies account for three new items and the balance is for accounts which continually have deficits year to year. He stated the three line items are: 4732 0001 Naloxone (Narcen), 4977 0204 Modems and 4977 0205 Body Worn Camera Storage.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked who monitors the cameras.

Chief Mello stated it is through a software company. He continued with an explanation of the program.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked average life of a camera.

Chief Mello replied 3-5 years. He stated it is dictated by State Statute.

Mr. Castignoli asked how many cruisers would be purchased this year.

Chief Mello replied 7 this year.

Mr. Castignoli stated the mayor's recommendation was 6 cruisers.

Chief Mello replied with the trade-in they could get 7 cruisers.

Mr. Castignoli asked about the requested video camera.

Chief Mello stated those are the car cameras.

**(4340) Animal Control** – Scott Ellingson, Head Animal Control Officer was present for questions/comments. Mr. Ellingson stated the department services Milford and Orange. He stated the budget is the same as last year with the exception of secretarial fees.

Mayor Blake asked if secretarial fees were paid in the past.

Mr. Ellingson explained the Board meets on a monthly basis at a cost of \$50 per month which amounts to \$600.

Chairman Lema asked if Orange has facilities.

Mr. Ellingson stated they use the Milford facility.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked the number of calls per years.

Mr. Ellingson stated they have seen an increase over the last few years from approximately 300 to over 500 calls.

**(4142) Permitting and Land Use** – Joseph Griffith, Director was present for questions/comments. He stated the budget represents an increase of approximately \$87,000 which includes contractual salary increases. He also stated they were looking to purchase additional tablets. He explained the use of the tablets in the fields for inspections and the ability to email a report directly to the office, applicant and file. He stated they are looking to purchase 5 tablets. Mr. Griffith reported the Building Inspector A position has been filled. He also spoke of View Permit which the department utilizes. He stated the building department continues to strive to increase its use of technology. He also stated the concierge person that was hired is working out very well. She learns very quickly and has been able to provide prompt assistance.

Chairman Lema asked about overall activity, whether they have seen an increase or decrease.

Mr. Griffith stated residential is on the increase. The larger applications have slowed somewhat. He stated they also work very closely with the Fire Marshal on school projects, expansions, etc.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked how the department follows up on a development that was deemed "affordable" at the time it was built.

Mr. Griffith stated they look at the deed restrictions and affordability plan. He also explained the role of the Community Development Department.

Chairman Lema stated tonight concludes hearings from the departments. He stated the technical meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 2, 2017.

Mayor Blake commented Milford has been hit particularly hard from the State. He stated he is working with Mr. Erodici, as well as the Board of Education and of course the State delegation in Hartford.

Chairman Lema stated the Board would stand in recess until Thursday, March 2, 2017. The Board recessed at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen A. Kennedy  
Recording Secretary