

**BOARD OF FINANCE
PROPOSED BUDGET 2015-20116 – FINAL VOTING SESSION
MARCH 4, 2015**

The Milford Board of Finance held a budget deliberations session on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 in Conference Room B of the Parsons Complex. Chairman Lema reconvened the budget session at 6:35 p.m.

Board Members Present

Brian A. Lema, Chairman
Joseph J. Fitzpatrick, Jr.
Scott Marlow
Mickel Montano
Joseph Castignoli, Vice Chairman

Also Present

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake
Peter Erodici, Finance Director

Chairman Lema stated tonight was the final meeting regarding the budget for fiscal year 2015/2016.

Vice Chairman Castignoli and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented for the following accounts: Acct. 4111 Board of Aldermen, Acct. 4112 Elections, Acct. 4115 Registrar of Voters, Acct. 4116 Milford Gov't Access TV and Acct. 4121 Mayor. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Castignoli and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented for the following accounts: Acct. 4122 General Expenses, Acct. 4123 Community Development and Acct. 4129 City Clerk. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Lema stated he would be recusing himself from voting on Acct. 4131 Law Department's budget as his law partner is the City Attorney.

Mr. Marlow and Mr. Castignoli made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented for the following account: Acct. 4131 Law Department. Motion carried 4 yes (Fitzpatrick, Montano, Marlow, Castignoli and 1 recused (Lema).

Vice Chairman Castignoli and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented for the following accounts: Acct. 4121 Ethics Commission, Acct. 4133 Probate Court, Acct. 4141 Board of Finance and Acct. 4142 Permitting and Land Use. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Castignoli and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented for the following accounts: Acct. 4143 Board of Assessment Appeals, Acct. 4144 Zoning Board of Appeals, Acct. 4145 Pension Board, Acct. 4146 Flood and Erosion Board, Acct. 4147 Tree Commission, Acct. 4151 Civil Service Commission, Acct. 4153 Park, Beach and Recreation Commission, Acct. 4155 Economic Development Commission, 4156 Conservation Commission, Acct. 4159 Veterans, Ceremony & Parade Commission, 4160 Housing Code Board of Appeals and Acct. 4161 Housatonic River Estuary Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Castignoli and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented for the following account: Acct. 4162 Open Space.

Mr. Fitzpatrick stated he appreciated the information received regarding this account. He stated he still was opposed to forming another division and that he felt this position should continue to be paid through the open space grants. Mr. Fitzpatrick also inquired as to the costs of a benefits package.

Mr. Erodici stated it could be as much as \$17,000, but it was unlikely that it would not be that high.

Chairman Lema stated he understood the comments of Mr. Fitzpatrick, but the issue is that the City cannot proceed with the status quo because the position has become more than a full time position.

Mr. Castignoli commented it felt the position was well worth the monies.

Motion carried 4 yes (Marlow, Montano, Lema, Castignoli) and 1 no (Fitzpatrick).

Vice Chairman Castignoli and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented for the following account: Acct. 4193 Public Library. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Castignoli and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended as presented for the following account: Acct. 4210 Finance Department.

Chairman Lema pointed out the motion and the mayor's recommendation included the requested Accountant 1 position, which was approved by this Board last year.

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Castignoli and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget for the following account: Acct. 4215 Management Information Systems (MIS) with the following change, line item 4997 0123 Computer hardware to read \$6,343 for a new subtotal in *Capital Outlays* of \$7,043 and a new department total of \$741,032. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Castignoli and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget for the following account: Acct. 4219 Personnel, with the following changes, line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages to read \$177,092, line item 4111 9942 1/5 Fiscal Week to read \$884 for a new sub-total in *Personal Services* of \$192,777 and a new department total of \$203,530.

Chairman Lema pointed out the position change from HR Administrative Assistant to HR Generalist and position change from Pension Administrator to Benefits Specialist (Non Rep).

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Castignoli and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget for the following account: Acct. 4310 Police Department, with the following changes, line item 4111 0000 to read \$8,841,677 for a new subtotal in *Personal Services* of \$10,520,593 and a new department total of \$11,809,170.

Chairman Lema pointed out a classification change of two positions.

Mr. Erodici stated the reason for the reduction is due to the reclassification of two positions after the recent retirement. He stated those positions are non-rep.

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Castignoli and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented for the following account: Acct. 4320 Fire Department. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Castignoli and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented for the following accounts: Acct. 4331 Civil Preparedness, Acct. 4340 Animal Control, Acct. 4360 Lighting, Hydrants, Water and Acct. 4420 Public Works Office. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Castignoli and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget for the following account: Acct. 4421 Highway/Parks, with the following changes, line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages to read \$2,058,506 and line item 4111 9942 1/5 Fiscal Week to read \$10,230 for a new subtotal in *Personal Services* of \$2,263,336 and a new department total of \$2,580,386.

Chairman Lema pointed out two position changes 5-X Tree Climber to Truck Driver-Tree Equipment Operator 6-X and position change from 8-X Laborer-Drainage to 9X Truck Driver-Laborer. He stated those amounts are reflected in the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Castignoli and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented for the following accounts: Acct. 4423 Building Maintenance, Acct. 4424 Engineering and Acct. 4429 General Garage. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Castignoli and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to reconsider the previous motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fitzpatrick expressed concern with Acct. 4429 General Garage, specifically line item 4117 0000 Seasonal Temporary and the requested \$6,000 increase which was previously \$0.

Mr. Saley explained the request for the seasonal/temporary funding was for a program they are currently doing which has been very successful in another department. He stated it has been a great opportunity for a high school student and gives the department some flexibility in freeing up personnel in allowing the seasonal temporary personnel to run errands, etc.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if the person is paid under a 1099.

Mr. Erodici stated the individual(s) are paid similar to other seasonal/temporary positions in the budget such as lifeguards, summer camp counselors, etc.

On the original motion, motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Castignoli and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented for the following accounts: Acct. 4431 Solid Waste, Acct. 4503 Public Debt, Acct. 4610 Health Department, Acct. 4620 Recreation Department, Acct. 4710 Employee Benefits, Acct. 4720 Insurance and Bonds, Acct. 4740 Claims and Refunds, Acct. 4790 Benefit & Salary Reserve, Acct. 4799 Unallocated Contingency. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Castignoli and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented for the following accounts: Acct. 4801 Council on Aging, Acct. 4803 Fine Arts Council, Acct. 4805 C-Med, Acct. 4807 Regional Mental Health Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Castignoli and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented for the following account: Acct. 4811 Borough of Woodmont.

Mr. Fitzpatrick stated this Board received a breakdown of what the City gives the, but not what they receive from their tax assessments, etc. He stated in the future this Board should receive each department's full budget, including expenditures, etc.

Mr. Castignoli commented many of the departments that receive grants; he felt this Board did not receive enough information regarding their actual budget.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked if the Board could receive each department's BR1.

Mr. Erodici stated in the past they have not received a full projected budget. He stated during the Borough of Woodmont's testimony they spoke about the work with the roadways, etc.

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Castignoli and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented for the following accounts: Acct. 4812 Transit Authority, Acct. 4813 Bridges, Acct. 4815 Veterans Graves, Acct. 4816 Milford Flotilla 73, Acct. 4817 Human Services Department and Acct. 4818 Historic District. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Lema stated he would be recusing himself from the voting on department 4819 Milford Progress, Inc., as he is a member of their board.

Mr. Marlow and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented for the following account: Acct. 4819 Milford Progress, Inc. Motion carried 4 yes (Marlow, Montano, Fitzpatrick, Castignoli) and 1 abstention (Lema).

Vice Chairman Castignoli and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented for the following accounts: Acct. 4820 Historic District II, Acct. 4821 Health Services/VNA and Acct. 4822 Cemetery Association, Acct. 4825 Beth El Shelter, Acct. 4826 Boys & Girls Club, Acct. 4992 Private School Textbook, Acct. 4993 Education Audit Fees, Acct. 4994 School Debt and Acct. 4995 Employee Benefits Non-Teaching. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Castignoli and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented for the following accounts: Acct. 4997 Education Health Insurance Contribution and Acct. 4998 Education Health Services: School Nurses. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Castignoli and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented for the following accounts: Accts. 4154 Sewer Commission, Acct. 4426 Wastewater, Acct. 4790 Benefit and Salary Reserves and Acct. 4799 Unallocated Contingency. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Castignoli and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget 0012 0000 Sewer Fund (Revenues) as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Lema acknowledged the retirement of Mr. Cooper and thanked him for his many years of service to the City and extended him a happy retirement.

Vice Chairman Castignoli and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented for the following account: Acct. 4157 Marina Enterprise Revenue. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Castignoli and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented for the following account: Acct. 4157 Harbor Management Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Castignoli and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented for the following account: Acct. 4157 Harbor Management Commission (Revenues).

Vice Chairman Castignoli and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented for the following account: Acct. 4157 Harbor Management Commission (Expenditures). Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Castignoli and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: Acct. 4121 Golf Course (Revenues).

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if the income is the amount from the contract.

Mayor Blake stated it is from the number of rounds which is put into a capital fund which the golf commission uses for the capital projects and water bill and a portion goes into the open space account.

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Castignoli and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: Acct. 4121 Golf Course (Expenditures). Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Castignoli and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the budget for Acct. 4996 Education Operations as follows: line item 4001 0000 Lump Sum Appropriations to read \$91,110,638 for a new sub-total in Education Operations and a new department total of \$91,110,638.

Chairman Lema commented last year's budget was \$89,213,231. He stated the \$91,110,638 represents an increase of over last year's budget of 1,797,404, but is a decrease of the original amount requested.

Mr. Fitzpatrick referenced the summary the Board of Education provided.

Mr. Richetelli stated the handout the Board of Education provided was a sampling of the major increases and decreases.

Mr. Fitzpatrick commented the difference is roughly \$1,440,000.

Chairman Lema stated a good portion of the budget is mainly wages and benefits.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about transportation which was due to the reconfiguration. He asked if the \$150,000 was for one bus.

Mr. Richetelli stated the reduction reflects 3 buses which is a total of 9 runs. He stated a major portion of the transportation budget is the special education transportation. He stated the regular education transportation decreased 7.05% from last year.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked the total percentage of salaries.

Mr. Richetelli referred Mr. Fitzpatrick to page XI in the budget book. He stated it is 71.25%.

Chairman Lema commended the Board of Education on keeping the increase in the budget to a minimum and offsetting those increases with decreases. He stated he was in support of the motion.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about the one-time figure for the reconfiguration.

Mr. Richetelli stated those figures were noted by the asterisk in the handout.

Mr. Fitzpatrick stated he would go with the motion, but that next year he would expect to see a significant decrease.

Mr. Castignoli commented he felt he never had a satisfactory explanation of the administrator position at the Academy. He stated that was part of the \$100,000 cut from the budget.

Chairman Lema added a part of the reduction was also the 2 SRO's which were requested at a cost of \$75,000.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Lema stated the Board would take a recess to allow the Finance Director time to calculate the numbers. The Board recessed at 7:33 p.m.

Chairman Lema reconvened the Board in public session at 7:40 p.m. He deferred to Mr. Erodici

Mr. Erodici referred the Board to p. 4 of the budget book. He stated the total revenue would be \$202,180,372

Vice Chairman Castignoli and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve 0010 0000 General Fund Revenue, with the following changes: line item 3111 0000 Current Taxes to read \$173,039,037 for a new subtotal in Taxes of \$174,151,037; and line item 3516 0000 Transportation to read \$120,886 for a new subtotal in State Education Grants of \$11,765,984; and line item 3643 0000 State Realty to read \$534,138, line item 3643 0001 State Realty – Pequot to read \$402,777 and line item 3647 0000 Private Exemptions to read \$429,663 for a new subtotal in State PILOT Grants of \$1,954,989 and a new Total Revenue of \$202,180,372, as recommended by the Board of Finance.

Mr. Erodici stated the proposed mill rate would be 27.88, which represents an increase of 0.66 mills over last year.

Motion carried unanimously.

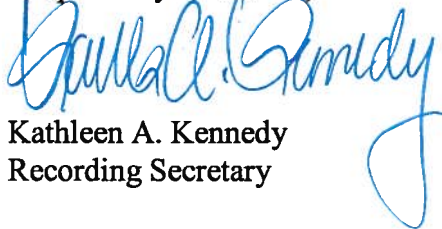
Mayor Blake commented the Board for all of their work. He stated this is not the last step in the process but a very important one.

Chairman Lema thanked Mr. Castignoli for his efforts tonight as well as Mr. Erodici and the entire Board.

Being no further business to discuss, Mr. Marlow and Mr. Castignoli made and seconded a motion to adjourn the budget deliberation sessions regarding the budget for fiscal year 2015/2016. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathleen A. Kennedy
Recording Secretary