

BOARD OF FINANCE
PROPOSED BUDGET 2012-20113 – FINAL VOTING SESSION
MARCH 7, 2012

The Milford Board of Finance held a budget deliberations session on Wednesday, March 7, 2012 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 M. Agro, Jr.
Paul Beckwith
Scott Marlow

Also Present

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake
Peter Erodici, Finance Director

Chairman Lema stated the Board would be voting tonight on the City of Milford's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013. He stated they would proceed through each department budget.

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

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget 4121 Mayor, with the following change: line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages to read \$245,023 for a new sub-total in Personal Services of \$246,697 and a new department total of \$252,047. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Chairman Lema stated he would be recusing himself from voting on the Law Department's budget.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Agro made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget 4131 Law Department, with the following change: line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages to read \$356,035 for a new sub-total in Personal Services of \$493,261 and a new department total of \$505,611. Motion carried 4 yes (Agro, Fitzpatrick, Montano, Marlow and 1 recused (Lema).

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4132 Ethics Commission, 4133 Probate Court, 4141 Board of Finance, 4142 – Permitting and Land Use, 4143 Board of Assessment Appeals and 4144 Zoning Board of Appeals. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Ms. Montano made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budgets as presented: 4145 Pension Board, 4146 Flood and Erosion Board, 4147 Tree Commission, 4151 Civil Service Commission, 4153 Park, Beach and Recreation Commission, and 4155 Economic Development

Commission, 4156 Conservation Commission, 4159 Fowler Memorial Commission, 4160 Housing Code Board of Appeals, 4161 Housatonic River Estuary Commission, 4193 Public Library, 4210 Finance Department, 4215 Management Information Systems (MIS). Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget: 4219 Personnel with the following change: line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages to read \$240,893 for a new sub-total in Personal Services of \$256,893 and a new department total of \$266,944.

Chairman Lema pointed out the adjustment made to this department and the Law Department and Mayor's Department was for the contractual wage adjustment in each of the departments.

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget: 4310 Police, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget 4320 Fire Department, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Agro made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended: 4331 Civil Preparedness, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Agro made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget 4340 Animal Control with the following changes: reduce line item 4798 0000 Other Supplies & Charges to read \$3,276 from \$6,500 for a new subtotal in Operational Expenses of \$28,276 and line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages to read \$231,610 for a new subtotal in Personal Services of \$288,461 and a new department total of \$355,487.

Chairman Lema started for the record that the department total did not change, that essential funds were moved from different account. The bottom line remains the same.

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Agro made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4360 Lighting, Hydrants, Water, 4420 Public Works Office, 4421 Highway/Parks, 4423, 4424 Engineering, 4429 General Garage. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget 4431 Solid Waste, with the following change: budgeted position 10-X Laborer to read \$41,600 from \$38,439; and line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages to read \$1,375,502 for a new subtotal in Personal Services of \$1,885,502 and a new department total of \$4,268,077. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4502 Equipment Reserve Allocation. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget: 4503 Public Debt Service, with the following changes: line item 4611 9909 Bond Principal, General to read \$2,381,500 from \$2,607,772, line item 4611 9937 Bond Principal, Sewer to read \$2,542,000 from \$2,575,553, line item 4612 9909 Bond Interest, General to read \$1,308,214 from \$1,401,728 and line item 4612 9937 Bond Interest, Sewer to read \$1,308,214 from \$1,316,746 for a new subtotal in Debt Service Charges of \$8,427,725 and a new department total of \$8,427,725.

Mr. Agro spoke of the reduction in the long term and over the years with the refunding of the bonds a great savings was recognized.

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget 4610 Health Department and 4620 Recreation Department. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Ms. Montano made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget 4710 Employee Benefits, with the following change: add line item 4712 9928 Training: MCHEA to read \$4,400 for a new subtotal in Operational Expenses of \$41,400 and a new department total of \$17,637,931.

Chairman Lema pointed out this change is due to the formation of the new union.

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Ms. Montano made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4720 Insurance and Bonds, 4740 Claims and Refunds, 4790 Benefit & Salary Reserve, 4799 Unallocated Contingency, 4801 Council of Aging, 4803 – Fine Arts Council. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Agro made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget 4805 C-MED with the following change: line item 4708 0000 Grant to read \$98,782 from \$97,091. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4807 Regional Mental Health Board, 4811 Borough of Woodmont, 4812 Transit Authority, 4813 Bridges, 4815 Veteran Graves, 4816 Milford Flotilla 73, 4817 Human Services Department, 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.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Ms. Montano made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget 4819 Milford Progress, Inc. as presented.. Motion carried 4 yes (Marlow, Montano, Fitzpatrick, Agro) and 1 abstention (Lema).

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Agro made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4820 Historic District II, 4821 Health Services/VNA, 4822 Cemetery Association, 4825

Beth El Shelter, 4826 Boys & Girls Club, 4992 Private School Textbook, 4993 – Education Audit Fees. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Agro made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget 4994 School Debt, with the following change: line item 4611 9928 Bond Principal: Schools to read \$2,581,500 from \$2,731,675 and line item 4612 9928 Bond Interest: Schools to read \$1,401,619 from \$1,434,426 for a new subtotal in Debt Service Charges of \$3,983,119 and a new department total of \$3,983,119.

Mr. Agro commended the good work on refunding and saving City dollars.

Chairman Lema echoed the comments of Mr. Agro.

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Agro made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4995 Employee Benefits, Non-Teaching. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Lema stated the Board would come back to Education Operations after completing all of the City Departments.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4997 – Education Health Insurance, 4998 Education Health Services: School Nurses. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Ms. Montano made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented: 4154 Sewer Commission Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Agro made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget 4426 Wastewater, with the following change: line item 4741 0001 Nitrogen Credits to read \$376,431 from \$416,000 for a new subtotal in Operational Expenses of \$953,441 and a new department total of \$6,144,532. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Agro made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget 4790 Benefit and Salary Reserves and budget 4799 Unallocated Contingency, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Agro made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget 0012 0000 Sewer Fund (Revenues) with the following change: Sewer Use Fees to read \$7,051,282 from \$7,051,282 for a new Revenues Total of \$7,950,782. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Agro made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget 0012 0000 Sewer Fund (Expenditures) with the followings change: Operational Expenses to read \$957,641 from \$997,310 for a new General Operations Total of \$7,950,782 and a Total Budget of \$7,950,782. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget 0036 4157 Marina Enterprise Revenue, with the following change: line item 3208 0000 Marina Fees to read \$106,848 from \$168,304 for a new subtotal in Permits and Fees of \$241,223 and a new department total of \$259,423.

Chairman Lema commented the decrease was due to the fact that the State Pilot was eliminated which reduced the funding to this department, which in turn resulted in the elimination of the Office Manager position. He explained the Harbor Commission Board determined they would make it work through their Seasonal/Temporary account which they thought would cover the shortfall.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Agro made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget: 4157 Harbor Management Commission, with the following changes: budgeted position –3 Non Rep. – Office Manager position eliminated; and line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages to read \$54,922 from \$98,827, line item 4111 9942 1/5 Fiscal Week to read \$45,000 from \$38,000, line item 4199 0000 Other Wage Adjustments to read \$1,126 from \$1,950 for a new subtotal in Personal Services of \$102,363; and line item 4201 9909 Longevity to read \$0 from \$1,047, line item 4212 0000 FICA to read \$12,191 from \$15,244, line item 4213 0000 Group Life Insurance to read \$0 from \$90, line item 4214 9916 Blue Cross: Grant Premium to read \$0 from \$21,816 and line item 4218 9916 Dental: Grant Premium to read \$0 from \$1,380 for a new subtotal in Employee Fringe Benefits of \$13,691; and line item 4825 0000 Workers Compensation to read \$2,309 from \$2,451 for a new subtotal in General Charges of \$41,024 and a new department total of \$259,423. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Agro made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget 4157 Harbor Management Commission (Revenues) with the following change: Permits and Fees to read \$234,223 from \$302,679 for a new Revenues Total of \$252,423. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Agro made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget 4157 Harbor Management Commission (Expenditures) with the following changes: Personal Services to read \$95,363 from \$136,291 and Employee Fringe Benefits to read \$13,691 from \$41,077, for a new General Operations Total of \$252,423 and a new Total Budget of \$252,423. Motion carried unanimously.

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

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

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve account 4996 Education Operations as follows: line item 4001 0000 Lump Sum Appropriation to read \$86,882,363.

Chairman Lema stated that amount represented the amount requested by the Board of Education.

Mr. Agro commented it has been a different kind of year this year than the last three years. He stated the number is a number that demonstrates optimism. He also pointed to the new administration that seems to have a very good pulse on things. He stated he did not want to get overly optimistic and noted it still has been a difficult year, but things seem to be changing. He spoke to the projection of fewer students and the possible

projection of as many as 1,000 less students over the next 10 years. He stated there needed to be a balanced approach and stated he sensed they were on their way towards that.

Chairman Lema expressed his appreciation to the Board of Education for their efforts in coming with a sensible budget that is sensitive to the needs of the community.

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Marlow and Mr. Agro made and seconded a motion to approve 0010 0000 General Fund Revenue, with the following changes: line item 3111 0000 Current Taxes to read \$159,601,724 for a new subtotal in Taxes of \$161,664,724; and line item 3516 0000 Transportation to read \$330,915 from \$340,897; and line item 3517 0000 Education Cost Sharing to read \$11,048,292 from \$10,728,519 for a new subtotal in State Education Grants of \$11,929,207; and line item 3643 0000 State Realty to read \$458,850 from \$459,581 and line item 3643 0001 State Realty – Pequot to read \$401,633 from \$391,547 for a new subtotal in State PILOT Grants of \$3,011,374; and line item 3658 0000 Property Tax Relief to read \$300,000 for a new subtotal in General Purposes State Grants; and line item 3838 0000 OTB Wagering Share to read \$75,000 from \$60,000 for a new subtotal in Miscellaneous Revenue of \$5,708,399 and a new Total Revenue of \$26,780,245, as recommended by the Board of Finance.

Mr. Agro commented this Board did not take into consideration for this account a potential building sale.

Mayor Blake noted \$300,000 represented ECS funding.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Erodici pointed out the 1.55% increase is on the spending side. He stated the proposed mill rate would be 25.68.

Mayor Blake stated the mill rate is down from 28.89.

Mr. Erodici stated the decrease in the mill rate represents 3.21 mills.

Chairman Lema commented it was his understanding part of the function of the reveal which the City went through last year was so the grant list would change. He stated the grand list would be \$6,401,389,074 which represents a 18.3% increase over last year's grant list.

Mr. Agro thanked everyone involved with this year's budget process. He stated it was a pleasure as always to work with the group. He pointed out this year was a year of enormous change in the City and that the approach was seamless in the transition of so many (i.e. Mayor, Board of Aldermen, Finance Department). He stated it was a pleasure to work with everyone.

Chairman Lema echoed the same sentiment of Mr. Agro.

Vice Chairman Marlow also echoed the comments of Mr. Agro. He stated numerous hours were put in before tonight. He also thanked the Mayor for his hard work.

Chairman Lema also thanked Mr. Marlow for his efforts tonight and extended a thank you to the secretary as well.

Mr. Agro commented the Board of Finance's recommended budget is a modest increase but that some folks may actually see more of a decrease. He stated it is not as clear cut as in previous years. He also pointed at the revaluations at one point were 10-11 years apart and now they come around every 4-5 years. He stated the average person is likely to see an increase of approximately \$250. He thanked the departments for their diligence in keeping department budgets reasonable. He also noted monies were not coming from the reserve fund adding things have come a long way from a very difficult local and national economy. He stated he is optimistic things will turn the corner very shortly.

Mr. Fitzpatrick noted the hard work of the Mayor, Finance Director and Bond Counsel in recognizing a large savings with the sale of bonds which made a tremendous impact on the budget.

Being no further business to discuss, Mr. Marlow and Ms. Montano made and seconded a motion to adjourn at the budget deliberation sessions regarding the 2012/2013 FY. Motion carried unanimously. The Board adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary