

**BOARD OF FINANCE
BUDGET DELIBERATIONS – TECHNICAL DISCUSSION
PROPOSED BUDGET 2019-2020
MARCH 7, 2019**

The Milford Board of Finance held a budget deliberations session on Thursday, March 7, 2019, in Conference Room B of the Parsons Complex.

Board Members Present

Brian A Lema, Chairman
Joseph J. Mr. Fitzpatrickpatrick, Jr.
Joseph Castignoli
Lauren Secondi
Scott Moulton

Also Present

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake
Peter Erodici, Finance Director

Chairman Lema reconvened the Board of Finance budget hearings in public session at 5:37 p.m. He stated tonight the Board would have their technical discussion on the Mayor's proposed budget and the Board of Education's recommended budget for fiscal year 2019-2020. He stated since members from the Board of Education were present, the Board would start with the BOE.

(p. 94) 0010 4996 Education Operations - ChairmanLema asked if any Board members had any questions.

Mr. Castignoli asked if they would spend all the money on the projects that were listed.

Mr. Richetelli stated those projects listed are from the 17-18 budget. He explained some are still in progress and some still need to be taken care of.

Mr. Mr. Fitzpatrickpatrick asked if it represented 2/3 the budget year and if there was a projection on overage.

Mr. Richetelli stated he did not and went on to explain the process. He stated one shortfall will be in teacher retirements. Last year there was a surplus, however, this year there are 17 retirements as well as more expected. We budget for the average and that number has been fairly stable.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about the surplus account and asked about State Statute Section 10-248 that allows boards of education to carry over 1% with the approval of its board of finance

Mr. Richetelli explained once approved by the Board of Finance, only the Board of Education can decide how it will be spent the money. He stated in the past those monies were used for the turf fields, the reconfiguration and redistricting projects. He pointed out in excess was spent in the reconfiguration. A brief discussion ensued.

Mrs. Glennon explained those items are simply not a wish list, but projects that need to be done at the schools. To get that work done they use monies from overages, if there are any from the budget.

She stated historically it has always been the buildings and grounds accounts where the cuts generally come from. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Richetelli explained those items they listed are necessary projects. He stated the district has buildings that are aging and require work. He stated the buildings are safe and meticulous, but they do require work. Discussion resumed.

Chairman Lema commented the budget is reasonable, but there are structural costs to be dealt with each year.

Dr. Cutaia stated 76% of the budget is teacher costs.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if the Board of Education would have a surplus again this year.

Mr. Richetelli stated there would be a surplus, but he did not know the exact figure.

Mr. Castignoli asked if the amount would be under \$1M

Mr. Richetelli stated it would be. He stated those monies are then reinvested in the schools based on the list of projects that need to be done.

Mr. Bradbury stated he has a base of 8-9 projects per year, adding there is a list that is in excess of \$3M.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if there is still a “wish list” submitted by the principals.

Mr. Bradbury stated that is part of the building and grounds account.

Mr. Richetelli stated there is a per pupil account, that is minimal that is submitted. Discussion resumed.

Mayor Blake stated the State is still working on its budget, but stated the ECS reduction is roughly \$300,000. He also pointed out the potential teacher retirement is \$300,000. Mayor Blake stated the Grand list continues to swell, with a \$42M increase; however, there was close to \$37M reductions for tax appeals/settlements, etc., so the overall net growth is approximately \$9M.

Chairman Lema stated the Board would now move through the budget and asked for input as they go through each of the departments.

(p. 14) 0010 4111 Board of Aldermen – no comments.

(p. 15) 0010 4115 Registrar of Voters – no comments.

(p. 16) 0010 4116 Milford Gov’t Access TV (MGAT)

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about recent outages where nothing was showing on the MGAT channels.

Mayor Blake stated it is channel 79 (Cablevision) and channel 78 Public Access. He explained there were some technical glitches while those channels were being enhanced, but they have worked out those glitches.

(p. 17) 0010 4121 Mayor

Chairman Lema asked about gas & propellants line item. He asked if tolls are enacted in the State, it would affect this line item for tolls and additional monies may be required.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about the chief of staff position in the Mayor's Office.

Mayor Blake explained it is an existing position vacated when Steve Fournier retired. He stated the job descriptions changed.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked how the wage was arrived at.

Mayor Blake explained it is the same as the assistant public works director position and is in line with surrounding towns and cities. He stated it is a non-represented position.

(p. 19) 0010 4122 General Expenses

Mayor Blake explained administering of grants is time consuming and requires a great deal of work. He stated many of the grants will stay at the department level and overseen by the Finance Department. He also explained there is an inter-departmental grant committee chaired by the Economic Development Director. A brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Castignoli stated he wished to clarify this is internal without someone in place.

Mayor Blake replied yes. He stated years ago there was someone in the position who left. He also explained the history regarding the CDBG grants and the importance of having someone in place to help with the paperwork.

Mr. Erroddi emphasized compliance is most important as they procure these grants.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about the potential of having a contractor instead of hiring someone. A brief discussion ensued.

(p. 20) 0010 4123 Community Development – no questions.

(p. 22) 0010 4129 City Clerk – no questions.

(p. 25) 0010 4131 Law Dept – no questions.

(p. 25) 0010 4132 Ethics Commission – no questions.

(p. 26) 0010 4133 Probate Court – no questions.

(p. 26) 0010 4141 Board of Finance – no questions.

(p. 27) 0010 4142 Permitting and Land Use

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about seasonal temporary line item

Mayor Blake stated they have a cadre of building inspectors who are retired inspectors who have helped out during the building department's busy season.

(p. 29) 0010 4143 Board of Assessment Appeals – no questions.

(p. 29) 0010 4143 Zoning Board of Appeals – no questions.

(p. 30) 0010 4145 Pension Board – no questions.

(p. 30) 0010 4146 Flood and Erosion Board – no questions.

(p. 30) 0010 4147 Tree Commission – no questions.

(p. 31) 0010 4151 Civil Service Commission – no questions.

(p. 31) 0010 4153 Park, Beach and Recreation Commission – no questions.

(p. 31) 0010 4155 Economic Development Commission – no questions.

(p. 32) 0010 4156 Conservation Commission – no questions.

(p. 33) 0010 4159 Veterans, Ceremony & Parade Commission – no questions.

(p. 34) 0010 4162 Open Space – no questions.

(p. 35) 0010 4193 Public Library – no questions.

(p. 37) 0010 4210 Finance Department

Chairman Lema asked if there are new positions in the department.

Mayor Blake explained there are positions that were moved from MIS.

Mr. Erodicci stated there are no new positions and explained the two reclassified positions.

(p. 39) 0010 4215 Management Information Systems (MIS)

Mayor Blake stated the GIS position was eliminated and job title changed.

(p. 41) 0010 4219 Human Resources – no comments.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if there was a new position added to this department.

Mayor Blake stated there are two new positions in this budget that are offset by two reduced positions in Public Works and Wastewater and the elimination of a driver.

(p. 43) 0010 4310 Police Department

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if there is an outside analysis being done to determine the number of officers needed for a town.

Mayor Blake explained there are demographical differences between towns that determine the number of officer positions. He stated for instance some towns may have a college or university located in that town, which would change the numbers. A brief discussion ensued.

(p. 51) 0010 4320 Fire Department

Chairman Lema asked about EMS overtime

Mayor Blake stated that line item is for EMS transport for Advanced Life Support (ALS) (519941). He explained those funds are to support ancillary capital expenses, essentially anything related to EMS work. He stated last year they were able to purchase a new truck.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about the Asterisk and if that refers to last fiscal year account.

Mayor Blake stated last year they received a little over \$1M.

(p. 58) 0010 4331 Emergency Management (formerly Civil Preparedness) – no questions.

(p. 59) 0010 4340 Animal Control – no questions.

(p. 62) 0010 4360 Lighting, Hydrants, Water – no questions.

(p. 63) 0010 4420 Public Works Office

Chairman Lema asked if this department is one of the areas of the realignment of positions.

Mayor Blake replied yes. He stated in this department the construction/project manager. Mayor Blake explained there are a number of projects that have been worked on over the years and that they continue to work on.

Mr. Castignoli asked if this is similar to a clerk of the works position for various projects.

Mayor Blake explained the importance of the asphalt maintenance work. He explained the construction/project manager person would oversee all those projects.

(p. 65) 0010 4421 Highway Parks

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about the asphalt monies.

Mayor Blake explained road work is paid out of bonding, Loscip grant (a capital grant from the state of Connecticut) and also town aid road money.

(p. 69) 0010 4423 Building Maintenance

Mr. Fitzpatrick commented about traffic signal service charges.

Mr. Castignoli asked if the building maintenance is just for the City and if the Board of Education has their own.

Mayor Blake replied yes, he was correct.

(p. 72) 0010 4424 Engineering – no questions.

(p. 74) 0010 4429 General Garage – no questions.

(p. 76) 0010 4431 Solid Waste – no questions.

Mr. Erodici stated the truck driver reduction was shown on p. 77.

Mayor Blake stated the City waste removal costs are flat, however they are flipping the amount they have to pay in tipping fees. He stated Wheelebrater is where trash goes and the recycling goes to Oakbridge in Shelton. A brief discussion ensued.

(p. 78) 0010 4503 Public Debt Service – no questions.

(p. 79) 0010 4610 Health Dept –no questions.

(p. 82) 0010 4620 Recreation Department – no questions.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about meters at Walnut Beach.

Mayor Blake explained they are still speaking with the various departments involved and that he expected something to go to the Board of Aldermen shortly.

(p. 84) 0010 4710 Employee Benefits

Mr. Castignoli asked if this is where the Board of Education is included.

Mr. Errodicti replied it is not in this account but later in the budget.

(p. 85) 0010 4720 Insurance and Bonds – no questions.

(p. 85) 0010 4740 Claims and Refunds

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if this account is continuing to go down.

Mayor Blake stated it is steady. He explained it is for those employees who were on the job prior to 1996.

(p. 86) 0010 4790 Benefit and Salary Reserve

Mr. Castignoli asked about the contractual obligations.

Mr. Errodicti explained this account is for those contracts that have not settled. He stated as of 6/30 there are other contracts that have not settled.

(p. 86) 0010 4799 Unallocated Contingency – no questions.

(p. 87) 0010 4801 Council on Aging – no questions.

(p. 87) 0010 4803 Milford Arts Council – no questions.

(p. 88) 0010 4805 C-MED – no questions.

(P. 88) 0010 4807 Regional Mental Health Board – no questions.

(p. 88) 0010 4811 Borough of Woodmont – no questions.

(p. 89) 0010 4812 Transit Authority – no questions.

(p. 89) 0010 4813 Bridges Community Support – no questions.

(p. 89) 0010 4815 Veterans Graves – no questions.

(p. 90) 0010 4816 Milford Flotilla 73 – no questions.

(p. 90) 0010 4817 Human Services Department – no questions.

(p. 90) 0010 4818 Historic District – no questions.

(p. 91) 0010 4819 Milford Progress, Inc. – no questions.

(p. 91) 0010 4820 Historic District II – no questions.

(p. 91) 0010 4821 Health Services – no questions.

(p. 91) 0010 4822 Cemetery Association

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if the city owns that land.

Mayor Blake stated it is owned by the Cemetery Association

(p. 92) 0010 4825 Beth El Center – no questions.

(p. 92) 0010 4826 Boys & Girls Club – no questions.

(p. 92) 0010 4827 Literacy Volunteers of So. CT – no questions.

(p. 92) 0010 4828 Milford Preservation Commission – no questions.

(p. 93) 0010 4992 Private School Textbook – no questions.

(p. 93) 0010 4993 Education Audit Fees – no questions.

(p. 93) 0010 4994 School Debt – no questions.

(p. 93) 0010 4995 Education Employee Benefits

Mr. Castignoli asked what the total of education benefits in the city budget would total.

Mr. Errodicti referred to p. 13. He stated it totals approximately \$28M

(p. 94) 0010 4997 Education Health Insurance Contribution – no questions.

(p. 95) 0010 4998 Education Health Services: School Nurses – no questions.

(p. 98) 0010 4154 Sewer Commission – no questions.

(p. 101) 0010 4426 Wastewater

Chairman Lema asked if this was a department where a position was eliminated. He also asked if a permanent superintendent had been hired.

Mayor Blake responded yes to both questions. He stated the new Wastewater superintendent is Lindsay King.

(p. 109) 0036 4157 Harbor Commission – no questions.

(p. 112) 0018 4121 Golf Course – no questions.

p. 4 – Chairman Lema asked if the city was doing personal auto audits.

Mr. Erodici stated the program is not as active as it has been in past years.

Chairman Lema asked if any PILOTS were eliminated.

Mayor Blake stated approximately \$300,000 less would be coming for the ECS grant. There could also be something on the revenue side where municipalities would contribute to the teacher retirement funds.

Chairman Lema stated the next Board of Finance meeting would be Monday, March 18

Mr. Castignoli and Ms. Secondi made and seconded a motion to recess. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Lema stated the Board would stand in recess until March 18, 2019. The Board recessed at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Kennedy
Recording Secretary