

**BOARD OF FINANCE
PROPOSED BUDGET 2017-2018 – FINAL VOTING SESSION
MARCH 8, 2017**

The Milford Board of Finance held a budget deliberations session on Wednesday, March 2, 2016 in Conference Room B of the Parsons Complex. Chairman Lema reconvened the budget deliberations session at 6:33 p.m.

Board Members Present

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

Also Present

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake
Peter Erodici, Finance Director

Chairman Lema reported he received several letters in support of the Board of Education's budget as presented. He stated with so many present from the Board of Education the Board would start with education budget. Chairman Lema referred the Board to p. 94 of the budget book.

Mayor Blake commented regarding the State budget. He stated Milford along, with many other towns are taking a hit in the State's attempt to make up for the deficit in the state budget. He pointed out municipalities are being asked to fund items that were previously funded by the State, which affects what municipalities are doing at the local level. Mayor Blake stated he has met with Dr. Feser, Mr. Richetelli and the city's department heads to find a resolve. He stated Milford is preparing for the worst, but hoping for the best. Mayor Blake stated his recommendation to the Board tonight is that the formal budget be passed with the technical changes discussed last week at the technical budget meeting. He reported he was in Hartford last week and the State has all of Milford's numbers to date, so he is recommending Milford plan for alternative strategies to have in place if Milford is cut to the degree it is, or even less. He also reported the City Attorney was present to address any questions the Board may have.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if there would be a second chance at the budget once the State has adopted its own budget.

Mayor Blake stated there is the possibility, but something not necessarily recommended.

Mr. Fitzpatrick commented he would implore the public present tonight to write to not just their local legislators, but all in Hartford. He stated the damage has been done and should not be recouped in one year. He added the situation is unfair to Milford as well as the other towns that have been impacted by the cuts. Mr. Fitzpatrick expressed his dismay that Milford has been put in the situation it is. He reiterated everyone needed to write to every legislator in Hartford.

Mr. Castignoli asked if any legislation was being changed at the state level for municipalities.

Mayor Blake stated there was a bill that was proposed, but explained Milford still must fund its finances and would have to find a way to do it. He stated tax bills go out in June, which are due in July as well as a number of bills that come due in the month of July.

Mr. Castignoli and Mr. Fitzpatrick 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 \$92,296,582 for a new sub-total in *Education Operations* of \$92,296,582 and a new department total of \$92,296,582.

Mr. Castignoli stated the amount represents a \$40,000 reduction for the added SRO position. He stated it was not funded in the police department budget and that was part of his reason for the reduction.

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Fitzpatrick and Ms. Secondi made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented for Acct. 4111 Board of Aldermen, Acct. 4112 Elections, Acct. 4115 Registrar of Voters, Acct. 4116 Milford Gov't Access TV, Acct. 4121 Mayor, 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. He turned the meeting over to Vice Chairman Fitzpatrick.

Mr. Castignoli and Vice Chairman Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented for the following accounts: Acct. 4131 Law Department and Acct. 4132 Ethics Commission. Motion carried 4 yes (Fitzpatrick, Montano, Secondi, Castignoli and 1 recused (Lema)).

Chairman Lema resumed as chair.

Vice Chairman Fitzpatrick and Mr. Castignoli made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented for the following accounts: Acct. 4133 Probate Court, Acct. 4141 Board of Finance, Acct. 4142 Permitting and Land Use, 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, 4162 Open Space, Acct. 4193 Public Library, Acct. 4210 Finance Department, Acct. 4215 Management Information Systems (MIS), Acct. 4219 Personnel and Acct. 4310 Police Department. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Fitzpatrick and Ms. Secondi made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget for Acct. 4320 Fire Department, with the following changes: budgeted position Senior Fire Inspector to now read Deputy Fire Marshal, with a new position total of \$87,908 and

budgeted position Firefighter to now read Fire Inspector, with a new position total of \$72,394, for a new Position Total of \$8,155,675; and the following changes, line item 4111 0000 Regular Wages to read \$8,155,675, line item 4111 9942 1/5 Fiscal Week to read \$40,779, for a new subtotal in *Personal Services* of \$10,131,654 and a new department total of \$11,372,550. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Fitzpatrick and Ms. Montano made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget for the following accounts Acct. 4331 Civil Preparedness, Acct. 4340 Animal Control, Acct. 4360 Lighting, Hydrants, Water, 4420 Public Works Office, Acct. 4421 Highway/Parks, Acct. 4423 Building Maintenance, Acct. 4424 Engineering and Acct. 4429 General Garage, Acct. 4431 Solid Waste, Acct. 4503 Public Debt, Acct. 4610 Health Department and Acct. 4620 Recreation Department. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Fitzpatrick and Mr. Castignoli made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget for the following: Acct. 4710 Employee Benefits, with the following changes: line item 4221 9919 Self Insurance Contribution to read \$11,557,207 for a new subtotal in *Employee Benefits* to read \$23,447,020 and a new department total of \$23,470,220. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Fitzpatrick and Ms. Montano made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented for the following accounts: Acct. 4720 Insurance and Bonds, Acct. 4740 Claims and Refunds, Acct. 4790 Benefit & Salary Reserve, Acct. 4799 Unallocated Contingency, Acct. 4801 Council on Aging, Acct. 4803 Milford Arts Council, Acct. 4805 C-Med, Acct. 4807 Regional Mental Health Board, Acct. 4811 Borough of Woodmont, Acct. 4812 Transit Authority, Acct. 4813 Bridges Healthcare, Inc., 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 vote on Milford Progress, Inc., since he is a member.

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

Vice Chairman Fitzpatrick and Mr. Castignoli 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 Center, Acct. 4826 Boys & Girls Club, Acct. 4827 Literacy Volunteers of So. CT, 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 Fitzpatrick and Mr. Castignoli made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented for Acct. 4997 Education Health Insurance Contribution with the following changes: line item 4221 0000 Contribution, Self Insurance Fund to read \$19,017,168 for a new subtotal in *Employee Fringe Benefits* of \$19,017,168 and a new department total of \$19,017,168. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Fitzpatrick and Ms. Secondi made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget as presented for Acct. 4998 Education Health Services: School Nurses. Motion carried unanimously.

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

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

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

Vice Chairman Fitzpatrick and Ms. Montano made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget for the following account: Acct. 4157 Marina Enterprise Revenue, with the following change: line item 3208 0000 Marina Fees to read \$133,112 for a new subtotal in Permits and Fees of \$273,612 and a new department total of \$293,612. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Fitzpatrick and Ms. Secondi made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's recommended budget for the following account: Acct. 4157 Harbor Commission, with the following changes: line item 4823 0000 General & Auto Liability to read \$43,129, line item 4824 0000 Fire & Inland marine to read \$6,884 for a new subtotal in *General Charges* of \$53,052 and a new department total of \$293,612. Motion carried unanimously.

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

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

Chairman Lema stated the Board would stand in recess to allow the Finance Director to calculate the final totals. The Board recessed at 7:11 p.m.

Chairman Lema reconvened the Board in public session at 7:18 p.m.

Mayor Blake reiterated he would continue working with the Finance Director, as well as all department heads between now and when the Board of Aldermen adopts the formal budget.

Vice Chairman Fitzpatrick and Mr. Castignoli made and seconded a motion to approve 0010 0000 General Fund Revenue, with the following changes: line item 3111 0000 Current Taxes to read \$176,431,458 for a new subtotal in *Taxes* of \$177,566,458; and line item 3517 0000 Education Cost

Sharing to read \$10,849,101, for a new subtotal in *State Education Grants of \$10,934,335*; and line item 3643 0001 State Realty – Pequot to read \$377,139 for a new subtotal in State PILOT Grants of \$1,482,426; and line item 3658 0000 Prop. Tax Relief-Mun Rev Share to read \$1,105,610 for a new subtotal in General Purpose State Grants of \$1,200,610 for a new Total Revenue of \$207,938,246, as recommended by the Board of Finance.

Chairman Lema thanked the Mayor, Finance Director, and city department heads in keeping the budget within the parameters.

Mayor Blake expressed his appreciation of the efforts, time and scrutiny of the Board of Finance, setting the stage for the best possible budget and the thoughtfulness throughout the process in asking questions and digging deep.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked the Finance Director what the recommended mill rate would be.

Mr. Erodici stated the new mill rate at this point would be 27.73, which he stated is a decrease of .50 mills (27.88 last year).

Being no further business to discuss, Mr. Castignoli and Ms. Montano made and seconded a motion to adjourn the budget deliberation sessions for fiscal year 2017-2018. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Kennedy
Recording Secretary