

BOARD OF FINANCE  
FINAL VOTING SESSION – MAYOR’S PROPOSED 2008-2009 BUDGET  
MARCH 11, 2008

The Milford Board of Finance reconvened their budget deliberation sessions on Tuesday, March 11, 2008, in Conference Room B of the Parsons Complex. Chairman Skudlarek reconvened the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

Board Members Present

S. Bergami  
B. Lema  
J. Fitzpatrick  
S. Skudlarek

Also Present

Mayor Richetelli  
J. Doneiko, Finance Director

*Chairman Skudlarek recognized Vice Chairman Bergami for the purpose of putting forth motions.*

Vice Chairman Bergami and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the following Mayor’s recommended budgets as presented:

Department 4111 – Board of Aldermen  
Department 4112 – Elections  
Department 4115 – Registrar of Voters  
Department 4121 – Mayor  
Department 4122 – General Expenses  
Department 4123 – Community Development  
Department 4129 – City Clerk  
Department 4131 – Law Department  
Department 4132 – Ethics Commission  
Department 4133 – Probate Court  
Department 4141 – Board of Finance  
Department 4142 – Planning & Zoning  
Department 4143 – Board of Assessment Appeals  
Department 4144 – Zoning Board of Appeals  
Department 4145 – Pension Board  
Department 4146 – Flood and Erosion Board  
Department 4147 – Tree Commission  
Department 4151 – Civil Service Commission  
Department 4153 – Park, Beach and Recreation Commission  
Department 4155 – Economic Development Commission  
Department 4156 – Conservation Commission  
Department 4158 – Inland Wetlands Agency  
Department 4159 – Fowler Memorial Commission  
Department 4160 – Housing Code Board of Appeals

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Bergami and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the following Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes:

Department 4161 – Housatonic River Estuary Commission – Account number 4168 0000 Secretarial Fees shall be renamed 4708 0000 and the text shall read Grant.

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Bergami and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the following Mayor's recommended budget as presented:

Department 4193 – Public Library

Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Skudlarek announced that they would temporarily withhold discussion on certain departments pending the arrival of a Board member. The first department is:

Department 4210 – Finance Department

Vice Chairman Bergami and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the following Mayor's recommended budget as presented:

Department 4215 – Management Information Systems (MIS)

Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Skudlarek announced that they would skip over:

Department 4219 – Personnel

Vice Chairman Bergami and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the following Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes:

Department 4310 – Police – Account number 4203 9938 Educational Supplement under Finance Board should read \$40,150; Subtotal \$157,880; Department Total \$10,075,938. This is a technical correction.

Chairman Skudlarek said that the Police Department is adding a new police officer and that he is opposed to it, not because he doesn't think another police officer is needed, but because it is such austere times right now.

Motion carried 2 yes and 1 opposed (Chairman Skudlarek).

Vice Chairman Bergami and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the following Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes:

Department 4320 – Fire Department – Account number 4203 9941 Educational Supplement under Finance Board should read \$158,750; Subtotal \$204,750; Department Total \$10,353,033.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if the educational supplement made to each firefighter is a one-time payment or a yearly amount. Ms. Doneiko replied that it is every year. She added that it's in the contract that expires in June 2009 and that whether it is kept in the contract after that is a bargaining matter.

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Bergami and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the following Mayor's recommended budgets as presented:

Department 4331 – Civil Preparedness  
Department 4340 – Animal Control  
Department 4350 – Building Inspection  
Department 4360 – Lighting, Hydrants, Water  
Department 4420 – Public Works Office  
Department 4421 – Highway / Parks  
Department 4423 – Building Maintenance  
Department 4424 – Engineering  
Department 4429 – General Garage  
Department 4431 – Solid Waste  
Department 4502 – Equipment Reserve Allocation  
Department 4503 – Public Debt Service  
Department 4610 – Health Department  
Department 4620 – Recreation Department  
Department 4710 – Employee Benefits  
Department 4720 – Insurance and Bonds  
Department 4740 – Claims and Refunds  
Department 4790 – Benefit & Salary Reserve  
Department 4799 – Unallocated Contingency  
Department 4801 – Council on Aging  
Department 4803 – Fine Arts Council  
Department 4805 – C-MED  
Department 4807 – Regional Mental Health Board  
Department 4811 – Borough of Woodmont  
Department 4812 – Transit Authority  
Department 4813 – Bridges Community Support  
Department 4815 – Veteran Graves  
Department 4816 – Milford Flotilla 73

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Bergami and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the following Mayor's recommended budget with the following change:

Department 4817 – Human Resource Development (HRD) – The title should read Department of Human Services.

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Bergami and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the following Mayor's recommended budget as presented:

Department 4818 – Historic District

Motion carried unanimously.

Department 4819 – Milford Progress Inc. – Vice Chairman Bergami stated he would recuse himself from action on the Milford Progress budget since he is a member of the Board of Directors.

Chairman Skudlarek and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the following Mayor's recommended budget as presented:

Department 4819 – Milford Progress Inc.

Motion carried 2 yes and 1 recusal (Vice Chairman Bergami).

Vice Chairman Bergami and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the following Mayor's recommended budgets as presented:

Department 4820 – Historic District II  
Department 4821 – Health Services / VNA  
Department 4822 – Cemetery Association  
Department 4823 – Patriotic Organization Association  
Department 4825 – Homeless Shelter CPAC  
Department 4992 – Private School Textbook State Mandate  
Department 4993 – Education Audit Fees  
Department 4994 – School Debt  
Department 4995 – Employee Benefits, Non-Teaching

Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Skudlarek announced that they would skip over:

Department 4996 - Education Operations

Vice Chairman Bergami and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the following Mayor's recommended budgets as presented:

Department 4997 – Education Health Insurance Contribution  
Department 4998 – Education Health Services: School Nurses

Motion carried unanimously.

*Mr. Lema joined the meeting at 7 p.m.*

*Chairman Skudlarek opened the floor for discussion on the Education Operations budget.*

Chairman Skudlarek started by saying that over the past five or six years he would write a budget message saying that the cost of education has been spiraling out of control, but that a lot of it is unavoidable due to mandates being put on us Federally and by the State. He added that some 60% of the total budget each year is spent on education. He said he couldn't keep putting that same message in year after year without doing something about it. He then added that this year's presentation by the Board of Education was one of the best he's ever seen. He said he would reluctantly go for a limitation of the increase over last year's budget to 4%. He said he does this with the greatest amount of reluctance but added that he's just a messenger of what is painfully obvious. He gave an example of a family with four children in the school system getting over \$60,000 in annual benefits and they may not even own a house in Milford. He said that people have a right to know where their money is going, to ask what is being done with it and what constraints have been put on the spiraling costs of education. He said that according to The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities 80-85% of taxpayers with no children in the school system are paying 60% of their tax dollars for education. He said he doesn't think there's a lot of begrudging by people who don't have children in the school system, but added that the property taxes are becoming larger and larger with the amounts not decreasing anytime soon.

Vice Chairman Bergami said that he agrees with the Chairman that the Board of Education presentation was excellent, and that based on what he saw there was a fair amount of focus on trying to cut costs and that the system was being run as well as could be expected. He added that he has an educator in his family, he has donated significant amounts of money to universities and he has started a 501C3 in the City, which so far has given away \$160,000 in scholarships to Milford students. He said his focus is education, however, he added that the taxpayers are dealing with all kinds of pressures – increased utility costs, natural gas, gasoline at the pumps, fuel oil, high taxes due to revaluation. He said that people have gone about as far as they can go and can't take another hit on taxes. He said his recommendation is an extremely difficult one, the most difficult one he's had to make in his 17 years on the Board, and he is recommending a 3.75% increase.

Mr. Fitzpatrick said he agrees with Vice Chairman Bergami for a 3.75% increase. He added that the 3.75% is an increase over last year's budget, it's not a decrease from last year, and that it's adding money to the budget. He added that there could

have been more reductions in the Board of Education budget. He said the school systems are very critical and that he has two children who are teachers in the public school system, one being a special education teacher. He said these are difficult times and that the taxpayers are extremely stretched in the community. He added that Milford is a middle class community, not a high-income town. He said we have to get realistic about our tax base. He added that fuel and oil prices just went up. He said that this is one area where we have a responsibility to hold the line on tax increases. He thinks that the Board of Education has more belt tightening to do and will be able to work with the 3.75% increase.

Mr. Lema apologized to the Board for being late. He then said that he understands the comments that were made by the other Board members and that it's hard to disagree with the sentiments expressed. He added that they have valid points and that the City is facing some financial challenges particularly with the rise in tax burdens. He said he does not think at this point he's prepared to support a new budget with a proposed 4% increase that the other Board members were discussing. He said his inclination is more toward the level service budget and his recommendation is for a 5.46% increase.

At 7:15 p.m. Vice Chairman Bergami and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to go into a short recess.

*The Board came out of recess at 7:27 p.m.*

Vice Chairman Bergami and Mr. Lema made and seconded a motion to approve the following Mayor's recommended budget as presented:

Department 4210 – Finance Department

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Bergami and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the following Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes:

Department 4219 – Personnel – Benefits Coordinator – Finance Board recommends zero; Subtotal \$236,486; Position Totals \$236,486. Account 4111 0000 Regular Wages – Finance Board recommends \$236,486; Subtotal \$249,413; Department Total \$257,213.

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Bergami and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the 4996 Education Operations budget with the following changes:

Finance Board recommends a Lump Sum Appropriation of \$80,836,621 or a 3.75% increase over the FY08 budget.

The motion carried 3 yes and 1 opposed (B. Lema).

Fund 12:

Vice Chairman Bergami and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the following Mayor's recommended budget as presented:

Department 4154 – Sewer Commission

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Bergami and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the following Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes:

Department 4426 – Wastewater - Account 4741 0001 Nitrogen Credits – Finance Board recommends \$312,500; Subtotal \$958,700; Department Total \$5,850,405.

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Bergami and Mr. Fitzgerald made and seconded a motion to approve the following Mayor's recommended budgets as presented:

Department 4790 – Benefit and Salary Reserves  
Department 4799 – Unallocated Contingency

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Bergami and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the following Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes:

Revenue:  
Sewer Fund – Sewer Use Fees – Finance Board recommends \$5,034,520;  
Revenues Total \$6,636,520.

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Bergami and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the following Mayor's recommended budget with the following changes:

Expenditures:  
Sewer Fund – Operational Expenses – Finance Board recommends \$964,550;  
General Operations Total \$6,636,520.

Motion carried unanimously.

Fund 36:

Vice Chairman Bergami and Mr. Lema made and seconded a motion to approve the following Mayor's recommended budget as presented:

Revenue:

Department 4157 – Harbor Management Commission

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Bergami and Mr. Lema made and seconded a motion to approve the following Mayor's recommended budget as presented:

Department 4157 – Marina Enterprise Revenue

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Bergami and Mr. Lema made and seconded a motion to approve the following Mayor's recommended budget as presented:

Expenditures:

Department 4157 – Harbor Management Commission

Motion carried unanimously.

Fund 18:

Vice Chairman Bergami and Mr. Lema made and seconded a motion to approve the following Mayor's recommended budgets as presented:

Department 4121 Golf Course – Expenditures

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Bergami and Mr. Lema made and seconded a motion to approve the following Mayor's recommended budgets as presented:

Department 4121 Golf Course – Revenues

General Fund Revenue:

Vice Chairman Bergami and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the following General Fund Revenues changes:

Department 0010 0000 General Fund Revenues – account 3838 0000 OTB  
Wagering Share - Finance Board recommends \$60,000; Subtotal \$4,384,377; Grand  
Total \$29,501,211.

Motion carried unanimously.

*The Board recessed at 7:40 p.m. and Chairman Skudlarek reconvened the meeting  
at 7:55 p.m.*

It was noted the Grand Total of Expenditures for the 2008-2009 budget is  
\$175,420,755.

Vice Chairman Bergami and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to  
approve the Fund 10 General Fund Summary of Expenditures in the amount of  
\$175,420,755 and 3111.0000 Current Taxes in the amount of \$145,319,544 as  
recommended by the Board of Finance; with the mill rate calculated at 28.63 mills as  
recommended by the Board of Finance. This is based on the Grand List of  
\$5,252,262,916. Motion carried unanimously.

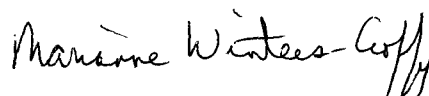
Vice Chairman Bergami and Mr. Lema made and seconded a motion to adjourn.

Chairman Skudlarek thanked everyone for their participation.

Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marianne Winters-Croffy".

Marianne Winters-Croffy  
Recording Secretary