

**BOARD OF FINANCE
PROPOSED BUDGET FY2019-2020 - FINAL VOTING SESSION
MARCH 18, 2019**

The Board of Finance held a budget deliberations session on Monday, March 18, 2019 in Conference Room B of the Parsons Complex. Chairman Lema announced the Board was out of recess and reconvened the budget deliberations meeting in public session at 5:34 p.m.

Board Members Present

Brian Lema, Chairman
Joseph J. Fitzpatrick, Jr.
Joseph Castignoli
Lauren Ranges
Scott Moulton

Also Present

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake
Peter Erodici, Finance Director

Chairman Lema stated tonight would be the final meeting on the budget for FY2019-2020 with the adoption of the city and education budgets, forwarding the recommended budget to the Board of Aldermen. He stated they would begin with Education Operations before moving onto the city budget.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked James Richetelli, Chief Operations Officer for the Board of Education for the cost for teachers in retirement. Mr. Richetelli explained the post retirement costs are for all Board of Education retirees based on collective bargaining agreements. Mr. Castignoli asked if the Board of Education anticipated a surplus of under \$1,000,000. Mr. Richetelli stated that was correct.

Mr. Castignoli and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's Proposed Budget for Acct. 1005 054796, Education Operations as follows: line item 4001 0000584001 Lump Sum Appropriations to read \$94,478,487 resulting in reduction of \$600,000 from the requested amount of \$95,078,487.

Ms. Ranges stated she disagreed with the motion and asked Mr. Castignoli how he came up with the reduced figure. Mr. Castignoli stated he believes there will be surplus as confirmed by the Board of Education. Ms. Ranges stated that the surplus goes to buildings and grounds. Mr. Castignoli stated he does not know that all the funds have been spent. Mayor Blake stated that the Board of Education for the last several years has presented a very lean and sensible budget. He stated the school budget has generally been less than a 2% increase and he is in support of the budget as presented. Mr. Castignoli stated that the Board of Aldermen has the power to restore the funds if they are reduced by the Board of Finance. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated he agrees that the Board of Education has done a good job, but enrollment is down and schools may need to be closed. He stated the Board must be responsible to the taxpayers and keep costs down. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated he feels the Board of Education needs to do a study as enrollment keeps going down and costs are going up. Chairman Lema stated he shares some of Mr. Fitzpatrick's views on enrollment, but he is reluctant to make significant cuts. He believes the City and the Board of Education as a whole should evaluate the need for schools.

Motion failed with Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Castignoli voting for the motion and Chairman Lema, Mr. Moulton and Ms. Ranges voting against the motion.

Ms. Ranges and Mr. Moulton made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's Proposed Budget for Acct. 1005 054796, Education Operations as follows: line item 4001 0000584001 Lump Sum Appropriations as presented in the amount of \$95,078,487.

Mr. Moulton stated he fundamentally agrees with the comments made by Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Castignoli that they has been a surplus, but he does not know how that has been allocated and does not believe this is the time to make a reduction. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated he disagrees and believes this is the time to make a reduction as there is a surplus. Chairman Lema stated the surplus does not carry over to the next year budget. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated the surplus is carried over as expenditure. He believes the budget is overstated. Chairman Lema asked what the budget increase was last year. Mr. Erodici stated last year's increase was 1.48% after approved by the Board of Aldermen.

Motion carried with Chairman Lema, Mr. Moulton and Ms. Ranges voting in favor and Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Castignoli voting against the motion.

Mr. Castignoli and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's Proposed Budget as presented excluding Acct. 1005 054131 Law Department and Acct. 0115 05998419 Milford Progress Inc.

Chairman stated he would like to note for the record that the Mayor and Department Heads did a great job in keeping the budgets flat.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Lema stated he would be recusing himself from voting on Acct. 1005 054131 Law Department as his law partner is the City Attorney and Acct. 0115 05998419 Milford Progress Inc. as he is a member of Milford Progress. He turned the meeting over to Vice Chairman Fitzpatrick.

Mr. Castignoli and Ms. Ranges made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's Proposed Budget for Acct. 1005 054131 Law Department as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Moulton stated he would be recusing himself from voting on Acct. 0115 05998419 Milford Progress Inc. as he is a member of Milford Progress

Mr. Castignoli and Ms. Ranges made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's Proposed Budget for Acct. 0115 05998419 Milford Progress Inc. as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Lema resumed as chair.

Mr. Castignoli and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's Proposed Budget for Acct. 2812 124000 Sewer Fund Revenues and Expenditures, Acct. 2812 124154 Sewer Commission, Acct. 2812 128226 Wastewater, Acct. 2812 12998390 Benefit and Salary Reserves and Acct. 2812 12998999 Unallocated Contingency as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Castignoli and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's Proposed Budget for Acct. 0036 364157 Harbor Management Commission Revenues and Expenditures, Acct. 6036 Marina Enterprise Revenue, and Acct. 6036 364157 Harbor Commission as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Castignoli and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's Proposed Budget for Acct. 6018 184121 Golf Course Revenue and Expenditures as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Castignoli and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to approve the Proposed Budget for Acct. 1005 054000 General Fund Revenue, excluding Current Taxes (pg. 4). Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Lema stated the Board would stand in recess to allow the Finance Director time to calculate the final totals. The Board recessed at 6:05 p.m.

Chairman Lema reconvened the Board in public session at 6:10 p.m.

Ms. Ranges and Mr. Moulton made and seconded a motion to approve Acct. 1005 054000, Line Item 413111 Current Taxes to read \$177,206,616 for a new Total Revenue of \$216,528,371, and setting the mil rate at 27.68 as recommended by the Finance Director. Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business to discuss, Mr. Castignoli and Mr. Fitzpatrick made and seconded a motion to adjourn the budget deliberation sessions for fiscal year 2019-2020. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Toni Jo Weeks
Recording Secretary