

**BOARD OF FINANCE
BUDGET HEARINGS - PROPOSED BUDGET FY 2020-2021
FEBRUARY 24, 2020**

The Board of Finance held a budget deliberations session on Monday, February 24, 2020 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 5:31 p.m.

Board Members Present

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

Also Present

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake
Peter Erodici, Finance Director

(4459) Veterans, Ceremony & Parade Commission

Tom Flowers, Chairman stated other supplies and charges line item is for flags and wreaths placed twice a year. He further stated the request has remained the same since 2013. Mr. Flowers commented that secretarial fees are for a recording secretary at meetings.

(4520) Recreation

Chairman Lema inquired about the condition of the skate park. Paul Piscitelli, Recreation Director, commented that it is in good condition with a new surface and sees gets a high volume of usage. Mr. Ranges asked the of summer employees. Mr. Piscitelli stated with summer camps, beaches and lifeguards there are approximately 200 summer employees. Mr. Fitzpatrick asked why the Seasonal account has increased. Mr. Piscitelli stated the increase is due to minimum wage increasing. He further commented that minimum wage has increased 69% with the Seasonal account increasing only 13%.

(4153) Park & Recreation Commission

None

(4111) Board of Aldermen

None

(4116) MGAT

Kara Flannery, Chairman MGAT, stated the request is similar to prior year budgets. Mr. Fitzpatrick asked what channels are paid for by the City. Ms. Flannery stated channel 78 for Board of Education programming and channel 79 for City programming. Mayor Blake commented that all programming is funded through this commission and the largest funding source is a grant through Cable Area 2 of

approximately \$30,000. Mr. Fitzpatrick asked why channel 79 has not been working. Ms. Flannery stated there had been transmission issues but believe they are all worked out now. Ms. Flannery also mentioned viewers can watch on YouTube at MGATEDU and MGATCity.

(4141) Board of Finance

None

(4146) Flood & Erosion Board

None

(4147) Tree Commission

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if the Commission is in charge of new trees. Mayor Blake stated the Commission is in charge of all trees and works with Public Works and the Tree Warden. Mayor Blake provided information on the plan to plant 200 trees this coming year.

(4410) Health Department

Deepa Joseph, Health Director, provided handouts. She stated the budget request is flat this year. Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if all positions are filled. Ms. Joseph stated there is one secretarial vacancy. Mr. Arnold asked the difference in Sanitarian II position. Ms. Joseph explained that is based on step increased per the collective bargaining agreement.

(4798) Education Health Services/School Nurses

Mr. Ranges asked if all positions are filled. Ms. Joseph stated they are all currently filled. Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if there is a surplus at the end of the year. Ms. Joseph stated there would not be a surplus unless there was a vacancy. Mr. Arnold asked for an explanation of the seasonal temporary account. Mr. Joseph stated that line is for health clerks at each high school and one health clerk that floats between the middle schools. She further stated the increase is due to minimum wage going up. Mr. Joseph commented that the health clerks work 19 hours week and only during the academic school year. Mr. Moulton asked if the lead nurse sees students. Ms. Joseph stated the lead nurse is assigned to a school and that the 12 month nurse works all year due to a nurse being staffed at Camp Happiness

(4121) Health Services

None

(4417) Milford HSD Agency

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if the state contributes to the energy program. Ms. Joseph stated the City's function is to take applications and it is funded through TEAM. Mr. Arnold asked for an explanation of the department. Ms. Joseph stated the department was formerly known as Human Resource

Development and she provided a brief summary of the department's functions. Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if HSD is involved with homelessness. Ms. Joseph stated they sit on the taskforce where they meet to discuss short- and long-term strategies for homelessness.

(8115) Veterans Grave Preservation Commission

Chairman Lema asked if this is also part of the veteran flag program. Mayor Blake stated they work together, and this commission provides for ceremonies within the cemeteries. He also stated they Commission will bank its money until there is enough to do a large project.

(8419) Milford Progress

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if MPI was doing much work at this time. Chairman Lema stated they are in transition with a new board starting.

(8118) Historic District Commission

(8120) Historic District Commission 2

Mr. Arnold asked for an explanation of the function of the historic district commissions. Mayor Blake provided a brief history on the formation and work performed by the commissions.

(8422) Cemetery Association

Mr. Arnold asked how this differs from Veterans Grave Preservation Commission. Mayor Blake stated they work together, but the Cemetery Association oversee the cemeteries in the City. Mr. Fitzpatrick asked where other funding comes from. Mayor Blake stated some funding would be from purchasing of plots.

(8411) Borough of Woodmont

Christopher Schmeisser stated funding is requested at the same level. He further stated that funds are being used efficiently. Mr. Schmeisser stated with little snow this year they are hoping to do some paving and catch basin work. He further commented that the Borough Hall is completed and is active. Ms. Schmeisser stated the flagpole on signal rock will be replaced next week. Ms. Ranges asked who is responsible for maintaining the Borough Hall. Mr. Schmeisser stated the hall is maintained with Borough funds not supplied by the City. He stated that Borough taxes pay for a police officer in the summer and the hall. Mr. Moulton asked what the Borough charges for rental. Mr. Schmeisser stated it approximately \$200.

(8426) Boys & Girls Club

Megan Altomare, Executive Director, provided a handout. She stated they are requesting a slight increase because they are serving more children with an increase of 100 from last year. Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about space. Ms. Altomare stated the Board of Education provided more space at Simon Lake allowing the club to serve more children. Mr. Fitzpatrick asked how the club acquires members. Ms. Altomare stated through staff and Board of Directors. She also commented that they try to keep dues affordable. Ms. Altomare provided a brief summary of programming and hours of operation. She also provided information on transportation to the club. Mr. Ranges asked if transportation is provided from all schools. Ms. Altomare stated all but two schools

have transportation and they are hoping all schools will soon. Ms. Ranges asked about fundraising. Ms. Altomare provided a summary of the fundraising efforts.

Chairman Lema stated the Board would stand in recess until March 4, 2020. The Board recessed at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Toni Jo Weeks", written over a horizontal line.

Toni Jo Weeks
Recording Secretary