

To: The Honorable Board of Finance
From: Benjamin G. Blake, Mayor
Date: January 20, 2012
Subject: GENERAL BUDGET for the fiscal year from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013.

In accordance with Article VI, Section 1 of the Charter of the City of Milford, I respectfully submit, herewith, the general government portion of the City budget for fiscal year 2012-2013.

This proposed budget accomplishes many goals. It ensures that our police, fire, health, and other public safety departments remain among the finest in the nation. This budget funds our network of social services which protect the most vulnerable of our citizens. It maintains our public works and invests in our fundamental infrastructure.

At the same time, this budget recognizes that in these austere times we are confronted by fiscal challenges that demand we find ways to provide better, more effective and efficient services. To this end, our City Department heads have identified efficiencies to further streamline the business of Milford. While scaling back operational costs, our departments have committed to maintaining City services at peak performances.

This budget's modest uptick can be attributed to those contractual obligations Milford is required to absorb. These unavoidable responsibilities include wage adjustments and the increase in contributions necessary to properly fund our debt services and our health and workers' compensation insurance accounts.

In the end, "Expenses" is the portion of the budget for which the City has most control, and the "Revenues" aspect is always more difficult to contain. In light of our state leaders' recent assurances to keep existing municipal funding level and hold cities and towns harmless, we remain hopeful that State funding will not diminish. Furthermore, we are optimistic that our Grand List will reflect our community's stability. Given these revenue projections, this proposed budget does not dip into the "rainy day" reserve fund, and therefore allows Milford to retain its healthy Fund Reserve.

This budget focuses on preserving our core City services while meeting our obligations to taxpayers. I am proud of Milford's exceptional government and believe this budget keeps Milford on a prudent path. I hope you share the priorities reflected in this Mayor's Proposal and respectfully request your consideration.