

Town of Milford  
Budget Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes of November 2, 2011

Present: Matt Lydon, Rose Evans, Paul Burkhardt, Bert Becker, Karen Mitchell, Rod Watkins, Jim Roccio

Absent: Peggy Seward, Deanna Carter

Guests: Guy Scaife, Bruce Dickerson, Mike McInerney

Business: Matt Lydon, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

IT - Bruce Dickerson

Bruce presented his proposed 2012 budget. He described the addition of a line item for consulting which is due to the addition of library IT support that used to be done by an outside resource. Bruce also reiterated the 75k moved out of his budget and more appropriately under Bill Parkers budget for Community Development. Bruce also described how they are in the process of installing virtual servers for the town. As far as software support, there have been modules added over the last year, but in the near future he will be forced to move database from INFORMIX (IBM) to SQL (MSFT). There are also going to be VISION appraisal software updates as well as updating of the phone system at the library which is extremely outdated.

Community Media - Mike McInerney

Mike presented his proposed 2012 budget and discussed the migrating of the old town website to the new one for better services. The old one is still operating, but will be retired soon.

He also discussed the revolving fund (roughly 120K/year) for cable noting that the traffic to the site can be tracked and the top two hits to the site are generally the assessing dept. to get to GIS followed by HR. We have two cable channels and are working currently with Comcast to turn on a third. The first is for school (sports, school board, etc.), the second is for town (government meetings, delib. council, etc.) and the third would be for public use.

### Town Administrator - Guy Scaife

Guy spoke briefly about the revolving fund from Commun. Media. He stated that the funds are collected from the Comcast bills of each customer in town equal to 3% of each bill which is then put aside and sent to the town for the revolving fund. The fund is to help build a nest egg to use towards capital requirements down the road.

General Budget - Regarding the 90K issue mentioned in previous minutes, the meeting the state had with Guy was canceled as the State feels they have made a sizable error and are hoping to have it cleared up soon. This would reduce the overall town budget increase from 3.8% to 3.0%. Also, the co-pay option on healthcare would reduce the budget increase even more to be in the high two's.

The unexpected October snowstorm - the governor has filed with the fed. and this may help with some of the costs. At the height of the storm, 85% of Milford was without power. The town lost 3 printer/copiers when surges happened in the transfer to the generators regardless of the surge protectors.

Tax Rate/Revaluation - There is a State mandated revaluation every 5 years so that it is like starting fresh with everyone regardless of the ups and downs of each neighborhood. As a general rule, roughly 1/3 is up, 1/3 is down and 1/3 stays the same when this is done. If there was no revaluation, all tax payers would have seen a modest increase. They are looking at a 2.4% increase (made up of 4 parts) with all properties producing an average depreciation of 23%. As a comparison, the 2001 revaluation produced an average appreciation of 52%. As the rate moves with the revaluation, it is more important to look at the dollars out on the other end than the taxes vs. the property assessment. The law that governs assessing is based on being equitable, ie. those who went down less carry more weight of the taxes and visa-versa.

The revaluation data was based on sales data in a two year window. Looking at them all not inclusive of foreclosures as they are not "qualified sales" and are lower due to circumstance. Most commercial/industrial is assessed by an outside vendor that is more familiar with the process for these types buildings, etc. All information regarding assessments is available through

the Right to Know Law and any property can be seen through GIS and property cards.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Submitted by Karen Mitchell and approved at 11/9/11 meeting.