

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
City Council of the City of Bath, Maine
Wednesday, May 23, 2012 5:00 PM
Bath City Hall Auditorium

Councilors Present: Brackett, Merrill, Paulhus, Rogers, Wyman, Eosco, Pagurko, Winglass and Chairman Sinclair

PUBLIC HEARING - City of Bath 2012-2013 Combined Budget

Chairman Sinclair called the Hearing to order at 5:00 PM. He welcomed everyone.

City Manager William Giroux began his presentation with a history of the budget deliberation process and then gave an overview of the Combined City Budget. He stated the entire City Budget would come in with a 1.97% tax increase and with the County and RSU #1 Budgets the combined rate would be 5.16%.

COMBINED CITY, LANDFILL, SEWER AND CAPITAL RESERVE
2012-2013

General Fund	\$9,277,847
Landfill Fund	\$1,840,050
Sewer Fund	\$2,081,110
City Capital (excluding Bonded)	\$808,391
Overlay	\$50,000
Total Combined	\$14,787,678

Stanley Bruce Fossett of 9 Pine Hill Drive spoke to Council regarding the need for money in the budget to address the flooding issues at the Pine Hill Condominiums.

Marc Wood of 305 North Bath Road read a letter from the Bath Firefighters Local 1611. *A copy of this letter is on file in the Council Agenda notebook in the Bath City Clerk's Office under May 2012.* Mr. Wood stated that the elimination of Rescue 4 with its bariatric stretcher (used for patients in excess of 500 pounds) would drastically increase response time to a call and could cause serious safety concerns for both the patients and firefighters. He asked Council to reconsider the elimination of this vehicle.

Michael Wischkaemper of 17 York Street asked for an explanation as to why the line for employee benefits had increased so drastically.

Finance Director Juli Millett explained this increase in the budget line was due to having the City recently acquiring the Retirement Account monies from the Maine Public Employees Retirement System. Ms. Millett stated that before the payment of retirement tax went through the MPERS and now it has to be shown in the budget line item.

Norman Kenney, a retired Fire Chief for Bath, spoke to Council asking them to reconsider eliminating the Call Force for the Fire Department citing the 4 to 5 firefighters on duty at one time in the Fire Station to respond to a fire would promote the chances for injuries to the firefighters due to lack of help on scene, residents' house insurance would go up and firefighters' morale would suffer.

Rabyrne Hutton of 195 High Street spoke in support of a Fire Call Force and the third ambulance.

Richard Walker of 87 Bedford Street, a Call Force Firefighter, explained that he receives training with the West Fire Department, not through Bath Fire Department, and that he had been told by Mr. Giroux the Call Force would not be done away with.

Jacqueline Dwinal of 1552 Washington Street asked why the City felt it was necessary to add an accountant position when the City already has a Finance Director.

City Manager William Giroux explained that the person in this position now was being put in the Treasurer's Office as there is a vacancy there and the new person would be filling their position and therefore there was not a new position being added. He stated the only change that would be occurring is a few hours being added to the Treasurer's Office position.

Ms. Dwinal commented how pleased she was with the nice road work that had been done in her area.

Sue Whittaker of Woolwich spoke to Council regarding ADA accessibility issues with various sidewalks throughout the City and how pleased she was with how the City is accomplishing these improvements.

Seeing no other comments or questions, Chairman Sinclair closed the Public Hearing at 5:46 PM.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary J. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and "J".

Mary J. White, City Clerk

Please note: These minutes are not recorded verbatim. A tape recording of the meeting is available for review in the City Clerk's Office during regular business hours.