

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
City Council of the City of Bath, Maine
Wednesday, May 26, 1999 7:00 PM
City Hall Auditorium, Bath City Hall

Present: Councilors Williams, James, Blake, Wyman, Hayden, Tibbetts, Rogers, Tainter and Chairman Hall

Also Present: City Manager Bubier and City Clerk White

Chairman Hall called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

I. PUBLIC HEARING - City of Bath 1999-2000 Combined Budget

City Manager Bubier began the Public Hearing with a presentation of an overview of the Combined Budget. The following is a excerpt of the overview: (a complete copy of the overview is included in the agenda materials for the 5/26/99 meeting)

COMBINED CITY, SCHOOL, SEWER AND CAPITAL RESERVE COMPARISON

	FY 1999	FY 2000	\$ Variation	% Variation
School	\$12,802,383	\$13,358,718	\$556,335	4.35%
City	\$8,054,651	\$8,389,940	\$335,289	4.16%
Sewer Utility	\$1,515,000	\$1,604,882	\$89,882	5.93%
Capital Reserve	\$902,000	\$994,500	\$92,500	10.25%
Totals Combined	\$23,274,034	\$24,348,040	\$1,074,006	4.61%

Mr. Bubier stated the following were the reasons for the increases in the City Budget:

- Cable PEG (new program)
- Elections (3 versus 1 in 1999)
- Employee Benefits
- Forestry (new program)

The City Manager then went on to the City's Capital Budget. Some of the increases here are due to equipment replacement in the various departments. The most interesting request is one made jointly by the Public Works, Recreation and Cemeteries and Parks departments for a mower/sidewalk plow.

The next to address the Council was the Superintendent of Schools, David Wallace. He stated that the school budget would be up 3.3%. There is a request for \$155,000 due to capital improvements. Mr. Wallace listed the following reasons for this request:

- new bus
- ADA issues in the school system
- air quality and waterproofing concerning the Huse School
- salaries for additional staff

The major reason for the increases in total budget is for salary increases and benefits for all school department employees.

City Manager Bubier then went over the Sewer Utility Budget. This has an increase of about \$164,000 over the previous year but will not mean there has to be a sewer rate increase. The major cause of this

increase was due to the capital portion resulting from the need to do extensive work on the sewer lines through the City in the near future. Mr. Bubier stated that the major point of the proposal was the recommendation that the tax rate increase from 20.60 to 21.10.

Councilor Rogers asked if anything had happened in the Legislature since Mr. Wallace had last met with the Council that could change their request.

Mr. Wallace stated that nothing had happened at this time, but there were numerous legislative changes daily. Until they hear differently, they still have to operate on the present legislation that is in place.

Mr. Hoey from the Portland Press Herald asked Mr. Bubier how they got the tax rate down from 21.60 on May 5, 1999 to 21.10 today .

City Manager Bubier stated that the 21.10 is based on the Manager's suggested budget.

Chairman Hall explained that this public hearing is the end of the information gathering stage of the process and that the Council will begin by going back into the budget and the Councilors will get a chance to make any additions or deletions to the budget that they deem necessary. This part of the process will begin on June 1, 1999 at 5:00 PM. He hoped the school would be able to have their numbers ready to plug into their budget soon. In accordance with the City Charter, the school appropriations have to be passed by June 14 and the combined budget has to be passed by June 27.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM

Respectfully submitted:

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.