

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
City Council of the City of Bath, Maine
Wednesday, May 23, 2000 5:30 PM
Fisher-Mitchell School

Present: Councilors Banks, James, Blake, Wyman, Hayden, Tibbetts, Reed and Chairman Hall

Absent: Rogers

Chairman Hall called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.

I. PUBLIC HEARING - City of Bath 2001-2002 Combined Budget

Thomas MacDonald, Chairman of the Board of Education began the Hearing by giving an overview of the School Budget. Mr. MacDonald stated that the school budget would be up 5.9%, which is equivalent to \$825,000. He listed the following reasons for this increase:

- Middle School Interest
- Salaries/Benefits Increase
- New programs such as All Day Kindergarten and broadening of the Foreign Language Offerings

The following is a list of some of the questions/issues regarding the School Budget that were brought up during the hearing:

Doris Ford of Whiskeag Road stated that she had observed that the percentage of boys in the top 10% of area seniors was very low and asked what the School Department planned to do about it.

Robert Ford of Whiskeag Road noted that the School Budget was over the 6% cap asked how that was possible.

Dorothy McKenna of Redlon Road asked why debt service was under operating budget.

Mary Ellen Bell of Middle Street spoke in favor of the budget and asked for clarification of the All Day Kindergarten and additional foreign language courses.

Charles Turcotte of Office Drive stated that the spending limitation was not a spending cap.

John Bubier, City Manager, then presented an overview of the City Budget. He stated that the budget was increased by 1.8% this year. Mr. Bubier cited the following reasons for the increase:

- County Tax
- Increase in Health Insurance
- Improvements for reuse of the Old YMCA
- Mandatory Landfill Testing

He said the tax rate would increase to \$22.30/\$1,000, which would result in a \$130.00 increase per average household in taxes.

The following is a list of some of the questions/issues regarding the Budget that were brought up during the hearing:

Francis Dillon of West Chops Point Road asked if the City was investigating regional services instead of having the burden on the City. Mr. Dillon asked if there were a known asbestos problem at the old YMCA.

Charles Turcotte of Office Drive asked questions regarding the privatization of the Fire and Police Departments. Mr. Turcotte stated that he supported the spending limitation.

Doris Ford of Whiskeag Road asked about the feasibility of having the landfill accessible to Bath residents only.

Dorothy McKenna of Redlon Road asked if all Council Workshops could be televised.

Vicki Moriarty of High Street stated that she was in support of the School Budget and was in favor of any efforts to bring safe places for the youth of Bath to hang out.

Lisa Willey of Maple Street asked what the City government was doing to bring more businesses into the City.

There was a brief discussion of use of schools for the YMCA childcare program.

Diane McCain, Director of the Bailey Evening School, introduced the following people who spoke in favor of the Bailey Evening School program and gave support to the Evening School's budget request: Jimmy Anderson and Carol Smith – Students; Manny Sargent – Instructor; Louisa Green and Cynthia Lambert – Read with Me Program; Glenis Elliott – Literacy Volunteers.

Chairman Hall closed the Public Hearing at 7:33PM.

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.