

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
City Council of the City of Bath, Maine
Wednesday, May 18, 2005 6:00 PM
Bath City Hall Auditorium

Present: Chairman Winglass, Councilors Hinds, Quimby, Blake, Wyman, Hart, Daigle, Pagurko, Mitchell

Chairman Winglass called the Hearing to order at 6:00 PM.

PUBLIC HEARING - City of Bath 2005-2006 Combined Budget

Robert Connors, Acting Superintendent, gave an overview of the School Budget components. Mr. Connors stated that the school budget would be up 4.08%. Areas of the budget contributing to the increase are payroll and benefits. He listed the following need items that are not addressed in the present budget:

- New teaching positions
- Paving of parking areas at the schools
- Nurse position
- Technology Upgrades
- No Capital Spending

John Bubier, City Manager, began his presentation with an explanation of the re-evaluation process and how it relates to the tax rate. Mr. Bubier stated that because of the re-evaluation and the County budget not being finalized the tax rate could not be set. He gave a detailed overview of the Combined City Budget.

COMBINED CITY, SCHOOL, SEWER AND CAPITAL RESERVE COMPARISON
2005-2006

School Operations	\$16,791,760
City Operations	9,054,571
County	1,396,306
Sewer Utility	1,770,185
School Capital	0
City Capital (excluding Bonded)	1,681,609
Total Combined	\$30,694,431

The City Manager stated the there were three criteria this budget had to be put through: EPS, State Spending Cap and the Local Spending Cap. He suggested that the public attend the County Budget meetings and express their views on that budget.

Chairman Winglass explained the continuing Budget process and the timeline it would be completed under.

Paul Johnson of the Board of Education asked that the Council reconsider giving the Schools the money needed to address the loss of revenue due to children leaving the system, at risk kids and technology needs.

Kimberly Becker of the Board of Education asked if there was any hope of getting an extra teacher at Dike-Newell School, teacher support for special needs kids and aid for the technology program.

John Bubier explained that due to the State and Local Spending Caps, there would have to be other avenues of funding explored.

There was a brief discussion regarding the County Budget relating to jail costs.

John Marsh of 10 Garden Street asked how that the County Budget is related to the Local Spending Cap.

Suzette Perkins of the Patten Free Library Board asked what the appropriation for the Library might be this year.

Chairman Winglass stated that it was too soon to know how much funding the Library would be receiving until the Council had finished their deliberations over the next couple of weeks.

Seeing no other comments or questions, Chairman Winglass closed the Public Hearing at 7:10 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.