

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
City Council of the City of Bath, Maine
Wednesday, May 17, 2006 6:00 PM
Bath City Hall Auditorium

Present: Chairman Wyman, Councilors Hinds, Omo, Quimby, Blake, Hart, Verville, Winglass

PUBLIC HEARING - City of Bath 2006-2007 Combined Budget

Chairman Wyman called the Hearing to order at 6:00 PM. He welcomed everyone and introduced Maggie Allen, Chairperson of the Board of Education.

Ms. Allen stated she was impressed by how the public has looked over the budget diligently and thanked Ms. Witham for her efforts in bringing forth the budget. She introduced Martha Witham, Superintendent of Schools.

Martha Witham gave an overview of the School Budget components. Ms. Witham stated that the school budget amount that was in the handout was wrong and more cuts had been made putting the increase at 2.69% instead of the 4.19%. She stated the removal of the Capital Improvement portion from the Budget helped with bringing down the total cost. She explained the cuts to the Budget were done so that they would have the least impact on the students and programs as possible.

Chairman Wyman introduced City Manager William Giroux. Mr. Giroux began his presentation with an overview of the Combined City Budget.

COMBINED CITY, SCHOOL, SEWER AND CAPITAL RESERVE COMPARISON
2006-2007

School Operations	\$17,391,300
City Operations	9,232,356
County	1,963,000
Sewer Utility	1,830,574
School Capital	0
City Capital (excluding Bonded)	592,829
Total Combined	\$31,010,059

Mr. Giroux explained that the expenditure cap mainly impacts the capital spending portion. He stated that the only way to fund the capital is through bonding. Mr. Giroux said the mil-rate would possibly be at 1.6% to 1.7%.

Some concerns raised by the public were as follows:

- Property tax rate increases
- County expenditures

- Decrease in the quality of education being provided
- Decrease in enrollment
- School reconfiguration

Seeing no other comments or questions, Chairman Wyman closed the Public Hearing at 7:20 PM.

Attest:

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.