

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
City Council of the City of Bath, Maine
Wednesday, May 16, 2007 6:00 PM
Bath City Hall Auditorium

Present: Chairman Wyman, Councilors Hinds, Omo, Mulligan, Rogers, Eosco, Verville, Winglass

PUBLIC HEARING - City of Bath 2007-2008 Combined Budget

Chairman Wyman called the Hearing to order at 6:00 PM. He welcomed everyone and introduced William Shuttleworth, Superintendent of Schools.

Mr. Shuttleworth stated that they had worked very hard to stay within the spending cap limit. Due to the increase in student numbers at the high school, a ½ day Art class, ½ day Social Studies and ½ day Math class were been added. There were monies added to fund school repairs and buy athletic department supplies. Mr. Shuttleworth said they had been asked to cut an additional \$100,000 from the budget and that will be happening. The School Board had asked that a music position be reinstated. By shifting the custodial service to the private sector, this will be saving a significant amount of money. Some other personnel cuts were some Ed Techs, clerical staff and a school resource officer.

Chairman Wyman introduced City Manager William Giroux. Mr. Giroux began his presentation with an overview of the Combined City Budget. He stated the entire combined budget was originally proposed to come in at a 1.91% increase but looks like it will come in at a 1.5% increase. He explained that the issues on the revenue side of the budget with State revenue sharing and excise taxes down will cause a revenue shortfall, and there will not be an expenditure cap issue this year. Mr. Giroux pointed out that with all the trimming of the budget on the City and School sides, the proposed tax increase should be less than 5%. He conclude that the budget does include some money in the overlay account that will lapse into surplus and start to build the City’s surplus account back up.

COMBINED CITY, SCHOOL, SEWER AND CAPITAL RESERVE COMPARISON
2007-2008

School Operations	\$17,654,303
City Operations	\$9,477,870
County	\$1,755,130
Sewer Utility	\$1,887,477
School Capital	-0-
City Capital (excluding Bonded)	\$367,215
Total Combined	\$31,141,995

Some concerns raised by the public were as follows:

- Property tax rate increases
- Recreation and Parks Departments merger

Seeing no other comments or questions, Chairman Wyman closed the Public Hearing at 6:20 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.