

**BRUNSWICK TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**1997-98 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING**  
**June 5, 1997 7:00 P.M.**  
**MUNICIPAL MEETING ROOM**  
**OLD BRUNSWICK HIGH SCHOOL**  
**7:00 P.M.**

Chair McCausland called the meeting to order and asked for the Pledge to the Flag.

**Councilors Present:** Chair Stephen McCausland, Michael Feldman, Eleanor Swanson, Robert Galloupe, Leon Laffely, Clement Wilson, Faith Moll, Ervin Snyder and David Gleason.

**School Board Members Present:** Joanne Olson; Robyn McCausland; James Grant; Ralph Tucker; Jeff Morse.

**Others Present:** Donald Gerrish, Town Manager; James Ashe, Superintendent of Schools; Deborah Cabana, Town Clerk; Several Department Heads and School Teachers; a few citizens, members of the press, and Casco Cable TV.

Town Manager Gerrish gave a brief overview of the municipal budget. The proposed budget projects a three percent tax increase for the community. This is a reduction of what was originally proposed by both the school and town of a 6.1 percent tax increase. There is an estimate of \$11,000,000 of new valuation which helped reduce the property taxes. Mr. Gerrish hoped for a budget which met the citizen's needs as well as addressing concerns expressed by the Council and staff. He noted that priorities this year are safety in the downtown area, the new bike path, the Bay Bridge wetlands area, Sawyer Park and the boat launching facility.

Joanne Olson, Chair of School Board, noted that the major increase in the school budget is due to the increase in student enrollment.

James Ashe, Superintendent of Schools, gave a brief overview of the school budget. A copy of his comments are attached to the official minutes.

Chair McCausland described the process to be used for the public hearing.

The public hearing opened at 7:28 p.m.

*Walter Kerr of Willow Grove Road* - questioned the necessity of the "Lacrosse" program. It was his opinion that the retired people in the community are being nibbled to death.

*Jan Wilk, Co-chair of the campaign for the Curtis Memorial Library* - asked the Council to reconsider the modest request to fund Sunday hours and increase Thursday evening hours.

*Eddie Palmer* - asked questions for clarification about the budget.

*Jaime R. Reatiraza* - questioned the budget procedure. It was his opinion that the initial request is always much higher than the final presentation. He asked why the request was not initially three percent if this is the amount of increase we ultimately need.

*Patricia Jeffrey* - felt that three percent increase in the budget was too high. She further suggested that the money budgeted for the park ranger be given to the Curtis Memorial Library.

The public hearing closed at 8:00 p.m.

**Councilor Feldman moved, Councilor Laffely seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with nine (9) yeas. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.**

\*The Council adjourned their public hearing and entered into a workshop session to receive information from the Town Manager and School Superintendent on the 1997-98 Budget.

*PLEASE NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE NOT VERBATIM. A TAPE RECORDING OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE AT THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS.*

Deborah S. Cabana  
Town Clerk  
June 13, 1997

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Date of approval

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Council Chair