



James Ashe, Superintendent of Schools, gave a brief overview of the school budget. He noted that the budget is up for local appropriations by 3.15 % (which is approximately \$365,000 more than requested last year). The total budget is just under 22 million dollars. Mr. Ashe outlined proposed reductions of \$110,000 which would keep the school budget within the projected 1.5% increase. A copy of this proposal will be attached to the official minutes.

Mr. Ashe is on the Board of Directors of the New England Superintendents Association. He made an award presentation to Manager Gerrish, on behalf of the Association, recognizing Mr. Gerrish's contributions to public education.

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

The public hearing opened at 7:35 p.m.

*Rob Jarratt of 3 Meadowbrook Road* - spoke on behalf of the Brunswick Area Arts & Cultural Alliance. He noted that the proposed budgeted amount for this organization is \$5,000. He requested that the Council consider increasing the amount, as originally requested by the Alliance, to \$10,000.

*Nancy Heiser of 25 Hemlock Road* - spoke in favor of the Brunswick Area Arts & Cultural Alliance and asked that the Council increase their budgeted amount to \$10,000.

*Brad Johansen of 28 East Marginal Road* - supported the schools and town and would gladly support the 1.5% increase in the proposed budget.

*Peter Simmons of 39 Columbia Ave.* - is an arts advocate and requested that the Council consider adding the additional \$5,000 for B.A.A.C.A.

*Laura Brann of 11 School Street* - supported the additional proposed staff for the Fire Department, however, felt the Council should support a zero percent tax increase.

*Robert Coffin of 13 Coffin Street* - expressed concern with a police officer being placed in the school. He felt, as well, that each grave site of veterans should be marked with a flag, rather than a single flag for each cemetery.

The Public Hearing closed at 8:00 p.m.

Councilor Feldman suggested the Town Manager consider the additional \$5,000 for the Arts and Cultural Alliance if he could remain within the 1.5% proposed budget increase.

Councilor Wilson did not want to "tie" the Town Manager's hands by instructing him to find the additional \$5,000 for the Alliance.

Councilor Moll supports the Alliance, however, wants to remain at the proposed 1.5% budget increase. She supports the Town Manager's proposal and would like to look carefully next year at a substantial commitment to this group, based on how much the Alliance helps in attracting new individuals to the community.

Councilor Lowe agreed with Councilor Moll and would like to actively pursue additional support for this organization.

Chair McCausland stated that the Council made an informal decision earlier this week that the budget increase would be a 1.5%. Although he had advocated earlier that he would like to see a zero tax increase, this proposed budget is the lowest tax in the last ten years. Part of government is compromise, which leads to accomplishment, therefore, he would be supporting the 1.5% tax increase. He felt the proposed budget will continue to do what citizens are asking for.

Chair McCausland adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

*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  
May 19, 2011

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Date of approval

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Council Chair