



The current Brunswick town budget is \$61,475,961. As the chart shows, 61% of that pie is the School Budget that totals \$37,695,535. The vast majority of the School Budget, \$30,000,000, is for salaries and benefits. That amount is 80% of the School Budget, and almost 50% of the overall town budget.

So what is left after all that pie filling is eaten? Not much, mostly crust. Your roads and other minor unnecessary services get 6%. Public Safety, police and fire, eats up a whopping 14%. Everything else gets the rest of the crust for a total of 19%.

For every dollar spent on the school budget side, either for the annual budget and its regular increases, or for the debt for a huge school bond of \$28,000,000, revenue has to come from somewhere. If it doesn't come from state funds, it will come from higher taxes or from deductions on the municipal side of the budget.

Our infrastructure and town buildings are deteriorating day by day. Just look at your 1.2 million dollar town hall you inherited. It already shows signs of wear inside and out. The roads are awful in many areas. The town landfill will be going away. The 100-year-old central fire station is abysmal.

These issues are a mirror of the same neglect the town has exhibited with the school buildings themselves. Even if the town finally wakes up and allocates money for repairs to existing schools, where is that money coming from? What makes anyone think that a new school will not suffer the same fate in a few short years, assuming the design is perfect from the beginning.

If you think, for a moment, your average tax increases in the next few years will be 3-5%, you are kidding yourselves. In the first year of any school bond payment, the increase will likely be 7-10%. If the town government doesn't wake up very soon, Brunswick will not be that idyllic affordable town pictured in the magazines and on their web site. This is the real world.