

The Claremont City Council held a budget meeting on Tuesday, November 27, 2007, in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Members of the Council present were:

Deborah Cutts  
Mayor Scott Pope  
Andrew Austin (Late)  
William Regan, III  
Ralph Swift

Absent:

Michael Prozzo, Jr.

Also present were:

Guy Santagate, City Manager  
Jane Taylor, City Solicitor  
Mary Walter, Finance Director

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pope at 6:33 p.m.

#### **MAYOR'S NOTES – PLAQUE PRESENTATION(S)**

Mayor Pope presented a plaque to James Neilsen recognizing his 9 years of dedicated service on the Claremont City Council from 1998 to 2007. Mr. Neilsen said he was happy to be on the Council when Mr. Santagate was hired and the results speak for themselves. He said it was a pleasure serving the city.

#### **MOTION TO ENDORSE NEW COMMUNITY CENTER FACILITY FUNDING**

Mr. Santagate said a couple of years ago, the skepticism for building a community center was great, but there is a big change going on and the community center is a big piece of that development effort that we should make. It will bring business and improvement to the community. He is confident it will be constructed, because a strong institution has pledged a major cash donation to the community center effort. He is not at liberty to say who that entity is, but it will be publicly announced shortly by them. The donation amount is \$3 million cash. In addition, there are other assets that will be named by the institution. This jump start (catalyst) along with the \$1 million already pledged by the City brings the total amount pledged to the City (not counting the asset... which is major) to \$4 million of a \$9.5 million project. He told the institution he would take the request to the Council and in the event the funding falls short of the \$9.5 million that he would go back to Council with a request to fund up to a \$3 million bond on the part of the City. That will only take place if the other efforts fail to produce the needed

funding. If the City puts \$1 million (that has already been committed) into a \$9.5 million project, the City would put in 10 cents of every dollar into the project and private institutions will put in 90 cents of every dollar. The worst case scenario is that the City puts in \$4 million (the \$3 million would have to be the last piece and the construction would start when the bonding process is completed). That condition was laid out to the institution and they were agreeable to it. In the worst case, if we had to put \$4 million into the project, the City would have put in 42 cents of every dollar and private institutions would have raised 58 cents. Even in the worst case, it is the deal he would make, but it is the call of the Council. It is a wonderful opportunity for Claremont to bring to fruition a major piece of development for the City. He said Scott Hausler could come back at a future date to give an update on the building details. His commitment to the committee, the institution and the citizens of Claremont is that he will spend a significant amount of his time over the next 18 months (or shorter) trying to raise funds to close the gap.

At 6:41 p.m., Mr. Austin arrived.

One commitment is that Mr. Santagate will meet with groups (business people, local residents, people from outside the region) to make the case for Claremont. He will make personal calls on foundations such as Kresge. He has worked with Senators Sununu and Gregg and Congressman Hodes to try to raise money from the state and federal government. The other effort we should make is in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) area. We should apply for 08/09 funds. This project would fall into the economic development area of CDBG. He thanked the institution for their efforts. This was above and beyond what we could expect. We will model this construction after the organization for the track at Monadnock Park. We are in the process of setting up (or have set up) a 501(c)3 corporation that we hope will oversee the construction of the project. The funds would move through that group into construction. Once it is completed, the Council would then accept it and then we will be responsible for future maintenance of it.

Mr. Santagate read the motion into the record.

### **Motion to Endorse New Community Center Facility Funding**

The Claremont City Council hereby finds that:

**WHEREAS** a \$1,000,000 Challenge Grant was established by the City Council in November 2005 to encourage fundraising for construction of a new Community Center facility, which Challenge Grant included a condition that it would lapse if the New Community Center Committee could not raise \$3,000,000 by November 2008; and

**WHEREAS** the City of Claremont is committed to the programs provided by the City's Parks and Recreation Department and finds that the programs provided are an excellent way to achieve numerous public goals related to:

- Community Enhancement
- Improving health and reducing childhood obesity
- Increasing physical activity
- Improving the quality and enjoyment of the citizens
- Increasing community involvement; and

**WHEREAS** the Claremont City Council has and continues to support the development and implementation of projects which enhance the City's quality of life for the benefit of its residents and others within the Claremont community; and

**WHEREAS** the New Community Center Committee's fundraising efforts have made significant strides by receiving sizeable pledges from generous donors within the Claremont community, as well as securing additional funding and in-kind donations from a variety of sources to assist with meeting its goals; and;

**WHEREAS** the City Council on behalf of the City of Claremont realizes the significance of receiving such sizeable pledges and understands that these major donors have an interest in seeing the project completed once the fundraising goals have been met; and

**WHEREAS** members of the Claremont City Council agree that:

- Building a new Community Center facility is a vital piece in the redevelopment and future growth for the City and its citizens; and
- The City Council desires to grow the community in a productive and responsible way and;
- The City Council, community organizations and citizens all share a common desire to see a new Community Center facility constructed in Claremont; and
- It is important for the City and its citizens that the entire facility is built as a whole, and not piecemeal.

**THEREFORE**, the Claremont City Council hereby supports the continuation of current fundraising efforts by the New Community Center Committee, as well as endorses that the City obtain a bond in the amount of up to a maximum of \$3,000,000, if necessary, to close any fundraising gap in order to complete the project; said bond to be authorized only after completion of the fundraising effort from private sources and the receipt of commitment letters for any public sources of funding, including but not limited to Community Development Block Grants and/or other state and federal funding that may be available; and

**FURTHER** should the conditions precedent to obtaining such bond not occur prior to the end of the current City Council session, the Claremont City Council urges and encourages successor City Councils, duly constituted, to continue to support this commitment to bond up to \$3,000,000 as a final financial commitment that may be needed in order for the City to fulfill the confidence placed in the City and the New Community Center Committee by the major donors that the new Community Center facility will become a reality and a benefit to the City of Claremont.

**A motion was made by Mr. Regan and seconded by Ms. Cutts to endorse the motion that was read by Mr. Santagate in its entirety.**

Mr. Swift asked about the time frame before considering a bond. Mr. Santagate said it would be ambitious to think this could be done during 2008. He thinks 12-18 months is the time period. He doesn't expect to come back to the Council until 2009.

Mr. Swift asked if there are any contingencies put on this by the donor. Mr. Santagate said one contingency is that their name is to be included in the facility name, which is not unusual for the major donor. Mr. Santagate said the other contingency is that if we are not successful within the 12-18 month period, they could withdraw the offer. Mr. Santagate believes that if there are serious efforts and results going on, it could be extended.

John Napsey, New Community Center board member, said this is a positive move for this community. He encouraged all to support this motion.

Mr. Regan asked for a sense of how the donation process is moving. Mr. Napsey said many have had a sincere interest in this project. The common thread heard was that key people in this community could not see the project moving forward without a lead donor. Mr. Napsey said that as the project moves forward, the sale of the Goodwin Community Center, Zotto Gymnasium and Bailey Pool, could fund the endowment for maintenance of the facility.

Mayor Pope asked Scott Hausler, Parks and Recreation Director, to review what the life span is of the old community center. Mr. Hausler said the pool is from the 1950s, the gymnasium from the 1970s, and the main building from the 1940s. Currently, we are able to use the gym, pool and the main floor office and the social room. Several areas have been closed for safety reasons. A new facility will offer ways to provide more and to put it all under one roof. Mayor Pope asked what is usable. Mr. Hausler said areas off the gym (locker rooms) are in need of major upgrades and are now being used for storage versus active use.

Mayor Pope opened the floor for public comment.

Rich Kanto, Ward 2, 7 Beckwith Avenue, said he grew up in Claremont. He said he cannot think of anything in Claremont that would affect more users. He envisions it as self-sustaining

because of family memberships. He came back to Claremont because of the youth activities. He supports and encourages the Council to support this on behalf of the citizens of Claremont.

Greg Stowell, Charlestown Road, Ward 2, said he grew up in Claremont. The track project is the first time the City had seen that type of private donation to really jumpstart a major project. That donor is still anonymous and he thanked them. In this case, \$3 million on a proposed \$8-\$9 million project is incredible. He hopes the Council will support it.

Alan Croteau, Curtis Street, said his children are big users of Parks and Recreation facilities and that is a big reason he moved here 15 years ago. He thinks this is a great opportunity. He is a member of the Master Plan Advisory Committee and he mentioned there are a lot of comments about wanting a new community center. This is a big piece of what is missing. This drives people to a community and keeps them in that community. He encouraged a yes vote.

Ms. Cutts said Claremont deserves this and she is in support of this motion.

Mr. Austin said this is a tremendous economic tool for the City. He will vote for the motion.

Mayor Pope said he had received a community center survey in 1999/2000 that included this issue. So, this project is not a whim; this has been building for a long time. He will vote for this motion.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 5-0.**

## **BUDGET**

### TIFD-River Road

Mr. Santagate read a letter he had sent to the Councilors-elect. In it he had requested they submit suggestions on budget changes to him by November 27<sup>th</sup>; none were received, but we may hear from them tonight. He supports the budget.

Ms. Walter said the River Road and Downtown TIFDs (Tax Increment Finance District) budgets were discussed at the November 7<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, but they were not on the agenda. The anticipated budget for the River Road TIFD is \$580,345; \$336,000 for the TIFD Warrant; taking \$234,345 from the TIFD's fund balance. The majority of the money going out will be a potential loan to the Downtown TIFD (TIFD 2). That first bond payment is coming due and we do not anticipate significant gains in the Downtown TIFD prior to the 2009 season.

Mr. Regan asked if the loan to TIFD 2 is for the parking garage. Ms. Walter said yes. The loan will be paid back at half a percent over the interest rate similar to what is done for the Tax Anticipation Notes with the Water Department.

**A motion was made by Mr. Austin and seconded by Mr. Regan to tentatively approve the TIFD-River Road budget of \$580,345.**

**Motion carried 5-0.**

TIFD-Downtown

Ms. Walter said the anticipated budget for 2008 is \$529,345; \$25,000 is from the Tax Warrant on the incremental money; \$250,000 from interest; and there is the potential we would borrow \$254,345 from the River Road TIFD. The money going out is the interest payment of \$529,345. Mr. Swift asked what the interest was for. Ms. Walter said it was for the money that we bonded.

**A motion was made by Mr. Swift and seconded by Mr. Austin to tentatively approve the TIFD-Downtown budget of \$529,345.**

**Motion carried 5-0**

Water

Ms. Walter said the Water and Sewer are enterprise funds. They are not part of the general fund budget. The Water Department's budget is up 16.5% at \$1,752,899. The major pay out is the first payment of the Drinking Water SRF (State Revolving Fund) funding that is due in 2008.

Bruce Temple, Public Works Director, noted that we issued a substantial completion today on the waste water treatment plant (\$2.3 million job). Bible Hill Booster Station (less than \$500,000 project) came out of SRF funds and it came on line a couple of weeks ago. The waste water treatment plant will be completed the first or second week of December. The water budget is up and the significant amount of it has to do with SRF funding. Three to four of the major projects are substantially completed. The other night there was a big fire in the community and even without the 1900s-era 20-inch water main that had been taken out of service last year, there was plenty of water. The 16-inch line fed the City for that fire. The 20-inch line came on line the next day. The Fire Department pumped in excess of 300,000 gallons of water for the fire. The tank levels dropped, but by 3 a.m. the following morning, the city was back to full capacity. The Water Street water line was shut off that night as well as the 20-inch line due to chlorination. He's confident that with the money spent, we can feed the mill district and the city with what has been completed at the water treatment plant. In the future, he will be looking for more staff, but he can live with the 2008 budget.

Mayor Pope asked Ms. Walter to explain an enterprise fund. She said it is what would be considered business-type activities; it is run off the revenue that it generated. If it does not generate enough revenue, they either have to increase rates or cut services. Nothing will be put back on the property taxes. Mayor Pope noted the \$1,510,983 from last year was from the users fees as will be the \$1,752,899 for 2008. This is the same for the sewer plant.

Mayor Pope asked about fund balance. Ms. Walter said their excess funds are retained by them, not the City.

**A motion was made by Mr. Austin and seconded by Mr. Regan to tentatively approve the Water budget of \$1,752,899.**

**Motion carried 5-0.**

Sewer

Ms. Walter said the Sewer budget is \$2,185,673 and it is up almost 20% mainly due to the SRF loans that are coming due in 2008.

Mr. Temple said the Environmental Protection Agency is slowly requiring additional testing. The number, frequency and complexity of tests will continue to increase costs in both water and sewer. The increased fees will have to be passed on to the end users. Ms. Walter said one offset might be more customers. Mr. Temple said we have the water to sell and the capacity to treat it. The previous director had passed a \$12 million resolution for sewer projects, but Mr. Temple has not seen how we can pay for that. We have done some sanitary sewer pipe line work which has cut down on infiltration of ground water. We have cleaned up overflows that were going into the Sugar River. There are some significant areas in Claremont where he could come in with 4-5 projects, but we are not able to pay for them, yet. We will look at those in the future. There are some sewer issues by St. Joseph's Church, on Maple Avenue and behind the Bourdon Center. To be able to pay for them, we need new customers.

**A motion was made by Ms. Cutts and seconded by Mr. Austin to tentatively approve the Sewer budget of \$2,185,673.**

**Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Temple gave a presentation for the Public Works department. Several years ago they lost four people and he would like them back. He would like to come back in 2009 to talk about staff. If there is a major storm and 1 or 2 are on vacation and someone else is sick, etc., Public Works cannot fill the trucks. At the Transfer Station, they are trying to generate revenue with recyclables. They are cleaning up that site. It is staffed on Tuesdays and Saturday with 2 people who are certified by the state to work at a transfer station. With respect to streets and roads, he re-emphasized that paving was up to \$750,000. We have about 144 miles of roadway in Claremont of which about 105 miles are paved and 39 miles are gravel. To resurface every street every 15 years (105 miles on a 15 year cycle equals about 7 miles per year) requires a \$700,000-\$750,000 budget. For 2008, we have a paving program of about \$500,000. This year he did \$470,000 in streets and \$212,000 in the mill district. He had to come up with matching funds for the landslide on Sims Street, which was taken out of the paving funds. We did a piece of Charlestown Road this year and hope to do another piece next year. He is committed to doing paving in every ward. He would like \$700,000 in 2008, but can get along with \$500,000. Next year, the price of asphalt cement at the plant will be the same as what he paid to put it in place this year (\$55/ton). Next year, the in-place price will be \$65-\$68/ton. When the price of crude oil increases, it affects the asphalt prices. Hopefully in 2008, we will be able to put together a \$700,000 budget which is the level we really need to be at. There is more money in drainage,

signs and sidewalks and he is grateful for it. He has been getting a lot of complaints about sidewalks. There are more lane miles to stripe. He is committed to upgrading the signs in the community. There are about 1,500 signs. We should be able to get 15 years out of a sign, but some get stolen, knocked over, etc. and they have to be replaced at \$150 each. We have received \$500,000 in grant money from various agencies. They have about \$475,000 of requests in for additional grant funding to help with drainage issues, roads, bridges, etc. In reference to the cemeteries, he is pleased with the people who take care of the burials. We take care of the mowing. The goal is to mow all cemeteries by Memorial Day. The second mowing is done before July 4<sup>th</sup>. There are 2 full-time people and 3 part-timers in the summer who take care of mowing.

Mr. Swift asked to confirm that the City will look a little bit better next year. Mr. Temple said yes. He noted he cannot pave everywhere at once. Every valve in the roadway is being checked and replaced, if needed. He's not doing main line pipeline work, because of funding. All sanitary sewers are being flushed and cleaned and the manhole tops are being worked on; new pipeline work is also not being done.

Ms. Cutts said she is not happy that Mr. Temple did not come back to request additional money for paving. She understands Mr. Santagate did a level-funded budget. As a taxpayer, she agreed with that. She feels we are not keeping the promise from a couple of years ago of keeping the budget around \$750,000 for streets. Mr. Temple said Public Works will get along. He has good people and they will do the best they can. Ms. Cutts worries about "getting along." She hopes the roads get plowed this year. Mr. Temple said the roads and sidewalks will be plowed, salted and sanded.

Mr. Austin said in the past, Public Works has used enterprise funds for paving and he asked if it will be used for Charlestown Road. Mr. Temple said he will get Charlestown Road to a shape that is rideable. There are sewer and drainage issues underneath Charlestown Road. He has engineering plans that are 75% complete and paid for. We cannot do more water and sewer projects until some bonds are retired. We are not in a position for additional bonding until 2013 or 2014. He will do maintenance on Charlestown Road and that is in the 2008 budget.

Mayor Pope asked for a breakdown. Mr. Temple said in 2007 there was a \$712,000 budget; \$212,000 was for Water Street and Mill Road; \$50,000 went toward our match on Sims Street (Senator Sununu's office and Senator Odell were instrumental with that); the other \$450,000 included paving Charlestown Road, Mulberry, Elm Street. The budget was \$450,000, but he spent \$467,000. What was not in the \$712,000 budget was Winter Street.

Mr. Regan thanked all department heads for the work they have done.

Mr. Santagate said what he hears is that the taxes are too high. He thinks we can reduce taxes or do projects, but not both. In 2001, he had laid off four people. Since then, they have hired two senior managers, in addition to Mr. Temple, who are capable of doing any job in Public Works and they are Tom Woodley and Wayne Leonard who is a P.E. (professional engineer). Office staff help has been added. So, we haven't ignored that area. He noted that for every dollar the

City spends, approximately 42 cents is in Public Works. To reduce taxes, you have to go where the dollars are and that is Public Works (roads, water and sewer). Because of the good senior help, Mr. Temple has been able to manage the Planning and Development Department where code enforcement is an issue, planning is an issue and economic development is queued up like it has not been in years. The amount of work that has to be done in that office is a target because there is an enormous amount of inquiries being made from the new Council members related to that office and we will respond to each one. If you are going to look for more help, it probably should be for the Planning office. We spend an enormous amount of money in Public Works for contracts. This year we will spend \$800,000 on roads which is the \$500,000 that was budgeted and \$300,000 left from the bond we floated a couple of years ago. That is a lot better than the \$200,000 in 2001.

Ms. Cutts said she understands what Mr. Santagate is saying, but she hopes she is wrong. She is hoping to continue making forward strides.

Mr. Swift said that living within a budget is not all that hard. He believes the flat budget will give us more effective operations, more efficient operations and some original thinking. He has no doubt the city will look better when he returns next year.

## **CITIZEN'S FORUM**

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, acknowledged doing a budget is hard work. He suggested we need to do more hard work on communication and education. Nationally, only 65% of households get cable. He suggested the Council think about ways to have communication take place outside of the Council meeting. He noted the budget is available on the City's website, but not everyone uses the internet. He suggested there may be a need for outreach. City budgets are pretty opaque, but they are being, little by little, more understood. The schools' budgets are like looking through a stone. For the City, he is hoping for better communication. For the schools, he is hoping for increased financial transparency.

## **ADOPTING THE BUDGET**

### Resolution 2008-1 Tax Anticipation Note – Public Hearing

Ms. Walter said this is housekeeping. We have yet to go out for a loan using a TAN (Tax Anticipation Note); we borrow from the Water Department every year and pay them half a percent over the going interest rate. However, we cannot borrow money from anyone unless this resolution is in place. Mr. Regan clarified that the amount of this resolution is half the budget. Ms. Walter confirmed it.

Mayor Pope read the resolution into the record.

**A motion was made by Mr. Austin and seconded by Ms. Cutts to adopt Resolution 2008-1 Tax Anticipation Note.**

Mr. Swift asked what was used for 2007. Ms. Walter said we did not go out for any tax anticipation notes; we borrowed \$2 million from the Water Department.

Mayor Pope opened the public hearing. No one spoke. He closed the public hearing.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 5-0.**

Resolution 2008-2 Adopting the 2008 General Fund Budget for the City of Claremont –  
Public Hearing

Ms. Walter said the budget is \$15,122,598.

Peter Chase said over the last 5 years, airport grants have totaled \$1,183,939. These projects included federal money at 97.5% match for 6 new hazard beacons, extensive airfield drainage improvements, runway pavement maintenance and the new 6-unit hangar and taxiway. In the last 5 years, Fire Department grants have totaled \$280,553 for replacement of all mobile and portable radios with interoperable units, a thermal imaging camera with remote monitor, self-contained breathing apparatus, replacement of entire department inventory of personal protective gear and a complete set of hydraulic pneumatic rescue equipment. We are currently going out for bids for a stationary breathing air compressor system. Without these grants, the Fire Department equipment would have been paid for by taxpayers. On the airport side, without the grants, we would not have been able to do those improvements. He has not heard anything yet about the SAFER grant. It has a 25% success rate nationally. The cooperation between City departments is a great asset to our community and that came to light during the recent fire downtown. Also, they needed test pits at the airport for a future half million dollar grant for a partial parallel taxiway and on short notice Public Works was able to send an operator and backhoe.

Ms. Cutts noted that the Fire Department and Airport brought in about \$1.2 million in grant money. This is the first year the airport budget has been in the black. She thanked the departments, volunteer firefighters and the surrounding 21 communities that came in to help with the fire downtown.

Mr. Santagate said the numbers speak for themselves. On the SAFER grant we are committed to it. Earlier, Robert Picard had asked him how many grant-funded positions there are in the City. Mr. Santagate said we have zero. He does not like them, because it starts out being funded by the grant, but eventually the City pays for the position. He noted some grants are extensive and that they are being written by Chief Chase or members of his department.

Police Chief Alex Scott echoed Chief Chase's comments about team work. He thanked his staff, saying they are exemplary. The Police Department has gained back one position over the last four years. In the years to come, he will be back to address that issue. With respect to grants, many grants that he has written have been cooperative grants with his office, the County Sheriff's office and others. They have received about \$167,000 in grants: one was for the special operations unit truck; \$45,000 for threat level 3 tactical body armor for the SWAT team;

\$18,000 and \$14,000 grants for the drug enforcement initiative; \$45,000 for a back-up radio tower system; \$15,000 OHRV (Off-Highway Recreational Vehicle) Enforcement grants and \$5,000 in highway safety. In his budget proposal, there is a grant-funded position and that is the park patrol program. The \$18,000 and \$14,000 drug enforcement grants will help off-set his cost for the drug enforcement initiative. The money received from that grant will free up enough money to fund the park patrol project next summer. He will come back in 2009 to continue to fund that program. Mr. Santagate said they took \$10,000 from downtown development and Planning's budget and placed it in the Police budget. Chief Scott said the drug enforcement initiative is funded at the grant amount level. He said if he were to lose the grant funding, he would put the \$10,000 in the drug enforcement initiative and be back looking for money on top of that. Chief Scott said he is all set for 2008 and may be back in 2009, if he is not successful in continuing to receive the grant funding.

Ms. Cutts asked for a separate section listing all grants received in next year's budget. Mr. Santagate said he does not want to mix up one-time money with ongoing expenses. Mr. Santagate said that we will try to pull that together and list it separately for next year.

Bruce Temple, Acting Planning and Development Director, said that Planning and Development has a real short staff. He has been helping out since last December when Anthony Lyons left. There are 6 people: 2 in economic development, 1 does economic development and Kurt Beek is the project manager and CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) Administrator; in the codes area, there are 2 full-time people and a half-time person doing health inspections; in the planning area we have a part-time contract planner (3days a week) and a Boards and Commissions Coordinator. For reference, we have 6 people total; Lebanon has 6 people in codes and 4-5 people in planning; Keene has 6.5 people in codes; and Rochester has 6.

**A motion was made by Mr. Austin and seconded by Mr. Regan to adopt Resolution 2008-2 Adopting the 2008 General Fund Budget for the City of Claremont.**

Mayor Pope read the resolution into the record.

Mayor Pope opened the public hearing.

Robert Woodman congratulated the City Manager for bringing in a level-funded budget. He noted there are over 175 properties in Claremont for sale. He suggested \$100,000 could be taken off the budget by privatizing the Transfer Station.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 5-0.**

Resolution 2008-3 To Adopt the 2008 Water Division Budget for the City of Claremont – Public Hearing

**A motion was made by Ms. Cutts and seconded by Mr. Austin to adopt Resolution 2008-3 To Adopt the 2008 Water Division Budget for the City of Claremont.**

Mayor Pope read the resolution into the record.

Mayor Pope opened the public hearing. No one spoke. He closed the public hearing.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 5-0.**

Resolution 2008-4 To Adopt the 2008 Sewer Division Budget for the City of Claremont – Public Hearing

Mayor Pope read the resolution into the record.

**A motion was made by Mr. Regan and seconded by Mr. Swift to adopt Resolution 2008-4 To Adopt the 2008 Sewer Division Budget for the City of Claremont.**

Mayor Pope opened the public hearing. No one spoke. He closed the public hearing.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 5-0.**

Resolution 2008-5 To Adopt the River Road Tax Increment Finance District Budget for the City of Claremont – Public Hearing

**A motion was made by Ms. Cutts and seconded by Mr. Austin to adopt Resolution 2008-5 To Adopt the River Road Tax Increment Finance District Budget for the City of Claremont.**

Ms. Walter said the TIFDs advisory boards had met and gave their blessings. Mr. Santagate said their approval is required by law.

Mayor Pope read the resolution into the record.

Mayor Pope asked what would go under Miscellaneous. Ms. Walter said part of the marketing for that area and a chargeback of part of the services of City Staff (attorney, finance and public works).

Mayor Pope opened the public hearing.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, asked if there would be a need for additional TIFDs. Ms. Walter said we are limited by state regulations as to the percentage that you can have in a TIFD (individual as well as total) as well as the percentage of the valuation of your community. Mr. Folta asked what Claremont's percentage is. Mr. Santagate said we are not looking for a third TIFD today. We want to get TIFD 2 up and running. TIFD 1 (River Road) is running well. It is one of the few economic development tools offered in New Hampshire. We have used it conservatively. We are focusing on completing existing projects. We want to get Lowe's done. We think the water bottling company is a great boon to the City. Ms. Walter said we are at 2.25% of total land

value and we are allowed up to 3%. You can have up to 5% of the taxable assessed value and we are at 3.86%.

Robert Woodman, Ward 3, said if the money for the Downtown TIFD was reinvested, it would have paid for itself. Mr. Santagate explained you could do it in the past, but now under the IRS, arbitrage is prohibited. We cannot borrow money for the purpose of making money.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 5-0.**

Resolution 2008-6 To Adopt the Downtown Tax Increment Finance District Budget for the City of Claremont – Public Hearing

Mr. Santagate said \$250,000 in this TIFD is generated from interest income on the bond.

Mayor Pope read the resolution into the record.

**A motion was made by Mr. Austin and seconded by Mr. Swift to adopt Resolution 2008-6 To Adopt the Downtown Tax Increment Finance District Budget for the City of Claremont.**

Mayor Pope opened the public hearing. No one spoke. He closed the public hearing.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 5-0.**

**CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

**At 9:18 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Swift and seconded by Ms. Cutts to adjourn.**

**Motion carried 5-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorée M. Russell  
Clerk to the Council