

Council Meeting
February 20, 2007
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The Claremont City Council held a meeting on Tuesday, February 20, 2007, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. (Note: The regular meeting on February 14, 2007, had to be rescheduled due to a snowstorm.)

Members of the Council present were:

Deborah Cutts
Assistant Mayor Christopher Irish
Mayor Scott Pope
Andrew Austin
William Regan, III
James Neilsen, IV

Absent were:

Michael Prozzo, Jr.
Heather Bopp
Ralph Swift

Also present were:

Guy Santagate, City Manager
Jane Taylor, City Solicitor

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pope at 6:35 p.m.

MAYOR'S NOTES

Mayor Pope thanked the Council for being able to reschedule the regular meeting which had been cancelled for public safety due to the snowstorm. He attended the New Hampshire Mayors Meeting in Nashua and the Mayor from Laconia thanked Claremont for going forward with the Claremont lawsuit. Most mayors at that meeting were appreciative of what Claremont did. Arrowhead is open for tubing and skiing.

Mr. Austin said the tow for tubing at Arrowhead is working well and is an enhancement.

Mayor Pope said the Master Plan Advisory Committee has been meeting. He thanked Jerry Coogan and the Committee. There will be a community visioning session (creation of land use and community vision) on March 29th at Maple Avenue School and members of the community are invited. At that meeting, Colin Sanborn, Historian, will give a presentation on the history of Claremont.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

A motion was made by Mr. Regan and seconded by Ms. Cutts to accept the minutes of the January 10, 2007, City Council meeting and January 24, 2007, City Council Workshop.

Motion carried 6-0.

APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

None

NEW BUSINESS

CCTV Report to the Community and Budget

Keith Druhl, CCTV (Claremont Community Television, Inc.) Director, said they are a membership-based non-profit established in 1999 to provide Claremont with public, education and government (PEG) access. Citizens can create their own programs. They are a 501(c)3 non-profit incorporated entity. It is open to all per the First Amendment of the Constitution. They don't make videos; citizens make them. Anyone who works or lives in Claremont may submit a program or use the equipment. All programs must be non-commercial. They broadcast 528 programs last year and 60% were made all or in part with CCTV's resources. That is over double from five and a half years ago when he started. He has conducted classes for youth and teachers. He teaches Public Access Production at Stevens High School. For the P part of PEG, they work with organizations to get their messages out to the public (United Way, Valley Regional Hospital, Chamber of Commerce and other non-profit groups). They have helped with fundraisers using a live feed which, has resulted in raising about \$200,000 in the last eight years. They maintain a library of shows and a message board. They guarantee coverage of School Board and Council meetings. Each group pays a fee to the individuals running the cameras which guarantee the meetings will go on the air. Next year, CCTV would like to pay these fees and also cover Planning Board and Zoning Board Meetings. Emergency messages can be put on the air remotely. In 2006, they put up a website and this year they began classes for the professional development center for teachers to improve technology training.

Mr. Druhl summarized the budget and stated concerns over finances. The first payment from Comcast was due the 15th; CCTV has a three-month operating reserve, but they are concerned. In the past, they received a flat fee from Adelphia. Under the new agreement reached by the Cable Negotiating Committee, the schedule of payments is based on revenues collected. The estimate is \$10,000 to come in February 15th. Mary Walter, Finance Director, said it is in and it is more. Mr. Druhl asked that the legal fees for the negotiations be paid using the last two payments of this year instead of paying up front.

Mayor Pope asked about pushing legal fees to the end of the year.

Mr. Neilsen doesn't think there would be a problem to make a new motion for \$9,000 to be taken out of the August 15th as well as \$9,000 to be taken out of the November 15th payments. Ms. Taylor said the Council is entitled to make a new motion and reverse a prior action. It might be helpful to have the original motion in front of the Council. Mr. Irish said the proper procedure would be to reconsider or come up with a new motion. Ms. Taylor said that is correct. Mayor Pope agreed it would be good to review the original motion before taking action.

Mr. Austin asked about income from Comcast. Mr. Druhl said the legal firm that advised the Cable Negotiating Committee estimated the amount of \$120,000 per year. Mr. Druhl thought that might be high and recommended caution.

Mr. Regan asked if that was a per-user fee (franchise fee). Mr. Druhl said there was an agreement between the City and CCTV that said whatever was collected would be given to CCTV and that has expired. Mr. Druhl said it was a flat fee of \$55,000 for the last three years.

Mayor Pope asked if more digital equipment would be purchased with the \$100,000 budget. Mr. Druhl said part of the expenditures this year are new editing stations, \$1,500 for new lighting in the Council Chambers, and a new DVD recorder for this facility which will replace the VHS recorder. They would like to hire a part-time person and make other upgrades to equipment.

Ms. Walter said the legal contract was for "not to exceed \$18,000." The 5% Comcast agreement (effective July 12, 2006, to July 11, 2009), based on gross revenue, was to start when the contract was signed which was December 1, 2006, but it appears the check is from July 11, 2006. The last quarter check which was received by the first quarter of this year is in the amount of \$38,000, so she suspects the \$30,000 per quarter is a fair number to expect to be received. Mr. Druhl's budget includes the \$18,000 which it should not include, because he will not get that money to pay the City back. The City will take it directly. Ms. Walter proposed the Council accept the budget and that amount of money the City would pay in the quarterly installments and any difference be put into a Capital Reserve for cable access and cable renegotiation.

Mr. Neilsen suggested since the payment is large not to revote. With the payment being \$38,000 and the City taking \$18,000, it would leave \$20,000 for CCTV. Ms. Walter said this is based on the last quarter of last year and they tend to get less money in the summer months. She has no problem taking the \$18,000 out of the last payment in 2007.

Mr. Santagate said the reserve for negotiation is important, because we may begin that process right away. Ms. Walter said there is a Comcast meeting planned for March 7th and more information will follow. Mr. Regan said it is smart to put the difference between budget and the net received toward negotiations. He felt that if payers and payees agree to pay later, he doesn't see why the Council should get in the middle.

Mr. Druhl thanked the Negotiating Committee, Chairman Greg Stowell (representing business and community at-large), Mary Walter (representing Finances), Dale Giles (representing City), Jim Feleen (representing CCTV) and Dan Suse (representing School). Comcast has agreed to put in a live point in Monadnock Park (just as there is for the City and School) and to provide

free internet and cable for the City and School. The Cable Advisory Committee is a different group and will take complaints, if they cannot be resolved through Comcast, and the City may convene the Committee to deal with the issue. There is a CCTV Board and it needs a Council member appointed.

A motion was made by Mr. Regan and seconded by Ms. Cutts to accept the 2007 CCTV (Claremont Community Television) budget of \$106,800, and agrees to pay CCTV quarterly amounts of \$26,700 and to keep the remaining in revenue until further determined by the Council.

Motion carried 6-0.

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, said a regional study group has been working on the recycling and waste issue. More public responsibility is needed for recycling and waste management. Waste management has come a long way and still has a long way to go. He believes in recycling-based waste management and the efforts of Waste Action Collaborative of Sullivan County. He talked about the population of Sullivan County. Claremont has one-third of the county's population. It would be nice if the four largest communities (Claremont, Newport, Charlestown and Sunapee) would work together for the benefit of the whole region.

Claremont School District Budget – Informational

David Putnam, School Board Chairman and Christine Terrell, Chairperson of the Communications Committee, talked about the Claremont School District Budget, 2007-2008 School Year, "A Budget of Choices."

Ms. Terrell gave a PowerPoint presentation.

What We're Trying To Do, 1) Increase Achievement for Everyone, 2) Improve the Facilities & Programs, and 3) Improve the Perception of the District by Others.

What We're Facing – 5.2% Increase in Health Insurance Costs; 5 Negotiated Contracts; State Aid has been changed several times. The last change was the Governor had proposed level funding plus 5% which is about \$500,000 above last year. The budget was put together using \$1 million in state aid.

The Details – 8 Articles on the Warrant, Article 1: Election of Officials/2 Board Members; Article 2: Main Operating Budget; Article 3: Technology; Article 4: Mentor Trainer/Asst. Athletic Director for Grades 6-12; Article 5: Building Fire Safety; Article 6: 2 Busses (Lease/Purchase); Article 7: Capital Reserve Fund (if \$2 million in state aid is received); Article 8: Designation of Agent (if they are able to set up a reserve fund).

Article 2: Main Operating Budget, 5 Contracts; Average Increase of 3.8% on Base; Greater Contributions by Teachers and Secretaries to Health Insurance; New Co-curricular Salary Schedule; Add Kindergarten Aides; Add Secretarial Time at Disnard, Maple and Bluff; Add 2 Teachers, Grade 1 and Claremont Middle School Math Teacher; Add Half-time Truant Officer; Add More Technology Support; Partial Roof Replacement at Claremont Middle School; Door Fasteners/Replacements for Fire Safety; Noontime Kindergarten Bussing To and From School; The impact based on the Governor's figures is \$2.27 on the tax rate over the 2006-2007 tax rate. The default budget which includes the two sanbornized contracts and the facilities items would be a \$1.64 increase. The difference between the main budget and the default budget is \$.63 on the tax rate.

Article 3: Technology, \$250,000 in New Technology Spending; Adds/replaces Computers and Other Technology. Increase of \$.34 on the tax rate.

Article 4: Head Mentor Trainer for Teachers of Grades K-12 (this used to be grant funded) and Assistant Athletic Director Gr. 6-12. Increase of \$.11 on the tax rate.

Article 5: Building Fire Safety, Install Sprinkler Systems in Bluff, Maple and Disnard Schools. Increase of \$.89 on tax rate.

Article 6: School Bus Replacement, Lease/purchase 2 School Busses Over 5 Years; Raises and Appropriates the First Year's Lease Payment of \$35,000. Increase of \$.05 on tax rate.

Article 7: Capital Reserve Fund, For Building Repairs if There is Additional State Aid. No impact on the tax rate.

Article 8: Designation of Agent, Expend From the Capital Reserve Fund. No impact on the tax rate.

Previous Tax Rates, 2005-2006 Tax Rate was \$18.45 and 2006-2007 Tax Rate was \$16.75 (revaluation caused it to go down).

Effect of Proposed Budget for 2007-2008, Article 1 = 0; Article 2 = \$2.27 (based on Governor's budget); Article 3 = \$.34; Article 4 = \$.11; Article 5 = \$.89; Article 6 = \$.05; Total Impact = \$20.41 (\$3.66/\$1,000 increase).

The vote is March 13th.

Mr. Putnam said the Governor's budget came out after the deliberative session. The default budget is \$500,000 different from the proposed budget. The total \$29 million includes \$3.5 million for pass throughs. They estimated the revenues would be \$2 million, but to be conservative, they used \$1 million.

Mayor Pope asked if the level funding plus 5% was for all cities. Mr. Putnam said yes. Mayor Pope invited Mr. Putnam and legislators back to discuss this at a Council workshop.

Ms. Cutts asked about the increase in Information Technology. Mr. Putnam said it was for student and teacher use. Mr. Putnam said there is also \$70,000 in the default budget, which is still behind where it needs to be.

Mr. Irish supports the justification and choices. The \$3.66/\$1,000 increase is about \$440 per \$120,000 property on the heels of an estimated 40% increase due to the recent revaluation. He asked if the school received more than the \$1 million from the state, would it be prudent to lessen the tax burden. Mr. Putnam said the schools would be better served by doing major building repairs. Mr. Irish asked what \$1 million increase would do to the \$3.66. Ms. Terrell said there are significant facilities that need attention. Mr. Putnam said they would try to stop the erosion.

Mr. Austin served on the Facilities Committee and his opinion is the Council should make it easier for the public. He wants to put on a future agenda to see how the Council can help people on fixed incomes and the disabled. Ms. Terrell said these Articles are based on \$475,000 and she suggested pushing the legislators for more funding. They've been level-funded for two years in a row. Mr. Putnam said it is important that the City and School works together so as not to compete for dollars.

Mr. Regan asked about Article 4, Head Mentor Trainer. Ms. Terrell said this person will oversee the whole program. Teachers volunteer to mentor other teachers.

Ms. Cutts asked if other communities have a truant officer. Ms. Terrell didn't know, but Claremont has a significant problem with absences. Ms. Cutts asked about the cost of the position. Mr. Putnam said part-time it's about \$30,000. Ms. Cutts said she will begrudgingly vote yes for that article (Article 2). Mr. Putnam noted that the principal is appointed as the truant officer by the School Board. Mr. Neilsen noted that with the backlog in the court, it is not uncommon to see the principal waiting for court with the student. Mr. Putnam said currently the Assistant Principal spends half a day as the Athletic Director in Claremont Middle School. She is also a curriculum director and her expertise is needed in the classroom, because Claremont Middle School is showing no improvement in the No Child Left Behind program.

Mr. Santagate congratulated the School on the dental initiative program (it's a very important program). He asked about retirement contributions increasing 33% by both employer and employee. Mr. Putnam said 33% is what the School is obligated to pay. Ms. Terrell confirmed that 33% is the employer contribution, but wasn't sure what the employee contribution was. Mr. Santagate would like a clarification later. Mr. Santagate asked what percentage of health insurance is paid by employees. Ms. Terrell said it varies by contract. Mr. Putnam said the target is to bring everyone to 85% / 15%. Mr. Santagate asked how the graduation rate is calculated. How does it affect the test scores? What causes the mobility rate? How do you test the output? He said these are all related to finance and he would like these discussed at a later date. Mr. Putnam said when looking at statewide averages and dropout rates, no community operates under the same structure. Some Claremont students enroll in CAP (Claremont Alternative Program) which gives them hands-on tutoring.

Acceptance of \$3,375 OHRV Enforcement Grant from NH Fish and Game

Mr. Santagate said this grant allows the Police Department to do enforcement on the trails. This carries us to June 2007 and then we'll look for further grants. Since its inception, the program has resulted in 6 arrests, 39 citations, 165 warnings and 1,117 OHRV (Off-Highway Recreational Vehicles) checks and they responded to 174 complaints on OHRV use.

Mr. Irish said the program is great, but he would rather see 165 fines and 39 warnings, because warnings are not very effective and that would help clean up the trails.

A motion was made by Mr. Irish and seconded by Mr. Regan to authorize the city manager, or his designees, to enter into an agreement with and accept a grant in the amount of three thousand, three hundred and seventy five dollars (\$3,375.00) from the State of New Hampshire Fish and Game Department for the purpose of Off Highway Recreational Vehicle enforcement by the Claremont Police Department.

Motion carried 6-0.

Acceptance of Field House Donations

Mr. Santagate said donations have been made to help build the Monadnock Field House. He thanked the following donors: Pine Hill Construction, Crown Point Cabinetry, Claremont Glass Works, LaValley Building Supply, Osgood Welding, Robert and Marcelline Landry, Michael and Beth Lemieux, Rod Viens, Dennis Fleury, Mike Demars and Hubert's of Claremont.

A motion was made by Mr. Regan and seconded by Ms. Cutts to accept with sincere appreciation donations from various individuals and business for construction of the new field house at Monadnock Park, as well as an anonymous donation of equipment for the City Hall kitchen with thanks.

Ms. Cutts asked what the kitchen equipment was. Mr. Santagate said it was a microwave oven.

Motion carried 6-0.

Acceptance of \$750 Donation of 30 Clog Free Rakes from Harry and Anita Billado

Mr. Santagate said the rakes will be used for spring clean up.

A motion was made by Mr. Austin and seconded by Mr. Irish to accept the \$750 donation of 30 Clog Free Rakes from Harry and Anita Billado with thanks.

Motion carried 6-0.

Amendment to Assessing Department Fee Schedule – Public Hearing

Ms. Taylor said that when the fee schedule was revised, a portion of the table was deleted and a replacement was never made. This amendment refers to production of information both routinely stored and specially prepared.

Mayor Pope asked what sort of information. Ms. Taylor said it could be a listing of all property transactions in the past year or a listing of all residential properties, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. Neilsen and seconded by Mr. Austin to amend the Assessing Department Fee Schedule.

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

Mayor Pope asked if there used to be a fee for that. Ms. Taylor said yes, it wasn't differentiated among type of media and there was no list for routinely stored information. This is a more detailed fee schedule.

Motion carried 6-0.

Public Works Update

Mr. Santagate noted that the road work done in the last few years will be sustained for the next few years. In the base budget, there is now \$700,000 per year for road work throughout the city. North and Main Streets are a problem. We have received about \$4 million in a grant to reconfigure that road and we have a 20% match which will cost about \$900,000. We have to look toward correcting Main Street from the diner past Esersky's and that will be over \$1 million. The \$2 million grant for Draper's Corner will be available in 2010. Charlestown Road is a \$4 million project. North and Main Streets and Draper's Corner are safety issues. How we fund our portions of these projects is a real issue. If we leave the \$700,000 in the budget for road paving then we would be talking about a \$6 million bond issue for those projects. If the Council wishes, City Staff could come back with options at the March meeting for the mentioned programs.

Bruce Temple, Public Works Director, said the Council passed a resolution for \$3 million in 2005. He listed how much of the bond had been spent. Byrd/ Martha/Carr, \$185,000; Bible Hill Pump Station doesn't have anything to do with the \$3 million, but within 30 days will be out to bid; Broad & South, \$518,000; Dunning Street, \$111,000; Pleasant/W. Pleasant \$366,000; Glidden/Middle/Bond \$726,000; Monarch/Plains was a water project; Winter Street was started, but it was cancelled and the contractor had to be paid \$88,000 for materials already purchased, it will be out to bid July/August. Approximately \$2 million of the \$3 million bond has been spent. Winter Street is expected to cost \$800,000-\$900,000 which leaves \$100,000 for small road projects (approach to Coy Paper Bridge and a piece of Thrasher Road). He met with NH DOT (Department of Transportation) and thinks we'll have \$75,000 available for bridge repair on Red Water Brook. There is a lot of deterioration on Coy Paper Bridge and he would like to set aside

money from the motor vehicle plate program to make those repairs in about four to five years. The Charlestown Road project is huge, from Grissom Lane to Buena Vista to the Borden Center. It could be broken into three sections, if needed.

Ms. Cutts asked if the study of the risk/severity assessment of Claremont's roads is still being worked with. Mr. Temple said he has the report (done by CMA), but doesn't use it because it is obvious where repairs are needed.

Mr. Austin asked about the problem with the bridge on Main Street by Esersky's. Mr. Temple said the expansion joint on the east side of the bridge is frozen shut and will be addressed this summer. There is a situation with the expansion joint on the other side as well. They are minor repairs and Public Works will try to tackle them themselves.

Mr. Austin asked who will pay for the repairs on Charlestown Road. Mr. Temple said it is inside the urban compact and is hard to get money other than what we have. Mr. Austin asked what the difference was in the urban compact between North Street and Charlestown Road. Mr. Temple said it was tied to the ISTEA money that Representative Bass helped us obtain. There are two special ear-marked projects that the rest of the state didn't get (Draper's Corner and North and Main Streets), 80% will come from federal funding and 20% will come from local funding. Mr. Santagate said the reason we got the funds is because we concentrated on safety issues. Mr. Temple said New Hampshire pays more in gas tax than it receives. \$275,000 comes into the General Fund to take care of state highways inside the urban compact.

Mr. Irish congratulated Public Works on the good job that was done during the Valentine Day snow storm. He asked about the Country Club property. Mr. Temple said there are two separate issues. The Bible Hill Booster Station (10,000 square foot lot next to the maintenance building) would break ground in May. Charlestown Road will need a holding pond and has not been addressed. Mr. Irish stated he hoped the utility lines would be buried down by Esersky's bridge. Since the roads will be torn up, he would like to put a conduit on Pleasant Street for computers. Mr. Temple said last year \$25,000 was encumbered to redo the underground wiring for the Pleasant Street lights and the intention is to put in new conduit and wiring, so the extra conduit can be put in at that time.

Mr. Regan asked if Draper's Corner would be reconfigured. Mr. Temple said yes, new traffic signals, new turn lanes, new traffic islands, site distance improvements, reconstruction of the roadway base, new curbs and sidewalks.

Brown Block – Sale of Property

Ms. Taylor said this consolidates and restates motions the Council has made.

A motion was made by Mr. Irish and seconded by Mr. Neilsen to authorize the City Manager or his designees to execute and undertake all such actions as may be required on behalf of the City of Claremont or the Claremont Development Authority related to the

sale and rehabilitation of the Oscar D. Brown Building, so-called, located at 2 Pleasant Street, Map 120 Lot 75.

Motion carried 6-0.

Resolution 2007-7 to Close Out Capital Reserve for Voting Machines – Public Hearing

Ms. Walter said this resolution will close out the account. The voter election counting machines are on order. They will cost \$19,500 and we have \$17,264.76 in the Capital Reserve account. Mayor Pope confirmed these are only to count the votes. Ms. Walter said yes. She also said that per a citizen request, she checked into using only one machine for the two wards at Claremont Middle School, but the names on the ballots are different for each ward during City elections so a counting machine is needed for each ward.

A motion was made by Mr. Neilsen and seconded by Mr. Austin to adopt Resolution 2007-7 to Close Out Capital Reserve for Voting Machines.

Ms. Cutts asked if the ballots change, will the machines be compatible. Ms. Walter said yes.

Mr. Irish asked if the first time there will be a manual count as well. Ms. Walter said she talked to the City Clerk; it can be done and may be done.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

Ordinance 480 Merit Plan, Classification & Salaries – 1st Reading

Ms. Walter read her February 8, 2007, memo explaining the reasons for changing the merit plan salary schedule. This will help us stay competitive and not lose employees. We have lost three employees to Lebanon in the last three months.

A motion was made by Mr. Irish and seconded by Mr. Neilsen to adopt Ordinance 480 Merit Plan, Classification & Salaries on first reading.

Mr. Irish read the Explanation of Proposed Action into the record.

Ms. Taylor noted there are three readings and the public hearing will be held on the third reading.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 6-0.

Ordinance 481 Cemetery Trustees – 1st Reading

Ms. Taylor said this is a housekeeping issue. When the Charter was redrafted and reissued, it included trustees, but the Ordinance did not set out how cemetery and regular trustees are appointed. It doesn't change anything that is already being done. Currently Trustees of the Trust are acting as a Board of Cemetery Trustees appropriately. Auditors said they are acting appropriately. The ordinance does not expressly state that we have a Cemetery Board of Trustees and this corrects that.

A motion was made by Ms. Cutts and seconded by Mr. Austin to adopt Ordinance 481 Cemetery Trustees on first reading.

Ms. Taylor said this proposed change is approved by the Attorney General's office. A question arose, can a Capital Reserve fund be established among all other cemetery funds. The State Attorney General's office said yes, but the ordinance must say they can do it and that is also in this ordinance.

Mayor Pope read the explanation of proposed action.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 6-0.

Discussion of a Recycling Policy

Mayor Pope said the Council has been asked to support a resolution that supports 50% recycling and waste reduction by 2012 in the City of Claremont. Eleven towns in Sullivan County have or will be addressing this and will accept and support this resolution.

Ms. Cutts said two previous trash committees had presented reports and both Councils had unanimously approved them, but nothing else has been done. Last year the Council approved the application of a grant for curbside recycling complemented by a pay-as-you-throw program. The grant was approved, it was a 50/50 match, recycle bins were purchased and they are now being stored. Communities in Sullivan County are ready to move ahead with recycling-based solid waste management. She would like to move ahead with the resolution.

Ms. Taylor said that procedurally, this has not been properly noticed and it has to have a public hearing. The Council can pass a motion to endorse a policy.

A motion was made by Mr. Irish and seconded by Ms. Cutts to adopt a policy supporting 50% recycling waste reduction by the year 2012 in the City of Claremont.

Mr. Irish said the following is the basic justification behind the policy statement.

WHEREAS, the placement of materials in waste disposal facilities, such as landfills and incinerators, can potentially cause damage to human health, wastes natural resources, and wrongly transfers liabilities to future generations; and,

WHEREAS, consumers and/or taxpayers are currently forced to assume the high financial cost of collecting and disposing of waste, and,

WHEREAS, hazardous and toxic wastes from households and business cause contamination of the natural environment and should be disposed of properly,

WHEREAS, tax subsidies for waste and virgin materials send the wrong economic signals to both consumers and producers; and,

WHEREAS, much of the material that enters the waste stream are resources that can be reused, recycled, or incorporated in the manufacture of new products;

WHEREAS, a resource-based economy will create and sustain more productive and meaningful jobs than a waste-based economy; and,

WHEREAS, producers should design products to ensure that they can be safely recycled back into the marketplace or nature; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Claremont desires to participate in the national and statewide effort to promote recycling through purchase and use of products made with recycled materials; and,

WHEREAS, Antioch New England Institute has prepared a comprehensive, "Recycling-Based Waste Management Action Plan for the Communities of Sullivan County, NH" that outlines how Sullivan County communities can shift their waste management practices primarily from disposal to a recycling-based management system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Claremont:

- 1) That the City Council of Claremont hereby supports and encourages the development and implementation of practices and policies within the City and Sullivan County which are designed to achieve a 50% waste diversion goal by the year 2012 through increased recycling, waste reduction, composting, proper management of household hazardous waste, and other measures.
- 2) The City Council of Claremont urges the County Commission and County Delegation to the State Legislature to work to fund a county-wide integrated waste management system which emphasizes recycling, composting, safe management of household hazardous materials and waste reduction over disposal.
- 3) The City Council of Claremont urges private haulers, businesses, and residents to work jointly to develop a cost-effective and environmentally-sound waste management system resulting in a secure future and cleaner environment.

Mr. Regan noted Ms. Cutts' hesitancy to second and asked if this is the route she wanted to go. Ms. Cutts said yes as long as we don't lose sight of what needs to be done. She doesn't want it

to end up on the agenda a year from now and still be talking about it. She said the potential is there, but the “teeth are missing.”

Mayor Pope opened the floor for public comment.

Rebecca McKenzie, Claremont, will meet with the County Commission next week. She said they are interested in hearing what Claremont has to say. The last day of the contract with Wheelabrator is June 30, 2007. The Waste Action Collaborative of Sullivan County (WACSC) is interested in giving the Council a presentation on developing a recycle-based waste management system. She asked to put the WACSC on a future agenda.

Bernie Folta said the idea of recycling needs to be sold, and he is concerned that the resolution is not the way to sell the idea in Claremont. He thinks the goal is outstanding, but the method of trying to convince others to move toward this goal may not work. Some parts of the resolution do not pertain to Claremont. This non-resolution has not been “bulletproofed” to achieve a successful outcome. There was a reference to a County recycling facility and that would require dollars. If County builds it, there will be an increase in the County tax rate and it will come back to the citizens of Claremont. He believes this is the future.

Mayor Pope said this is the way to get moving and to let the County know Claremont is interested in getting something going. He feels it will unify us with other communities.

Susan Doody, Ward 2, said this is movement in the right direction. There is a Bill defining biomass, which is a real key thing for New Hampshire. She hopes the Council moves this forward.

An amendment to add to the motion was made by Mr. Irish and seconded by Ms. Cutts for the City Council of Claremont to authorize the City Administration to use the results of data analysis, available benchmarks and best practices, equipment purchased through the “Recycling Grant,” and move to complete the remaining review and prepare to present options for a formal solid waste and/or recycling program to the City Council of Claremont, NH. For the City administration to present the options report to the Council on April 11, 2007, for public hearing and Council review.

Mr. Irish said the City of Claremont sends approximately 400 tons of trash to Wheelabrator. Twelve thousand tons go to Wheelabrator from City of Claremont private haulers. If we don't control the 12,000 tons, it is like throwing a pebble in the ocean. If we recycle 100%, we only account for 3% of the trash. After the contract expires, things will not change. We will still have to dispose of trash. Recycling will not close Wheelabrator. If Claremont controls the trash, then we can do something about it. He asked what program we will implement; what will it cost; and what do citizens of Claremont want. He agrees the time for studies is over, but we can't go do “it” until we know what the “it” options are from the City.

Ms. Cutts agrees with Mr. Irish up to a point. She said the “it” is curbside recycling complemented with a pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) program. It will sell itself. Claremont is

behind the times. Communities around Claremont are already doing it. We need to educate people and create a program that is efficient and cost-effective. Currently \$2.2 million is spent a year on solid waste in Claremont between taxes and out-of-pocket expenses. She doesn't want the impression that this is being dumped on City Staff. This is not an unfunded mandate; we already spend \$2.2 million. Even if it costs more, if it is an effective curbside recycling/PAYT program, she will vote for it.

Mr. Regan said he will follow because he is not up to speed on the whole concept. He asked if the \$2.2 million includes his garbage disposal bill. Ms. Cutts said the vast majority is out-of-pocket curbside pickup. Mr. Regan asked what happens when he recycles cans and bottles and then puts out a half a bag of garbage to be picked up. Ms. Cutts said they were not able to validate where the recycling goes. Mr. Regan said recycling is a good idea, but we are not going to impose it on the citizens of Claremont. Mr. Regan asked if the financial incentive is to impose fines for those who choose not to recycle. Ms. Cutts said no, it's a choice. Recycle would be no cost; put trash in a black bag and PAYT. Mr. Regan asked if he recycles any portion of his trash, will that reduce the monthly amount of money he pays to the trash hauler. Ms. Cutts said that part is unclear and will have to be worked out with City Administration after they work collaboratively with the haulers as other communities in our area have done. Mr. Irish said as it stands, if the City recycles, we must still pay the private hauler the same amount. He would rather pay the money to the City to take care of it all (pay a certain dollar amount per bag, then when he recycles, he would pay for fewer bags). He asked if the City takes over, will the collected fees be enough to pay for the program. Ms. Cutts said that is not for this Council to decide. The PAYT program was intended to reduce the cost of garbage pickup. The original grant application stated a curbside recycling program complemented by a PAYT program. We'll need to collaborate with haulers to do recycling and PAYT at the same time.

Mr. Regan asked if we were to recycle, will it impact the Wheelabrator. Ms. Cutts believes this will not impact the incinerator, nor was it ever a goal of the people who worked to do the recycling grant. Her goal will be the decrease in the fee charged by the haulers and the quantity they take to the incinerator will be reduced. Ms. Cutts asked if Mr. Regan knows where the recycling goes and he said no. She said therein lies the question.

Mr. Irish said the less given to the hauler, the less guaranteed tonnage, the more it will cost.

Paul Markowitz, Antioch New England Institute, said they have been operating under a grant from USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) for over a year and produced the action plan and summary document. In reference to recycling and PAYT, he said there have to be economic incentives. It's not economical for the city to build a materials recovery facility, but it does make sense for communities to work cooperatively. It must be easy and convenient (curbside recycling). He thinks there is a need for a county-wide entity to provide the infrastructure. At the end of the Project contract, nothing will change; we still have to find a place to take our waste. They are putting out an RFP for alternatives to the incinerator (there are cheaper options).

Cornelia Sargent, Ward 2, fifth generation Claremont resident, forefather set up Sullivan Machinery Company, urged the Council to draw on resources that are being offered. Sullivan County could have saved (according to the Antioch research) \$1 million by recycling only 50% of the trash in 2005.

Bernie Folta said in reference to Mr. Irish that he prefers options and data coming from Claremont people. There might be a good reason, because those are the people that are going to be accountable to the City Council and citizens of Claremont in the future.

Vote on the amendment: Motion carried 6-0.

Vote on the amended motion: Motion carried 6-0.

Change in Council Rules

Mr. Irish said that currently there is no interaction during Citizen's Forum. He would like to put it in Council Rules that people get their questions answered. He was under the impression that Council Rules did not allow interaction during Citizen's Forum, but there is nothing there. He thinks the Council needs to find a consistent way to get the contact information and respond to the citizen.

Mr. Neilsen said that prior to him being mayor, there was no Citizen's Forum. The problem answering them was it became a public hearing. He cautioned the mayor should be the spokesperson.

Mr. Irish asked the Council if they wanted to pursue it. Mr. Austin thinks it ought to be addressed, but not during the meeting. He suggested the Master of Arms write down the name and question and then direct it to where it can be answered. Mr. Irish would be comfortable funneling it through the Mayor. Ms. Cutts feels that is already done. She feels if the question can be answered simply, to do it, otherwise leave name and contact information. Mayor Pope's view is this could get into an informal agenda item. He likes to do homework before giving the answer. He said it could be done by Council Rule or practice and see how things work out. Mr. Irish said the practice changes from meeting to meeting and he would like to have a rule. Mayor Pope said he could funnel the question to the appropriate Councilor. He said to keep it under consideration.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND DIRECTIVES

Mayor Pope asked to schedule the Social Services Committee meeting for next Wednesday, February 28th, 6 p.m. Ms. Cutts asked to schedule the Community Service Committee meeting for next Wednesday also. They will meet in Council Chambers.

Mayor Pope noted there will be a meeting for the Sullivan County Commissioners on February 27th.

Mayor Pope noted that he had received the petition with Dick Michalenoick's name on it and he will discuss it with the City Manager.

Mr. Austin said something needs to be done about the tax issue for seniors, people on fixed income and disabled.

Mayor Pope acknowledged that a request had been received from Rachel Brown on Red Water Brook Road.

Ms. Cutts asked for data (state mean and national mean) on exemptions. Mr. Santagate has the information. Mr. Austin is willing to be on that committee to discuss exemptions. Mr. Irish noted that with any exemptions the city approves, the school will get their money and the city will pay their share as well. We are not set up to offset what the school is doing. Ms. Cutts would like a couple of people to meet with the City Manager to come up with a proposal.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:07 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Regan and seconded by Ms. Cutts to adjourn.

Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorée M. Russell
Clerk to the Council