

The Claremont City Council held a meeting on Wednesday, February 13, 2008, in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Cutts at 6:30 p.m.

Members of the Council present were:

At-Large Councilor Thomas (Toby) Batchelder, III
Ward I Councilor David Roark
Ward III Councilor Richard Dietz
Mayor Deborah Cutts
At-Large Councilor Andrew Austin
At-Large Councilor Kyle Messier
Ward II Councilor Paul LaCasse
At-Large Councilor Robert Picard

Also present:

Guy Santagate, City Manager

SELECTION AND SWEARING IN OF ASSISTANT MAYOR

Mayor Cutts described the process. She will take nominations; there will be a vote in the order of nomination. A majority vote of five is required. In the event of a tie, there will be a revote times two after reconfirming the nominees' desire to continue being nominated. If there is no decision, then she would request to table it to a date uncertain.

Mr. Picard nominated Mr. Batchelder because he was the largest vote getter in the At-Large category. Mr. LaCasse seconded.

Ms. Messier nominated Mr. Austin. He has been on the Council for eight years and has a sense of how the meeting is run.

Mayor Cutts said the roles of Mayor and Assistant Mayor have changed significantly. She is employed 30 miles north of Claremont. Being Mayor takes an enormous amount of time plus her other commitments, therefore the responsibilities of Assistant Mayor have changed. The Assistant Mayor will fill in when she is not able to do the job as well as joining her in other activities. She joined Ms. Messier in nominating Mr. Austin. Mr. Austin has been on the Council longer than she and is very familiar with the process and procedures. He has much less time constraints during the day.

Mr. Batchelder said he cannot commit to the flexibility that would be needed and withdrew his name. Mayor Cutts asked that he seriously consider it.

Mr. LaCasse nominated Mr. Dietz and Mr. Dietz respectfully declined.

Ms. Messier asked if Assistant Mayor duties can be spread out through the rest of the Council for public relations.

Mr. Picard asked Mr. Batchelder to reconsider. Mr. Roark supports the nomination of Mr. Batchelder and requested him to reconsider.

Mr. Picard re-nominated Mr. Batchelder.

Ms. Messier restated her question about spreading out Assistant Mayor duties. Mayor Cutts said there are no legal issues prohibiting doing it. Realistically, scheduling might be an issue. Since assuming the position, Mayor Cutts said she has put in 112 hours. She has taken 30 hours away from work. Her goal is to move on.

Mayor Cutts asked Mr. Austin if he accepted. Mr. Austin said he would be honored. She asked Mr. Batchelder if he accepted the re-nomination. Mr. Batchelder declined.

Mr. LaCasse nominated Mr. Roark. Mr. Roark said he was honored, but declined.

Roll Call Vote for Andrew Austin as Assistant Mayor: Motion carried 5-3 with Mr. Roark, Mr. LaCasse and Mr. Picard voting no.

Gwen Melcher, City Clerk, administered the oath of office for Assistant Mayor to Andrew Austin to complete the term of office vacated by Deborah Cutts when she assumed the position of Mayor following Scott Pope's resignation January 23, 2008. Term expires December 31, 2009.

SELECTION OF SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Mayor Cutts said maintaining point-of-order by the Council and public is very important. She pointed out the rules for public input on the flip chart. She reintroduced the "red card" process. It lets the audience know when one minute is left of the five minute time limit. The Sergeant-at-Arms will be obligated to call "point of order" when the red card warning is not adhered to. Mayor Cutts appointed Mr. Batchelder as Sergeant-at-Arms and he accepted.

SELECTION PROCESS FOR VACANT COUNCILOR SEAT

Mayor Cutts said the vacant Council seat is an At-Large seat. It needs to be filled by the April meeting. Application notices are to go out immediately. Mr. Santagate said any resident from the community can apply since it is an At-Large seat. Mayor Cutts questioned if the applicant must be a registered voter. Mr. Santagate said yes.

Mr. Roark asked that each applicant be given a copy of the City Charter, Code of Conduct and Council Rules. Mayor Cutts directed Mr. Santagate to do so.

MAYOR'S NOTES

Mayor Cutts thanked the Public Works Department for a job well done keeping the streets cleaned. Bruce Temple, Public Works Director will pass it on. Mayor Cutts thanked Fire Chief Peter Chase for the Fire Department's work during the recent fire. Claremont's home show will happen in March. Mayor Cutts said there were four ribbon cuttings and she welcomed the new businesses (Board Room, Sarah's Photography, Eastern Dinnerware and Esscor Electronics). She noted the owner of Sarah's Photography is less than 20 years old. Mr. Austin said with CSI (Customized Structures) closing, it is encouraging to share good things.

Mr. Santagate said Will Race will be featured on Channel 9's Hometown Hero tomorrow. He is first in his class, is an Eagle Scout and has a four-year scholarship to the Naval Academy.

Mr. Austin noted another sport hero, Rich Gingras, boxer, is doing well.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

A motion was made by Mr. Austin and seconded by Mr. Batchelder to accept the minutes of the January 9, 23 and 30, 2008, City Council meeting.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 7-1 with Mr. Dietz voting no because some of the minutes pertain to him.

APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

None. Mayor Cutts said a workshop will be scheduled in March to discuss the process and procedures for boards and committees appointments.

OLD BUSINESS

Fund Balance Update

Mr. Santagate said the City is in a position to recommend to the Council to make needed investments in the community to enhance the quality of life in Claremont. There are three major businesses: general fund (real estate taxes), water enterprise system and sewer enterprise system. Those three businesses are separate by state law, funds cannot be co-mingled. Each business has to stand on fees generated from those businesses.

Bruce Temple, Public Works Director, showed a Powerpoint presentation for the water enterprise fund. There are three sources of water for Claremont: Whitewater Reservoir, Rice and Dole (holding) Reservoirs. If the water is low at Dole, they can pump out of the Sugar River into Dole or the water treatment plant. Improvements have been made to the water treatment plant.

Bible Hill Booster Station has recently come on line.

System Improvements, water infrastructure, Resolution 2003-14 authorized up to \$7 million and Resolution 2006-19 authorized an increase of \$1.2 million to spend.

Authorized by City Council Water Projects \$8.2 million. Water Plant and Distribution Upgrades = \$7,494,845. The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund authorized two loans: loan 1- \$4,050,000 and loan 2-\$3,200,000 = \$7.25 million to pay for the projects. Remainder was paid out of retained earnings in the Water Department.

Water Plant Upgrades, design work, increased capacity of clearwell, and hydraulic modeling for a total of \$4,759,545.

Water Distribution (pipe in the ground) = \$2,735,300 (completed & design stage). The 20-inch Winter Street pipe has been rehabilitated.

D&H Priority Projects Water System September, 2003. Non-Completed: Raise Moody Tank, Acer Heights Water (designed) Thrasher Road Water (designed), Elm, Maple, W. Terrace (designed) and Old Church Water (Ellis Lane). They don't have the funding to complete these.

Water (DWSRF Loan #1) Borrowed \$4,050,000; term is 20 years; payment is \$285,000 per year. Currently our water rates are too low to qualify for forgiveness on that loan.

Water (DWSRF Loan #2) Will borrow \$3,200,000; term is 20 years; payment is \$223,000; forgiveness is \$480,000 over 20 years. Taking advantage of the forgiveness is only possible if the rates are raised by \$.15/cf.

Impact of an Increase to the Average Homeowner? \$2.65/100 cf = \$20 per year increase to the average household.

Water Current Assets (in reserve) \$3.5 million. Current Annual Debt \$285,000 in 2008 & \$530,000 in 2009. Industry Standard Reserve \$2.6 million and we have about \$3 million, some of which will be used to pay for the work.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements. All work is internal, piping and pumps.

System Improvements. Authorized to spend \$12,250,000. Remaining balance (unspent) is \$8,612,833.

Upcoming Wastewater Collection Projects = \$7,640,000. Washington Street Pump Station is critical.

Sewer SRF Spent to Date \$4,485,434, \$315,000 payment per year over 20 years at 3.5%. Sewer qualifies for 30% grant = \$1,345,630 over 20 years (about \$67,000 per year).

Sewer, Current Total Reserves \$615,170, Current Annual Debt \$340,000 in 2008 and \$655,000 in 2009, Industry Standard Reserve \$3.2 million

Revised Wastewater Collection Projects, \$4,485,434

Mary Walter, Finance Director, spoke about General Fund – Fund Balance
Unaudited beginning balance \$1.292 million; Reserved \$400,000; Available during 2007
\$892,518; Anticipated Addition for Year End \$347,500; Total GF Fund Balance \$1.24 million.

After subtracting the appropriations in 2007 we are left with a Year End Fund Balance of \$1.2 million

Reserved/Designated Fund Balance (includes Challenge Grant \$1,011,510 and City Cap Reserves \$99,379) for a Total General Fund Balance of \$2.3 million.

Resolution 2008-8 Community Enhancement Funding from Fund Balance – Public Hearing

Mr. Santagate said we have worked cautiously and carefully on the financial end. We are asking for \$300,000 to be expended from Fund Balance which will leave a balance of \$800,000. Shortly we will add \$350,000 into Fund Balance taking the total back to \$1.1 million.

This resolution includes \$200,000 for Track lights, \$50,000 for snowmaking at Arrowhead and \$50,000 for the Skatepark.

Mayor Cutts read the resolution into the record.

A motion was made by Mr. Austin and seconded by Ms. Messier to adopt Resolution 2008-8 Community Enhancement Funding from Fund Balance.

Ms. Messier is pleased to vote for this; it is for kids and it will bring more amenities to this area.

Mr. Picard asked if it is all or nothing. Mayor Cutts said yes.

Mr. LaCasse asked about liabilities to the General Fund Balance.

Mr. Santagate said the track at Monadnock Park was built with the help of a \$650,000 anonymous donation. We couldn't do the project without that money. The missing piece to complete the project is the lights. The conduits have been put in. At this point, he feels Fund Balance has been built up enough to make these investments. He noted there were a lot of supporters in Council Chambers. He noted a \$40,000 supply house was being built at the track by volunteers. It's because of this kind of partnership that he is asking for \$200,000 for the track.

Mr. Santagate acknowledged Spencer Allen for his work at Arrowhead. Arrowhead is run by volunteers. It is a private/public partnership. He's asking for \$50,000 to be put toward snowmaking equipment for Arrowhead. Donation of a pump to help with snowmaking will be discussed later.

Mr. Santagate acknowledged Liza Draper, Larry Beswick and Norman and Claire Lessard for their work on the skateboard park. They have raised \$35,000. They will accept \$19,000 in in-kind donations (i.e. bulldozer work) for a total of \$54,000. The \$50,000 will seal the deal (\$104,000 estimated project cost).

Mr. Santagate said the city always faces liabilities and as part of the risk management, works with Primex, our insurance company. Some risks we are not immune to (i.e. the Project). The \$400,000 reserve could be used for lawsuits which still leaves \$1.1 million which could be used on the Project and the Snelling case.

Mr. Picard said he cannot support the track lighting at \$200,000 when Public Works could use the funds. He asked if this is defeated, can other plans be brought forward. Mr. Santagate said yes, but these funds cannot be used for the projects Mr. Temple talked about. These funds are General Fund monies and they cannot be transferred to water and sewer.

Mr. Batchelder spoke about Arrowhead, Track lighting and the Skatepark and how beneficial these are.

Mr. LaCasse asked where the water for snowmaking would come from. Mr. Temple said there is public water in that area. There is adequate flow and he will work with the ski area with respect to pressure. Mr. Temple noted they would pay for the water used.

Mayor Cutts said she will vote yes; these investments will have long-range value.

Mayor Cutts opened the public hearing.

Norman Lessard, Ward 2, presented a petition, with 114 signatures, to the Council supporting the skatepark. He thanked the supporters and asked for a yes vote.

Keith Raymond, Ward 2, said a yes vote is a vote for quality of life in Claremont. He supports this.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, asked for clarification of fund balance (surplus or rainy day fund?).

Donald LaPlume, Ward 2, thanked the supporters for all these items. There have been issues of kids skateboarding on Opera House Square and Pleasant Street and the skateboard park will be a place for the kids to go. The track is a great place to walk and Arrowhead is a fun place to go. He supports the resolution.

Tom Burnham, Ward 3, handed out an Arrowhead brochure. Arrowhead has gotten lots of donations and volunteer hours. They need a little help with snowmaking. Word is getting around about the tubing area. They have one of the longest tubing areas in state.

Chris Shaban, Ward 3, said because of sacrifices of prior Councils, the reserve fund has gone from \$4,000 to \$2.3 million. This Council can make a big difference for children and the image

of the city. Millions of dollars have been invested in infrastructure and now it is time to look at the recreation part. This legacy will last forever.

Patrick Marro, Ward 2, Stevens High School student and skateboarder, said a skatepark will encourage kids to not get into trouble. He has a good time at Arrowhead; a snowmaking machine will support the fun. Lights on the track will allow the football team to play on their own field and to stay off the soccer field. He would appreciate a yes vote.

Jeff Schneider, Ward 2, has been involved with Arrowhead for 6-7 years. Kids need a place to go. He urged the Council to vote yes.

Spencer Allen, Ward 3, manager of ski operations at Arrowhead, said they are already in the black this year. They average 30 operating days and at 25 days this year, they have grossed \$20,000. This is the first step for snowmaking. The city water supply is a temporary source and he hopes to go to the Sugar River in the future. Arrowhead is an economic engine for Claremont. Claremont is a regional shopping center. People bring families into town, use Arrowhead, shop and eat.

Dan Seaman, Ward 3, student at Claremont Middle School, said skaters have been banned from the streets. Fields are available for most sports, but skateboarding is left out. Make it happen and they would be thankful.

Debra Chase, Ward 3, mother of Patrick Marro, said that West Lebanon supports the sport, so they support businesses in West Lebanon while they are there. When people come here, they will support the businesses here. It will keep kids out of trouble.

Greg Stowell, Ward 2, is part owner of a business in town, urged the Council to vote yes.

Chuck Allen, Ward 3, Arrowhead Recreation Club, said these projects greatly enhance the city's appeal to people. He stated, in reference to Arrowhead, that any improvements instantly become a city asset. It is a city park and the Club operates it on a no-cost lease. This is a gem of an asset. It even attracts people from Massachusetts. In reference to snowmaking, it will be a phased implementation. Phase one uses a limited water supply and one snow gun at 80 gallons/minute. The two biggest needs for snowmaking are water and a possible electrical upgrade. Other phases will be later. The goal is to have a low cost recreation area. It is all volunteers.

Tammy Aldrich, Ward 2, talked about the lights at the track. Even if the track is used for only six months a year, the track meets will bring lots of athletes and their families. The middle school CVL track meet brought in 300 athletes and their families. While they are here, people shop and eat. At sporting events, she hears comments that Claremont parks are beautiful.

Mayor Cutts closed the public hearing

Mayor Cutts noted that the local chapter of the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life used the track and had to use generators and torches for lights. They raised in excess of \$50,000.

Mr. Roark thanked the kids for coming out. These projects are for all year round. He will support it.

Mr. LaCasse said he had received many phone calls from elderly people that the tax rate is too high and they would rather not support this. He received many calls saying that the skatepark is in a bad spot. He'll vote no. Mayor Cutts noted this expenditure has no impact on the tax rate. Mr. Picard said the money originally came from the taxpayers' pockets.

Mayor Cutts said the petition from Mr. Lessard was signed by 114 people requesting the Council support this resolution. She thanked the public for coming out. She also received phone calls and after clearing up misunderstandings, many were in favor of the resolution.

Mr. Santagate said the Fund Balance is like a savings or surplus account. We have put money into it because we have operated under budget each year. It is not appropriate to use those monies to lower the taxrate. It is not unusual to have 3-5% of the operating budget in Fund Balance. He thinks these are the three best projects for this money. We can create a campus-type atmosphere with the new Community Center, Monadnock Park, Arrowhead and the skateboard park.

Mr. Picard asked about Track lighting. Scott Hausler, Parks and Recreation Director, said the lighting project will bring 3-phase power to the site, parking lot lights and four pole lights which will illuminate the field. Security lighting will protect the asset and offer a safe place to walk in the evening. Many sports use that field.

Mr. Roark noted this is an investment in the community and does not increase the taxes.

Mr. Hausler said one of the goals of the Youth Baseball/Softball Association is to illuminate at least one field. The 3-phase power will allow them to do that once they raise the funds.

Ms. Messier said one of the best ways to decrease taxes is to increase the tax base. That is done by attracting more people to the area. This is an investment in the community. She'll vote yes. Mr. Austin agreed with Ms. Messier.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 6-2 with Mr. Dietz and Mr. LaCasse voting no.

Release of \$1 million Community Center Funds

Due to a conflict of interest, Mayor Cutts asked Mr. Roark to join the audience, which he did.

Resolution 2008-11 New Community Center Challenge Grant Fund Expenditure – Public Hearing

Mayor Cutts read the resolution into the record.

Mr. Santagate said in 1942 the Goodwin Community Center was donated to the city. Around the 1950s it was upgraded. A study was done in 1999 and 512 respondents said they wanted a community center; 80% said it was important to have an indoor community center in Claremont. Having a community center is not new, but the one we have now is being shut down piece by piece because of dysfunction. We don't want to wait until it completely shuts down. We can create a campus atmosphere by closing South Street and linking the middle school and the tech school with the New Community Center and having the trail and Monadnock Park behind it and Arrowhead across from it. In 2005, the Council voted to place a \$1 million challenge grant aside pending raising \$3 million by November 2008. Those funds would be used for architectural drawings, etc. to get the project started. Mr. Santagate acknowledged and thanked Frank Reed, Chairman of the Board, and Sherwood Moody, President, of Claremont Savings Bank (CSB). The \$1 million from the city and \$3 million from CSB is almost 50% of the money needed to build the project. He believes the group can raise serious money now because of the \$3 million. Of the \$1 million the city pledged, \$900,000 was put into a capital reserve account and \$100,000 was released for expenses. The city will keep the \$100,000 in interest earned while the \$900,000 was in the bank. He asked to release the \$900,000 to the New Community Center group so they can begin the project (i.e. architect drawings, etc.). He is willing to call on foundations, and speak to business groups and tell the Claremont story. We got \$211,000 from Congressman Hodes' office. There are other people waiting to step up, but they want to see the city release the funds first.

Mr. Dietz asked if the funds could be used to purchase real properties. Mr. Santagate said it's a possibility.

Mr. LaCasse asked if the \$3 million will be transferred to the city. Mr. Santagate said no because Councils change and so do opinions. Instead, the funds will go to a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, not to the city. The Board will oversee the fundraising, architectural drawings, construction and when the project is complete, the city will accept it. Mr. LaCasse asked who are the trustees for this 501(c)3. They are John Napsey, Tawyna Courtermarsh, Jeff Goff, Wayne McCutchins and Jim Feleen.

A motion was made by Mr. Austin and seconded by Mr. Batchelder to adopt Resolution 2008-11 New Community Center Challenge Grant Fund Expenditure.

Mr. Austin and Mayor Cutts agree this is a great opportunity for the community.

Mayor Cutts opened the public hearing.

Norman Lessard, Ward 2, asked the Council to vote yes.

Greg Stowell, Ward 2, thinks the city is in a position to take advantage of this tremendous gift. A no vote will send a negative message to possible benefactors. He urged the Council to support this resolution.

Frank Reed, Ward 3, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of CSB, said he and his children have benefited from the community center. The bank's commitment is sincere. He asked for a yes vote.

Tom Connair, Ward 2, Trustee for CSB, echoed Mr. Reed's remarks. This is a building block to enhance the vitality of the community.

Sherwood Moody, President of CSB, echoed the previous comments. There is a need for indoor recreation and the New Community Center will offer that. CSB has had the land for quite a while and they couldn't think of a better use for it. They could see the need to jump start the efforts for obtaining funds. CSB has been in Claremont for 100 years and it is time to give back.

Mayor Cutts closed the public hearing.

Mr. Batchelder is excited about having a new community center. He supports this.

Mr. LaCasse asked about the operating costs when it is up and running. Mr. Hausler said square footage will determine the operating costs and that is difficult to determine at this time. Mr. LaCasse asked about using green technologies. Mr. Hausler said that is being considered to save on energy costs. Mr. LaCasse asked if the same staffing will be used. Mr. Hausler said yes. With having all the activities under one roof, there will be savings of people, but there will be more activities (3 times) which will require additional staff. Activities are revenue based and the intention is to be affordable.

Ms. Messier asked if the facility will be open to non-Claremont residents. Mr. Hausler said it will be operated as it is now, non-residents pay a different fee.

Mr. Picard said he will vote no. There is still an outstanding balance of \$3-4 million. No one is interested in bonding the money.

Mr. LaCasse asked if any funds had been raised other than the \$3 million. Mr. Santagate said major pledges are ready to come forward including \$1 million of land pledged to the city. Other major donors are lined up because of the CSB commitment. Sale of the current community center to the post office is not a dead issue. The worst case is the city closes the gap. We have \$3 million pledged and another \$1 million is being talked about. Once you get half the money in the bank, the rest comes along easier. People are waiting to see the city's commitment.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 5-2 with Mr. Dietz and Mr. Picard voting no.

Mayor Cutts invited Mr. Roark back to the Council table.

New Life Worship Center

Reverend Robert Perigo, Pastor of New Life Worship Center, said the City Solicitor called his attorney yesterday and asked if he would defer his time until next month. At that time he didn't think it was a good idea, he preferred closure, however this has been a long evening. He said he

wouldn't mind coming back next month. Mr. Santagate said this is a complex issue and would need to be discussed at length. Mayor Cutts asked if there were any objections from the Council. No spoke. Item moved to March Council meeting.

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Tom Connair, Ward 2, talked about two issues; one was the Wheelabrator clarification coming up. For the second issue, he passed out an article published last year about the constitutional amendment to "solve" the state's education funding crisis, *Amendment would spell disaster for Claremont*. These issues impact the economic welfare of Claremont. It is not the targeted aid, they are trying to get the court out of the system so nobody is looking over their shoulder. It is a fundamental right and the state has certain obligations to fund that. Re: targeted aid, he said you can't create a situation where kids in Claremont don't have a constitutional education. The issue is to get the court out of the loop.

Christine Terrell, Ward 2, School Board representative, talked about the school budget. The vote will be March 11. The bottom line is the tax rate was reduced by 50 cents. A \$1.2 million one-time item from last year will not be replicated this year. They wanted some new improvements including negotiating staff contracts. \$360,000 of the \$1.2 million was not spent thus the 50 cent decrease. There are five new contracts; three of the bargaining units last year did not get a raise. They feel these are reasonable agreements to attract and retain qualified staff. She encouraged everyone to vote.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, had two points. One, cheerleading is important, however, excessive cheerleading equals low self-esteem. In November, citizens said they wanted more questions asked and more critical thinking. He sees that with this Council. Two, he suggested the Council packet be made more widely available, perhaps at the library and/or maybe on the website.

Chuck Allen, Ward 3, gave an update on Arrowhead. This year has been fantastic. One critical need is volunteers. Vacation week is coming up and they are open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. They need lift operators, concession people and first aid help. Cardboard sled race is coming up February 23rd; it's a fundraiser. NH Community Technical College is promoting and running this event. For more information, go to www.Arrowheadnh.com.

NEW BUSINESS

Acceptance of \$20,100 Grant for Guiderails from Sullivan County ATV Club

Dianne Raymond, Ward 2, Sullivan County ATV Club (SCATV) Trail Administrator, introduced Bill Cody, Vice President SCATV. The Club saw a need for guiderails on Washington Street for the recreational trail and applied for a recreational trail grant. The guiderails were installed in November. The Club would like to present the guiderails to the City of Claremont. Mr. Picard asked who would be responsible for the upkeep. Ms. Raymond said the SCATV Club.

A motion was made by Mr. Roark and seconded by Mr. Dietz to accept the \$20,100 Grant for Guiderails from the Sullivan County ATV Club with thanks.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

Donation of Pump

Mr. Temple said when the city built the new Bible Hill booster pump station, the old pumps became available. We reserved the rights to salvage the equipment including two water booster pumps, old valves and an old electrical control panel. Approximate value is \$4,000. Mr. Picard asked about maintenance. Mr. Temple they will be given to Arrowhead and then it will be their responsibility.

A motion was made by Mr. Austin and seconded by Mr. Batchelder to accept with sincere appreciation the donation of two (2) water pumps, valves and a control panel discontinued from use at the old Bible Hill Booster Station and further extends this donation to the Arrowhead Recreation Club, a non-profit group, to further enable them to enhance the programming offered to the citizens of Claremont. This has an approximate value of \$4,000.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

Acceptance of \$5,000 Tony Hawk Foundation Grant for the Skatepark

Mr. Hausler said the Tony Hawk Foundation supports recreation programs. This will help build the skatepark.

A motion was made by Mr. Picard and seconded by Mr. LaCasse to accept the \$5,000 Tony Hawk Foundation Grant for the Skatepark.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0

Resolution 2007-23 Accept and Expend Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant – Public Hearing

Mr. Hausler asked the Council to adopt the resolution for the \$19,730 LWCF grant.

Mayor Cutts read the resolution into the record.

Mayor Cutts opened the public hearing.

Norman Lessard, Ward 2, asked the Council to vote in favor of this motion. This is part of the figures he has been working with. They have raised \$47,000 toward this project.

Mayor Cutts closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Mr. Picard and seconded by Mr. Batchelder to adopt Resolution 2007-23 Accept and Expend Land and Water conservation Fund Grant.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 7-1 with Mr. Dietz voting no.

CCTV Budget and Annual Report

Mary Walter, Finance Director, said the city could support a 3% increase. CCTV (Claremont Community Television) is asking for \$110,000. The franchise fees will support this. She recommended approving the expenditure in quarterly payments.

Ms. Messier said CCTV is an excellent addition to the community.

Mayor Cutts opened the public hearing.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, asked for clarification of the franchise fees. Ms. Walter said the cable franchise fees are negotiated. The fees are for allowing them to use our rights-of-way to put their lines in. The franchise pays the municipality. The money is the city's and the city has always chosen to support having community television. The first agreement was for 15 years and CCTV ended up getting \$55,000 for the last three years of that contract. There is a maximum of 5% of gross revenues that subscribers pay for rights-of-way. Last year we received \$146,000 from Comcast. The money not paid to CCTV was placed in a capital reserve account.

Mayor Cutts closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Mr. Batchelder and seconded by Mr. Austin to accept the 2008 CCTV (Claremont Community Television) budget of \$110,000 and agree to pay CCTV quarterly amounts of \$27,500 and to transfer any additional funds received through year end to the "City Communication and Technology Capital Reserve Fund" for the purpose of funding current and future City communications and technology services, equipment and infrastructure projects as established under Resolution 2007- 26.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

Household Hazardous Waste Report

Peter Chase, Fire Chief, said the last collection was in the fall of 2003; 245 households took part. The state average is 20 pounds and ours was 32.7 pounds per household. Estimated cost this year is \$7.50 per pound which would be \$36,750 using the state average. The state gives 17 cents per capita which would be \$2,261. Using Claremont's average, it would cost about \$60,000 for the collection. Newport will have a collection after July 1st. We have \$5,000 budgeted plus the \$2,261 the state will give us which equals \$7,261 toward a household hazardous waste collection. We have signed a letter of commitment to go in with Newport. We will share the cost evenly.

Mr. Santagate said we can alternate every other year with Newport and next year it can be here. Mr. Santagate suggested in the future it could be done regionally. Chief Chase encouraged people to recycle their household hazardous waste because it is becoming costly to dispose of it. Mr. Santagate said this is the only option for this year.

Mayor Cutts asked how much money has been spent on two hazardous waste clean ups in Claremont. Mr. Santagate said the Sawtooth was \$1 million and Lowes was \$2 to \$2.5 million.

Mr. Picard asked if this is done on an annual basis, will the numbers go down. Chief Chase said yes, but it involves a lot of work and costs (overtime, disposing of trash).

Mr. Roark would like to see a collection twice a year. Mayor Cutts would be happy with once a year.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, asked if there is a charge for the user. Chief Chase said no. Mr. Folta suggested it be advertised that Claremont cannot afford to do a collection alone.

Robert Woodman said the recycling group advocated pay as you throw. There is no reason people should not be charged for disposal.

Mr. LaCasse asked about incorporating this with recycling and charge people for dropping it off. Chief Chase said the people at the Transfer Station are not trained to identify all the items. What you bring determines the costs. Mr. LaCasse asked if they can be trained. Mr. Santagate said it may be worth talking to the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC). Chief Chase said by partnering with Newport, we are going with UVLSRPC. Mr. Santagate said we can explore other things mentioned tonight.

Mayor Cutts asked if there were any objections. There were none.

Resolution 2008-9 Establish Capital Reserve Fund for the Cemeteries – Public Hearing

Ms. Walter this resolution will allow moving money into the Capital Reserve Fund.

A motion was made by Mr. Picard and seconded by Mr. LaCasse to accept Resolution 2008-9 Establish Capital Reserve Fund for the Cemeteries.

Mayor Cutts read the resolution into the record.

Mayor Cutts opened the public hearing. No one spoke. She closed it.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

Resolution 2008-10 No Cross Traffic at Intersection of Arthur St. & Washington St. – Public Hearing

This item was removed from the agenda.

Three-year Lease Agreement for Six Police Cars

Police Chief Alex Scott said this should be seven vehicles. They try to switch out an admin vehicle every three years. In his budget, he maintained \$48,000 for the lease payment. The last fleet had mechanical problems and was through Ford Motor Credit. The Chevy Impala is used by the NY City and Montreal police departments. The cost is lower than the Crown Victoria. The Impala is a V6 versus a V8 saving gas. The Impala gets around better in snow because it is front wheel drive. The Impala tested out equivalent to the Crown Victoria. There is no significant difference in the room. It cost \$132,582 for six Crown Vics three years ago. It will cost \$120,471 for six Impalas. Installing new equipment has to be factored in. The last lease payment was \$48,615 per year for three years for six Crown Vics and one Ford Taurus. The lease payment for six line cars and one admin car plus all the new equipment will be \$45,071 per year for three years. That does not include fuel economy which is about \$1,000 per car/per year.

Mr. LaCasse asked about the Ford Taurus all wheel drive. Chief Scott said it doesn't come with the police package.

Mr. Roark asked about the average mileage. Chief Scott said it is about 25,000 per year. The supervisor's vehicle has more mileage. Mr. Roark asked if the colors will change. Chief Scott said they will stay black and white.

Mr. Austin asked about trade in. Chief Scott said it is a lease to purchase. One vehicle is kept out and is used by the school resource officer.

Mayor Cutts asked about wear and tear. Chief Scott doesn't know if the Impala comes with an hour meter. If they have to do details, they will use car 9.

A motion was made by Mr. Batchelder and seconded by Mr. Picard to authorize the City Manager to enter into a multi-year agreement for the lease of vehicles and related equipment for the Police Department. The proposed lease agreement contains a termination clause in the event of non-appropriation of sufficient funds for the future years of the agreement; such funds for the lease having been raised and appropriated in the 2008 City Budget.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

Social Services and Community Reinvestment Committees

Ms. Messier asked about stepping down because agencies she works for may apply. Mayor Cutts said not tonight, this is for establishing committees.

Mr. Austin said he has done the Social Services Committee for a number of years and would be glad to head it up. He suggested Ms. Messier might not have a conflict if she were to sit on the Community Reinvestment Committee.

Mayor Cutts said there is \$30,000 for each committee. The Social Services agency does not have to be in Claremont. The Community Reinvestment does. She asked the committees to communicate so there are no duplicate applications.

Mayor Cutts noted that last year's money for the Community Reinvestment Committee was not spent in its entirety. The leftover was used for air conditioners in the Opera House. City Manager's Office will announce applications are available and due back by April 20; subcommittees will have until the June meeting to come back with formal recommendations on how the money is to be awarded; meetings need to be publicly noticed at least 48 hours in advance; sub-committees need to keep notes; submit final recommendations in writing.

Mayor Cutts opened the floor for public comment.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, talked about RSA 91:A and the need for public notice and minutes. He asked about some groups getting direct funding without going through this committee process. Ms. Walter said appropriations for JSL and Arrowhead come through the budget because those buildings are owned, maintained and used by the city, so we pay a portion of that.

Social Services Committee: Mr. Austin, Mayor Cutts and a third person if anyone is interested.

Community Reinvestment Committee: Mr. Batchelder, Mr. Picard and Ms. Messier.
Applications are due by April 20 and recommendations by the June meeting.

There was discussion about putting the tax id number on a public document. Ms. Russell will check with City Solicitor Taylor.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Santagate answered Mr. Roark's previously asked question about when the Route 103 Newport project would be complete. The state reports October 15, 2008, it will be substantially complete.

Mr. Santagate said Mr. Roark had asked a question through the Mayor. There was a meeting with Mr. Santagate, Mr. Roark and Ms. Taylor. They are still researching the answers and when they get them, will bring them back to the Council.

Mr. Santagate said a request had come to him from Mr. Batchelder through former Mayor Pope about Ramuntos parking issues. Bruce Temple, Public Works Director, and he met with Ramuntos and put a plan in place related to parking to help that area. One of the plans is to change the light to allow a left turn from Broad Street onto Water Street and the light will allow for a left turn from Broad Street to the parking lot across from Ramuntos. We will create 150 parking spaces outside the parking garage that will be within 2-3 blocks from downtown. Some will be across the bridge by the Visitor's Center.

Mr. Santagate handed out lists of 91:A right-to-know requests that were received in 2006 and 2007. Totals for 2006 were 78 inquiries and 46 were from one individual. In 2007, there were

112 inquiries and the same individual made 52 of them. We are busy answering lots of questions.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND DIRECTIVES

Ms. Walter said the fire alarm system for City Hall failed miserably. The panel is obsolete. We need a special meeting to get permission to take \$19,000 out of Capital Reserve. The estimate is \$21,000 so the rest will come out of the Maintenance budget. This meeting requires a 48-hour notice to take from the Capital Reserve. We might not be able to have scheduled Opera House events. It might also affect the court. The second and third floors are issues. Ms. Taylor will be asked if this can be done by a phone vote.

Mayor Cutts scheduled a meeting for Monday at 6 p.m.

Ms. Messier talked about the Planning Board meeting on Monday night. It was an embarrassment to the city. A state official was invited to the meeting and offered some insight and advice about an open space ordinance. The meeting got out of control and the public was allowed to interrogate him. Some member of the public even ripped down an informational display that the city had put up. She is concerned the meeting will give the city a "black eye." She would like to explore training for board chairpersons to keep meetings from getting out of control. She would like to entertain sending a letter of apology to the state official. Mayor Cutts said she attended that meeting. She thinks it is important to protect the city's reputation. Mr. Santagate said we can explore that through the Local Government Center. Mayor Cutts agreed the city should send a letter of apology to the state official and asked the City Manager to make that happen.

Mr. LaCasse said he was at that meeting and he didn't think Mr. Grigsby, Planning Board Chair, did all that bad. Mayor Cutts agreed Mr. Grigsby did a wonderful job.

Mr. Austin was there and he observed the public was invited to speak. There was a last minute change and they were flustered by the change.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, said he was at the meeting. There were two classes: members of the open space committee and citizens. The open space committee was appointed by a previous Council/Mayor. Sometimes people get carried away.

A motion was made by Mr. Picard and seconded by Mr. Dietz to adjourn. When Mayor Cutts explained there were still some items on the agenda, Mr. Picard withdrew his motion and Mr. Dietz withdrew his second.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Open Space Ordinance Committee

Mayor Cutts said the Open Space Ordinance was approved by the Planning Board and the Council will see it soon.

Master Plan Committee

Mayor Cutts said there is no update.

School Reinvestment Committee

Ms. Walter said the Long Range Task Force has put out surveys for evaluating all schools. They are still taking the surveys and tabulating the results. She is concerned with some of the survey results, one of the biggest things was the impact on the tax rate would be a huge impact. One of the ways to bring strength is to broaden the tax base and broadening the tax base would allow growth in community.

CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL

None

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:58 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Picard and seconded by Mr. Dietz to adjourn.

Motion carried 8-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorée M. Russell
Clerk to the Council