

The Claremont City Council held a meeting on Saturday, November 14, 2009, in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Cutts at 9:00 a.m.

Members of the Council present were:

At-Large Councilor Thomas (Toby) Batchelder, III
At-Large Councilor Robert Picard
At-Large Councilor Keith Raymond
Assistant Mayor Andrew Austin
Mayor Deborah Cutts
Ward II Councilor Paul LaCasse
At-Large Councilor Kyle Messier
Ward I Councilor Christopher Lewis
Ward III Councilor Jeffrey Goff

Also present were:

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

BUDGET

Police

2009 Final Approved - \$2,027,712.00; 2010 Department Request - \$2,099,851.00; Manager's Proposal - \$2,062,494.00

Mr. Santagate said the public hearing for the budget will be November 19th.

Mr. Santagate said this budget is up 1.7 % or \$34,000. Increases: Retirement \$18,500; Health Insurance \$7,000; Animal Control \$3,000; Drug Task Force \$3,000 and Machines and Equipment \$2,400.

Police Chief Alex Scott said the previous year was a tough one: Officer Chris Mudgett is not coming back due to injuries received in the line of duty; High profile cases; Economy; Budget cuts and layoffs. However, morale in the Police Department remains high thanks to the members of the department. His bosses are the City Manager and the Police Commission. Goals: CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) recognition, recognition certificate will be received next week and then on to full accreditation in three years; Increase staffing – National average is 2.5 officers per thousand and for Claremont that would equal 33, but for communities the size of Claremont, the national average is 2 per thousand so he will

shoot for 26. Currently the department is at 22. With the COPS grant, that will be 23. Because of the current number, directed enforcement has suffered. There are 24,000 calls for service each year with close to 1,000 arrests per year. The biggest change between the Department Request and the Manager's Proposal is for a permanent part-time School Resource Officer (SRO). Now, officers rotate the position. This would create consistency in the schools. Schools pay for one-half the salary and benefits of the officer. It would increase the officers by 2/3 (cover the school calendar year). He will try to move toward that in the future. There will be savings in the Drug Task Force line item because two JAG grants have been approved. There was discussion about the SRO and the Animal Control. Making the SRO a permanent position would add about \$33,000 to the City's budget and reduce the \$33,000 in revenue that is received from the schools.

A motion was made by Mr. LaCasse and seconded by Mr. Goff to tentatively accept the Police budget of \$2,099,851.00 (Department Request).

Ms. Walter said there are two positions, one Police (starting in January) and one Fire (starting in July), in the 417 budget. When the departments are ready, she will come back to Council to move the money to the respective budgets.

Mr. Batchelder asked about the impact on the budget using the Department's Request. Ms. Walter estimated it would be \$7.50 on a \$150,000 house.

Mayor Cutts asked about the status of the courthouse and its impact if it is moved to Newport. Ms. Walter said we have it until June 30th and Chief Scott said the impact will be negative due to the travel and backfilling positions.

Mr. Picard said 5 cents per thousand for an additional police officer is a good deal. That is \$7.50 on a \$150,000 house.

There was discussion about the unexpected increase of one officer and Chief Scott said he would be willing to forego his request until the next year.

A motion was made by Mr. LaCasse to move the question. No second. Motion died.

Mayor Cutts asked about the vacant position. Chief Scott said starting 2009, he had one vacant position and then Officer Mudgett's retirement. Current staffing is 22. The COPS grant will add 1 and the position in the 417 budget will add 1 for a total of 24 officers which is equal to a 1.8 staffing ratio. He will come back during the 2011 budget for the 2/3 officer for the schools.

Mayor Cutts asked about the impact of the two colleges and the high school. Chief Scott said they have no impact statistically.

Mr. Goff said he seconded the motion for discussion, but will not support it.

Roll Call Vote: Motion failed 2-7 with Mr. Batchelder, Mr. Raymond, Mr. Austin, Ms. Messier, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Goff and Mayor Cutts voting no.

Mayor Cutts voted no because the Chief was okay with the number of people he would get with City Manager's proposal.

A motion was made by Mr. Batchelder and seconded by Mr. Raymond to tentatively accept the Police budget of \$2,062,494.00 (Manager's Proposal).

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 7-2 with Messrs. Picard and LaCasse voting no.

Communications 911

2009 Final Approved - \$348,298.00; 2010 Department Request - \$402,434.00; Manager's Proposal - \$379,882.00.

Mr. Santagate said this is up \$26,000 or 9%. It is up due to Health Insurance.

Chief Scott said the dispatch center continues to get busier. His staff, Jim Boise and Melissa Blackwell (20 years), has said they cannot keep up with the current staffing. His goal is to increase staffing. The difference between Department Request and the Manager's Proposal is to add a part-time person in order to have two people at the desk at certain times. He will ask for more full-time help next year or in 2012.

Ms. Walter said this is budgeted for part-time staff at 36 hours per week.

Mr. Lewis asked if increasing two officers would impact dispatch. Chief Scott said more officers working create more radio traffic, so it would have an impact. Increasing technology may alleviate some of the traffic.

Mr. Picard said the voters spoke and they want services, so he made a motion.

A motion was made by Mr. Picard and seconded by Mr. LaCasse to tentatively accept the Communications 911 budget of \$402,434.00 (Department Request).

Mr. Raymond asked about the part-time position. Chief Scott said it would allow 8 hours per day, 7 days per week of double coverage. Ms. Walter said that is equal to 3 cents on the tax rate or \$11.89 per thousand.

Mr. Goff would like to see investment in technology to alleviate the burden and to use reserve funds for improvement in technology. Ms. Walter said we have been doing it (i.e. computer lease programs, cameras on the streets, etc.). Efficiencies attained help in all city areas.

Mayor Cutts cautioned Council does not have the authority to direct the City Manager to apply the money to a specific element of this budget.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Planning & Development

10:00 a.m. Ms. Messier was excused for a couple of minutes.

2009 Final Approved - \$623,653.00; 2010 Department Request - \$648,261.00; Manager's Proposal - \$642,261.00.

Mr. Santagate said the increase is \$18,036. For 2009, this budget had dramatic cuts (\$127,000) after the Governor made state cuts, so he added slightly to this budget. The \$18,000 is primarily made up of health insurance costs.

10:02 a.m. Ms. Messier returned.

Mr. Santagate said an employee in Planning who was hired in June 2005 is a member of the National Guard. That year he worked until August. He was gone September to October. Then he worked mid-December to the end of December. In 2006, he was gone January to June. He worked June to September and has been gone since then. After his service termination date, he has 90 days to let us know if he will return to work for the City. He is not sure if he will get another assignment, but will know by Thanksgiving. Under federal law, the City is required to give him back his position with scheduled pay increases (\$20.45 per hour). So, we need to add \$72,801 to the budget to cover salary and benefits in case he does come back. Mr. Santagate said we could take this from Fund Balance this one year (no impact on the tax rate) since we are not sure if he will return. Ms. Walter said if not taken from Fund Balance, that 9 cents will be added to the tax rate. Mr. Santagate said if he doesn't come back, there is no intention to fill the position and the funds will remain in Fund Balance.

As far as we know, the City has only one military member in this situation. Even though this person has been on the rolls for five years, he hasn't completed probation and is not trained. The position he held was building inspector. If he returns, there will be three building inspectors, none of the positions will be eliminated, because the other two inspectors are trained, this individual is not.

A motion was made by Mr. LaCasse and seconded by Mr. Picard to tentatively accept the Planning & Development budget of \$642,261.00 (Manager's Proposal).

Ms. Walter said \$642,261 does not include the amount required for the military person's salary and benefits. That amount would be \$715,062 with \$72,801 coming from Fund Balance.

Ms. Walter noted that Planning and Development brings in \$204,000 in revenue.

Mr. Santagate said in Concord, the state talked about the Governor using the doctors' liability fund (\$110 million) to balance the 2010/2011 state budget. It is in the court and if it can't be used, there may be further cuts to the state budget in 2011 which would impact the City's budget.

Mr. Goff asked about the rent for the courthouse lease if they stay. Mr. Santagate said they will pay zero.

Mr. Picard withdrew his second.

Mr. LaCasse asked about laying off a building inspector as we don't need three inspectors. Ms. Walter asked if he meant to layoff a qualified person. We may not even get the third person.

There was no other second, motion died.

A motion was made by Mr. Batchelder and seconded by Mr. Picard to tentatively accept the Planning & Development budget of \$715,062.00 (Manager's Proposal including \$72,801 from Fund Balance).

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-1 with Mr. LaCasse voting no.

Mayor Cutts thanked the staff member for his military service.

TIFD-River Road

2009 Final Approved - \$876,000.00; 2010 Department Request - \$544,000.00; Manager's Proposal - \$544,000.00.

Ms. Walter said the River Road TIFD (Tax Incremental Finance District) is down. This subsidizes the Downtown TIFD by a loan at ½% over prime. We have decreased the Downtown TIFD loan by half to \$300,000. Mr. Santagate said the increase in the Downtown TIFD is \$16 million which is equal to \$600,000 added tax dollars, forever. Mr. Santagate explained that the ability to loan between TIFDs helps with timing of development completion and bonding.

A motion was made by Mr. Goff and seconded by Mr. LaCasse to tentatively accept the TIFD-River Road budget of \$544,000.00 (Manager's Proposal).

Mr. Picard asked when the River Road TIFD will be self sustaining. Ms. Walter said hopefully in 2010.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

TIFD-Downtown

2009 Final Approved - \$1,019,690.00; 2010 Department Request - \$992,350.00; Manager's Proposal - \$992,350.00.

Ms. Walter said this covers the parking garage. It just pays the bond payment. Bond payments are down 2.7% from last year. Miscellaneous Cost Revenue is from two leases with Red River

Computer and John Illick's group and that will pay a portion of the maintenance of the garage (lights, heat, elevator, snow plowing, etc.).

A motion was made by Ms. Messier and seconded by Mr. Austin to tentatively accept the TIFD-Downtown budget of \$992,350.00.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

GCC-Recreation

2009 Final Approved - \$561,256.00; 2010 Department Request - \$1,825,668.00; Manager's Proposal - \$541,185.00.

Parks

2009 Final Approved - \$417,882.00; 2010 Department Request - \$782,503.00; Manager's Proposal - \$429,203.00.

Scott Hausler, Parks and Recreation Director, said GCC and Parks and Recreation are operating with 3 less full-time and 10 less seasonal people. Last summer they did not run the summer program and reduced the aquatic program which eliminated several seasonal positions. Some of the seasonal positions are back in this budget request. Park Maintenance had half the staff. Two years ago they gained a part-time office position. Building Maintenance Department Request is \$1,297,000 and Manager's Proposal is only \$20,000.

Ms. Walter said last summer Parks and Recreation collaborated with the schools through the Access for All grant to help offset some of the cuts.

Mr. Goff asked about the Building Maintenance and Repair. Mr. Santagate said you could spend more than \$2 million on that aging facility. Areas are slowly being shut down due to code issues. We don't want to put money into that building, however we don't have a new building available. Mr. Santagate said another option is to shut the building down, but that is not a great option. He talked about the New Community Center not moving ahead until the school vote on the high school renovation is held in March. Mr. Santagate said the options are: Build a new community center, pour money into the old one or shut it down completely.

Ms. Walter said the impact is \$2.17 on the tax rate to pass the Department's Request on both budgets which would bring the new tax rate to \$14 per thousand. She noted the City has spent a lot of money upgrading parks and a lot of money is being paid repairing damage done by vandals.

Mr. Lewis said parks are not essential for safety, but they are essential for a growing city. Mr. Hausler said they are essential (reducing obesity rates in children, reducing health care costs). Mayor Cutts agreed.

There was discussion about programs and scholarships. Ms. Walter said the Access for All grant is \$202,000; \$54,000 was used.

A motion was made by Mr. Goff and seconded by Mr. Raymond to tentatively accept the GCC-Recreation budget of \$541,185.00 and the Parks budget of \$429,203.00 (both Manager's Proposal).

Mr. Lewis asked about Land Maintenance and Repair \$195,000 Department Request and the Manager's Proposal of \$20,000. Mr. Hausler said it is related to the outdoor pool and without the money, he won't be able to do the repairs. It is unknown if it will affect the operation.

Mayor Cutts asked about revenue from the state swim meet. Mr. Hausler said that roughly \$5,000 is received from the association. They do fundraising at the event and then contribute to swimming. The meet contributes to the economy in the community. Ms. Walter said the outdoor pool is not a money maker, although it is an economic engine.

Mayor Cutts asked about program tuition assistance. Mr. Hausler explained the scholarship program and the role of donors. Ms. Walter explained that scholarship donations are kept in a restricted account and not mingled with public funds.

Mr. Hausler is comfortable with the budgets.

A motion was made by Mr. Picard and seconded by Mr. LaCasse to move the question.

Motion to move the question carried 6-3 with Mr. Lewis, Mr. Goff and Mayor Cutts voting no.

Roll Call Vote on the tentative GCC-Recreation and Parks budgets: Motion carried 9-0.

Fire

2009 Final Approved - \$1,890,816.00; 2010 Department Request - \$2,034,206.00; Manager's Proposal - \$1,937,811.00.

Mr. Santagate said this budget is up \$47,000 or 2%. \$32,000 is related to benefit line items. \$40,000 for the boiler will be funded out of Fund Balance. This budget allows hiring a firefighter beginning July 1 and replacing a retiring person.

Ms. Walter said the \$11,428 increase was due to changes in the health plan. The **new total is \$1,949,239.**

Fire Chief Peter Chase noted the boiler is in the operating budget, but should be in the capital budget. Mr. Santagate said it is funded out of the General Fund. Chief Chase said if you take out the \$40,000, the budget remains level. He said the reduced staffing has had an impact. In 2001, 20 people covered the shifts. Last year, a number of shifts were staffed with only three

people. The minimum national standard is four. His goal is to get to the national standard minimum. He's hoping to get one person with the SAFER grant and he is requesting a person be hired in January instead of July as is in the Manager's Proposal.

Ms. Walter said bringing a person on in January instead of July will add another \$33,000 to the budget which is 14 cents on the tax rate.

Mr. Lewis asked when the boiler will be replaced. Ms. Walter said they will probably be ready to install in January. Chief Chase suggested waiting until the end of the heating season (in April) to save money. Removing the old boiler will require asbestos abatement and filling in the pit, plus an alternative heat supply if done in the winter.

A motion was made by Mr. LaCasse and seconded by Mr. Picard to tentatively accept the Fire budget of \$2,046,206.00 (Department Request including \$11,428 (rounded up to \$12,000) for health insurance increase).

A motion was made by Mr. Goff and seconded by Mr. Austin to move the question.

Roll Call Vote: Motion to move the question carried 8-1 with Ms. Messier voting no.

Roll Call Vote: Motion failed 2-7 with Mr. Batchelder, Mr. Raymond, Mr. Austin, Ms. Messier, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Goff and Mayor Cutts voting no.

A motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Mr. Austin to tentatively accept the Fire budget of \$2,045,634.00 (Department Request including \$11,428 for health insurance increase).

Ms. Messier said she heard two messages from citizens about wanting services, but also keeping the budget under control. She will vote no as the department will get a firefighter in July using the Manager's Proposal.

A motion to amend Mr. Raymond's motion was made by Mr. Batchelder and seconded by Mr. Austin to change the Fire Department budget to \$1,982,239 (Manager's Proposal plus \$33,000 for firefighter starting in January and \$11,428 for health insurance increase).

Mr. Goff asked about the increases (\$22,500 Communications-911; \$11,428 Fire Health Insurance; \$33,000 one-half Firefighter). Ms. Walter said that is a 14 cent increase on the tax rate or \$21 on a \$150,000 home. No money has been put in for Social Services and that may be an issue later in the budget process.

A motion was made by Mr. Picard and seconded by Mr. LaCasse to move the question.

Roll Call Vote: Motion to move the question carried 6-3 with Ms. Messier, Mr. Lewis and Mr. Goff voting no.

Roll Call Vote: Motion to amend the Fire Department budget carried 6-3 with Ms. Messier, Mr. Lewis and Mr. Goff voting no.

A motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Mr. Austin to tentatively accept the Fire budget of \$1,982,239 (Manager's Proposal plus \$33,000 for firefighter starting in January and \$11,428 for health insurance increase).

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 6-3 with Ms. Messier, Mr. Lewis and Mr. Goff voting no.

Airport

2009 Final Approved - \$155,914.00; 2010 Department Request - \$119,169.00; Manager's Proposal - \$117,619.00.

Ms. Walter said there are \$10,245 in changes and \$10,245 in revenue increases. This budget has a \$1,500 increase making the **Manager's Proposal** \$119,119.00.

Mr. Goff expressed his concern about the impact of changes the Council may make on the tax rate and that if the goal is to level fund, they are not doing that.

A motion was made by Mr. Picard and seconded by Mr. LaCasse to tentatively accept the Airport budget of \$119,119.00.00 (Manager's Adjusted Proposal).

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Streets & Roads (Highways)

2009 Final Approved - \$3,797,853.00; 2010 Department Request - \$4,169,326.00; Manager's Proposal - \$3,550,883.00.

Bruce Temple, Public Works Director, showed PowerPoint presentation of Public Works 2009 accomplishments.

- 2009 Paving
 - Maple Avenue 4,000 LF, \$277,262.35
- Damage to Clifton Avenue Neighborhood Due to Detour
 - FEMA Grant – Paving \$158,174.44
 - Clifton Avenue 2,450 SY
 - Harmony Lane 1706 SY
 - Douglas Avenue 1020 SY
 - Hodgkins Terrace 800 SY
 - Perrotto Avenue 972 SY
 - Total 6,948 SY
- Mill District
 - North Street Parking Lot

- Gas Plant Parking Lot
- Archery Center Parking Lot
- Karate Center Parking Lot
- North Street parking Lot
- Visitors Center Parking Lot
- Grants – FEMA
 - Thrasher Road/Route 120 (slip line culvert) \$9,000
 - Ice Event – City Wide \$94,388
 - Ice Event – Paving \$78,981
 - Thrasher Road (stacked stone culvert) \$82,000
 - Thrasher Road (Stone House Forge culvert) \$58,100
 - Clay Hill Road (PVE culvert) \$97,000
- NHDES
 - Washington Street (Fencing – Water Intake Building) \$9,300
- Other Grants – DPW
 - PSNH (Pay as You Save) \$38,546
 - Street Light Savings \$80,000/Year
 - PSNH (Pays as You Save) \$39,000
 - School Buildings Savings \$51,332/Year
 - FEMA – Sugar River Drive Culvert \$125,0000
 - FEMA – Snow Events 2005 \$36,343
 - Sullivan Street Sewer Line \$244,669
 - Sugar River Dr. Road Failure \$29,049
 - FEMA Rain Event – 2006 \$32,859
 - NH State Library (Restore Old Cemetery Books) \$10,000
 - FEMA – Sims Street \$36,253
 - NRCS – Sims Street \$167,117
 - NHDES – Oil Tank \$1,988
 - FEMA – Rain Event – 2007 \$21,903
 - FEMA – Cone Valve (Sewer) \$32,872
 - NH Emergency Management (State Share of Previous Event) \$96,077
- Total Grants \$1,356,445
- FEMA – Stacked Stone Culvert (Under Contract)
- Pleasant Valley Estates – FEMA
- Cemetery Division – Ice Event
- Cemetery Division
 - Burials (11/7/09) 116
 - Completed Indexing of Lots and Graves
 - Ordered “Street” Signs for All Municipal Cemeteries
- Transfer Station – Encumbered Funds
 - Trailer \$1,750
 - Tire Removal \$5,600
 - Hot Mix (Paving) \$10,209
 - Landscaping (Trees) \$1,573

- New “Put & Take” Building – Pending
- New Metal Storage Boxes – Pending
- Water/Sewer Projects
 - Completed Water/Sewer Rate Study
 - Rebuilt Hydrants
 - Completed State Mandated Dam Reports
 - Flushed Hydrants (Spring & Fall)
 - Renovated Water/Sewer Lines for Maple Avenue Paving Project
 - New Water Line with Easement for Old Church Road/Plains Road
 - Mowed Dam/Reservoir Properties
 - Read Water Meters for Semi-Annual Billing
 - Completed Water Main Improvements for Clifton Avenue Paving
 - Contracted with Firm to Provide Engineering Services & Evaluation of Whitewater Brook, Dole and Rice Reservoir Dams
 - Repaired Failed Sewer Line on Lafayette Street
 - Continual Monitoring of Serious Sewer Line failure on McKenzie Drive
 - Replaced a 10” Water Main Expansion Joint on Coy Bridge
- Pictures
 - Sugar River Pump Station
 - Whitewater Reservoir – Dam Spillway Repair
 - Rice Reservoir
 - Dole Reservoir
 - McKenzie Drive Sewer Failure
 - McKenzie Drive Sewer Failure
 - Coy Bridge Leaking Joint
 - Coy Bridge – New Expansion Joint
 - Dam Repair

Mr. Picard asked about completion of Roosevelt and Thrasher. Mr. Temple said July.

Ms. Walter said this budget has a deduction of \$9,409; new **Manager’s Proposal** \$3,541,474 and new **Department Request** \$4,159,917.

Mr. Lewis asked if we can sustain and maintain the infrastructure with no paving. Mr. Temple said they will do some projects (i.e. Drapers Corner; FEMA funds for the Stone House Forge, box culvert on Thrasher Road and the PVE culvert). Public Works maintains 140 miles of roads. They’ve done a lot of paving (\$4 million) over the last 4-5 years. This coming year will be a little short. They’ll be using about \$70,000 in muni transportation funds in the spring.

Mr. Lewis asked about parking in the “bullpen,” how it worked, challenges and is it still needed. Mr. Temple said when it is snowing, trying to clear parking lots are a challenge. Public Works (PW) policy is to not call a tow service, but instead to have the Police knock on doors to get cars moved. Parking in the bullpen has minimal impact on PW. It helps efforts if vehicles are contained. He would like to see people use the parking garage.

Ms. Messier asked when the North and Main project would start. 2012.

A motion was made by Mr. Austin and seconded by Mr. LaCasse to tentatively accept the Streets & Roads (Highways) budget of \$3,950,883.00 (Manager's Proposal plus \$400,000 coming from Fund Balance for paving).

Mayor Cutts asked about sidewalks. Mr. Temple said we have 35 miles of sidewalks. When paving, they try to do sidewalks at the same time. Lots of areas need replacement.

Mr. Temple said that each year they try to do something in each ward.

Mr. Goff asked about plans to address High Bridge Road. Mr. Temple said they do their best to maintain that road. It is an old concrete road that was paved over and the concrete is deteriorating.

Mr. Batchelder asked Ms. Walter about the revenue section. Ms. Walter said after this last motion, \$669,801 will be taken from Fund Balance including the military person's pay, Fire Department boiler, City Hall boiler and paving.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Sanitation

2009 Final Approved - \$182,683.00; 2010 Department Request - \$199,513.00; Manager's Proposal - \$194,523.00.

Mr. Santagate explained the separation of the different funds: General Fund, Sanitation, Water and Sewer.

Mr. Temple said the Transfer Station is staffed by two people. It is open two days a week, Tuesday and Saturday. On Wednesday, they go around picking up City trash. On Thursday and Friday, they work on signs. The City is going to single stream recycling. The only thing not in the single stream will be glass, all else will go in the bin. Gobin has the contract. It will start in January. They can handle 500 tons of product. There are still some recycling bins available to hand out. There is no charge for recycling. Recycling volume will go up, but trash will go down, so it is even.

A motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Mr. Batchelder to tentatively accept the Sanitation budget of \$194,523.00 (Manager's Proposal).

Mayor Cutts asked about the recycling being weighed. 50% recycling by 2012 was a Council goal. Mr. Temple suggested looking at it this summer. Mayor will hand out bins again.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Cemetery

2009 Final Approved - \$211,795.00; 2010 Department Request - \$159,380.00; Manager's Proposal - \$158,692.00.

Mr. Temple said staffing went from 3 to 2 (part-time) this summer. They do mowing and taking care of the cemeteries. Machine and Equipment \$4,000 – he hopes to encumber it for half of a mower (cost is \$7,000-\$8,000) and purchase the mower in 2011. They have catalogued the grave sites. Next year, he hopes to have one to two people for summer help. They try to mow before Memorial Day and July 4th.

A motion was made by Mr. Picard and seconded by Ms Messier to tentatively accept the Cemetery budget of \$158,692.00 (Manager's Proposal).

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Water

2009 Final Approved - \$1,827,658.00; 2010 Department Request - \$1,783,577.00; Manager's Proposal - \$1,714,339.00.

Mr. Temple said there are 3,600 customers. Water has no effect on the tax rate; it is a separate business. Larger customers are billed monthly and others every six months. Major improvements have been made over several years. Water and sewer fees are just about the same since 2000. Costs have continued to rise. A lot of projects from the Dufresne and Henry report have been completed. Water and sewer rates were reviewed in the fall of 2008. After the first of the year, he will look at water and sewer improvement projects and how much they will cost. He will also present an updated plan where rates are adjusted yearly. AOS Operating Systems manages the water and sewer plants. Systems can be monitored from remote locations and he can divert water, if needed.

Mr. Santagate said we are using about 25% of our capacity. Each plant is valued at about \$30-\$40 million each. We have tremendous capacity to grow.

A motion was made by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Goff to tentatively accept the Water budget of \$1,714,339.00.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Sewer

2009 Final Approved - \$1,846,984.00; 2010 Department Request - \$1,866,857.00; Manager's Proposal - \$1,759,850.00.

Mr. Temple said sewer has about 2,500 customers. Sewer has no effect on the tax rate; it is a separate business. A first reading was done in February to adjust the rates and he will bring it forward again. Three people take care of about 80 miles of sanitary sewer and 8 pump stations.

Mr. Lewis asked about contract labor. Mr. Temple said AOS handles correspondence with US EPA and NH DES. Mr. Santagate said cities faced with replacing old sewer pipes will have to be funded by the federal government as cities can't afford to replace all of them. Mr. Temple said licensing runs out next year. Requirements may change. It all comes down to sustainability and we are moving forward with aging systems.

A motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Mr. Picard to tentatively accept the Sewer budget of \$1,759,850.00 (Manager's Proposal).

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Outside Agency Requests (Social Services)

2009 Final Approved - \$20,000.00; 2010 Department Request - \$20,000; Manager's Proposal -\$0.00.

Mayor Cutts said Messrs. Austin and LaCasse were on this committee this past year.

Mr. Austin said this is for organizations that do a lot for our community. They save us money versus costing us money. He suggested taking money for this, this one time from the Fund Balance.

A motion was made by Mr. Austin and seconded by Mr. LaCasse to tentatively accept the Outside Agency Requests (Social Services) budget of \$20,000.00 (Department Request) to be taken from Fund Balance.

Mayor Cutts noted there is no money for Community Reinvestment this year.

Ms. Messier read a list of who was funded last year. They offer a wide variety of services. She wishes it could be more than \$20,000.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Policy

2009 Final Approved - \$360,574.00; 2010 Department Request - \$482,774.00; Manager's Proposal - \$482,774.00.

Mr. Santagate said this area covers the City Manager, City Solicitor and Executive Assistant. The increase was because CCTV (Claremont Community Television) was moved into the Policy area from General Services. Other than that it is up \$2,200 which is less than one-half of 1%.

Mayor Cutts asked about CCTV getting portable microphones for Council Chambers.

A motion was made by Mr. Picard and seconded by Mr. Goff to tentatively accept the Policy budget of \$482,774.00 (Manager's Proposal).

Mr. LaCasse made a motion to amend to remove the Consulting Fees of \$2,000 for a total Policy budget of \$480,774.00. No second. Motion died.

Ms. Walter said the Consulting Fees line is used for advertising for directors. It is also used when we joined in efforts for lawsuits (i.e. unfunded mandates).

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

City Administration (Finance)

2009 Final Approved - \$842,397.00; 2010 Department Request - \$878,017.00; Manager's Proposal - \$857,317.00.

Ms. Walter said the total budget is up \$14,000. Regular Pay is down because of cost sharing one person that is working with Welfare. The Legal/Grant Administrator position has not been refunded. We would not have been GASB 34 compliant without those extra people to help. The increase of 8.3% was due mostly to health insurance costs. \$150,000 for a new City Hall boiler will come from Fund Balance. Parts are no longer available and we have already had two no-heat calls this year.

A motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Ms. Messier to tentatively accept the City Administration (Finance) budget of \$857,317.00 (Manager's Proposal).

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Municipal Complex (Maintenance)

2009 Final Approved - \$345,424.00; 2010 Department Request - \$475,876.00; Manager's Proposal - \$472,376.00.

Ms. Walter said there are three employees: one full-time, one half-time and one that works 30 hours a week. She locked in fuel prices last year. City Hall is 38,000 square feet and not energy efficient. Hinkleys maintains the boiler. It is hard to get parts. There is \$150,000 to be taken from Fund Balance for a new boiler system, for City Hall, with proper zoning and that will have efficiencies.

Mayor Cutts said residents of Marion Phillips Apartments want another bench placed between Marion Phillips and the Opera House. Mr. Santagate said he would need Council approval for

that. Mayor Cutts said someone is working on donating a bench. Mr. Santagate asked Mayor Cutts for the name(s) and he will follow up with them.

A motion was made by Mr. Picard and seconded by Mr. LaCasse to tentatively accept the Municipal Complex (Maintenance) budget of \$472,376.00 (Manager's Proposal).

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

General Services

2009 Final Approved - \$942,396.00; 2010 Department Request - \$838,679.00; Manager's Proposal - \$747,679.00.

Ms. Walter said this budget is for shared things and is down \$193,000. \$92,000 is where she had the frozen positions and \$120,000 is CCTV's budget.

Ms. Messier asked about New Equipment – City Hall. Ms. Walter said this is for new telephone equipment to replace obsolete equipment. She expects the telephone will be leased.

A motion was made by Mr. Goff and seconded by Mr. LaCasse to tentatively accept the General Services budget of \$747,679.00 (Manager's Proposal).

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Mr. Goff asked to get the adjusted revenue at the next Thursday's meeting. Council concurred.

Debt Retirement (Debt Service)

2009 Final Approved - \$1,201,768.00; 2010 Department Request - \$1,177,188.00; Manager's Proposal - \$1,177,188.00.

Ms. Walter said we continue to pay down debt. We had to take out a TAN (Tax Anticipation Note) this year. We took out a line of credit which allowed us to keep interest costs down.

Mr. Goff asked if any bonds will mature this year. Ms. Walter said one will mature in 2013 and will release \$200,000.

Mr. Picard asked when landfill #1 and #2 matures. Ms. Walter said one matures in July 2013 and the other in July 2022.

A motion was made by Mr. Austin and seconded by Mr. Lewis to tentatively accept the Debt Retirement (Debt Service) budget of \$1,177,188.00 (Manager's Proposal).

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Revenue

2009 Final Approved - \$5,566,210.00; 2010 Department Request - \$5,584,424.00; Manager's Proposal - \$5,584,424.00.

Postponed until November 19th.

Mayor Cutts said November 19th will be the budget hearing.

CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL

None

ADJOURNMENT

At 3:17 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. LaCasse and seconded by Mr. Picard to adjourn.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorée M. Russell
Clerk to the Council