

The Claremont City Council held a meeting on Wednesday, June 10, 2009, 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
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

MAYOR'S NOTES

Stevens High School Student Council Update

None

Proclamation for Boy Scouts Troop 38

Mayor Cutts read a proclamation for Boy Scouts Troop 38, led by Life Scout Ben Morse as part of his Eagle Scout award, for painting 60 light poles. Mr. Raymond said he was very glad and proud to see how good the poles look. Proclamation was presented to Life Scout Ben Morse.

Proclamation for Claremont Youth Baseball/Softball Association

Mr. Batchelder read a proclamation for Claremont Youth Baseball/Softball Association (CYBSA). Jeff Coburn, President, introduced board members in attendance and accepted the proclamation. He introduced Artie Palmer who has been umpiring 50+ years. Chuck Yurek has volunteered 20 years on the board and as a coach. Councilor Batchelder has been President of the CYBSA for the last two years.

Proclamation for Stevens High School Alumni Week

Mayor Cutts read a proclamation for Stevens High School Alumni Week.

Mayor Cutts noted a “Welcome to the Neighborhood Red River” message on the marquee in front of the Baptist Church on Maple Avenue.

Mr. Goff said Maple Elementary School is one of twenty elementary schools to compete for the Earth Day Everyday Challenge. Log on to www.earthdayeverydaychallenge.com and vote. Winning school gets a \$20,000 grant.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. Batchelder noted the adjournment time should be 12:13 a.m., not p.m.

Mr. LaCasse noted on page 3, 2nd paragraph Ms. Messier said yes; S is missing.

A motion was made by Mr. Batchelder and seconded by Mr. Raymond to accept the minutes of the May 13, 2009, City Council meeting with noted changes.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Claremont Community Television, Inc. (CCTV) Board of Directors

Nomination was made by Mr. Picard to re-appoint Nick Maynes to seat #2 of the Claremont Community Television, Inc. (CCTV) Board of Directors. Mr. LaCasse seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Tax Increment Finance District Advisory Board – Downtown

Nomination was made by Mr. Raymond to re-appoint Matthew J. Nelson to seat #3 of the Tax Increment Finance District Advisory Board – Downtown.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Nomination was made by Mr. Batchelder to re-appoint Robert Porter to seat #4 of the Tax Increment Finance District Advisory Board – Downtown

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Nomination was made by Mr. Picard to re-appoint Allen Damren to seat #5 Tax Increment Finance District Advisory Board – Downtown.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Placement and Specifications for Signs and Signals

Ms. Taylor said Mr. LaCasse has asked about a sign that had been erected last winter limiting traffic due to road conditions. Mr. Santagate discussed the conflict between the City Charter and ordinance and the need to clarify and resolve any conflict. Ms. Taylor explained her research. The City has an ordinance that states the Council deals with signs. All signs and signals shall conform to state requirements. This ordinance was enacted in 1989 and needs to be updated. The City adopted MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices). Our Code doesn't differentiate signs as being temporary, permanent or emergency. She recommended clarifying the Code. She questioned whether it made sense for the Council to have to approve every emergency or temporary sign.

Mr. Santagate read from the Charter, amended in 2003, Powers and Duties of Manager. The Charter is authorized directly by state law and state law takes precedent over City Code. The authority to reroute traffic during an emergency should not have to wait for 48 hours for the Council to approve as is stated in the City Code, which is in conflict with the Charter. Under the Charter, he delegates these responsibilities to the Public Works Director, Fire Chief and Police Chief. Police Chief Alex Scott is going to a conference about signs at the Local Government Center. With the information he brings back, he'll ask Attorney Taylor to rewrite (for Council's approval) a new ordinance.

Mr. LaCasse thanked Mr. Santagate for researching this question and said, at this point, it is enforceable as written through the Council and should be followed strictly until modified.

Mr. Santagate referenced discontinuance of streets. Ms. Taylor said Mr. LaCasse had requested information regarding a discontinuance of a portion of United Way. Through her research, she found that United Way was never officially accepted as a City street by the Council. Also, when Crescent Street was rerouted (portion is the back side of the parking lot across from Ramunto's) in the mid-eighties, it was never accepted. The state required the Crescent and Broad Street intersection to be closed, but the City didn't properly discontinue the old portion or lay out the new section. There is not a huge amount of value to accept streets that have been streets for 25 years as under common law, they are now presumed to be public ways. It is more important to properly discontinue a portion of United Way and the end of Crescent Street. Mr. Santagate said since those streets have been used for a number of years, it doesn't make sense to accept them, but the City should discontinue Crescent, United Way and any other streets we may find. Ms. Taylor said it will involve notice and a public hearing. There were no objections from the Council for pursuing the discontinuance of these roads. Mr. Picard asked if there would be any

negative consequences. Ms. Taylor said no, they are on city-owned land. She will figure out a timeline and give the information to Mr. Santagate.

Mayor Cutts referenced signage. Mr. Santagate said the City would like to do research and then come back to the Council. Mr. LaCasse feels the ordinance should be followed until it gets changed. Mr. Santagate said there is a conflict between the Charter and ordinance. If there is an emergency need, a sign gets put up and that is what the Charter says we should do. If there is conflict, state law (Charter) takes precedent over any local ordinance.

Mr. Goff referenced Ms. Taylor's memo where she contacted several municipalities and that this is not an issue. Ms. Taylor said if there is a safety or traffic hazard, they put up sign. We need to rule by common sense.

Mayor Cutts said if Council were to follow Mr. LaCasse's suggestion, then the City would need to come back to the Council before any signs are placed. It would be a logistical nightmare.

Mr. LaCasse said if a sign is up for more than 24 hours or for a week, City staff needs to come to Council for approval. The signs he was referring to have been up for over a year.

Mr. Lewis said there is no differentiation between permanent, temporary and emergency traffic control devices in the current ordinance and he doesn't want to come to emergency Council meetings to approve detour signs. Use common sense and let the professionals do their job.

Mr. Raymond said the referenced signs were temporary until money could be put into the budget to make the road repairs (emergency signs).

Ms. Messier clarified that there is a conflict between the ordinance and the Charter. City Administration said they would do research and come back to the Council possibly with a new ordinance recommendation. Mr. LaCasse agreed. Mr. Lewis wants it understood that Mr. Santagate will be held accountable to this ordinance during this time. Mayor Cutts said it would be to continue business as usual pending clarification and return of the City Manager with such clarification.

Mr. Picard asked Chief Scott about the requirement to have a survey done before posting a sign. Chief Scott said that is strictly for speed limit changes. As Police Chief, the City Code gives him authority to only put up temporary No Parking Signs.

Mayor Cutts asked if there was any objection to the Manager operating under business as usual. There were no objections from the Council.

Mr. LaCasse asked if changes to traffic signs (Stop, Yield, Right, Left) go to the Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC). Chief Scott said yes. Mr. LaCasse asked if it goes before the TAC, to notify the Council. Chief Scott said that prohibitive signs come to the Council as business as usual. Mr. LaCasse said the Police cannot make it stick if a person is stopped for driving through on the road with a No Thru Traffic sign. Chief Scott said there is a presumption that it is legal,

but the person may be able to fight it. The goal is not to write tickets, but to discourage the road's use as a short cut.

A motion was made by Mr. Picard to table the discussion until we get further information from the City Manager. He withdrew it. Mr. Batchelder would like this put under Future Agenda Items. There were no objections.

Mr. Goff recognized there was a citizen in the audience, with a young child, waiting for Citizens Forum. He asked to open Citizens Forum. No objections. Mayor Cutts will open it again at 7:40 p.m. as per the agenda if someone else wanted to speak.

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Shelly Hudson, Greater Claremont Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, showed the final banner design for the downtown area. There are 25 banners for the first phase. They will be up in time for Alumni weekend. The second phase will be the City entrances and the third phase will be maintenance, event and business-sponsored banners. They are 18 x 32 inches. The Chamber can be reached at 543-1296.

Change Council Rule #22, Order of Business – Five Minutes (Take from the Table)

Mr. Batchelder would like to keep the rule as is and not have an unlimited time for people to speak.

A motion was made by Mr. Batchelder and seconded by Mr. Picard to take from the table Change Council Rule #22, Order of Business – Five Minutes.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0

Ms. Messier asked about the process for changing a Council Rule. Ms. Taylor read Council Rule 48 (These rules may be amended or new rules adopted by two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members of the council. Any such alterations or amendments shall be submitted in writing at the preceding regular meeting and shall be placed on the calendar under the order of new business. This requirement shall be waived only by unanimous consent, with a recorded vote of all members).

Mr. LaCasse has had positive feedback with the open discussions, so he would be in favor of changing that rule.

Mr. Lewis said he has no problem with open discussions, however, the five-minute rule allows Council to move through the agenda in a timely manner. Five minutes is plenty of time to express one thought.

Mr. Picard said five minutes is not enough during budget season. He is in favor of changing the rule.

Mayor Cutts asked if everyone understood the process for amending Council Rules. There were no further questions.

Claremont Development Authority Update – Councilor LaCasse

Mr. LaCasse said he has not had enough time to study this in depth, however he has a solution. If the Claremont Development Authority (CDA) would make a presentation to the Council, that would clear things up that he hears on the street. He would like to move this to Future Agenda Items. Mr. Picard concurred.

Mr. Goff said to see CDA's role, look at Red River Computer, Sophie & Zeke's, Common Man, the dental clinic, etc. To say there is negative connotation on the street is misguided. He welcomes hearing about the good things the CDA has done for the City. He welcomes an open discussion with the CDA.

Mayor Cutts asked if the CDA has a Charter. She said Mr. LaCasse had made a request for the CDA minutes, financial statements, balance sheets and contracts for December 2008-January 2009. The timeframe was so limiting, so she suggested the Charter may have the information he was looking for. Mr. LaCasse said he put the wrong dates on his request and didn't get the information he wanted. He wanted December 2007-January 2009.

Mr. Raymond said he is the Chairman of Key Properties Committee on CDA. CDA was involved with the redevelopment of the Farwell Block and is involved in bringing new businesses and people to Claremont. Mr. LaCasse said a presentation would enhance the public's knowledge.

Mayor Cutts said it would be put on as a formal agenda item.

Ordinance 507 One Way – Tremont/Wall/Broad Connector – Second Reading – Public Hearing

The purpose of this proposed change is to remove the restriction for one-way traffic on the east side of the intersection of Water Street, Broad Street and what is referred to in the Code as the Tremont Street/Wall Street/Broad Street Connector (Meadow Street). The intent of this change is to improve traffic flow as a result of the redevelopment of Water Street.

Enactment of this Ordinance will permit 2-way traffic on Wall Street and Meadow Street (referred to in the Code as the Tremont Street/Wall Street/Broad Street Connector) and improve the traffic flow at the intersection of Wall, Water and Broad Streets.

Mr. Goff recused himself for the same reasons as last time (potential conflict with fiduciary interest in a property associated with the project).

Ed Tinker, Planning & Development Director, said the proposed change affects the east side of Broad Street where the Tremont Street/Wall Street/Broad Street Connector come together. It would become 2-way traffic on the east side of the intersection.

Mr. LaCasse asked if a left turn would be allowed from Broad Street just after the bridge. Mr. Tinker said yes. Mr. LaCasse asked if there would be a separate light for the turn. Mr. Tinker said it would be part of the signal mast arm that is already in place.

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

Mr. Raymond asked if the No Left Turn onto Water Street from Broad Street would remain. Mr. Tinker said yes.

Mr. Austin asked if there would be markings on the road for a left turn. Mr. Tinker said yes and there would be a small sign to indicate Yield on Green Light.

Mayor Cutts asked about traffic backing up. Mr. Tinker said if it becomes an issue, this will be looked at again. Mr. LaCasse asked for a trial run for six months to a year. Mr. Tinker repeated that if it becomes an issue, they will relook at it. The City thinks this is the best thing to try. Mr. LaCasse said this intersection had the left turn from Broad Street, but it was changed due to traffic accidents.

Mr. Batchelder reminded Councilors they were only voting on changing the one-way traffic pattern on the Tremont/Wall/Broad Connector, although he does have concerns about the left turn from Broad Street.

A motion was made by Mr. Batchelder and seconded by Mr. Raymond to adopt Ordinance 507 One Way – Tremont/Wall/Broad Connector.

Mr. Batchelder read the Explanation of Proposed Action.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 6 yes, 2 no and 1 abstention, with Messrs. Picard and LaCasse voting no and Mr. Goff abstaining.

Mr. Picard said he voted no because it would not have the proper signal. Mr. LaCasse said he voted no out of concern for safety.

Mr. Goff returned to the Council table.

CITIZEN'S FORUM (Cont'd)

Jack O'Sullivan, Ward 1 resident and President of the Greater Claremont Board of Realtors, said as of this afternoon there were 98 single family homes on the market with 8 foreclosures; last week there were 10 foreclosures. There were 34 multi-family units on the market with 2 foreclosures. NH has the lowest foreclosure rate in the nation. Claremont has the lowest in

Sullivan County. In May of last year, the average time on the market was 169 days. In May 2009, the average number of days was 120 days or a 26% decrease in listing days. The housing market is healthy and the City is growing.

Mr. Picard asked if the eight foreclosures were the ones listed. Mr. O'Sullivan said they are the ones listed; you cannot count those that are in pre-foreclosure, because that is between the bank and the owner and sometimes they resolve.

Mr. Santagate asked what the City can do related to foreclosures. Mr. O'Sullivan said the City, as a whole, can support those who are having a problem and make available resources from the federal government in order to remain in their homes. Mr. Santagate asked if the federal government, through the banks, is helping to stop foreclosures. Mr. O'Sullivan said yes and there are more Obama stimulus programs coming out at the end of the month.

Steve Raymond, Ward 1, asked the Council to thank Ms. Taylor and said she did a fantastic job with the head and poll tax research.

NEW BUSINESS

Proclamation for Citizen of the Year – Victor Bergeron

Mr. Lewis read a proclamation for Victor Bergeron for being named Citizen of the Year.

Victor Bergeron, Ward 1, thanked his wife of 45 years, Linda, because without her support this would not be possible. He also thanked the Council.

Department of Revenue 2009 Revaluation Update

Ed Tinker introduced Chuck Reese from the Department of Revenue Administration. Mr. Reese said the City is required to do a revaluation every five years. This year, assessments will be updated to market value. He did a physical inspection on a random sampling of sales to check for accuracy on the assessing information. He found very little wrong. The error allowance is for 6 points and the highest he found was 2 points and that was because the Assessing staff could not do an interior inspection. He did a sample of 36 properties last year for data accuracy and found no conditions that caused alarm. Certain areas in the country have had a correction of values, but there has not been as much of a correction in NH. Sales activity is higher than when the last full revaluation was done. The assessments are still below market value. He offered to do an Assessing 101 class for the public. Mr. LaCasse said he would love a class.

Mr. Austin asked what it means that the market study in 2006/7 was higher than the last study in 2008/9. Mr. Reese said the value of the property was higher then. He explained that sales are tracked for two years; trends are checked and analyzed to get the value for April 1. Mr. Austin asked about the relationship between tax bills and the assessment. Mr. Reese said the assessment is only half the issue; the remainder is the effect of the budget, especially the unpredictable nature of school and County budgets.

Mr. Picard asked when we will know the impact of the revaluation. Mr. Reese said the impact notices will be sent out in July. Homeowners will get a Notice of Value and then hearings with the Assessing Department will be scheduled in August, before bills go out. Mr. Santagate said we can afford to do that because the City is doing the revaluation in-house, saving \$400,000. Mr. Santagate thinks the Assessing 101 course in Claremont would be great. Mr. Reese said the hearings will be August 3-14.

Mr. Raymond agreed with the Assessing 101 class and asked if CCTV would film it. Mr. Reese yes.

Mr. Goff asked about appraisals and using foreclosure sales. Mr. Reese said they try not to include them or short sales, but only those that are considered "arms length." Mr. LaCasse said some states use foreclosures in the mix and he asked if there is any chance of doing that here. Mr. Reese said Claremont shouldn't have to use those figures.

Ms. Messier said if one segment drops in value, then more burden is placed on other segments. She thinks this activity is very important for a community to do to raise revenues. The information on the fact sheet Mr. Reese handed out would be good for the public to know. Mr. Reese said he can tailor the 101 class to the community and include similar MLS (multiple listing service) statistics.

Steve Raymond, Ward 1, said the value of his property went up \$4,500 last Christmas. His mobile home is 12 years old. There were no changes made to his home. He is now being assessed for a fireplace and central air. Our taxes are going up for these types of reasons. He didn't put this stuff in, it was part of the mobile home.

Newbury Boat Landing – Public Input Requested

Mr. LaCasse said he had a conflict since he works for the Town of Newbury, so he stepped down.

Don Clarke, Ward 1, asked for support to get adequate boat access on Lake Sunapee. He introduced Gary Dickerman, Claremont resident and member of local sportsmen club; and Tom Hubert, Sullivan County NH Fish and Game Commission Representative. In 1989, there was a study done for public water access. He read the legal definition of a public access. "Public access means legal passage to any of the public waters of the state by way of designated contiguous land owned or controlled by a state agency, assuring that all members of the public shall have access to and use of the public waters for recreational purposes." A Public Water Access Advisory Board was established to look at different proposals for public access. In 1991, the state acquired 133 acres in Newbury. Of that is the 3.3 acre Wild Goose site which was acquired to install a public boat access. The study found that the public is being locked out of lakes. Fish and Game Department has filed three required permits. Two have been approved and appealed. The third is still in the application process. The docket is open until June 26th and if Council supports this, its support will be included with the application. There is a need for this

as there is only one public access that falls under the definition on Lake Sunapee. This site would make two. The aim is for one public access for every 5 miles of shoreline. There are 29 miles so that would be at least five access points.

Gary Dickerman, Ward 2, Officer of Sullivan County Sportsmen, and fisherman and boating enthusiast, said the existing launch is not convenient and there is a parking issue. He asked for the Council's support on this issue. The public owns water bodies that are greater than 10 acres.

Tom Hubert, Sullivan County Fish and Game Commissioner, said there is not adequate boating access due to threats from the Lake Sunapee Protective Association of lawsuits and litigation. The current Director Glenn Normandeau has started the permitting process with DES (Department of Environmental Services) to resolve this. The current access points are at Georges Mills (signed for residents only) and Sunapee Harbor (open to the public) with the nearest parking ¼ mile away. It holds 10 vehicles and trailers and the next is 2,500 feet down the road, which is limiting.

Mayor Cutts said for the record that she recognized Mr. Hubert from Fish and Game.

Mr. Raymond said his family loves to go to Sunapee, but some members can't use it because of limited access. He supports this. He suggested citizens call Senator Odell to support this.

Don Clarke said he was on the Fish and Game Commission prior to Tom Hubert. Senator George Disnard preceded him. This was a pet project of Senator Disnard's.

Mr. Goff said his concern is the attempt of a lake front property owner and State Representative representing Sunapee, Sue Gottling, who "hijacked" HB 45, (**Title:** relative to the water supply land conservation program). The House passed it unanimously. It was sent to the Senate and she put a resolution in to create a moratorium on permitting and create a study group that would delay the current permitting process. It passed the Senate and is going through concurrence now. Mr. Clarke said the committee eliminated the moratorium, but kept the study. It passed the Senate 13 to 11. Because the Bill passed the House, it went to the Senate and an amendment was put on it; the House voted to not concur. They are trying another process to take it into the Committee of Conference. Mr. Goff said this illustrates the issue of haves and have nots. He encouraged turning the volume up and making sure citizens of Claremont are represented.

Don Clarke said in reference to environmental issues, Fish and Game has spent a lot of money designing this access with minimal impact on the environment.

Mr. Santagate said this is class warfare, keeping Claremonters and Newporters out of the lake. The state owns the lake, not individual towns. His opinion is that this is outrageous.

Mr. Clarke said Newport and Croydon have been asked for their support also.

Mayor Cutts said NH is known for its natural resources. Depriving the public of access to the lake is shameful.

Don Clarke said the resolution [which was not available at the Council meeting] is to support their efforts to install the public access at the Wild Goose site. It would benefit the recreational opportunities for the citizens of Claremont and the commerce for the City of Claremont (i.e. tourism).

Mr. Lewis asked what Senator Odell's position was. Mr. Clarke said if Senator Odell had voted the other way, it would have been 12 to 12 and it would have been defeated. Mr. Lewis said he supports this.

Mr. Austin supports the access.

Don Clarke said Newport voted their Recreation Director as their spokesperson in matters relating to this issue. He suggested Council appoint someone to represent Claremont.

Mayor Cutts said even though Mr. Clarke's resolution was not available, he described what was in it and Council needs to decide who to appoint.

A motion was made by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Goff to accept the resolution and to support the efforts and to appoint Messrs. Guy Santagate and Don Clarke as co-spokespersons for the City of Claremont.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0 with Mr. LaCasse abstaining.

Motion to Authorize Operation of ATV's on Designated City-Owned Land and Class VI Roads

Ken Domey, Sullivan County ATV Club Trail Administrator, said this is a yearly approval to use city-owned land and class-VI roads. This keeps the NH \$2 million liability insurance in place and applicable to the City.

A motion was made by Mr. Batchelder and seconded by Mr. Raymond that the Claremont City Council, pursuant to RSA 215-A:15, hereby authorizes the city manager, or his designees, to take such actions as may be necessary to issue a written Permission for Wheeled Vehicle Trail Access to the Sullivan County ATV Club for a period of one year from today. This permission is for use of designated City-owned land and class VI highways, which lists are to be included with the Permission Form and is subject to all City and state rules and regulations pertaining to use of ATVs and other off-highway recreational vehicles on public property.

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

Mr. LaCasse said some residents want trails turned over to bike trails. Mr. Domey said when the trails are open, ATVs and bikes can use them. Mr. LaCasse said residents feel like they will get

run over by ATVs. Mr. Domey said most of the trails are on private land and the Club gets permission from the landowners as well as the City.

Barn Preservation Exemption – Hawkins – Public Hearing

Ed Tinker, Assessor, said this is the third time this Barn Preservation Exemption has come before the Council. He asked if this is the right time to add another exemption to the tax rolls. The current assessed value is \$45,000. This barn qualifies for a 75% reduction (approximately \$33,000); multiply that by the tax rate for 10 years. He recommended not approving this application this year.

Mr. Picard asked how many other barns meet these criteria. Mr. Tinker said according to a report from last year that over 3,000 outbuildings could come under this exemption.

Mayor Cutts said of the 3,000 structures that criteria would need to be met before they could apply for the exemption. She supports this exemption.

Mr. Tinker said there is work necessary to initially qualify this building (i.e. photographing, inspecting and determining the value). It has to be reviewed on a yearly basis to make sure the integrity is maintained. There is a possibility for an abatement or appeal to our value. This is not a large amount of money, but it adds to work of the department. It could become a large scale process.

Mr. Goff said the tax impact is relatively small. There is a conflict in the revitalization of Water Street properties, while denying a family the ability to take advantage of an opportunity for doing the same thing on private property. He supports this.

A motion was made by Mr. Picard and seconded by Mr. Batchelder to deny this application for the barn preservation exemption due to the economic condition of the City at this time.

There was discussion about this motion.

Messrs. Picard and Batchelder withdrew their motions.

A motion was made by Mr. Goff and seconded by Mr. Austin to approve Barn Preservation Exemption – Hawkins application under RSA 79-d for property tax relief.

Mayor Cutts opened the public hearing.

Steve Raymond, Ward 1, said out of 3,000 barns, there is only one application. It is cheaper for people to tear down barns rather than restore them. He doesn't see where this is helping them.

Mayor Cutts closed the public hearing.

Mr. Goff asked who would determine the percentage. Mr. Tinker said it is determined using the scale that was presented to the Council last year. This barn would qualify for 75%.

Mayor Cutts said it was previously discussed that the qualifying would be done by Assessing and that members of the Historic District Commission and a citizen had volunteered. Mr. Tinker said originally there was talk of the members of the Council doing the initial qualification.

Ms. Messier said she is for historic preservation; she lives in a historic home. We are in very challenging economic times and this is not the time to add an exemption to the tax rolls.

Mayor Cutts believes the value outweighs the risk.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 5-4 with Mr. Batchelder, Mr. Picard, Mr. Raymond and Ms. Messier voting no.

Approval of Airport Hangar Lease

Fire Chief Peter Chase said this is a private hangar on leased airport land. The current lessee has been allowed to pass the lease on to another owner. This has been done twice. This new lease cleans up the language. The language is similar to the old lease. It restricts the type of operation to be run out of the hangar. It has to be aviation related in order to meet federal and state DOT (Department of Transportation) requirements.

A motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Mr. Batchelder to authorize the City Manager or his designees to enter into a multi-year lease agreement with Northstar Hangar and Hobbies LLC for the lease of a certain parcel of land referred to as Lot 2 on the Claremont Airport Layout Plan, Airport Master Plan Update AIP #3-33-0002-0695, dated January 2006, at the Claremont Municipal Airport.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Acceptance of \$5,457.83 NH Highway Safety Grant for Claremont Routes 10/11/12/103 Corridor Enforcement Patrols

Police Chief Alex Scott said this is a yearly grant and is coordinated with Charlestown, Sunapee, Newport and Sullivan County. It is focused on speeding on Routes 10/11/12/103. All of those agencies will be out at the same time. This grant provides 22 4-hour patrols in Claremont. It is a big part of our traffic enforcement efforts.

A motion was made by Mr. Austin and seconded by Mr. LaCasse to accept the \$5,457.83 NH Highway Safety Grant for Claremont Routes 10/11/12/103.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Acceptance of \$2,250 2009-2010 OHRV Enforcement Grant

Chief Scott said this is an ongoing grant and is about 1/3 of what we have normally received. It provides 12 4-hour patrols on OHRV (Off-Highway Recreational Vehicle) trails. He said he is an avid bicyclist on the trails and he hasn't seen an ATV out there. This grant will start in July and continue throughout the summer.

A motion was made by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Picard to authorize the city manager, or his designees, to enter into an agreement with and accept a grant in the amount of two thousand, two hundred and fifty dollars (\$2,250.00) from the State of New Hampshire Fish and Game Department for the purpose of Off Highway Recreational Vehicle enforcement by the Claremont Police Department.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Social Services

Mayor Cutts said there is \$20,000 available for Social Services. There is no money for Community Reinvestment. She said the announcement goes out and the application process is followed closely by Mary Walter, Finance Director, to make sure applicants are eligible. Normally 2-3 Councilors participate. Meetings of the Committee are publicly noticed and minutes are kept of the meetings. The Committee recommends where funds are to be awarded.

Mr. Austin volunteered to be on the Social Services Committee. He said it is rewarding and you get to review how much they help Claremont; it's a good thing for the City.

Mr. LaCasse volunteered to be on the Committee.

Mayor Cutts asked Councilors to let her know by Friday who wants to volunteer. Then she will notify the City Manager's office and the notices can be sent out. The application will be the same.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Santagate said on Friday, June 19, 2-5 p.m., the public is invited to a ribbon cutting at the Mills. The Governor will attempt to be here. There will be a public tour of the Mill buildings 3-5 p.m.

Maple Avenue paving base coat is down and will be finished in a couple of weeks.

Public Works is working on line striping next week.

Mr. LaCasse asked where the money came from for Maple Avenue. Mr. Santagate said FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) money was not used for Maple Avenue. Winter Street (water, sewer and road work) had a budget of approximately \$1.5 million. That project

came in about \$300,000 under budget. We took that money plus \$150,000 budgeted for roads for a total of \$450,000 for Maple Avenue plus some sidewalks and patch work.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND DIRECTIVES

Mr. Austin said he would like a traffic study done at the intersection of Mulberry Street and Sullivan Street. He said Sullivan Street has the right-of-way, but people coming from Mulberry Street don't stop. He said there is no Yield sign at the intersection, but thinks there should be one on Mulberry Street. Mr. Raymond said there is a Yield sign on the island although he thought it might be good to remove the island and just have a Stop sign. There was a consensus of the Council that a traffic study would be a good idea for that area.

Mayor Cutts mentioned parking on both sides of streets (i.e. Myrtle Street) and that fire trucks can't fit down some streets. She asked if the Traffic Advisory Committee would take a broad look at that.

Mr. Lewis said he had received complaints about the Myrtle/Pearl Street intersection. People have trouble crossing Myrtle Street because there are cars parked right at the intersection. There is a box truck that parks right at the intersection. He asked if there were any rules about how close you can park to an intersection.

Mr. LaCasse asked Mayor Cutts to invite the CDA to give a presentation to the Council.

Mr. Batchelder asked about changing the process (seeking input from the Manager before the evaluation) for the performance evaluation on the City Manager. Mayor Cutts said this will be brought up as part of the process.

Mr. Picard asked about revisiting the reopening of the City Charter that was talked about in February. Mayor Cutts said there were different ways to change the Charter and she didn't remember a Council directive to do that. She asked Mr. Picard to pull the minutes to see if a resolution did occur. Mr. Goff said he had made the motion to direct Mr. Santagate and Ms. Taylor to bring information back to the Council on how to make a change to the Charter. It was in relation to the tax cap. It was not time specific. Mr. Picard said he was looking for an update. Mayor Cutts asked Mr. Santagate to look into that.

Bernie Folta said the Charter "thing" is in progress. It is the citizens petition to revise the Charter and put the question of a tax cap on the ballot. If people who are gathering signatures succeed, the tax cap question (Charter revision) will be on the November ballot. He talked about a Charter revision versus a Charter amendment. He suggested for a Charter change for 2010 that Council find out what is necessary to put the election of the Charter commission on the November ballot.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Master Plan Committee

None

CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL

None

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:15 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