

The Claremont City Council held a meeting on Wednesday, July 8, 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

Absent:

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

Claremont Youth Soccer Association Proclamation

Mr. Lewis thanked the volunteers for the Claremont Youth Soccer Association (CYSA), especially Kevin Bonneau and Don Paquette, for the work they do for the kids. Kevin Bonneau, President of the CYSA, said there are 358 kids in the program (3-4 year olds up to 8th grade). He thanked the sponsors of the program and the community for its support. Mr. Raymond read the proclamation for the Claremont Youth Soccer Association. Mr. Bonneau accepted the proclamation.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

A motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Mr. Lewis to accept the minutes of the June 10, 2009, City Council meeting.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Claremont Planning Board

Mayor Cutts appointed Ryan Puckett to seat #1 of the Claremont Planning Board.

OLD BUSINESS

Discretionary Preservation Easement Credit Percentage

Ed Tinker, Assessor, said as part of the acceptance of the Discretionary Preservation Easement for 295 Windsor Road (Map 22 Lot 4), the barn has to be inspected and the criteria looked at to determine the percentage. According to his scoring sheet, he recommended a 75% tax reduction in the assessed value for this structure. It is not on the State Historic Register, however he feels it would be accepted, if the property owner applied.

There was discussion about the percentage (range 25% - 75%) to be applied. Mr. Austin asked how much the 75% reduction would be. Mr. Tinker said it would be approximately \$675. Mr. Austin said that \$675 is not very much considering the foundation needs some work.

Ms. Messier said she had originally voted against this easement, but it is a historically beautiful barn and she encouraged preservation. She is inclined toward the 75%.

A motion was made by Mr. Austin and seconded by Ms. Messier: The Claremont City Council, pursuant to RSA 79-D:7, hereby authorizes the assessment of the historic agricultural structure located at 295 Windsor Road (Map 22 Lot 4) at seventy-five percent of the full value assessment of the structure, as reflecting the public benefit conferred by the property under criteria set forth in RSA 79-D:3. The City Council further authorizes the City Manager or his designees to enter into and record a discretionary preservation easement for the qualifying structure, as approved by action of the City Council on June 10, 2009.

Mayor Cutts asked how much of the \$675 would cost each City property owner. Mr. Tinker said it would be 2-3 cents. She is in favor of the easement.

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

Mr. Picard said he voted no because this could open "Pandora's box" and he doesn't believe the City is in a position to be able to do that.

Recycling

Mayor Cutts gave a history of Claremont's recycling efforts. Several years ago, a previous Council passed an ordinance that trash haulers be licensed and that they include curbside recycling. The previous Council approved, and the City received, a \$5,000 grant from the USDA (US Department of Agriculture) to help start a curbside recycling program. Part of the grant was that the City had to match \$5,000. The money was used to purchase recycling bins. They were purchased through NRRRA (Northern Resource Recovery Association). NRRRA put the New Hampshire logo on the bins free of charge. Mayor Cutts noted that Alison Raymond was in the audience and she had been a part of a City subcommittee that had made strong recommendations to a previous Council to get to a rate of 50% recycling by 2012. She said some people have continued in the pursuit to bring recycling to Claremont and she invited Terry Gould to the podium to speak on this subject. Mayor Cutts said she is looking for consensus from the Council.

Mr. Picard said he has a conflict (he is a licensed trash hauler) and stepped down.

Terry Gould introduced himself and Caitlin Sharp from Antioch University New England. He said he has been involved in recycling since January 2009. He said Claremont had adopted a solid waste statement policy in 2007 and that there was more than 13,000 tons of solid waste coming from Claremont every year. The Transfer Station was handling only 400 tons. The rest was being taken away by haulers although there were not a lot of recycling bins around. The solution is to close the loop. One business, Marro Home Center, will be a receiving center for nonhazardous recyclable materials. Wal-Mart is in discussions for an in-store center. Marro's bins will be outside the store. These two businesses alone won't make the City's 50% goal. Marro's is prepared now to move forward. There are no City permits required. The DES (Department of Environmental Services) will exempt the company from permits as long as they don't make a profit from this. If the companies do make a profit, the money will go to a charity (fund drive, scholarship drive, etc.).

There was discussion about what can be put in the containers: clean paper, plastics, bottles (i.e. the items generally listed in the City ordinance). Items should be rinsed and presorted, although a small level of contamination is expected.

The bins will be available 24 hours a day. Marro's will be outside containers and Wal-Mart will have inside bins, but they are open 24 hours a day.

Mr. LaCasse asked about the fee to haul the recyclables away. Mr. Gould said the businesses would pay for it and if, in the future, a profit is produced, the businesses would donate it to a non-profit.

Mayor Cutts said the pilot goal was to do a curbside recycling, pay-as-you throw program. Financially, that can't be done now. The Transfer Station is open 2 days a week and recycling is free.

Council Meeting

July 8, 2009

Page 139

Mr. Batchelder asked about the impact on the Transfer Station. Bruce Temple, Public Works Director, said the revenue comes from the sale of tickets. There may be a slight reduction in expenses with recycling at these businesses.

Mr. Lewis asked how many City recycling bins there were and where can citizens pick them up. Mayor Cutts said there are thousands. She invited citizens to go to Public Works to pick up a recycling bin (1 per household). Mr. LaCasse suggested bins be given to Marro's and Wal-Mart for them to give out. If the businesses would keep a list of who got them, then it could be done.

Mr. Gould noted that to get to the 50% recycling goal, recycling will have to be done through the haulers.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, said he is interested because he had gone to some meetings of the Waste Action Collaborative. There is also another group called the Sullivan County Leadership Forum for Solid Waste; they are associated with the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission. He asked what Terry Gould's role is. He noted that licensed haulers are required to provide recycling opportunities. He asked where the recyclables will end up and how does this link to efforts already underway.

Mr. Gould said that his wife, Linda, is an environmentalist and he was drafted in January to get involved in recycling. He is not affiliated with anybody. He went to Antioch and Waste Action Collaborative to get more information. To get rid of the recyclables, Marro's has a contract with a private hauler and Wal-Mart has its own corporate-wide recycling. Their recycling will not go to Claremont's Transfer Station.

Steve Raymond, Ward 1, said that Claremont does a pretty good job of recycling. He said his hauler will not take a lot of stuff (i.e. metal). He has been to the recycling place and it is pretty good.

Mr. LaCasse said with no licensing, from the Planning Board perspective, this could get messy and without screening, it could be unsightly. Mr. Gould said that DES requires containers to be closed and have a maximum volume. He doesn't expect a large number of people to show up at Marro's. Businesses will want to keep a good image. State exempts them from permitting under established criteria. He said he advised Wal-Mart not to accept containers with food in them.

Alison Raymond, Ward 2, said she is excited. In terms of incentive, an average family pays \$30-\$40 per month for trash disposal; and now they can recycle and only take a small number of bags to the Transfer Station at \$3 per bag, that is a cost savings.

Robert Picard (hauler) asked if the cost of getting rid of the recyclables at the Transfer Station has been figured into the City's budget. Recycling for him is a losing proposition. Mayor Cutts said if it is a problem, it will be addressed.

Mayor Cutts asked if the Council objected to the City issuing recycling bins. No objection.

Mr. Picard returned to the Council table.

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Mayor Cutts recognized two audience members, since they don't live in Claremont, Denise Matthews and Marion Gonyea, Relay for Life. Ms. Matthews said at the first Relay for Life that \$25,000 was raised; there were 8 teams; and that was 6 years ago. Claremont has raised over \$250,000. This year, there were 16 teams. The dates for next year are June 25 and 26 at River Valley Community College. She thanked the sponsors. Ms. Gonyea will be the new chair for next year and Ms. Matthews will be co-chair. Later they will come back to the Council with more updates.

Jack O'Sullivan, Ward 1 and President of Greater Claremont Board of Realtors, said there are 101 active properties on the market; prices range from \$54,000 to \$379,000; 7 foreclosures. This does not include manufactured or mobile homes. There are 35 multi-families on the market; one is in foreclosure. Real estate in Claremont is alive and well. He got a chance to look at the City through newcomers' eyes when he worked with a couple from Brooklyn, NY. They thought the park system was incredible; they liked that the City had no parking meters, people were friendly, and the architecture. Mr. LaCasse asked about foreclosures. His source had a different number than Mr. O'Sullivan. Mr. O'Sullivan said he uses the MLS (Multiple Listing Service); it is a live site and is run by NNEREN, Northern New England Real Estate Network.

Mayor Cutts noted in the Mill District, on Water Street, that there were many cars from out of state (including one from Florida).

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, said at the June 10th meeting that there was discussion about the Five-minute Rule. A Councilor had asked how to change the Rule and Solicitor Taylor read that Council Rule verbatim. He said for the Council to not know its own Rules does not engender confidence in the public. He said Councilors should be familiar with the Charter, Council Rules and Article 2 of the Code of Ordinances.

Paul Bonneau, Ward 1, talked about the water issue on Bank Avenue and that the permit will expire in November. He said four years ago hay bales were put in. The road is getting washed out (road has been in for two years). He asked about putting this item on an agenda. Mayor Cutts suggested Councilors read previous minutes about the subject. Mayor Cutts said a conclusion (not resolution) had been reached. She is not opposed to entertaining a discussion again. Mr. Bonneau asked Mr. Santagate to have Bruce Temple look at it. Mr. Santagate said he will discuss it with Mr. Temple to see if there has been any change from where we left it; this has been going on for years. Mr. LaCasse asked if the North Street road reconstruction in 2012 will impact that area. Mr. Temple said the reconstruction will be at the intersection of North Street and Bank Avenue, toward the cemetery entrance. There is a wetland behind Mr. Bonneau's house. Drainage comes from the hospital, enters Barnes Park, exits across from Jiffy Mart to the big culvert between Messrs. Bonneau's and Neilsen's houses and floods back into a wetland area there. North Street reconstruction won't have a lot of impact on that area.

Mr. Picard asked to have this on a future agenda; he would like to see a conclusion. Mayor Cutts said Mr. Santagate has agreed to meet with Mr. Temple. She will identify the date range of the Council meetings where the conclusion was reached. Mr. Bonneau said he is not asking the City to take care of his property; he is asking the City to maintain the rain drain, so he can maintain his property.

Mayor Cutts read a statement from Jeff Goff saying that he appreciates the City Manager, City Staff and other partners for the re-opening of the Mill District.

NEW BUSINESS

Comcast Extension of Agreement

Ms. Walter, Finance Director, said the Comcast agreement is a three-year agreement and you need to start negotiations 30 months from the end of the agreement. The agreement expires in 1 ½ weeks. She asked Council to allow an extension for up to three months.

Mr. Austin asked why an extension is needed. Ms. Walter said they are not finished with the details. Comcast had originally accepted language of the Adelpia contract, but now they want Comcast wording in the agreement (language issues). They are almost finished.

Mr. Picard asked why a motion was required. Ms. Walter said when the contract expires, they could cut off CCTV (Claremont Community Television) if they wanted without an extension in place.

A motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Mr. Picard to authorize the City Manager or his designees to enter into an extension of the Cable Television Franchise Agreement between the City of Claremont and Comcast of Connecticut/Georgia/Massachusetts/New Hampshire/New York/North Carolina/Virginia/Vermont, LLC until midnight October 11, 2009 or until such time as the Franchise Agreement is renewed for a longer term, whichever occurs sooner.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, said he heard from sources in Vermont that Comcast is a tough customer, but we have a tough City Manager and can get good stuff from Comcast. The City has leverage: CCTV is a video channel, but if CCTV were to put more video on the internet, it would be a different delivery mechanism and we would not be as dependent on cable.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

Acceptance of Scoreboard for Monadnock Park (\$17,000 value) from Kiwanis Club

Scott Hausler, Parks and Recreation Director, introduced Vic Bergeron and Bill Schroeder from the Kiwanis Club.

Mr. Schroeder said they were giving this gift because Claremont supports the Kiwanis Club. He said Kiwanis needs volunteers. They meet Thursday nights.

Mr. Bergeron said the cost increased to \$17,500 due to shipping. The Club's theme is serving children. This encompasses the community. The Club voted unanimously for this project. The scoreboard can be used for 4-5 sports.

A motion was made by Mr. Batchelder and seconded by Mr. LaCasse to accept the Scoreboard for Monadnock Park (\$17,500 value) from Kiwanis Club.

Mr. Batchelder said he spends a lot of time in Monadnock Park and is ecstatic about the organization stepping up to donate the scoreboard.

Ms. Messier said the Kiwanis Club has done a lot of things in Claremont. She thanked them for the scoreboard.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0 with great thanks.

Acceptance of \$300 from The Ink Factory for Twin State Valley Basketball Tournament

Mr. Hausler said during the March basketball tournament, the Ink Factory made and sold shirts and sweatshirts, with the profit going toward the basketball program. The money will be used for basketballs. Jeff Barrette is the owner of the Ink Factory.

A motion was made by Mr. Picard and seconded by Mr. LaCasse to accept the \$300 from The Ink Factory for Twin State Valley Basketball Tournament.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0 with great thanks.

Acceptance of Scoreboard for Barnes Park (\$10,000 value) from the following donors: Golden Cross Ambulance (\$5,741), Scott Reed of S.G. Reed Truck Services (\$2,000), Keith and Debbie Osgood of Osgood's Welding (\$2,000) and Dr. John Houde (\$1,000)

Mr. Hausler said this scoreboard is in temporary storage. He asked Council to accept it. It is similar in size as the one in Monadnock Park.

A motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Mr. Picard to accept the Scoreboard for Barnes Park (\$10,000 value) from the following donors: Golden Cross Ambulance (\$5,741), Scott Reed of S.G. Reed Truck Services (\$2,000), Keith and Debbie Osgood of Osgood's Welding (\$2,000) and Dr. John Houde (\$1,000).

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0 with thanks.

Acceptance of \$1,000 Donation from Claremont Savings Bank Foundation for Claremont Youth Lacrosse Program

Mr. Hausler said this is a new program. Under Assistant Coach Dave Cockran's, leadership, parents and volunteers applied for a grant for equipment for the lacrosse program. They also received \$150 from Dr. John Houde, for a total of \$1,150.

A motion was made by Mr. Austin and seconded by Ms. Messier to accept the \$1,150 Donations from Claremont Savings Bank Foundation and Dr. John Houde for Claremont Youth Lacrosse Program.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

Mayor Cutts thanked Mr. Hausler for his work.

Monadnock Park Field Restoration

Mr. Santagate read some Council minutes from May 2005. This donation, from Lowes to the City to upgrade playing fields, was estimated to be \$250,000. The site on Washington Street was contaminated. Poison was going to the Sugar River from that site. The clean up issue cost Lowes about \$2 million. The Army Corps of Engineers said if they built on that site, they had to compensate for flood storage somewhere else along the Sugar River. The flood storage could be at Monadnock Park and it could improve the drainage in Monadnock Park at the same time. The Washington Street site is in a 100-year flood plain zone. A conservation easement will be placed on the compensation site as required by the Army Corps of Engineers. Lowes will excavate some of the land next to the sports complex (at the old football field). They have agreed to create and seed two soccer fields at an estimated \$250,000 value. Lowes is expected to begin the Monadnock Park project in 7-10 days. They will also replace the stands and build a walkway behind the tennis courts to the little league park. The Lowes project on Washington Street will begin construction in 6-7 weeks. Right now they are surcharging the land (putting it under pressure so it won't settle after building). This is a great story for the City. He publicly thanked Lowes.

Scott Hausler showed a PowerPoint presentation, "Monadnock Park Field Restoration Project."

- Project Scope
 - Lowering the grade of old field by removing the crown
 - Creating two playing fields with alternative field configurations
 - Install underdrainage (increase playability)
 - Irrigation stub will be installed
 - Creation of foot path to playground
 - Remove old bleachers and purchase portable bleachers
 - Relocate Coach Parker monument
- Existing Conditions
- Main Field Configurations

- Site Improvements
 - Bleachers used throughout whole park system (Lowes will pay for them)
- Alternative Field Configurations
 - Youth soccer
 - Field hockey
 - Football

Mr. Batchelder asked about the impact to fall sports. Mr. Hausler said the fields will need a season of growing, so the fall sports will be impacted. The City has a good working relationship with the school and they will work together on it.

Mr. Raymond asked if there would be any lighting for these fields. Mr. Hausler said there was no intention to do that, because it would be limiting as to how the space is used. The area will be an open green space.

Mr. LaCasse asked if the old bleachers would be reused. Mr. Hausler said they would be salvaged because they are no longer considered safe.

Mr. Picard asked about the football field not being 100 yards. Mr. Hausler they will be able to make a 100 yard football field, but it would be tight, so it is a practice location.

Ms. Messier said this is wonderful. She thanked Mr. Santagate for his negotiation skills and Mr. Hausler for what he represents in the sporting community. Mayor Cutts agreed.

Mr. Raymond thanked Phyllis Muzeroll and the E-ticker News and the reporting she has done on the parks.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, said now we need to see if we can get the school upgraded. He said this is tremendous progress cleaning up a brownfield (contaminated land). He asked if there are other brownfield sites in Claremont needing clean up.

Steve Raymond, Ward 1, asked if thank you notes are sent out. Mayor Cutts said yes.

Mr. Lewis thanked Mr. Hausler for the tremendous example of thinking outside of the box to accomplish things for Claremont.

Acceptance of \$705 NH Highway Safety Grant for Claremont Radar Replacement

Police Chief Alex Scott said this grant is to replace a handheld radar unit which is antiquated and repair costs would be more than buying a new one. The new one is handheld and battery operated. There is a 50% match. Council had previously approved meeting the match from encumbered funds. This allows the Police to run radar effectively on Washington Street. They don't have to be tied to a patrol car, so it can be used on OHRV (Off Highway Recreational Vehicle) patrols.

Mayor Cutts asked what the speed limit is on Water Street and if a speed sign could be posted. Chief Scott said generally in a congested area of the City, the speed limit is 30 miles per hour.

A motion was made by Mr. Batchelder and seconded by Mr. Raymond to accept the \$705 NH Highway Safety Grant for Claremont Radar Replacement.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

Acceptance of \$5,457.83 NH Highway Safety Grant for Claremont Pedestrian Enforcement Patrols

Chief Scott said this grant will provide 22 4-hour patrols to be done on an overtime basis. They will focus on the downtown area for violations such as jaywalking, and vehicles violating pedestrian rules, and bicycle violations.

A motion was made by Mr. Austin and seconded by Mr. Lewis to accept the \$5,457.83 NH Highway Safety Grant for Claremont Pedestrian Enforcement Patrols with thanks to the Chief.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

Acceptance of \$5,581.87 NH Highway Safety Grant for Claremont DWI Patrols

Chief Scott said this grant covers every other weekend of the summer (15 6-hour DWI roving patrols, 9 p.m. to 3 a.m.).

A motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Mr. Picard to accept the \$5,581.87 NH Highway Safety Grant for Claremont DWI Patrols.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

Ordinance 509 Municipal Parking Garage – First Reading

The purpose of this proposed change is to add a new section regulating parking garages to the Code and to designate the Sawtooth Parking Garage as a municipal parking garage. Currently, the Code only regulates municipal parking lots. The proposed ordinance also formalizes the reservation of parking spaces, such as the existing leases for spaces previously approved by the City Council. The ordinance also adds municipal parking lots and municipal parking garages to the existing provision prohibiting congregating. Violations will be governed by existing enforcement provisions in Article V, including the schedule of fines in Section 19-106, updated by the City Council in 2007.

Enactment of this Ordinance will add regulation of municipal parking garages to the Code, in addition to municipal parking lots, and designates the Sawtooth Parking Garage as a municipal parking garage.

Ms. Taylor said to apply the Code to the parking garage, Council needs to formally make it a municipal parking facility.

Chief Scott said the first part of the ordinance covers the loitering issue in municipal parking lots, giving enforcement authority as in business parking lots. The second part outlines where parking is allowed, how permitted parking is handled and time limits for parking in the parking garage.

Mr. Picard asked how many reserved parking spaces there are in the parking garage. Mr. Santagate said 25% are open to the public.

Mr. Austin asked about the cost of maintenance. Ms. Taylor said the lease requires lessees to support the overhead costs to maintain the garage on a pro-rata basis. Mr. Santagate said 25% of the cost is the City's expense.

Mr. LaCasse asked about the term limit of the lease. Ms. Taylor said with the future condominiums in the Peterson building, the lease is 99 years. Otherwise it depends on the individual lessee. Mr. Santagate said this had to be done, because no one would buy a condo without parking. It was part of the negotiations with the developers. Mr. LaCasse asked what happens if someone defaults on a lease agreement. Mr. Santagate said the City has a legal right to the property. There are termination provisions in the lease. Mr. LaCasse asked if the fee includes upgrades to the building. Mr. Santagate said it is for the maintenance of their space. It made sense to put in the third floor on while it was being built, so the City is not anticipating putting on another floor. Mr. LaCasse said there are two major issues, vandalism and elevators (both are high maintenance). Nancy Merrill, Business Development Coordinator, said elevators and electricity are part of the plan. Mr. LaCasse asked if any portion of the money goes to pay off the bond. Mr. Santagate said the money goes into the TIFD and, therefore, would go to the bond.

Mr. Lewis said the parking garage is available 24 hours a day. He asked if there are there any restrictions on how long someone can be in a parking spot. Chief Scott said the public spots are limited to 10 hours.

Mr. Batchelder asked if this falls under parking enforcement. Chief Scott said yes.

Mr. Austin asked if the top floor will be used in winter. Mr. Santagate said yes, it will be plowed out. Mr. Austin asked if other renters (i.e. the bakery) are part of the 75%. Mr. Santagate said no. Mr. Austin asked about not finishing the old part of the building. Mr. Santagate said the problem was the old Sawtooth. Clean up of the contaminated land cost \$1.2 million. It will cost \$1.8 million to renovate the Sawtooth for a total of \$3 million. The City wanted to tear down the Sawtooth and cap the area which would have cost \$500,000 to \$800,000. There is a \$2 million issue for historic preservation which the City felt it wasn't worth. Cost is a major problem and we continue to seek a \$500,000 grant to mitigate the issue. The land had to be cleaned up. It was a brownfield site. Historic Preservation in Concord said we have to save the wall in the

back part. The garage is okay. The Sawtooth is a major problem we are continuing to deal with. We'll button it up for the winter. With this budget, fit up inside is still a challenge. We are seeking grants and we have gotten initial approval of \$500,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Batchelder and seconded by Mr. Austin to adopt Ordinance 509 Municipal Parking Garage on first reading.

Mr. Batchelder read the explanation of proposed action.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

State Budget Discussion

Mary Walter, Finance Director, gave a PowerPoint presentation about what the State budget means for Claremont.

- State Budget Passes
- Downshifting
 - The NH Municipal Association has calculated that this budget will downshift \$87,400,000 from the State to the municipalities in order to balance the State's budget over the next two years.
- Revenue Sharing
 - \$50,400,000 lost to municipalities over the biennium budget
 - Equals \$.65 on the City's tax rate for each of the next 2 years
- Retirement Contributions
 - Currently 35% will drop to 30% this year and 25% next year.
 - \$.06 on the City's tax rate for this year and \$.09 on next year's rate
- District Court
 - City will host the District Court, but will not receive any revenue from the state (\$53,000 for FY 2010)
 - \$.07 on the tax rate
- Meals & Rooms Tax Freeze
 - \$.07 on tax rate or \$50,000 for Claremont
- Other hits to the Residents
 - \$30 per vehicle
 - Boat registration will double to a minimum of \$24
 - 9% Rooms and Meals tax for camping
 - 10% tax for gambling winnings of more than \$600
 - Pay \$.45 more per pack of cigarettes (total \$1.78 tax per pack)
- Revenue Losses 2009 only
 - Revenue Sharing \$470,626
 - Retirement Increase \$31,299
 - State Retirement Cuts (2.5%) \$25,045
 - District Court Rent (1/2 yr) \$26,500
 - Motor Vehicle Shortfall (est) \$180,000

Council Meeting

July 8, 2009

Page 148

- Total \$733,470
- So Let's Add Up the Numbers!
 - Total for 1 Year \$.85
 - Projected City Tax Rate \$13.33
 - Projected Tax Rate with Downsizing \$14.18
 - Projected City increase when 2009 budget was passed on a home assessed at \$150,000 \$59.00 per year
 - Projected cost with State's increases (if nothing changes) \$186.50 per year
- So What Did We Do?
 - Eliminated positions saved us \$173,223 for the rest of this year
 - Vacant positions saved us \$195,058 for the rest of this year
 - Non-personnel cuts in departments totaled \$244,175
 - Total = \$612,456
 - The remaining \$121,014 will need to be made up in the General Services Budget
- What Positions were Vacant/Eliminated?
- What's the Impact on my Tax Bill?
 - Cuts were made in the budget, so there will be no impact on the 2009 tax rate as it was set last November
- What About Next Year's Budget?
 - Shortfall of \$573,717 from State budget cuts
 - Increases in health insurance and workers compensation insurance
- What Else is There?
 - The State's budget included a Medical Malpractice fund that the state made hospitals and others pay into in the event of a major malpractice suit. Part of the way the state balanced their budget was to include \$110 million of that money as revenue. That group has sued the State claiming the money does not belong to the State and the Court has frozen those assets. That hearing is due in July.
 - State may still need another \$110 million to have a balanced budget.
- In Summary
 - The City has dealt with the downshifting from the State for this year, but if this continues, there will be major issues facing every city and town in New Hampshire going forward.

Mr. Santagate said he was at a meeting in Concord when the \$110 million for the Medical Malpractice Fund came up. One of the doctors that heads up the association of doctors said that fund was created years ago for liability insurance (i.e. malpractice). The doctors contributed to that fund; the State is saying that it is a department of the State and, therefore, the Governor has a right to move the money to the General Fund. If the court says they can't use it, then that is a major problem.

Ms. Walter said New Hampshire is 49th out of 50th in the total amount of taxes paid by residents, despite the feeling that we are the highest.

Mr. LaCasse asked how many communities are served by the Claremont courthouse and do they contribute to the expenses of the courthouse. Mr. Santagate said he felt it was important to keep

the courthouse here while the study is being done. It is a long shot to keep it here. We have the largest population and, therefore, have most of the cases. Mr. LaCasse asked if we can pro-rate the cost of the courthouse. Chief Scott said it would be a challenge as close to 90% of the case load comes from Claremont, so pro-rated costs would be insignificant.

Mr. Picard asked if they move the Claremont District Court, will they vacate the state office building. Mr. Santagate said nothing is off the table. Mr. Picard asked if they are giving any indication what they may do. Mr. Santagate said he is concerned with one-time money being used to pay operating costs and when that goes away, we could lose the courthouse two years from now. He said the answer in the long run is growth.

Ms. Messier said this year we will have no increase in taxes (from these actions) as long as nothing unfavorable happens, because of the actions City Staff took. She acknowledged the Staff for sound fiscal management. Mr. Santagate said we are concerned with 2010 and 2011.

Mayor Cutts said when the state budget went to the Committee of Conference, the feeling was there is no creativity. Their answer is to cut the budget. Growing, building and spending responsibly is what we have done.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, said Claremont's fiscal year is the calendar year. Council works on the budget in November/December. On Tuesday, November 3rd, is the Council election. Chances are good that there will be some different Councilors after that day. Last time, lame duck Councilors resigned so that newly elected Councilors could work on the budget that they would have to live with. He said that was a reminder that that cycle is coming up again and last time at least two Councilors resigned so that their successors could be in on the budget.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Santagate thanked Chuck Reese, Department of Revenue Administration and Ed Tinker, Assessor, for holding the Assessing 101 class and talking about the revaluation. It will be seen on cable television. The City conducts the revaluation, but the state monitors it. He thanked the state for doing the monitoring before final figures are set.

Mayor Cutts said she appreciated Mr. Reese's efforts and realizes the City has no control over the process.

Mr. LaCasse said he had a question for Mr. Santagate and asked if it could be answered at the next Council meeting. He asked how the paving on Water Street, on private property, was paid for. Mr. Santagate said he had gotten the question earlier. Mr. LaCasse said he has asked the question earlier (as an FYI). Mr. Santagate said he had asked Ms. Taylor for the information and he read the letter from her addressed to Mr. Santagate. Construction on the northerly and easterly sides of the former Reliable Paper building was performed pursuant to an easement granted to the City by Reliable Paper in 1984. There is an easement for the construction of 11 parking spaces on the northerly side of Reliable Paper's building, 6 for Reliable Paper and 5 for

the City. Also, there is an easement for utilities. As part of the reconstruction of Water Street, new city sewer was laid underneath these parking spaces, so, according to the easement, the City had to restore the parking spaces.

Mayor Cutts asked Councilors to filter questions through her.

Mr. LaCasse asked if permits have been issued for houses that had burned by the high school and on Elm Street. Chief Chase said of 24 Elm Street that the long litigation has been settled and permits have been issued. The one on Middle Street is hazardous and the process is just beginning to tear it down.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND DIRECTIVES

Mr. Lewis said there is an issue with parking on Myrtle Street especially at the corner of Pearl and Myrtle. He would like the Council to talk about parking regulations.

Mr. Batchelder said July 18th is the 8th Annual Criterium. It is Arrowhead's main fundraiser. They are looking for volunteers. Their website is Arrowheadnh.com.

Mr. Picard asked if the Council could meet with Nancy Merrill, Business Development Coordinator, about future businesses coming to Claremont. Mr. Santagate clarified that Council wants an update on economic development. He will take care of it.

Mr. Austin said a vacant building (had a fire) on 20 Prospect Street has tall weeds, broken windows and kids going into it. He asked what the process is for securing buildings. Mr. Santagate said we will take a look at it.

Mr. LaCasse asked when CDA, Claremont Development Authority would make a presentation to the Council. Mayor Cutts said we are shooting for August.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Master Plan Committee

None

Mayor Cutts asked if the Council understands the procedures for a non-public session. There were no questions from the Council.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION PURSUANT TO RSA 91-A:3 II(d) – REAL ESTATE

At 10:39 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Austin and seconded by Mr. Lewis to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II(d) to discuss real estate and invited Mr. Santagate, Ms. Taylor, Ms. Merrill, Mr. Tinker, Mr. Temple, Chief Chase and Dorée Russell, Clerk to Council, to participate in the non-public session.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Ms. Messier to seal the minutes of the non-public session until such time that the circumstances required in the sealing of the minutes no longer applies.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

At 11:18 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Mr. Batchelder to return to the public session.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL

None

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:19 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Ms. Messier to adjourn.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorée M. Russell
Clerk to the Council