

The Claremont City Council held a meeting on Wednesday, April 14, 2010, 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:

Ward II Councilor Keith Raymond
Ward I Councilor Victor Bergeron
Ward III Councilor Nicholas Koloski
Assistant Mayor Andrew Austin
Mayor Deborah Cutts
At-Large Councilor Adam Burke
At-Large Councilor Christopher Lewis
At-Large Councilor Kyle Messier
At-Large Councilor Jeffrey Goff

Also present were:

Guy Santagate, City Manager
Jane Taylor, City Solicitor

MAYOR'S NOTES

Mr. Goff said that on April 2nd, Stevens High School sponsored a seminar by Dr. Ruby Payne to over 700 educators and administrators. He said it was a wonderful experience and helpful for understanding poverty and generational/situational poverty.

Stevens High School Student Council Update

None

Mayor Cutts talked about a Mayors meeting with the Governor to discuss the state budget crisis. Layoffs, budget cuts, generating revenue and debt restructuring were topics. There will be a follow-up meeting some time in June.

Mayor Cutts issued a proclamation to the Claremont Elks Club for Youth Week which is the first week in May. Tim Dunham, Youth Activities Coordinator at the Claremont Elks Lodge, said that youth are the future. They have programs that encourage youth to get active in the community (i.e. Student of the Month program, sponsor community center teams, Christmas baskets and drug awareness program).

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

A motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Mr. Goff to accept the minutes of the March 10, 2010, City Council meeting.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0 with Mr. Lewis abstaining as he was not at that meeting.

APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Parks and Recreation Commission

An application from Wayne McElreavy for Seat #2 of the Parks and Recreation Commission had been included in the Council packet. Mayor Cutts asked to defer this appointment to the May Council meeting as it expires at the end of May. Council did not object. Mayor Cutts invited interested members of the public to submit their applications for the seat.

Claremont Planning Board

Mayor Cutts appointed Peter Guillette to Seat #3, Richard Wahrlich to Seat #4, Amanda Silvers to Seat #6 and Bruce Kolenda to Alternate Seat #A1 of the Claremont Planning Board.

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Larry Converse, Ward 2, asked if there are any plans to raise the \$200,000 to “crib up” the sewer line that runs under the Sugar River.

NEW BUSINESS

Recycling in Claremont – Stevens High School Presentation

Mayor Cutts recognized Katie Lajoie in case she wanted to speak, as she has been working with the students for this presentation, but does not reside in Claremont.

Emily Lemieux and Erica Ferland spoke about the Wonders of Curbside Recycling and showed a PowerPoint presentation.

- What is Curbside Recycling
- Why Choose Curbside Recycling
 - More convenient
- In a recent survey taken by the students in Stevens High School it was found that:
 - 434 surveys returned
 - 148 said they recycled
 - 160 said they would recycle if there were curbside recycling
- Student Recyclers (pie chart)

- Curbside Candidates
- The Final Results
 - 241 families said they would recycle
- Student Recyclers Revised
- Curbside Recycling and the Environment
 - It's good for the environment
- Curbside Recycling and Claremont
 - It would make Claremont look good

They noted that curbside recycling is an option.

Mr. Goff asked what strategies could be used to increase the number of people who would recycle. Miss Lemieux said a lot of students didn't understand what curbside recycling was, so better information would help.

Mr. Austin said he is in favor of recycling and that trash haulers are to pick up recycling. Miss Lemieux said her family had noticed their hauler just throwing the recycling in with their regular garbage so they stopped recycling with them and took it to the Transfer Station themselves.

Mayor Cutts said recycling is the right thing to do. Claremont now does single stream recycling at the Transfer Station. Claremont has an ordinance for curbside recycling. Several years ago, Council passed a proclamation stating that the City of Claremont will recycle 50% of its garbage by 2012.

Mr. Bergeron asked for clarification of the recycling ordinance. Ms. Taylor read the portion of the ordinance pertaining to recycling by garbage haulers. It was effective July 1, 2007.

Mary Walter, Finance Director, noted that Marro's Home Center offers recycling. Mayor Cutts clarified that the recycling at Marro's and Wal-Mart is a private effort and is not part of the City recycling effort.

Valley Regional Hospital Update

Claire Bowen, President of Valley Regional Hospital (VRH), said they opened the new wing. In 2005, VRH was the second oldest hospital in the state. It had not had a major renovation in 29 years. They went through a master facility planning process. In 2007 they got approvals. In July 2008 they broke ground. In four months the project will be complete.

Ms. Bowen showed a PowerPoint presentation of the renovation.

- New Entrance (one entrance for all except Emergency)
- New Lobby (comforting environment)
- Admitting/Registration areas offer privacy
- New Emergency Room entrance (has 2 triage rooms)
 - Private rooms

- Psych room & pediatric room
- Same day surgery unit
- Kane Oncology Center
- Helipad
- New power plant

Council was appreciative of the update. Ms. Bowen said the Council will be invited to a September Grand Opening event.

Mr. Santagate said this is a big part of the revitalization of the city and that we are delighted to see the finished project.

Resolution 2010-10 Acceptance of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants
(City Hall Boiler & Energy Audit) – Public Hearing

Ms. Walter said the budget contains \$152,000 to upgrade the boiler at City Hall. A grant request was made to the Office of Energy and Planning (OEP) for energy efficiency projects including the boiler and an energy audit. The boiler will fall under the federal ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) which will make the project cost more due to federal standards (i.e. using Davis Bacon rates and American made materials). She is not sure how much it will cost, maybe \$200,000. She will spend the \$152,000 from the OEP first and then spend the \$152,000 from the budget, if needed. The energy audit is \$25,000. Total grant was \$177,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Goff and seconded by Mr. Koloski to adopt Resolution 2010-10 Acceptance of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (City Hall Boiler & Energy Audit).

Mr. Goff read the resolution into the record.

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

Roll Call Vote: Motion Carried 9-0.

Motion to Authorize Multi-Year Lease Agreement for Vehicle Replacements – Public
Works and Parks & Recreation Departments

Ms. Waltersaid this is a lease agreement that continues a schedule for replacing vehicles that has been in place for years.

Mr. Bergeron asked which vehicles are being replaced. Ms. Walter said an F550 Public Works truck and for Parks a three-quarter ton truck and a zero turn mower.

Mr. Burke asked about the state of the current vehicles and asked if there is a definite need for replacement. Ms. Walter said when she started with the City, vehicles were 15 or even 20 years old. Current vehicles are on a 5, 7 or 9 year replacement schedule depending on what they are.

Ms. Messier asked how long this lease arrangement had been in place. Ms. Walter said since 2004. As vehicles are ending their useful life, the new vehicles are being rolled into the lease program. Years ago a lot of stuff was bonded; the City is still paying for some of those bonded vehicles even though the vehicles have been traded in. This is being paid out of the operating budget. Another result is that the City has reduced vehicle maintenance personnel from four to two.

Mr. Koloski said going forward he would like more detailed information about the vehicles that are being replaced and Mayor Cutts agreed. Ms. Walter suggested Directors could make presentations to the Council about the replacements. Mr. Bergeron agreed more information would be beneficial.

Mr. Burke asked how many years the lease is for. Ms. Walter said 5 years, but at other times, there may be a “blend” for equipment that requires a 9 year lease versus a 5 year lease. Mr. Burke asked about the fees for the following years. Ms. Walter said they will remain the same as this one.

Mr. Austin asked who determines when vehicles are placed in the lease. Ms. Walter said the City does.

Mr. Goff asked how the leasing company was determined. Ms. Walter said the City went to leasing companies and asked them for rates. Mr. Goff asked what happens after year 5. Ms. Walter said we own the vehicles for \$1 and then we can trade them in.

A motion was made by Mr. Bergeron and seconded by Ms. Messier to authorize the City Manager to enter into a multi-year lease agreement for vehicles and equipment for the Public Works and Parks and Recreation Departments at a cost of \$11,971.48 for Public Works and \$10,992.00 for Parks and Recreation for the first year of the lease, the 2010 costs having been raised and appropriated in the 2010 budget. The proposed lease agreement contains a termination clause in the event of non-appropriation of sufficient funds.

Roll Call Vote: Motion Carried 9-0.

Motion to Authorize Multi-Year Lease Agreement for Phone System

Ms. Walter said the money for the first year of the lease is in the General Services budget. The current phone system is dying; it’s dropping calls and calls are being lost. The phone system is 11-12 years old and generally they have a 10-year life cycle. We have over 100 phones. We may look at Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) systems. A lot of technology has changed. This is a five year lease.

Mr. Goff suggested new technology may exceed the capacity of staff to use. Ms. Walter said the City is not paying for bells and whistles. We are getting what we need. Training has been built into the RFP (Request for Proposal).

Mr. Burke asked if this is a lease for the hardware. Ms. Walter said yes.

Mayor Cutts asked if this will improve service to customers. Ms. Walter said she hopes it will.

Mr. Koloski asked about a buy-out at the end of the lease. Ms. Walter said we always do a \$1 buy-out.

Mr. Goff asked about a central operator. Ms. Walter said it would be nice, but there are a lot of issues that have to be considered (i.e. ADA issues).

Mr. Burke asked about hardware warranties and maintenance. Ms. Walter said that will be addressed in the RFP when we go out to bid.

A motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Mr. Koloski to authorize the City Manager to enter into a multi-year lease agreement for a telephone system for City offices and facilities at a cost of \$17,413.07 for the first year of the lease, the 2010 costs having been raised and appropriated in the 2010 General Services budget. The proposed lease agreement contains a termination clause in the event of non-appropriation of sufficient funds.

Roll Call Vote: Motion Carried 9-0.

Resolution 2010-7 Authorize Multi-Year Lease Agreement and Transfer \$7,850.00 from Fire Capital Reserve for Vehicle

Ms. Walter said this is to replace Assistant Fire Chief Captain Cullen Downing's 1999 vehicle. The first year costs are not in the budget. It will come from the Fire Vehicle Replacement Capital Reserve and then it will be rolled into the regular replacement of vehicles like all the others.

Mr. Koloski stated that he had applied to fill a Call Firefighter position and asked if he should recuse himself from this discussion. Mr. Raymond said he is also a Call Firefighter and that this action does not benefit them personally so they can sit and vote on fire items. Mr. Bergeron said Mr. Koloski is not a member of the Fire Department at this time and doesn't need to recuse himself.

Mr. Burke asked about the state of the current vehicle. Fire Chief Peter Chase said it is a 1999 Chevrolet Tahoe that was purchased used. It has 82,000 miles on it. It did not pass inspection in March, however it could with lots of money. It is not suitable for emergency response. It failed inspection due to rust and emission control issues. Mr. Bergeron noted that vehicle will be used for more than just the Captain; it's also used for emergencies. Mr. Koloski asked where the old

one will go. Chief Chase said it will be worked on and then it may be passed to Code Enforcement. Ms. Messier asked to confirm this would come from the Fire Capital Reserve. Chief Chase said since 1998, the Fire Department has had a Capital Reserve Fund. The larger fire trucks are very expensive to purchase. He described payment plans for current vehicles. He doesn't ask for what he wants, only what is needed. They ask to replace vehicles as they wear out. Next year he will ask to replace a 1989 pumper with 100,000 miles on it.

Mr. Goff asked about the \$7,850. Chief Chase said that would be the annual fee. Mr. Goff said he had a problem taking money from a Capital Reserve for an operating expense. He is also concerned that Chief Chase feels the vehicle is not okay for the Fire Department, but is okay for the Planning and Development Department. Chief Chase said he would prefer to trade it in, but it is up to the City whether or not to keep it. If the Code Enforcement officers use it, it would not be an emergency response vehicle, so there would be less of a problem if it did not start.

Mayor Cutts asked if this Capital Reserve account was established for this purpose. Ms. Walter said yes for the first year, and then the fee would come out of the operating budget. There was a discussion about the operating budget versus the capital reserve.

Mr. Koloski was concerned about another department taking this vehicle. He thinks it should be traded instead of dumping more money into it. Ms. Walter made a point that if staff needs to go to training and no vehicle is available to take, then the City has to pay them 50 cents a mile (IRS reimbursement rate) to drive their own vehicle. Rather than trading in the truck, the Planning Department would rather take it and repair it for less than paying \$4,000 to fix the vehicle they currently have.

Mr. Lewis talked about the replacement schedule for fire vehicles. He said this information needs to be talked about during the budget session. He's looking forward to seeing a capital improvement plan.

Mr. Bergeron said he believes that if Chief Chase didn't think the vehicle would pass inspection, he would have included it in the budget; however the vehicle unexpectedly failed inspection and it needs to be replaced. The vehicle is used for multiple purposes including emergencies, so it has to be reliable.

Ms. Messier said the Capital Reserve Fund is the Fire Department's reserve fund and is like a savings account. Mr. Raymond agreed. Ms. Messier said the other option would be to ask for money out of the General Fund which would impact other departments, but that's not what is being asked for.

A motion was made by Mr. Austin and seconded by Mr. Bergeron to adopt Resolution 2010-7 Authorize Multi-Year Lease Agreement and Transfer \$7,850.00 from Fire Capital Reserve for Vehicle.

Mr. Austin read the resolution into the record.

Mr. Burke asked what the balance in the account was. Ms. Walter estimated \$28,000. He asked about repairs. Ms. Walter said they would be paid from a different account.

Mr. Goff agreed with Mr. Lewis about having information on what the needs are. He has concerns about the perception of the department driving around a brand new \$50,000 Tahoe. Mayor Cutts talked about Council responsibilities. Mr. Goff asked where it will be funded from next year. Ms. Walter said it would be funded out of the operating budget. Mr. Goff said that is funded by the taxpayers and will continue to be until it is paid off. Mayor Cutts said this money is coming from the Fire Capital Reserve and Mr. Goff said that is only because it was not done during budget discussions. Chief Chase said the program was set up over 10 years ago with \$94,000. Every year, \$94,000 is added to the Fire Capital Reserve which has been funding fire apparatus for over 10 years. Lease payments are made from that account every year.

Mr. Raymond noted that Chief Chase said we are paying off two vehicles this year and then those payments go into the Fire Capital Reserve. Ms. Walter said that money will be saved in order to fund the next vehicle on the replacement schedule.

Mr. Santagate said that before 2001, vehicles were run until they fell apart and then the replacements were bonded. Since this plan has been in place, it has been pay as you go. He is proud of the program and it has cut the age of vehicles by more than one-half. This program offers predictability and no bonds are used to pay for the vehicles as was the norm in the past. He said he plans to come before the Council in September or October with a new Capital Improvement Plan.

A motion was made by Mr. Austin to move the question. There was no second. The motion died.

Mayor Cutts opened the public hearing.

Steve Raymond, Ward 1, said regardless of what account the money is in, it is still taxpayers' money. He said the question is, when do requests get turned down; not everything is an emergency.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, said in reference to the discussion of the resolution that it was refreshing. He said you can have legally correct things that are politically savvy (appearance and perception) or legally correct and politically dumb. Ideally it would be legally correct and politically savvy. He said the scrutiny this Council is showing is wonderful.

Mayor Cutts closed the public hearing.

Mr. Koloski pointed out the Fire Capital Reserve account in the Finance Report shows a balance of \$22,447.27. He asked the cost of the vehicle and which vehicle was selected. Chief Chase said there were 11 bids and the lowest was \$34,836. The vehicle will last 10 years. He said the current vehicle is not suitable for emergency response (reliability issue). With that explanation, Mr. Koloski said he would remove his concern.

Mr. Lewis asked, with this, if there is any risk of not being able to replace engine 3. Chief Chase said the plan is flexible.

Mr. Burke asked about suitable vehicles for emergency response. Chief Chase said they look at commonly used vehicles by state police and other state agencies. NH DOT (Department of Transportation) uses Tahoes. They also look for consistency in types of vehicles. We don't always choose the lowest price, because the warranty may be better on others, but this time we did choose the lowest price. Ms. Walter said we generally beat the state bid. The purchasing policy states that if we use the state bid, we don't have to go out for bid, but going out for bid generally saves money.

Mr. Lewis asked if the vehicle will be outfitted with emergency lights. Chief Chase said that work will be done locally by Whelen (better value than the dealership). The money comes from the Maintenance and Repair account.

Roll Call Vote: Motion Carried 8-1 with Mr. Goff voting no.

Resolution 2010-8 Request to Apply for and Expend \$5,240 Grant NH the Beautiful Grant – Public Hearing

Bruce Temple, Public Works Director, said of recycling that in the past the glass had been separated out and thrown onto a concrete pad (not the best way to do it). This grant will allow for the purchase of a 20-yard container. The cost is \$5,240 and the NH the Beautiful Grant will pay for up to one-half. This resolution will allow us to apply for the grant and if accepted, expend the money.

Mr. Koloski said he is happy for this as it will seal the deal for recycling.

A motion was made by Mr. Burke and seconded by Mr. Raymond to adopt Resolution 2010-8 Request to Apply for and Expend \$5,240 Grant NH the Beautiful Grant.

Mr. Burke read the resolution into the record.

Mr. Bergeron asked if the grant is not awarded, would we still purchase the container. Mr. Temple said no, we don't have the full amount available. He would probably put that in next year's budget.

Mr. Lewis said he went to the recycling center this week and it looks great.

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

Roll Call Vote: Motion Carried 9-0.

Resolution 2010-9 Apply for \$1.5 Million NH Department of Environmental Services
State Revolving Fund Loan-Maple and McKenzie Avenues Sewer – Public Hearing

Mr. Temple said this is to repair or replace the failed sewer pipe that happened last August. They have gone through the design process and selected Underwood Engineering. This resolution is so that Public Works can apply for up to \$1.5 million from the State Revolving Fund (SRF). In 2004, Council authorized his predecessor to borrow up to \$12 million from NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) for sanitary sewer. We did four projects including upgrades at the sewage treatment plant. With the sewer rate structure that was in place, we couldn't pay back future loans, so the unused \$7 million line of credit was returned to DES. He said he talked about this in the mini CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) for the sewer enterprise fund. He is here to ask for permission to apply for an SRF (State Revolving Fund) loan. Interest on a 20-year loan is about 3%. Mr. Santagate said, in round numbers, on every dollar spent we will get approximately 20 cents back from the revolving loan fund depending upon the interest rate. Mr. Santagate explained about returning the credit line because we couldn't afford to pay it back.

Mr. Bergeron asked if this is one of the reasons for going up on the water and sewer rates. Mr. Temple said this is a result of not having a maintenance program. Mr. Bergeron stated if it fails, will we have to fix it anyway. Mr. Temple said that is correct.

Mr. Austin asked if this would be paid back by the Enterprise Fund. Mr. Temple said yes. When he goes to Concord, he will explore any alternative programs that might be available.

Mr. Burke asked if there is any environmental impact with this project. Mr. Temple said no. When it was discovered, a pump was put in and since then larger pumps have been purchased. Mr. Burke asked if there is a potential for applying for EPA (Environmental Protection Act). Mr. Temple said they are not too keen on helping with temporary fixes.

A motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Mr. Burke to adopt Resolution 2010-9 Apply for \$1.5 Million NH Department of Environmental Services State Revolving Fund Loan-Maple and McKenzie Avenues Sewer.

Mr. Raymond read the resolution into the record.

Mayor Cutts opened the public hearing.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, asked about the status of the lawsuit and the relationship of the lawsuit on this application. In reference to feds, he asked when can a municipality go to a federal agency for a loan or grant or does the state bureaucrats get "bent out of shape" if the municipality goes over their heads.

Steve Raymond, Ward 1, asked what this will cost taxpayers. Projects like this have to be top priority. He knows the job has to be done. Because of this, he asked how much sewer rates will go up.

Mr. Temple said in reference to Mr. Folta's comments, EPA grants are handled through the state DES. In reference to Mr. Steve Raymond's comments, the sewer is an Enterprise Fund and those fees are not on the tax rate.

Mr. Bergeron noted that sewer and water rates were increased last month to pay for some of these things.

Mr. Goff asked for a clarification in the resolution in reference to matching funds. Mr. Santagate said there is a lawsuit pending that has to do with the easement. This project has to be done. As far as accessing other funds, the state doesn't like us going directly to the feds, but we have done that when needed (i.e. Drapers Corner). We are always attempting to get grants where we can. Ms. Taylor said this resolution is so that the City has the ability to access money if it becomes available, but would come to the Council to raise and appropriate the money. Mayor Cutts noted in reference to grants that the state is in a budget crisis and that may affect grants.

Mr. Lewis asked if the Maple Avenue sewer runs through the old Ames parking lot. Mr. Temple said this project runs from under the old railroad fill, up to the break and 2,000 feet behind the old Ames building, where it will tie into a newer system.

Roll Call Vote: Motion Carried 9-0.

Ordinance 513 No Parking on East Side of Fern Street and Robert Easter Way – First Reading

The purpose of this proposal is to prohibit parking by any vehicle on the east sides of both Fern St. and Robert Easter Way. The Traffic Advisory Committee reviewed these two streets and determined that Fern Street is too narrow for through traffic if parking is allowed on both sides and that parking on both sides of Robert Easter Way creates a hazard to the significant pedestrian and school traffic along the roadway. As a result, the Traffic Advisory Committee has recommended that vehicle parking be prohibited on the east side of both streets.

Enactment of this Ordinance will improve public safety on Fern Street and Robert Easter Way by prohibiting vehicle parking on the east side of both streets.

Police Chief Alex Scott said two requests came before the Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC did a site visit. Fern Street is a narrow street. There was a complaint from a resident that when vehicles are parked on both sides, a vehicle can't get through, so it made sense to eliminate parking on one side. Robert Easter Way connects South Street to Arrowhead. When vehicles are parked on both sides, it is very narrow. There have been complaints from parents who drop their children off at the day care. There are marked parking spaces on the west side. The TAC recommends these actions. A volunteer at Arrowhead objected to the no parking on Robert Easter Way, however the TAC determined there is ample parking in other areas of the facility.

Mr. Bergeron asked why all of a sudden this is a safety issue. Chief Scott said it is a common sense issue. Robert Easter Way is where people have created parking where there are no marked parking spaces. Mr. Bergeron thinks Arrowhead has a legitimate complaint.

Mr. Koloski said he was surprised it has taken so long for this change on Robert Easter Way. In 1996 he witnessed a student being struck by a vehicle due to the double parking.

Mr. Burke said he went to Arrowhead for this year's Easter egg hunt and it was chaos; he commended the action.

Mr. Goff asked if the ordinance is passed, what will be the enforcement when the facility is busy. Chief Scott said it will be enforced by the Police Department.

Mr. Burke asked about spill-over parking for busy events. Chief Scott said there is parking at the back of the facility and at the Claremont Middle School.

A motion was made by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Raymond to adopt Ordinance 513 No Parking on East Side of Fern Street and Robert Easter Way.

Mr. Lewis read the explanation of proposed action.

Roll Call Vote: Motion Carried 9-0.

Chief Scott noted that if there is an emergency, he could post the No Parking signs under his authority.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Santagate spoke in reference to the Google pilot program to expand broadband access to the internet. He met with Mr. Burke, Nancy Merrill, Planning and Development Director, and Mary Walter, Finance Director. The application has been filed; it is a long shot that we will be selected because of the number of applications that are expected.

Mr. Santagate said he is concerned about the Governor's budget, but it is still vague as it is still only a proposal. He is concerned about the math (i.e. 1% cut to cities and towns is really a 10% cut for City of Claremont because the 1% includes the schools). Our cut from rooms and meals tax from last year was \$500,000. In reference to the pension payments, at one point, the state paid 35% and now this proposal is down to 20%. Employee contributions will not be increased, but the City's portion will increase. He asked Ms. Walter if she would make a list of what the City has picked up in indirect and direct costs (i.e. the City Clerk's office is doing much more of the work that used to be done at the State Motor Vehicle office). Cuts to the Health and Human Services will affect the Welfare office. It is premature to put a number on this. We may know something by June. Mr. Santagate said to fund everything on the property tax is outmoded. He will keep the Council informed.

Mayor Cutts said during the Governor's call that he talked about suggestions and ideas, but had nothing firm. She doesn't expect a lot of advanced notice when something happens. She said the state has had a deficit for a number of years and, for the record, Claremont has not done that since Mr. Santagate has been here. She encouraged Council to read an April 9 article in the NH Municipal Association magazine titled "Fuzzy Math."

Mr. Bergeron asked if we should start looking at steps to take now. Mr. Santagate agreed that we will get hit, but he doesn't know when or how much. We don't want to be premature without knowing where we are. We will take drastic steps if we have to. He agreed that earlier is better than later. Mr. Burke asked, besides gambling, is there was anything else. Mayor Cutts said suggestions from other mayors were income and sales tax. Mr. Santagate noted that during this crisis, the state eliminated two taxes that had been implemented (LLC and campground). Mayor Cutts said another suggestion from the Lebanon Mayor was a business incentive tax. Mr. Santagate said he had previously told the Ways & Means Committee that they liked the property tax because it can be downshifted to the community and they will not be blamed.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND DIRECTIVES

Mr. Burke said at the February meeting he asked for collaborative spending between Claremont and other communities. Mr. Santagate said he will get it for the May meeting. Ms. Walter said we do oil and propane. Mr. Burke wants to know what we are saving. Mr. Burke had also asked about Facebook. Mr. Santagate said we are going to do a lot in that area, but it's a complicated issue and it is important. We want to look at laws involving Facebook. We'll come in with how we should take a look at it and where do we look for guidance. We'll come back soon to the Council.

Mr. Koloski said at the last meeting he had asked for the process of how to name a city-owned property after someone.

Mr. Koloski asked about the Council tour date. Mr. Santagate said Fridays are better. Mayor Cutts asked Council to let her know what Fridays they are available.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Master Plan Committee

None

Claremont 250th Anniversary Committee

Mr. Burke said Kelly LeBlanc from Planning is the treasurer for the Committee. They met 1 ½ weeks ago and they came up with a draft of the by-laws.

CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL

None

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:04 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Burke and seconded by Mr. Lewis to adjourn.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorée M. Russell
Clerk to the Council