

Council Meeting

March 25, 2015

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The Claremont City Council held a meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

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

Members of the Council present were:

Ward I Councilor Carolyn Towle
Ward III Councilor Nicholas Koloski
Mayor James Neilsen, IV
At-Large Councilor James Reed
Ward II Councilor Charlene Lovett
At-Large Councilor Kyle Messier
At-Large Councilor John Simonds

Absent:

At-Large Councilor Keith Raymond (excused)
Assistant Mayor Victor Bergeron (excused)

Also present were:

Guy Santagate, City Manager
Jane Taylor, City Solicitor

Mayor Neilsen said he received a letter from the DRA (Department of Revenue Administration) in regards to the City's statistical analysis for revaluation. The statistical analysis was accepted by the state, was conducted properly and complied with all requirements.

Mr. Santagate said he asked for a statistical analysis because he knew the City's files were up to date. By doing it this way, we saved over \$300,000. Instead of the usual 400 requests for abatement after the last revaluation, we had only 62 this time.

Ms. Messier said she went to the Reed Optical Grand Re-opening and it was very nice.

Ms. Messier said she received an e-mail from Arrowhead that announced they had over 5,000 tubing runs this year. A lot of people came from out of state and they stayed at the Common Man Inn, and visited local businesses.

OLD BUSINESS

Transfer Station Decal Update

Mr. Santagate said the cost to print the Transfer Station decals would be about \$200. He recommended the decals be available at Central Collections and the Transfer Station and residents can pick them up with proof of residency. There will be no charge to residents for the decals. He asked for guidance on the Transfer Station budget and Casella's contract which will expire this year. He asked if it is the Council's intent to eliminate the \$160,000 deficit from the Transfer Station and should we continue to charge \$3 per bag of trash.

Ms. Taylor gave an overview of Municipal Solid Waste Regulations for the other 12 NH cities and for Sullivan County towns. The majority of the cities in NH operate their own collection systems and they don't charge property owners for the service; it's all in the tax rate. Some cities discourage people from going to the transfer station because they feel they can keep a better handle on the trash stream and recycling if they control it. Concord has a pay-as-you-throw program by making people pay for the bags as well as operating the collection system.

Mr. Santagate said 8 of the 13 cities don't have any decals.

Ms. Taylor said that some Sullivan county towns have hang tags instead of decals. Washington's recycling revenue is put into a capital reserve account for recycling equipment, etc.

Ms. Lovett said the Transfer Station Ad Hoc Committee (TSAHC) had given the City Manager some information that was incorporated into this report, but this was presented as all coming from Ms. Taylor's office. Ms. Taylor confirmed that this was all from her office; she had not received any of the information from the TSAHC. Mr. Santagate said the information that was given to him from the TSAHC was skimpy and the data was not complete.

Ms. Lovett said it would be helpful to have a Public Works person at the TSAHC meetings.

Mr. Santagate said that Public Works Director Tom Woodley has been out for a couple of weeks because he has been sick, but he had attended past meetings.

Bob Picard, Transfer Station Ad Hoc Committee member, said the Committee had previously given information to the Council about Sullivan County. He said, in reference to the decals, the Committee needs the proper information and the decals will help. He wants to make sure only Claremont residents use the Transfer Station.

There was a discussion about the procedures for issuing the decals. There was a consensus of the Council that up to two decals would be issued per household. Residents will show proof of residency by showing their vehicle registration. When the decal(s) are issued, the license plate number will be recorded on it. The resident will be instructed where to attach the decal on the

vehicle. Ms. Taylor said most municipalities issue decals annually, but not all were the same. The City needs to work out a procedure for that.

[Note from April 8, 2015, review of March 25, 2015, Council meeting minutes: Ms. Lovett said she doesn't care where this is reflected in the March 25th minutes, but in reference to the \$160,000 deficit at the Transfer Station, that is not the case. She said if Public Works personnel expenses were moved over to the other part of Public Works' budget and the landfill monitoring expenses were excluded, the deficit would be about \$88,000. Mr. Santagate said he disagreed with that conclusion. Ms. Lovett said that was what was said during that conversation.]

NON-PUBLIC SESSION PURSUANT TO RSA 91-A:3,II(a) – PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mr. Simonds and seconded by Ms. Towle to go into Non-Public Session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3,II(a) – Personnel and to invite Mr. Santagate into the session.

Roll call vote: motion carried 7-0.

At 7:21 p.m. Mr. Koloski was excused by Mayor Neilsen and he left Council Chambers.

A motion was made by Mr. Simonds and seconded by Ms. Lovett to seal the minutes because the non-public session involves a confidential personnel matter, such minutes to remain sealed unless and until the information discussed is disclosed by the individual employee.

Motion carried 6-0.

At 8:30 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Towle and seconded by Mr. Simonds to go out of the Non-Public Session.

Motion carried 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:31 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Messier and seconded by Mr. Simonds to adjourn.

Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorée M. Russell
Clerk to the Council