



**LACONIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 10, 2013
CITY HALL – CONFERENCE ROOM 200A
7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Michael Seymour called the meeting to order at the above date and time.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG:

Councilor Henry Lipman led the Salute to the Flag.

ROLL CALL:

City Clerk Reynolds called the roll with the following Councilors present: Councilor Doyle, Lahey, Lipman, Baer and Hamel. Also present City Manager Scott Myers and Finance Director Donna Woodaman.

Councilor Bolduc was excused.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

1. Regular and Budget Hearing Minutes of May 28, 2013

*Councilor Hamel moved to approve the regular and budget hearing minutes of May 28, 2013. Seconded by Councilor Baer. **Motion passed unanimously.***

CONSENT AND ACTION CALENDAR:

1. Temporary Traffic Control Order 2013-10, Kelly-Miller Circus & American Legion Wilkins-Smith Post #1

*Councilor Doyle moved to approve Temporary Traffic Control Order 2013-10, Kelly-Miller Circus & American Legion Wilkins-Smith Post #1. Seconded by Councilor Baer. **Motion passed unanimously.***

CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Gretchen Shortway, representing the homeowners at Beacon Street West Condominiums, addressed the Council. Ms. Shortway expressed that she has attended a meeting of the Water Commission regarding the issues that arose from a water main break and she, and the association, are with understanding that there are processes that can be followed to address issues and her feeling is that by addressing them with the Council they are willing to look into them by the positive response she received at the last meeting. Ms. Shortway explained that the homeowners association has been burdened with \$15,000 to correct sprinkler heads that were installed when the building was constructed and received overspray in the process of painting the ceilings. These sprinkler heads were inspected by the City during the process of obtaining a Certificate of Occupancy and no issues were indicated at that

time. Ms. Shortway expressed that she would like to receive direction from the Council because they feel that this was a failure by the City. It was additionally noted that she is not looking for an answer this evening but would like someone to give direction and tell them what can be done.

Marie Macozek (66 Landing Lane, Unit #116 – Ward 4) addressed the Council. Ms. Macozek asked what the protocol is for purchasing a unit in the City pertaining to the unit having a Certificate of Occupancy issued, more specifically if someone can sign a Purchase and Sales Agreement for property before a Certificate of Occupancy has been issued. Ms. Macozek requested that this information be provided to her in writing or by telephone and provided the information to the Clerk.

Councilor Lahey asked is the crack filling done in the parking lot was done because of the water main break. Ms. Shortway replied that the cracks were there but the water main break made them much worse and the entire lot needs to be redone. Additionally the water basin was dropped four inches during the incident.

Councilor Lipman commented that at the end of the day anyone on the Council could be in the same position as Ms. Shortway and the appropriate way to work with people is to work with them how the Councilors would like to be worked with but to keep all laws in mind when doing so.

INTERVIEWS:

Planning Board: (2 vacancies)

1. William Contardo - seeking reappointment as a full member for a 3-year term expiring 2016

Mr. Contardo was present for any Council questions.

Councilor Hamel thanked Mr. Contardo for his continued service to the City.

2. Donald Richards - seeking reappointment as a full member for a 3-year term expiring 2016
(Please note that Donald Richards is unable to be present at the 6/10/13 meeting, but plans to attend the 6/24/13 meeting)

Water Department Board of Commissioners: (1 vacancy)

1. Richard Breton - seeking reappointment as a full member for a 3-year term expiring 2016

Mr. Breton was present for any Council questions.

Mayor Seymour thanked Mr. Breton for his service to the City.

Councilor Lipman asked if Mr. Breton could comment on the brochure distributed on the water testing conducted and the results. Mr. Breton replied that the report was prepared by the Water Superintendent and he could not comment on the specifics but did note that the water system in the City is very good.

Councilor Lipman stated that there was some discussion in the brochure about the intakes being close to boating areas effecting water quality and asked if the Commission has discussed this. Mr. Breton replied that the water is tested in these areas very regularly to ensure there is quality and there have been no problems to date. Mr. Breton commented that he has greater concern with the new docs being built in the area.

Councilor Lipman asked if there were any major issues that the Commission has been working with. Mr. Breton replied that there are not.

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Proposed Ordinance Amending Chapter 194, Solid Waste

Mayor Seymour opened the public hearing at 7:16 p.m. with the reading of posting made in the May 31, 2013 issue of the Laconia Daily Sun, at City Hall and at the Gail Memorial Library.

City Manager Myers explained that the proposed ordinance change would require mandatory recycling by all residents utilizing curbside collection; mandatory recycling is being defined as removing all recyclable material from the waste stream. The proposed ordinance does not increase recycling to weekly collection and would also create a means to indicate those residents that are utilizing the remote recycling locations.

Councilor Lipman asked how the identification will be made for those utilizing the remote locations. City Manager Myers replied that Ann Saltmarsh has done a great job of coordinating this effort and for those that use the remote facilities they will be given a sticker from the Public Works Department that can be placed on the trash container to indicate they are a remote recycler and entitle them to curbside collection. The drivers of the collection routes are aware of the process and will be using visual assessments when collecting trash as well as using a warning system as outlined in the ordinance.

Councilor Baer stated that she has a call from the owner of a multi-family apartment building that wanted to know if fines would be assessed to tenants or to the property owner. City Manager Myers replied that fines would be assessed for illegal dumping, which can include improper disposal of refused trash left at the curb for non-compliance, and the only authority the City would have would be to assess the property owner. City Manager Myers added that the property owners are encouraged to work with their tenants and educate them and if necessary, take steps to include provisions in lease or rental agreements to make tenants responsible. It was also noted that the City has been working with the property owners of multi-family units to provide the larger totes for recycling.

Councilor Baer confirmed that any size container can be used for recycling as long as it is labeled. City Manager Myers confirmed this is accurate and noted that stickers are available to label the containers.

David Stamps (20 Pinebrook Lane – Ward 3) asked what the end result is if there are issues with compliance. Councilor Lipman replied that the Council has decided that giving the community the chance to reduce the trash tonnage and increase the recycling is being supported but that everyone acknowledges that if this does not happen than Pay As You Throw is the only alternative.

Mr. Stamps asked if a baseline for illegal dumping so an increase can be realized. Mayor Seymour replied that there is no information on this because, in talking with Public Works, most residents will pick up trash that they find on their street. The fine that was referenced prior is for these situations.

With no further comment from the public Mayor Seymour closed the public hearing at 7:26 p.m.

2. Proposed 2013/2014 Budget Resolutions

Mayor Seymour opened the public hearing at 7:26 p.m. with reading of posting made in the May 31, 2013 issue of the Laconia Daily Sun, at City Hall and at the Gail Memorial Library.

City Manager Myers explained that this is a public hearing on all aspects of the budget.

Councilor Baer asked if the final budget from the County has been disclosed. City Manager Myers replied that the best estimate has been made available but things may shift around depending on what the State budget comes out with. It was also noted that a vote on the budget resolutions is not anticipated this evening.

Councilor Baer asked if the proposed school budget is certain as well. City Manager Myers replied that anything is possible but in conversations with peers he has not heard any specific pertaining to changes in adequacy funding which would affect the school budget or to any of the local revenue sources. In some areas there has been some indication of affects to the County budget and this may trickle down to the City in a much smaller amount but there is nothing specific at this point.

Mayor Seymour commented that with human service related costs the County may bear the hard cost but there is residual cost to the local services of Police and Fire that have the potential to be affected by the decrease in services.

Councilor Hamel asked when the final day to approve the State budget is. Councilor Lipman replied that the Committee of Conference with vote on June 20 and the final vote will be on June 27.

With no members of the public choosing to speak Mayor Seymour closed the public hearing at 7:31 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS: NONE

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Seymour congratulated and welcomed the Boys & Girls Club of the Lakes Region to their new home on North Main Street.

Mayor Seymour commented that the Work Out Laconia event was very successful and thanked all of the volunteers that helped with the event.

CITIZEN REQUESTS TO COMMENT ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS: NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **FINANCE: (Lipman, Hamel, Baer) (Report in this evenings meeting at 6:45 p.m. regarding Huot Career Technical Center/Laconia High School Renovation bonding)**
 - a) WOW Trail Fund
 - b) Special Item Budget Requests Procedural Review
 - c) Huot Center

Councilor Lipman reported that the Committee was presented with the low bid for financing of the bond from Northway Bank with a percentage of 3.04%. The Committee took action to approve this bonding and signed the resolution to that effect.

Councilor Lipman also commented that it was said during the Committee meeting that it was noted that although not everyone was in favor of this action at the beginning of the process it was the best way to finance the last bit of the project and was unanimously supported.

2. **PUBLIC SAFETY: (Baer, Doyle, Lahey)**
 - a) Fair St./Court St. traffic problems and accidents

No report on any item in committee

3. GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & ORDINANCES: (Doyle, Bolduc, Lahey)

- a) Energy Committee
- b) Vending and Licensing Fees
- c) Chapt. 119, Building Construction regarding signed architectural plans for residential units

No report on any item in committee

4. PUBLIC WORKS: (Bolduc, Baer, Lahey)

- a) Ordinance Amending Chapter 221, Vehicles and Traffic/Parking on Sublawns
- b) Proposed ordinance regarding vehicles over 18,000 lbs. and engines idling between the hours of midnight and 6:00 a.m.
- c) Proposed ordinance regarding large vehicles parked on City streets and sidewalks

No report on any item in committee

5. LAND & BUILDINGS: (Hamel, Lipman ,Bolduc)

- a) Repair & maintenance of City Buildings

No report on any item in committee

LIAISON REPORTS:

Councilor Hamel reported on the Huot Technical Career Center/Laconia High School Renovation project. The main building is done and a tour was done a few days ago. The science laboratories are moving along very well and the athletic field is progressing as well.

Councilor Lipman mentioned that it was noted that the enrollment in the Advanced Manufacturing program has gone from five to 45 and it is a tell tale sign of the good things that can happen for the City with this investment. In general enrollment has increased by approximately 100.

Councilor Hamel encouraged members of the public that have not had an opportunity to tour the new Center to do so and see what advancements have been made.

Councilor Lahey asked Mayor Seymour to discuss the Laconia Academy graduation. Mayor Seymour replied that 32 students were graduated ranging from age 17 to 49. It is a special event because it acknowledges people that took a non-traditional route to get there high school diploma and worked very hard to get there. The appreciation is evident and heartwarming. The service of Peggy Selig is also evident when each graduate goes up to get there diploma and gives her a long hug and thanks her for her direction and guidance.

Councilor Hamel encouraged the public to look at the Laconia Links and see the article by Janet Brough about the Huot Technical Career Center.

Councilor Lahey stated that the capital campaign for the Huot Center is ongoing and if anyone would like to make a donation they can do so online or at the SAU office.

Mayor Seymour commented that once the athletic field facility is up and running the City will then have the ability to hold tournaments in a number of different levels which will bring thousands of people to the area.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Myers presented the Project Updates (see Attachment #1), Recycling Report (see Attachment #2) and the Financial & Operational Trends Report (see Attachment #3).

City Manager Myers highlighted the increase in revenue in motor vehicle registrations and attributed this to the upswing in the economy after a length of time when people were holding on to older vehicles for longer and are now replacing them with newer vehicles and with that comes higher registration fees.

Councilor Lipman asked what the status was with having registrations completed outside of City Hall at the dealerships. City Clerk Reynolds replied that enabling legislation was passed and the process has been slower than expected. A committee was formed including multiple Clerks, dealership representatives and Department of Motor Vehicle representatives that have been charged with selecting a vendor and setting forth processes; this process could take several years to complete.

Councilor Lipman asked if we have received a response regarding reimbursement for storm expenses from the blizzard in February. City Manager Myers replied that the paperwork has been submitted and a meeting was held with FEMA. The City anticipates being reimbursed approximately \$40,000 and will bring the winter maintenance costs to a breakeven point.

Councilor Lahey asked what the timeline is for the irrigation at Opechee Park. City Manager Myers replied that the project went out to bid and was awarded. Recreation & Facilities Director Kevin Dunleavy replied that because the high school graduation was scheduled to take place on the field work was held off but he believes it may begin within the next week.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Propose Ordinance Amending Chapter 194, Solid Waste

*Councilor Baer moved to approve the proposed ordinance amending Chapter 194, Solid Waste. Seconded by Councilor Hamel. **Motion passed unanimously.***

2. Opechee Park House Discussion

City Manager Myers advised that this was placed on the agenda at the request of the Council to receive feedback from the public on their thoughts regarding the need to reconstruct the Opechee Park House. The funding of \$110,000 in the proposed budget is for anticipated materials and the labor was being donated by local contractors.

Mayor Seymour opened this item for discussion by the public or any Councilor that may wish to make a statement.

Councilor Baer read the following statement:

“The other side of the Opechee Park House that was not mentioned in Tuesday’s article follows. When anyone, public official or regular citizen is faced with their budget making decisions for the month or the year, they have to approach it with three questions over and above the obvious of how much money do you have and what your fixed obligations are.

First: Is this expenditure necessary?

Second: Can this wait?

Third: Will harm be done if we don’t fund the item?

The answers are quite simple. It is not necessary, it can wait, and no harm will be done to the City if we don’t fund this item this year. It does not meet the criteria listed above.

The Parks and Recreation Dept.'s budget this year shows an item for maintenance of grounds. That is for the parks, sport fields, etc. and is for \$50,000.00. In fiscal year 2011-2012 this item was only \$27,000.00. However, with the increase in fields and the high maintenance cost of the new fields, our Parks Dept. is stretched to the limit for money and for manpower. While the bottom line on the page shows \$642,870.00 as a total for the Parks Dept. This is not strictly true. Under the capital outlay budget there is money not only for the Opechee Park House but for Endicott Rock Park Beach which is for the erosion study at Weirs Beach and necessary to the preservation of this historic beach, and under outlay to be bonded is \$850,000.00 for Parks. \$500,000.00 for construction of Weirs Beach Park and then \$300,000.00 for the REPAIR OF Smith Track. The Weirs Park has been in the works for many years, has been funded for engineering which is now complete and ready to go. Both of these projects represent good things for the City, not just the Weirs. We will all reap the benefits from an increase in tourism and upgrading of the Weirs, and therefore they qualify in my mind.

But, both these projects will once again put a burden on the crews of the Parks Dept. which are understaffed even now. Maintenance costs will rise and make it difficult to cover all our parks and fields with the present staff level and money for maintenance. When you build new and bigger things, they must be taken care of as well as all the other Parks and fields.

My thought is that the \$110,000.00 for the Opechee Park House could be spent for other items needed or perhaps enable us to hire a couple of part-time Park employees to help take care of all these parks and fields in the manner they should be. We have all seen what happens when we don't take care of what we have. We have had to increase spending to restore something we have neglected.

Not knowing how the State Budget is going to affect us, there may be a need to use this money and others for the increases that might come.

At the present time, this budget we have in front of us will cost the taxpayer an increase of \$.39 more than last year, and last year it increased by \$.44 cents. Surely, we can do better."

Councilor Lahey asked if any Parks & Recreation Commissioners were present this evening. Director Dunleavy replied that he was expecting a few but it appears they were unable to attend.

Tom Kudzma (6 Bell Hill Drive – Ward 3) has been active in the City for over 50 years. Mr. Kudzma reviewed his recollection of the timeline for construction of the various buildings on Opechee Park and expressed that he does not feel the reconstruction of the park house would necessary or wise. Mr. Kudzma feels the view of the park has been enhanced by the removal of the building and that it is not necessary to rebuild for voting or other clubs that would like to use it because they have found alternatives. If voting at the schools is a concern they should use other facilities in the area. Additionally, Mr. Kudzma would like to see more greenery around the track and adjustments to parking. With regard to voting concerns Mr. Kudzma commented that he did not have an issue separating himself from the students when voting and if the location is a problem then it should be considered to use the new home of the Boys & Girls Club or the Beane Conference Center, although Mr. Kudzma feels having the voting happen at the school is a good lesson for the students and will teach them there civic duty.

David Stamps (20 Pinebrook Lane – Ward 3) has been the Moderator of Ward 3 for the last 10 years and addressed the article in the Laconia Daily Sun regarding the security concerns by use of the Laconia Middle School for voting and the need to rebuild to move voting back to the park. Mr. Stamps advised the Council that the school is more suited to allow the election officials to comply with State regulations that are ever growing and requiring additional room to properly conduct an election. It was noted that the last Presidential Election that was held at the former Opechee Park House was in 2008 and the 2012 election was much larger; Mr. Stamps does not feel a park house of the same size could accommodate a ward of this size and be compliant. Additionally the school was constructed to section off areas when necessary and it could be done easily.

Councilor Lipman commented that the security of the school during polling hours has come in reaction to the Newtown, Connecticut incident and that there was not an issue with security during the election.

The community needs to be prepared because these things can happen anywhere. Mr. Stamps replied that if there is anything the ward officials can do to facilitate security is met they would be happy to do so but also stated that a park house cannot be used with expectation to use it for voting if it is not large enough to meet the election requirements of the State. Wait time is a concern and Ward 3 has the highest percentage of voters.

Councilor Lahey asked if Mr. Stamps is saying the Laconia Middle School is the ideal location. Mr. Stamps replied that it is and he agrees with Mr. Kudzma that this can also be used as a learning experience for the students.

Councilor Baer commented that the elections are a small part of the concern and at municipal elections there are very few voters and the room size cannot be considered. Mr. Stamps replied that the State and Federal elections are much larger and size is needed.

Sandy Grant and Ward Peterson, representing the Belknap Bowman Archery Club, expressed their desire to have the building reconstructed for use by their group which has been using the location for over 50 years before it was torn down. The Belknap Bowman Archery Club is an indoor archery club that hosts 40 to 60 people each week and host tournaments a few times a year. When the Opechee Park House was closed the Club relocated to various locations and is currently at the Tardif Park House. Mr. Peterson commented that rebuilding the park house would be a good learning experience for the students at the Huot Center and the community commitment to volunteer labor, including labor being offered by the Club, are valuable.

Councilor Baer commented that everyone has found another location including the Belknap Bowman Archery Club. Mr. Peterson replied that they are using the Tardif Park House but it is not an ideal size and the stage built into the floor makes it very difficult to maintain safety. Ms. Grant stated that they are doing the best they can at Tardif Park House in hopes that the Opechee Park House will be reconstructed because it was a better facility for the Club's needs.

Mr. Peterson explained that the high school students have begun an archery program with 40 kids signed up. The Club was happy to share their equipment but it was a very difficult space for this as well. It is a good program to have expanded into the schools and having an adequate facility would encourage this.

Councilor Lahey asked if it would be possible to use the Community Center for the Club. Mr. Peterson replied that many years ago the basement floor was used and it was not sufficient. Director Dunleavy commented that they could look into the gym and see if the distance is adequate. Mr. Peterson stated that the storage of the targets would be a concern because they are very large and moving them for other events could pose an issue.

Councilor Lipman asked if any of the school gyms have been looked at. Mr. Peterson replied that the high school program couldn't find a place so they approached the Club.

Tony Felch, President of the Leavitt Park Association, stated that they would be willing to look into what they could provide for the Club if necessary.

Tim Dunleavy (31 Folsom Street – Ward 3), President of the Opechee Park Club, stated that he is grateful for the opinions expressed this evening because in many ways it supports his statements. Mr. Dunleavy explained that the original Opechee Park House was a donation made by Clyde Cantin and two additions have been added to it. Unfortunately, the structure was placed on a lot that has a brook running under it and the supports to the building rotted over time from the moisture.

Mr. Dunleavy presented the Council with documentation showing the contributions to the park house and park made by the Opechee Park Club since 1982 totaling over \$44,000. Mr. Dunleavy encouraged the Council to review a policy put in place in 1996 that shared the responsibility of maintenance of the park houses between the City and the park house associations; the Opechee Park Club did not approach the City for support of the maintenance or repairs because they have raised the funds through rentals and in turn made an investment on behalf of the City.

Mr. Dunleavy stated that determining if this project is necessary is the decision of the Council and the Club respects that decision taking into consideration the economic situation. The Club asked the Council to consider the contributions the Club has made to the City in the place of funding for the reconstruction. When determining if this project can wait, Mr. Dunleavy stated that he does not believe it can because the Opechee Park Club participation is dwindling without a park house. There are always other projects in the City that deserve attention and the Opechee Park Club has been a long standing supporter of the community.

Mr. Dunleavy pointed out that the July 4th festivities are held at Opechee Park, opening day of Little League, and various other events originate at Opechee Park.

Councilor Lipman asked for a sense of the membership in the Club. Mr. Dunleavy replied that before the building was taken down the membership was in the mid-20's and is currently about a dozen. Members of the community, particularly young families in Ward 3, have been recruited for the Club but without the park house there is no mission.

Councilor Lipman asked for the list of officers for the Club. Mr. Dunleavy replied that in addition to himself the Vice President is Nancy Field, the Secretary is Buster Maheux, and the Treasurer and Rental Agent is Martha Bissonnette.

Councilor Lahey asked how many members were active before the building was taken down. Mr. Dunleavy replied that approximately 20 were active. Meetings are held that last Tuesday of every month and it was noted that Councilor Bolduc and his wife were long standing members of the club and he could provide a wonderful history. Councilor Lipman replied that he has a conversation with Councilor Bolduc and he shared his interest in seeing the park house rebuilt.

Mr. Dunleavy acknowledged that the area is opened up with the removal of the building and that there were many uses of the building when it was open. If the City would like to see it used for voting the Club would be in full support of that.

Councilor Baer referenced the repairs made to the building and asked if the Opechee Park House was one that maintenance falls on the City. Director Dunleavy explained that several of the park houses became community volunteer groups under the direction of the Parks & Recreation Commission; the Opechee Park Club is not one of these groups and they maintain their non-profit status and lease the building from the City. This makes the Club responsible for the interior and minor repair but not structural repairs.

Councilor Lipman asked if the existing bathhouse has been considered for expansion to have additional purposes. Director Dunleavy replied that the Parks & Recreation Commission has voted to recommend to the Council to investigate the use of that building with intent on potential expansion to support a club house building. Currently the building is not winterized and does not have the ability to be used throughout the winter months. There is a day camp operated from the building in the summer and the capacity of the building is minimal. Councilor Lipman stated that this should be considered because it does open up the view of the park by not having the old building there.

Councilor Hamel stated that he was on the Parks & Recreation Commission in the 1990's and the Opechee Park Club was one of the most vibrant groups and did a tremendous job investing in the park and City. With regards to the bathhouse, the building was designed to be built into the banking so it would be less noticeable and with the new State regulations there is a 250 foot setback on waterfront construction. If the size of the building is doubled it would be a very big obstruction to the park.

Councilor Lahey asked what other groups used the park house on a regular basis. Director Dunleavy replied that it is an affordable option for birthday parties, condominium association meetings, banquets for sports leagues, meetings for sports leagues, baby showers, bridal showers and other events that families may need larger space for. The demand for these types of buildings, because of their affordability, appeals to people.

Mr. Dunleavy asked the Council to consider the contributions made by the Opechee Park Club and the return the Council can realize from the Club if the building is reconstructed.

Martha Chandler (60 Holman Street – Ward 3) stated that she is in favor of the reconstruction of the park house and that this is a people's park and is worth the money to invest.

Mr. Peterson readdressed the Council. Mr. Peterson commented that he understands the City plans to spend \$500,000 on a park at Weirs Beach and although it may be worthwhile, that is not a park that is used by the residents of the City; it is used by tourists and he feels it would be better to invest in a park that residents are going to get use from.

Mayor Seymour thanked everyone for their comments.

3. Concord Coop Agreement – City Manager Myers

City Manager Myers explained that the City, like other towns in the Concord Coop, has the option to terminate the agreement at the conclusion of the contract at the end of 2014. Currently the City is spending \$83.30 per ton to transport and dispose of trash and this is adjusted annually with the CPI and biannually for fuel adjustments. The contract that has been presented to the City would be effective from 2015 through 2022; the estimated cost to remain with the Concord Coop, beginning in 2015, would be \$79.21 per ton which represents a reduction in tipping fees and maintaining hauling fees. Additionally, a \$324,000 credit over the life of the contract will be assessed based on today's volume of solid waste.

In discussions with other locations for disposal, comparisons and analysis were done but with the inflators and fuel adjustments made the actual cost could vary and be more than the current rate. The hauling distance to North Country Environmental landfill in Bethlehem is double the distance to Wheelabrator and could result in higher cost but was initially less expensive. The City and the Town of Gilford approached Waste Management with the information and Waste Management reset the hauling rate to \$15.15 effective January 1, 2015 with a portion to be fuel surcharge and the remainder to be the base rate calculated by using the existing formula. The anticipated total cost per ton to remain with the Concord Coop beginning in 2015 is \$77.86 per ton.

City Manager Myers stated that he sees value with staying with the Concord Coop and it is his recommendation to do so. It is anticipated that the Town of Gilford will be making the same decision but they do not meet until Wednesday evening. If other members choose to remove themselves from the Coop than the Coop may come back with another offer based on the reduction in tonnage they would be receiving and this would need to be considered.

The Concord Coop members will be voting the week of June 24 and although a decision is not required this evening it is encouraged.

Councilor Baer asked if this requires a long or short term contract. City Manager Myers replied that with the Concord Coop the contract would expire in 2022. Councilor Baer commented that she has heard that the Town of Belmont is considering building their own facility. City Manager Myers replied that there are a few communities considering transfer stations but that would actually increase cost to the City because they would take trash from the City transfer station to the other town, unpack it, repack it and transport it again to a landfill or facility. This would not be cost effective.

Councilor Lipman commented that one of the key things to consider is that with the Concord Coop management there is a good relationship; the Council has confidence in Jim Presher. When looking at regionalization this is a concept that has worked and, like the Winnepesaukee River Basin Project, it has long term benefits.

City Manager Myers advised that there has been a great collaborative effort between City Public Works staff and the Town of Gilford to come to a solid option that works.

*Councilor Hamel moved to continue with the Concord Coop and Wheelabrator based on the new rates that have been offered. Seconded by Councilor Lipman. **Motion passed unanimously.***

4. Tax Warrant for Delinquent Sewer Accounts Transferred from Laconia Water Works to the Tax Collector

City Manager Myers explained that the "Sewer Only" accounts will now be billed twice a year, based on the flat rate, by the Tax Collector and this warrant allows the City to identify those that are delinquent and have legal advantages moving forward. It was advised that the list provided consists of those that were liabilities as of May 31, 2013 and some of them have been paid in the course of the last week.

Councilor Lipman moved to approve the tax warrant for delinquent sewer accounts transferred from Laconia Water Works to the Tax Collector. Seconded by Councilor Baer.

Councilor Hamel asked how the sewer service can be discontinued if they are not on public water. City Manager Myers explained that there are health issues with discontinuing sewer service and this warrant gives the City a legal right to lien the property for the amount delinquent.

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Request to Sign Warrant for Unlicensed Animals Pursuant to RSA 466:14

City Manager Myers stated that one list has been generated because of the size and is available for viewing should the Council wish.

Councilor Baer asked how the City knows the dogs are still in the City. City Clerk Reynolds explained that the City receives rabies vaccination certificates for the dogs within 45 days of the shot being administered. If a dog is deceased the owner is responsible for notifying the City or they are held responsible for paying the fees. Each dog listed represents a fine of \$25.00 to the owner for failure to license.

*Councilor Baer moved to approve and sign the warrant for unlicensed animals pursuant to RSA 466:14. Seconded by Councilor Hamel. **Motion passed unanimously.***

6. Proposed Resolution Relative to Beach Permit Stickers

Director Dunleavy explained that this is a house keeping item that came up when researching other items. In 2007 the Parks & Recreation Commission approved a new fee structure for the beach pass but it failed to come to the City Council for final approval. This has been followed since 2007.

*Councilor Baer moved to approve the proposed resolution relative to beach permit stickers. Seconded by Councilor Doyle. **Motion passed unanimously.***

7. Transfer Request

*Councilor Lipman moved to transfer from account 01-431-343-0000, Contingency the amount of \$4,000 to account 01-489-480-0019, Laconia Main Street Initiative. Seconded by Councilor Hamel. **Motion passed unanimously.***

8. General Budget Discussion

Councilor Lipman asked for a review of the account balances. City Manager Myers presented the balances as of April 30, 2013:

Accrued Leave	\$160,468.26
Health Insurance Stabilization	\$100,136.56
Winter Stabilization	\$95,129.78
Motorcycle Week	\$111,671.08
Non-Capital Repair/Maint.	\$97,283.92 (Roof repair estimate deducted)
Environmental Contingency	\$92,738.12

Councilor Lipman asked how these balances are classified on the Balance Sheet. Finance Director Woodaman replied that the Accrued Leave, Health Insurance Stabilization, Winter Stabilization and Non-Capital Repair/Maint accounts are all trusts, the Motorcycle Week is a Special Revenue and the Environmental Contingency is a capital item and will need to be carried forward.

Councilor Baer asked if a special account could be set up for milfoil. City Manager Myers replied that this item is funded and carried forward but a fund could be established. There has been a request for Lake Opechee and the City Manager Myers is working on this. Councilor Baer stated that the beaches will not exist if they are not maintained and are not free of bacteria.

Councilor Hamel asked if the Winnepesaukee River has been investigated for milfoil. City Manager Myers replied that reports from the State are anticipated and areas can be looked at.

Finance Director Woodaman reviewed areas that funding may be available to carry forward. With Workers Compensation, due to the premium holiday, it is estimated to have \$110,000 and the recommendation will be to transfer this to the Accrued Leave account. There is also an anticipation of approximately \$70,000 in the Health Insurance line and there will be a recommendation to transfer this to the Health Insurance Stabilization account. City Manager Myers commented that the Health Insurance savings are representative of employees that have participated in the opt out of health insurance.

Finance Director Woodaman advised that there is also a surplus in the Legal line and the recommendation will be to add the amount to the Environmental Contingency to cover outstanding issues. With the FEMA reimbursement there will be approximately \$10,000 that will be recommended to transfer to the Winter Stabilization account. Overall the revenues are down slightly but when looking at each line item it looks like there will be enough cost savings to support the shortfall. With Interest

Income rates being low it has had an impact and the estimate of Interest Income has been cut substantially to more realistic numbers based on the current economy.

Another premium holiday is anticipated with Workers Compensation for the 2014 Fiscal Year. When the budget was prepared the true cost was reflected as to not skew the information and have underestimates later. There is also a decrease in the cost of the Main Street Bridge with an interest rate adjustment and the savings will be approximately \$10,000. Councilor Lipman asked what the proposal will be for the \$10,000. City Manager Myers replied that there have been a few items brought forward, including the CERT Team and the Memorial Park tennis courts; the low bidder will be doing the work on the Wyatt Park basketball courts in mid-July and the cost to repair the tennis courts is much less because the company is already mobilized.

Councilor Lipman asked if the School Department has indicated if there amount to go into fund balance has changed. City Manager Myers replied that they have committed \$100,000 and he has heard nothing indicating the contrary. City Manager Myers also reminded the Council that they will be looking to amend \$11,400 to meet the Tax Cap.

Councilor Hamel asked if the State has been current on their repayments for the Huot Center project. Finance Director Woodaman replied that it did take some time to get the process worked out but it has been caught up. City Manager Myers added that we did have to use some of our cash reserves initially but that the State will have made it whole by the conclusion.

Councilor Hamel asked how long it is taking to pay. City Manager Myers replied that they have been consistent and everything will be caught up. Councilor Hamel asked if the QZAB bonds have been used. Finance Director Woodaman replied that they have.

Finance Director Woodaman explained that the health insurance rate increase was estimated at 7.5% for the budget and the actual increase was 5.5% which leaves \$60,000 of potential savings; this could change after the open enrollment period ends.

Councilor Lipman asked if there has been a survey of how many employees have used the opt out option. Finance Director Woodaman replied that the Police Department changed to the City insurance last year and there has been a high number and the Fire Department is currently in the enrollment phase and paperwork is due this week. City Manager Myers added that anyone can choose to opt out during the open enrollment period. Because there can be a change with one employee having a family change or a new employee needing a higher level than another, the recommendation is to leave the funding as is and if there is a surplus at the end of the fiscal year it can be moved to the Health Insurance Stabilization account.

Finance Director Woodaman noted that there was a correction made to the Sanitary Sewer Fund budget that resulted in a decrease of \$150,000.

Councilor Hamel commented that the current budget shows \$.39 increase on the tax rate and last year's proposed budget was an increase of \$.15. When the DRA was done with the calculation the actual increase last year was \$.44. Although it's nice to increase stability accounts it should be considered that lower expenses should be considered as well because every \$100,000 reduction results in a decrease of \$.05 on the tax rate and the proposed increase is too high.

Finance Director Woodaman advised that the revenues from Motorcycle Week seem to be in line so far.

Councilor Hamel asked how the overtime is looking. City Manager Myers replied that they don't have that information at this time.

Finance Director Woodaman commented that the Licensing Clerk has been out diligently checking for vendor licenses and the City has been using the technology of smart phones and an ipad to make the process easier for the vendors. At the larger tents there have been multiple licenses printed for posting at each entrance.

Councilor Lipman asked if the assessments have been analyzed to be confident with the rate that is being considered. City Manager Myers replied that this was done through the Assessing Department and sales are being tracked.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Budget Resolutions:
 - a. First Reading of a Resolution Relative to Making Itemized Appropriations for the General Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2013 and Terminating June 30, 2014
 - b. First Reading of a Resolution Relative to Making Itemized Appropriations for the Sewer Fund for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2013 and Terminating June 30, 2014
 - c. First Reading of a Resolution Relative to Making Itemized Appropriations for the Water Fund for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2013 and Terminating June 30, 2014
 - d. First Reading of a Resolution Relative to Making Itemized Appropriations for the Internal Services Fund for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2013 and Terminating June 30, 2014
 - e. First Reading of a Resolution Relative to Making Itemized Appropriations for Anticipated Grants for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2013 and Terminating June 30, 2014
 - f. First Reading of a Resolution Relative to Making Itemized Appropriations for the Special Revenue Fund – Motorcycle Week for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2013 and Terminating June 30, 2014
 - g. First Reading of a Resolution Relative to Making Itemized Appropriations for the Tax Increment Finance District – Downtown for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2013 and Terminating June 30, 2014
 - h. First Reading of a Resolution Relative to Making Itemized Appropriations for the Tax Increment Finance District – Lakeport for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2013 and Terminating June 30, 2014
2. Milfoil Treatment Funding Request
3. WOW Trail
4. Master Plan
5. EPA Update
6. Sewer & Water Master Plan
7. Single Stream Recycling/Concord Co-Op/Solid Waste Disposal Cost Reduction
8. Strategic Planning/Goal Setting

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS & ELECTIONS: **NONE**

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilor Baer commented that the volume on LRPA-TV is not sufficient and it is not just for play back of the City but the School Board as well. City Clerk Reynolds replied that LRPA-TV is aware of the issue and they were here last week and made some adjustments to the system and this will be the first meeting on play back to see if they worked. In July they will be coming back to go through the wiring and see if they can locate the crackling. Mayor Seymour added that he has spoke to some people that watch the meeting live and they have said they can hear with no problems. City Clerk Reynolds explained that our system is an analog system that feeds to a digital recording system at LRPA-TV and they believe that it

could have something to do with the problem. Mayor Seymour stated the Council will work on being more diligent when speaking and try and do so directly into the microphones.

NON - PUBLIC SESSION: NONE

ADJOURNMENT:

*Councilor Hamel moved to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Seconded by Councilor Baer. **Motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully Submitted:

Mary A. Reynolds
City Clerk