

Tilton – Northfield Fire District Budget Committee  
January 10, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Members present: Vicy Virgin, Don Stevens, Dennis Allen, George Flanders, Peter Fogg, Tom Gallant (Fire Commissioner) and Chief Brad Ober. Absent: Kevin LaChapelle.

Since the meeting minutes from the previous Budget Committee Secretary have not been given to the Budget Committee members, no motion was made to accept the minutes.

Dates of interest for this budget cycle: February 4, 2011 is the last day to post for the public hearing on the proposed budget, February 6 – 11, 2011 is the window for conducting the public hearing on the proposed budget, and February 16, 2011 is the last day to submit the form MS – 37 to the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration.

Motion by Vicy Virgin to hold the public hearing on Monday, February 7, 2011 at 6:30 pm at the Winnisquam Regional High School Cafetorium; motion seconded by George Flanders. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Vicy Virgin to approve line item 110, Career Salaries & Wages, in the amount of \$620,370; motion seconded by Tom Gallant. Discussion regarding comparing the first three line items: 110, 110.05 and 110.06 with a proposed total of \$761,370 compared to the 2010 budget of \$763,411. Chief Ober and Commissioner Gallant each spoke to the development of a new 20 step system with labor grades for all positions with job descriptions. After Step 10, the raise becomes based upon merit so there is no guarantee an employee would always receive the proposed new wage rate. Motion passes on a 5 – 0 vote.

Motion by Vicy Virgin to approve line item 110.05, Holiday Pay, in the amount of \$26,000; motion seconded by Tom Gallant. This item covers 11 paid holidays at 11 hours per employee. Motion passes on a 5 – 0 vote.

Motion by Vicy Virgin to approve line item 110.06, Overtime, in the amount of \$115,000; motion seconded by Tom Gallant. This amount covers an anticipated 4,030 hours of overtime. The 2010 totals through October were approximately 3,700 hours of overtime. Motion passes on a 5 – 0 vote.

Motion by Vicy Virgin to approve line item 120, Call Salaries & Wages, in the amount of \$70,000; motion seconded by Tom Gallant. Motion passes on a 5 – 0 vote.

Motion by Vicy Virgin to approve line item 130, Elected Officials, in the amount of \$7,850; motion seconded by Tom Gallant. Motion passes on a 5 – 0 vote.

Motion by Tom Gallant to approve line item 210, Group Health Insurance, in the amount of \$169,050; motion seconded by Vicy Virgin. Motion passes on a 5 – 1 vote. Discussion ensued regarding Tilton currently uses a 90 – 10 ratio between Town and Employee contributions to health care insurance and Northfield currently uses a 89.5 – 10.5 ratio between Town and Employee contributions to health care insurance. This new program increases the co-pay from \$5 to \$15. Buy-outs for the health insurance are proposed as follows: single - \$1,500, two-person - \$2,750, and Family - \$3,500. Maximum deductibles are as follows: 1 person - \$500, 2 – person \$1,000, and Family - \$1,500. Prescription co-pays are \$10/\$20/\$45. Motion passes on a 5 – 1 vote.

Motion by Vicy Virgin to approve line item 215, Group Life Insurance, in the amount of \$8,853; motion seconded by Dennis Allen. Motion passes on a 5 – 0 vote.

Motion by Tom Gallant to approve line item 220, Social Security, in the amount of \$6,921; motion seconded by Vicy Virgin. Motion passes on a 5 – 0 vote.

Motion by Tom Gallant to approve line item 225, Medicare, in the amount of \$12,169; motion seconded by Vicy Virgin. Motion passes on a 5 – 0 vote.

Motion by Vicy Virgin to approve line item 230, Retirement, in the amount of \$190,104; motion seconded by Tom Gallant. Discussion on retirement percentage increasing from approximately 18% to 30% on July 1, 2011 paid for by the District. Motion passes on a 5 – 0 vote.

Motion by Vicy Virgin to approve line item 255, Unemployment Compensation, in the amount of \$500; motion seconded by Tom Gallant. Motion passes on a 5 – 0 vote.

Motion by Vicy Virgin to approve line item 260, Workers Compensation, in the amount of \$32,700; motion seconded by Tom Gallant. Motion passes on a 5 – 0 vote.

Motion by Vicy Virgin to approve the Salaries and Wages and Benefits total on page two of the proposed budget, in the amount of \$420,297; motion seconded by Tom Gallant. Motion passes on a 5 – 0 vote.

Motion by Vicy Virgin to approve line item 750, Furniture and Fixtures, in the amount of \$4,500; motion seconded by Tom Gallant. This amount is to refurbish the training room due to alteration in the Center Street structure. Motion passes on a 5 – 0 vote.

Motion by Vicy Virgin to approve line item 775, Dry Hydrants & Cisterns, in the amount of \$1,000; motion seconded by Tom Gallant. Currently there are 9 dry hydrants out of service and this money is planned to begin returning some of these dry hydrants back into service. The plan is to complete this work over several years. Motion passes on a 5 – 0 vote.

Motion by Vicy Virgin the Capital Outlay section on page 5 of the proposed budget in the amount of \$5,503; motion seconded by Tom Gallant. Motion passes on a 5 – 0 vote.

Motion by Tom Gallant to approve line item 331, Ambulance Billing Services, in the amount of \$21,660; motion seconded by Vicy Virgin. Discussion regarding the billing service collecting approximately 66% of the total fees billed. Motion passes on a 5 – 0 vote.

Motion by Dennis Allen to approve line item 760, Vehicles, in the amount of \$185,000; motion seconded by Vicy Virgin. This money is to replace the 2002 Ford Road Rescue Ambulance (21A2). Discussion regarding possibility of salvaging the box and whether to trade in the ambulance or sell it outright by sealed bids. Since the proposed ambulance is a GM product, it would be difficult to retrofit the box on it. In talks with dealers, it is felt a better price would be received through a sealed bid process. Motion passes on a 5 – 0 vote.

Motion by Vicy Virgin to approve line item 740, Fire Equipment, in the amount of \$35,000; motion seconded by George Flanders. Discussion about the material in this line item including, but not limited to, protective clothing, helmets, hand tools, equipment, and communication equipment. Motion passes on a 5 – 0 vote.

Motion by Vicy Virgin to approve line item 960.5, Rescue Equipment, in the amount of \$9,500; motion seconded by Tom Gallant. This money is for a Rescue Jack Stabilization System, High-Angle Rescue Equipment, and Vehicle Extrication equipment. Motion passes on a 5 – 0 vote.

Motion by Vicy Virgin to approve line item 741, EMS Capital Equipment, in the amount of \$28,000; motion seconded by Tom Gallant. This money is for disposable EMS equipment, storage cabinet for EMS supplies, IV Pump for Drug Administration, and Paramedic Intercept Costs. Motion passes on a 5 – 0 vote.

The bottom line number is now set at \$1,441,971. Tom Gallant reminded the Committee this total does not include the Pressurized Hydrant Fee and therefore cannot be compared to the 2010 budget total.

Motion by Vicy Virgin adjourn at 8:45 pm; motion seconded by Tom Gallant. Motion passes on a 5 – 0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Fogg  
Secretary Pro Tem

Approved January 31, 2011