



Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS Commissioners' Public Hearing on Warrant Articles

Meeting called by:	Commissioners	Date / Time:	February 16, 2009 at 18:43 to 19:11
Note taker:	Katina Lemay	Place:	Tilton School Auditorium

Commissioners Present: Comm. Kevin Waldron, Comm. Paul Auger

Absent: Comm. Bob Watson due to personal reasons

Call Meeting to Order - Comm. Waldron called meeting to order at 6:43PM. Stated for the record that two (2) Commissioners present.

Warrant Articles – Copies of the Warrant Articles were passed out prior to the start of the meeting.

Article 1: To choose a Moderator for the ensuing year (Actual voting to be by official ballot on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at the annual Town voting sessions in Tilton and Northfield at their respective polling places and times).

This article needs to be on the ballot annually.

Article 2: To choose a Clerk for the ensuing year (Actual voting to be by official ballot on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at the annual Town voting sessions in Tilton and Northfield at their respective polling places and times).

This article needs to be on the ballot annually.

Article 3: To choose a Treasurer for the ensuing year (Actual voting to be by official ballot on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at the annual Town voting sessions in Tilton and Northfield at their respective polling places and times).

This article needs to be on the ballot annually.

Article 4: To choose a Fire Commissioner for the ensuing 3 years (Actual voting to be by official ballot on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at the annual Town voting sessions in Tilton and Northfield at their respective polling places and times).

This article needs to be on the ballot annually.

Article 5: To accept the report of the Treasurer and the Fire Commissioners and pass any vote relating thereto.

Article 6: To see if the District will vote to form a Committee for the purpose of creating By-Laws for the District. The Committee will prepare a draft for Commission approval which would be brought before the voters at the 2010 annual meeting. The Committee would be made up of 2 Tilton residents, 2 Northfield residents and 1 Fire Commissioner.

Some residents would like to have By-Laws and some would not. We were advised that we didn't have to have by-laws as we are regulated by the State. This advice came from legal counsel.

Article 7: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate Sixty Four Thousand Dollars (\$64,000) for the final payment on Engine 3, with said funds to be withdrawn from the Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund established under RSA 31:95-C (ADOPTED March 7, 2005).

This article would pay off the note on Engine 3 of which there are currently 3 years left. This article was proposed in 2008 but failed.

Question asked as to the amount of interest savings the District could expect. Commissioners do not have an exact amount but in 2008 the interest was just under \$3,000. The interest does go down a bit each year. Estimated savings would be under \$9,000.

Question asked as to what the amount left in the Apparatus & Equipment fund would be after this Article paid off Engine 3. Commissioners do not have an exact amount but the balance in the fund as of 01/13/09 was about \$152,000 (this fund does accumulate interest so may be higher at this time). It would have \$46,500 if done today along with buying the new vehicle for Chief Carrier.

Comment made that the Apparatus & Equipment fund was established to sit and grow for future needs.

Article 8: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate Forty One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$41,500) for a new command vehicle for the Chief with said funds to be withdrawn from the Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund established under RSA 31:95-C (ADOPTED March 7, 2005).

This article is for a new vehicle for Chief Carrier.

Article 9: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate Eighty One Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty One Dollars (\$81,821) for the purpose of purchasing Fire, Rescue and EMS Equipment, paying vehicle payments and the cost associated with collecting the Ambulance Charges, with said funds to be withdrawn from the Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund established under RSA 31:95-C (ADOPTED March 7, 2005).

If Article 7 passes, this article would need to be amended.

Article 10: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifteen Thousand Thirty Three (\$115,033) to pay for Pressurized Hydrants.

Article 11: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of One Million Three Hundred Forty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Four Dollars (\$1,346,884) for General District. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed.

This article is the Budget Committee's recommended budget number.

Question asked if this budget amount included the proposed dollar amounts in Articles 7, 8 and 10. This budget amount does not include the hydrants \$115,033.

Chief Carrier brought up that the budget committee recommended number of \$1,346,884 does not match up with his calculations. If you take the Budget Committee Proposed 2009 of \$1,455,893 and subtract out the hydrants at \$115,033, Article 11 should read \$1,340,860. The budget committee will address this and make appropriate changes.

Article 12: To see if the District, in accordance with RSA 33:7, will vote to authorize the Fire Commissioners to borrow money in anticipation of taxes.

There is a chance the Commissioners will need to do this this year.

Article 13: To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

There was an article removed which was for the Commissioners to be able to apply for and expend grants.

Question asked as to why this article was removed. It was removed because the DRA felt it was not necessary. With this article being previously approved by majority as the annual meeting, it is in effect until rescinded by a future warrant article. It was recommended that Robinson be contacted (the article run by council) to ensure that it really does not need to be there. Or, add the article in anyway so the District is covered either way. This gives the District both DRA and a legal opinion of the omission of the article. It was also recommended that the Commissioners get a written opinion.

Moderator, Kent Finnemore addressed the public. Mr. Finnemore briefly went over the problems the District had with the 2008 elections and how they would be handled this year. He asked for volunteers to work as Supervisors of the Checklist (2 in and 1 out) as well as 4 ballot counters at the March 10, 2009 elections in Tilton. The 2 "in" Supervisors of the Checklist will work along side the Tilton Supervisors of the Checklist and the Clerk as well as 1 other volunteer will work at the "out" Supervisors of the Checklist. The Moderator or appointee will put each ballot in to the ballot box.

Electronic ballots are being looked in to be the Commissioners. This change would be a legal process and there is not enough time to have completed for the 2009 election.

Mr. Finnemore will check with the Tilton Supervisors of the Checklist to see if they would be willing to do both Tilton's and the Districts checklist at the "in" location.

Kent would also like to be considered as a write-in for the Moderator position for 2009.

Public Hearing closed at 7:11PM.

DRAFT