

Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS Street Box System Ordinance Public Hearing

Meeting Called By:	Commissioners	Date, Time:	July 16, 2009 at 19:00
Note Taker:	Kathy Tobine	Place:	Tilton School, new Academic Building, School Street, 1 st Floor 9 th Grade Classroom, Tilton

Present: Commissioner Paul Auger, Commissioner Tom Gallant and Commissioner Kevin Waldron, Treasurer Roland Seymour, Chief Stephen Carrier, Deputy Chief Mike Robinson, Administrative Assistant Kathy Tobine, Captain Brad Ober, Captain Greg Michaud, Tilton Selectman Sandy Plessner, Tilton Selectman Pat Consentino, Pat Clark, Fred Heath, Director of Facilities, Tilton School; Jody Fredette, Facilities Manager, Winnisquam Regional High School and Donna Rhodes, Winnisquam Echo.

Commissioner Waldron: Brad, is someone from Mammoth coming?

Captain Ober: I thought they were but if they are not here by now, I would assume they are not.

Commissioner Waldron: Brad, would you go over the proposal while I look at this.

Captain Ober: Just to give you a quick history, we currently operate a municipal fire alarm telegraph system that is 1960's vintage technology although the telegraph system we have goes back to the 1800's. It is actually a fairly reliable system when it is up and running correctly. The control panel is 1960's vintage. We currently have about 10 properties on the master box system. A master box is connected to the fire alarm system and we have about 30 street boxes that are connected to the fire alarm system for public reporting. In December of 2000 an evaluation report was done on the system. Since that report was given there has been no upgrade other than here and there where there has been a failure. The recommendation at that time was to replace "open wire" with "roll c" which is a type of wiring which is now required for this type of system and expand the boundaries. Since then we have expanded up as far as Kohl's. The price in 2000 that was given for an upgrade and we have had a conversation with the people that are still in that business just over the phone the pricing given for a complete upgrade is \$50,000 to \$60,000 for in-house control. That does not include expanding the wire system and doesn't include upgrading the wire on the poles. So you can see it's a fairly expensive system to maintain.

In 2008 Lakes Region Mutual Aid installed a radio fire alarm box receiving system which basically does the same exact thing as our telegraph system except it takes the wire component out of it. The signal is sent by radio frequency directly to our dispatch center in Laconia. The system was installed per NFPA72 which is National Fire Alarm Code and NFPA1221 Standard for the Installation, Maintenance and Use of Emergency Services Communications Systems. One benefit with the wire system is that there are basically no boundaries. We can put one of these boxes anywhere within the District and we are not bound by the wire system.

We are knocking on wood that the control station we currently have does not fail because we certainly don't have the funds to replace it or even repair it if we can get parts for that type of a system that we currently have. After the installation of the radio box and learning more about it, we are proposing a phase out program which would actually be done in three phases. The first phase would be to dismantle and remove from service the current fire alarm telegraph

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system street boxes by December 31, 2010. This is something we think that we can do with our in-house personnel. Phase two would be to notify all property owners on the current master box system by August 1, 2009, that the telegraph system shall be removed from service effective July 1, 2011, and that it shall be replaced prior to that date at the owner's expense with a radio fire alarm box. The radio fire alarm box shall report directly to Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Communications Center. Phase three all fire alarms systems required by local and reference codes after the date of the adoption of this proposal shall transmit a notification alarm signal directly to Lakes Region via a radio fire alarm box.

Commissioner Waldron: Is there anyone from the public who would like to speak or ask questions?

Fred Heath: There are several questions to ask. How are we going to interface with the existing system that we have? Do we actually cross over into our existing monitoring detection systems or does it convert or adapt?

Captain Ober: As far as interfacing with a current system, it would interface the same way as a dialer would interface or if you were putting up a traditional fire alarm box. It would be a simple relay from the fire alarm control panel to the radio box control panel. They are adaptable to any system that is out there today. There are three different categories of answering point for a fire alarm system to be received at. We would come under the public safety answering point. The code allows if a fire alarm is connected directly to a fire department, trouble signals and supervisor signals do not need to be monitored. The fire alarm control panel needs to have an audible and visual warning if a trouble or supervisor comes up. When a property switches over to a radio box they do not need a dialer in place to monitor the trouble and the supervisor signals. You will only be faced with one monitoring fee just like you are now. Further discussion ensued regarding the monitoring.

Fred Heath: How do we connect the hardware, marry them?

Captain Ober: Normally a radio alarm box is set next to the existing fire alarm control panel if there is room. It doesn't have to be right next to each other but should be in close proximity. The existing boxes can stay in place but the guts are pulled out of them and the micro switch gets put in so if somebody was to pull the box it would activate the system just like your current box.

Discussion ensued regarding the radio box.

Fred Heath: Do you foresee any complications with interfacing manufacturers and monitoring?

Captain Ober: From what I'm being told by the technicians, no.

Discussion ensued.

Captain Ober: I will be monitoring each of the properties that have the telegraph system currently to make sure that they are progressing forward.

Fred Heath: You will outline some kind of a protocol?

Captain Ober: The only expectation that I have will that you will be ready to go by July 1, 2011. I would treat it pretty much like an inspection report where you have to submit a corrected plan of action to make sure it isn't at the midnight hour and you have to leave the system up and running for one property.

Public session closed.

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Commissioner Gallant made a motion to accept the proposal as presented on July 16, 2009.
Commissioner Waldron seconded the motion.
Commissioner Waldron: Is there any discussion?
Hearing none, vote was taken. All were in favor. Unanimous passage The Street Box System Ordinance passed.

Public hearing closed at 7:28 PM.