



# *Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS*

Stephen M. Carrier, Chief  
Michael Robinson, Deputy Chief

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## Comprehensive Facilities Review Committee Meeting October 26, 2009

### Call to Order

Commissioner Waldron called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Present: Commissioners Paul Auger, Tom Gallant and Kevin Waldron, Chief Stephen Carrier, Tilton Selectman Sandy Plessner and Northfield Selectman Steve Bluhm, Michael Kitch, Owen Wellington, Greg Michaud and Pat Consentino.

### Approval of Minutes

Minutes were received late Friday night. Not everyone was able to review them. Chief Carrier asked if we could stop doing verbatim minutes due to the time involved in transcribing them. Discussion ensued. The consensus was the minutes would no longer be done verbatim as long as the highlights are hit and the recording is stored for future use if necessary.

### 10 Year Plans

Commissioner Waldron stated he did not know what the expectations were. He asked if everyone had a printed plan and multiple copies or if it was something they wanted to read aloud. Everyone had printed copies except Paul had handwritten notes. It was decided that Paul read his aloud since he didn't have copies.

Paul: "I have listened to the committee of the Life Safety Building about all the things about Church Street and a new life safety building. Some of the things about Church Street that are disadvantages would be the location but also it has a good location according to the committee as far as the number of calls that they have in a certain area. That is in the downtown area where they do have a number of calls. That is one good plus for that place. We all know the living quarters are very bad up there and something has to be done. It should be done in a short period of time. It shouldn't go on for years and years and years. We are all in agreement on that. The building in general, it does need a lot of work. How much? Who knows until somebody gets in there and really puts down what's wrong with the building and how much it's going to cost. The access to get in and out is not the greatest. It could be better. Some of the things about the new life safety building that I have is they haven't come up with a location yet. Somewhere east of Tilton on Route 3 is all I know. That's all I'm aware of. No costs have been thrown out at all. It could be in the millions. Who knows? I don't know. The traffic on Route 3 does present a problem. I don't know if anybody has noticed but on the weekends, and I travel that road every day, the traffic is horrendous there. Putting a station up there, I don't know if that's going to affect it or not. I think so. If you get a grant to do something with a life safety building who's to say how long you

have to act on it. It could be months. It could have to be done in a short period of time. I don't know if we are ready to do that yet. The other thing it does include, the biggest thing is money. It's going to have to be staffed, I'm sure. If they do make a life safety building they are going to have to hire at least three more people to staff it to go around the clock. At what cost? It could be close to \$210,000 for three more people with benefits and everything. The other thing about a life safety building is the maintenance on the building and the cost of all the things that go with it. How do you determine whose going to care of it, whose going to pay for all those things? That's some of the things about a new life safety building I would like to know about. However, the best thing I could come up with is an addition on Park Street Station.

- The size of the building itself: It houses the majority of our vehicles. If you build a life safety building, you are going to have to build another building to house more vehicles there.
- The parking: We have great parking down there, plenty of parking.
- Easy access to 93: It is very easy. The exit is right there. I know there has been talk about the crossover to go into the northbound lane. Unfortunately everything is not perfect.
- The cost of it: The cost would be a lot less to put an addition on there than to build a new station.
- Handicapped accessible: It is pretty much handicapped accessible now. The number of calls we have, the call force, that's where the majority is. Taking vehicles from there and moving them to different places. It might affect that. The traffic down there, there is very little traffic during the day. Easy to get in and out and the traffic is minimum.
- The shape of the building: The building is in great shape. It's not that old. It's very well maintained. I don't think it would take a lot of money to put an addition on there. What's in the building now? We do have an exhaust system that was a grant. I don't know what it would cost to move the old one or replace it. We also have a system to fill air packs in there. I don't know if that would stay there or be moved to a new place. The call force: It is a great place because the majority of the call people come from that section of town. It is very handy for them to come down through there.

My suggestion is an addition on Park Street as soon as possible. Maybe looking into Center Street Station and doing something there to improve living conditions.”

The plans were passed out. Time was taken to read each plan.

Commissioner Waldron stated that it is pretty clear that there are some very different ideas. Obviously some favor a new building, some do not. He asked for comments/input.

Steve Bluhm asked Commissioner Gallant if his was three pages or four pages as it ends with 2014. Commissioner Gallant stated he did not do any more than that.

Commissioner Waldron asked now that we have the plans where do we go from here. Sandy Plessner suggested that they take the plans and combine them into one plan. Discussion ensued of how to take the individual plans and come up with a consensus. Commissioner Waldron stated there is one major difference. Some want a life safety complex, some do not. Discussion continued. Steve Bluhm asked what's next. A couple of big differences with the plans are how to pay for it and the time frame.

Commissioner Waldron asked if anybody had any thoughts on what is the life span of this committee. Steve Bluhm thought they were going to walk away with an idea of a plan today. Commissioner Gallant stated he thought the life span of this committee is the length of time that it takes to complete the purpose for which it was established. He then restated the purpose of the Comprehensive Facilities Review Committee. Commissioner Waldron stated it appears they have come to the conclusion that the next step would be to formulate a course of action to deal with the needs of Park Street and Center Street independently. Commissioner Gallant stated that was what they had planned on. That is why everyone came back to the table with their 10 year plan. It might be five different plans that will be boiled down into one. Steve Bluhm asked if there was any plan there that they can at least start from. Commissioner Waldron stated that the one common factor in all the plans is Park Street. He thinks that Tom's idea of a fire escape and rear exit of Center Street is a good idea. However, he doesn't want to put it up then take it down if and when they decide to keep Center Street and revamp the whole thing. Further discussion ensued.

It was decided LGC would be contacted regarding the handicap accessibility laws.

Owen Wellington asked a question regarding the commonalities and one of those calls for an improvement at the current facility. You have also talked about either improving temporarily Center Street. The question he has is if any of the plans for the future include a life safety building. He then spoke about the needs of eastern Northfield and Tilton. Discussion ensued regarding the Fire District and the Life Safety Building Committee.

Commissioner Waldron asked what they want to do for a schedule for future meetings. Steve Bluhm stated before they decide on a date for the next meeting they need to decide what they are going to do with the plan. Further discussion ensued regarding the plans. It was decided that Steve Bluhm would take all the plans, put them together and come up with the commonality that would then come to the table to come up with one plan.

Commissioner Gallant made a motion to adjourn. Paul Auger seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 20:12 PM.

Minutes transcribed by: Kathy Tobine

**Next Meeting Date, Time, Place:** November 16, 2009 at 18:00. Meeting to be held at Tilton School, new Academic Building, School Street, Second Floor, Room 213, Tilton.

Approved: November 30, 2009