



Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS
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Stephen M. Carrier, Chief
Michael Robinson, Deputy Chief



TNFD Warrant Article Public Hearing February 8, 2010

Meeting was led by Commissioner Kevin Waldron and called to order at 20:13pm.
In attendance were Commisioners Kevin Waldron, Paul Auger and Tom Gallant.

Article 1: To Choose a Moderator for the ensuing two year period (Actual voting to be by official ballot on Tuesday, March 09, 2010 at the annual Town voting sessions in Tilton and Northfield at their respective polling places and times).

This Article was changed from a one-year period to a two-year period as per RSA. This information was found by the By-Laws Committee.

Article 2: To choose a Clerk for the ensuing year (Actual voting to be by official ballot on Tuesday, March 09, 2010 at the annual Town voting sessions in Tilton and Northfield at their respective polling places and times).

Article 3: To choose a Treasurer for the ensuing year (Actual voting to be by official ballot on Tuesday, March 09, 2010 at the annual Town voting sessions in Tilton and Northfield at their respective polling places and times).

Article 4: To choose a Fire Commissioner for the ensuing 3 years (Actual voting to be by official ballot on Tuesday, March 09, 2010 at the annual Town voting sessions in Tilton and Northfield at their respective polling places and times).

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

Article 6: To see if the Tilton-Northfield Fire District will vote, in accordance with RSA 52:21, to terminate its existence as of December 31, 2010 and to instruct the Commissions to (a) pay any remaining debts of the District; (b) consult with the Towns of Northfield and Tilton relative to the disposition of all assets of the District; and (c) to dispose of the District's assets by conveying same, at no cost, to the Towns of Northfield and Tilton according to each town's proportionate contribution of funds to the purchase of the assets, and in a manner which is equitable and fair. Any assets which either town is unwilling to accept shall be sold, and the funds derived from said sale shall be paid to the

Towns of Northfield and Tilton in proportion to each town's respective contribution of funds to the purchase of the assets. *By petition. (2/3's vote required)*

Lief Martinson wanted to know if this Article will be withdrawn if the Town of Northfield does not approve the money for the Fire Station. Waldron would expect that they would.

Kevin LaChapelle wanted to know if there has been any discussion by Commissioners for the potential of this happening. Waldron stated that there has been no discussion in particular, but it will be discussed at the upcoming Commissioners meeting on February 18, 2010 to come up with a plan. Gallant agreed that the Commissioner have not discussed this as of yet. On January 29, 2010, Chief wrote a 5-page response on that plan. This was sent to the Commissioner and he asked the Chairman to call a special meeting and that was denied.

Pat Clark wanted to know if there was a petitioner there to speak to Article 6. There was none. From the Article, it calls for the termination date of December 31, 2010. According to RSA 154:1 IV, the termination can be no sooner than 1-year following the vote. Clark would like this to go on record and wondered if the petitioners needed to be contacted. Both Waldron and Gallant do not feel they need to contact the petitioners. Martinson added that it should be the obligation of the petitioners to be present at this public hearing. If the Article passes, the RSA would take precedence.

Kevin LaChapelle asked if the Commissioners have contacted any legal council on this Article. Waldron stated that they would be contacting legal council. LaChapelle feels that they should have already contacted legal council – this is a serious matter. Donny Stevens asked if the Article could even be changed at this point. Gallant stated that the Article can be amended on the floor at the District Meeting.

Roland Seymour reminds us that legal council, attorneys, are expensive and this can be very costly. Where is this money going to come from in the budget? Gallant agrees that they may need to amend line items to include monies to cover possible legal expenses. LaChapelle asked which line items would need to be amended to cover these costs. Davis felt it would be the legal line. Gallant feels three will be both legal and accounting fees occurred by the District to accomplish dissolution.

Clark feels that if this is not corrected, there could be a volley between attorneys. Could it save more money if it is corrected ahead of time? He still feels that someone should be contacted about this just as a courtesy. Gallant feels that as a courtesy we deserve to have a representative here at the meeting tonight.

Davis wants to know if the Commissioners thought process is to have a discussion, prior to the District Meeting, with someone on what we may entail in legal expenses. Waldron said it will be discussed with District's council, Sean Chandler, prior to the District Meeting. Seymour feels that they should also contact an auditor on the possible number of billable hours. Davis just wanted to know how the Commissioners are going to come up with the dollar figures in time for the District meeting.

Citizen Newspaper representative asked if the poles will need to be open 1-hour due to it being a 2/3 vote. Gallant said that because it is not a money item, this will not be necessary. If Article 6 passes, several of the other Articles will be moot points. She asked if there will be an attorney present at the District Meeting to answer legal questions. Gallant said it has not been discussed. Attorney will only render their own opinion if they can. She also wanted to know if Chief's 5-page memorandum could be made public. Gallant said her would make it public.

LaChapelle asked if Article 6 passes, if there will a break in the Meeting, small work session, to come up with a plan. Gallant feels that they will have a plan in place before the District Meeting. LaChapelle asked Commissioner Waldron specifically if he was going to address a plan and finances before the District Meeting. Waldron assures him that a plan will be address and in place before the District Meeting.

Donny Stevens feels this Article should be on an absentee ballot for those who will be out of town on Election Day. Gallant does not believe a Petitioned Warrant Article can be placed on the ballot.

Article 7: To see if the District will vote to accept the "By-Laws" for the District, as prepared by the By-Laws Committee and presented to the fire Commissioners. The By-Laws Committee was formed as a direct result of warrant Article 6 at the 2009 District meeting.

Pat Clark stated that there will be a Bylaws Public Hearing following the Warrant Articles Public Hearing. He would appreciate feedback from Commissioners on these Bylaws. RSAs are referenced in the Bylaws now, as well as some feedback from legal council. Gallant is not prepared to discuss the new revisions due to not having received them in time to review.

Clark wondered how these Bylaws will be conveyed to public. Gallant hopes they would be available at the Town offices and at District Meeting. LaChapelle would like to see the Bylaws available on the District's website prior to the District Meeting. Having them at the Fire Station, Town Halls, and Library would also be helpful. Waldron stated that only approved documents are usually put on the website. Davis asked if there could be a draft copy on the website. Gallant believes a draft should be on the website. Davis feels the Bylaws should be available at every public place possible.

Article 8: To see what action the District will take in establishing a Committee to study and make recommendations on an addition to the Park Street Station. The Committee should be charged with writing an RFP (Request for Proposal) for an Architect who would work with the Committee and pull together schematic drawings for an addition to the Park Street Station. The proposed drawings for an addition should be priced prior to the 2011 Annual District Meeting. The Committee should consists of five members, three of which would be the Fire Commissioners. The Moderator would appoint one member from each community at-large, and further to raise and appropriate Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for the purpose of hiring an Architect for said project, and to authorize the

Commissions to withdraw Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) from the Land and Building Capital Reserve Fund for this purpose

Scot Davis asked what the balance is in the Land and Building Capital Reserve fund.

Gallant stated it is \$230,466.82 as of December 31, 2009.

Davis wanted to know how much is in the Apparatus and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. Gallant stated it is \$283,042.11 as of December 31, 2009.

LaChapelle asked if there has been any consultation with the other building committees from the past. He is concerned about forming another committee and having the Commission overburdened by committees. Gallant stated that there are no other building committees in existence. LaChapelle asked if we have heard from the other building committee formed years ago. Waldron has seen no plans and no documentation. Donny Stevens stated that he was on the committee and Tom Gallant was the Chairman. The committee just ended. Waldron stated that as of the time of the adjourning of the Bylaws committee, there will be no more committees.

Article 9: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) to be added to the Land and Building Capital Reserve Fund. *This article is recommended by the Commissioners.*

Result of the Facilities Review Committee.

Article 10: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) for upgrades to the Center Street Station. These upgrades will include the installation of a Fire Escape and the reconfiguring of space on the second floor of the station, so as to enlarge the sleeping quarters as well as relocate certain existing offices, and to authorize the Commissioners to withdraw Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) from the Land and Building Capital Reserve Fund for this purpose.

Result of the Facilities Review Committee.

Article 11: To see if the District will vote to discontinue the following Capital Reserve Funds with said funds with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, to be transferred to the general fund.

1. Rescue (Comstar) Capital Reserve Fund
2. Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund

This is a discontinuance of funds.

Davis wanted to know how much is in the Rescue (Comstar) Capital Reserve Fund.

Gallant stated it is \$12,268.65 as of December 31, 2009. This is surplus from the Equipment and Apparatus fund.

Davis wanted to know how much is in the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund. Gallant stated it is \$1,807.97 as of December 31, 2009. This is money left over after the purchase of the Fire Truck.

Article 12: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate \$14,073 to be added to the Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund established in 2005, said sum to come from the unreserved fund balance. *This article is recommended by the Commissioners.*

Gallant stated that this number will be updated once the final number is received. It will be amended on the floor at the District Meeting.

Article 13: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate One Hundred and Three Thousand Four Hundred Eighteen Dollars (\$103,418) for the purpose of purchasing Fire, Rescue and EMS Equipment, and paying 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).

Davis asked if the Apparatus and Equipment fund balance would be around \$185,000 if this Article passes. Gallant stated that is an assumed income, a projection, but should be about right.

Article 14: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$115,000) to pay for Pressurized Hydrants.
hydrants

Article 15: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of One Million Three Hundred Forty Two Thousand Four Hundred Fifty One Dollars (\$1,342,451) for General District Operations. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed.

This is the Budget Committee's Recommended Sum.

Article 16: 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.

Waldron asked if this was ever done. Gallant confirmed that it has been used. This was when the Towns paid the District only once money was received.

Article 17: To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Public Hearing Adjourned at 20:56PM.

Approved February 18, 2010