

## Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS Commissioners' Budget Work Session

Meeting Called By:	Commissioners	Date, Time:	November 9, 2011 at 17:35
Transcribed By:	Kathy Tobine	Place:	Tilton Town Hall, 257 Main Street, Tilton

Commissioner Auger called the meeting to order at 17:35.

Present: Commissioner Paul Auger, Commissioner Patrick Clark, Commissioner Tom Gallant, Chief Brad Ober, Deputy Chief Mike Robinson and Administrative Assistant Kathy Tobine.

### Budget

Chief Ober stated they have page 2 in front of them. This is the only page they have not dealt with. He explained the Commissioners 2012 column reflects the requested changes. Chief Ober went over the changes.

Chief Ober stated he doesn't believe they can drop the Overtime much below \$105,000. He feels comfortable leaving the Call Company where it is. The Elected Officials line reflects the changes they had talked about in the Treasurer, Clerk, increasing the Moderator and leaving the Commissioners the same.

Chief Ober stated Benefits reflect one less employee. The Health Insurance Deductible Reimbursement reflects moving the remainder which we think will be about \$5,500 to the encumbered line and leaving \$1 there to keep the line open. Group Health Insurance is the Short Term Disability for the Career staff, Group Line of Duty Death for Call and Career, Accident & Health policy purchased through the NH State Firemen's Association for both Call and Career, a Death Benefit purchased through the NH Retirement System for the call and Long Term Disability for the Career personnel. That is a 50/50 cost share for the career personnel. That totals up to \$8,841. Commissioner Clark asked if those change by the number of employees. Chief Ober replied not significantly. The policy through the NH State Firemen's Association could change. That renews in July or August and could go up or down depending on the number of employees we have at that time. The same with the Group Line of Duty with the NH Retirement System.

Chief Ober stated Social Security is dependant on salary. That is for all the call firefighters and Kathy. Firefighters in Group II do not play in that.

Chief Ober stated Medicare is based on salary.

Chief Ober stated that on the Retirement, we discovered an error here. Overtime and Holiday were not included. That has been corrected. Discussion ensued about the retirement system.

Chief Ober stated that on Unemployment we don't buy insurance. That is just a place holder. We pay as you go.

Chief Ober stated Workers Comp is based on salary. That was the number given us by LGC.

Chief Ober stated Other we are running that line out. In another year that line can come off.

Chief Ober stated after that they have acted on. Commissioner Gallant reported the Budget Committee has acted on everything the Commissioners have.

Chief Ober stated they are now looking at a \$4,000 increase rather than a \$26,000 which is due to the Retirement error. Commissioner Clark stated last week they were looking at a total

TNFD Commissioner's Meeting  
November 9, 2011

of \$1,541,000. Now it is \$1,572,000. The only change on his is the Retirement. Chief Ober replied yes. He hasn't changed anything else.

Chief Ober explained that his budget proposal includes the fourth shift but does not include step raises. The Commissioner's budget does not include the fourth shift but does include step raises. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Auger stated he did think about adding the fourth shift. He is not in favor of it. They can revisit next year. They have done a lot in the past couple years. He wants them to have everything they need to do the job. He knows a fourth shift will help them greatly. He is not 100% convinced that it is the right thing to do this year. He wants to see the decrease to show the people that Brad, as a Fire Chief; and they, as Commissioners, do care about the bottom line. To help the people as much as they can and to try to get by another year with what they have got. They will revisit again next year.

Commissioner Gallant stated he agreed with a lot of what Commissioner Auger said. If they can present a budget that is for all intents and purposes level funded with a \$4,390 increase by putting on the fourth shift they will be giving the District more for their money, not less. Commissioner Auger stated this year but not next year. You are only showing a half year for a guy here. Commissioner Gallant stated he knew that.

Discussion ensued about taking money out of the Apparatus & Equipment Fund next year. Commissioner Auger does not agree they should take money out of the Apparatus & Equipment Fund to support another guy. His goal is to be able to take the money out and use it for something else.

Chief Ober stated that at the last meeting Commissioner Auger made a comment about reducing hours from 48 to 42 that he considers that a raise. Chief Ober asked what he can do to help ease that in their minds to make it justifiable to see if he can make that work. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Auger stated he really has to think on that. Commissioner Clark stated he will give it some thought as well.

Commissioner Gallant stated that this is what will go before the people. The Chief's Budget will go as it is, the Commissioners Budget will be there and the Budget Committee's Budget is the only Budget acted on.

Chief Ober stated that those are the numbers from the work session that they asked for. Holiday goes down. The Overtime is down from last year but up from his a little bit. The others they are feeling pretty confident about.

Commissioner Gallant stated that if you are going to give a step increase to line people, the other Commissioners would like to know what they are doing for the Call Company. Chief Ober stated that last year we were able to absorb the increase in that line. If they do an increase this year, we will not be able to do that this year. Commissioner Auger asked if the Call Company would be upset if they didn't get an increase this year. Chief Ober stated he didn't feel they would be upset. Deputy Robinson said he didn't believe so. He thinks everybody feels the rates are fair especially with the steps. Chief Ober stated he thinks the current Call wages are fair. Discussion ensued. It was decided to leave the Call Company wages where it is at.

Deputy Robinson asked about the difference between the Chief's and Commissioners Budget on Elected Officials. Commissioner Gallant explained they lowered the Treasurer and Clerk and increased the Moderator. Chief Ober explained that the Treasurer was reduced to \$2,000; the District Clerk they reduced to \$1,500 and the Moderator they increased to \$100. His

TNFD Commissioner's Meeting  
November 9, 2011

proposal actually gave them a raise but they didn't want it. Deputy Robinson stated the Commissioners need to take a raise. This has gone from once a month to six times a month. He would like to see it amended to the Chief's. In the last two to three years it has changed so drastically that it shouldn't cost them anything. Discussion ensued.

Account 320 Legal Services

Commissioner Clark asked if that line should be increased. Commissioner Gallant stated he voiced that at the Budget Committee meeting that this should be raised in light of issues we currently face or those that we might face. That is the only item they did not act on. They are waiting to see if anything else in the budget decreases. If it does, they will move the money there. Discussion ensued.

Account 636 Diesel

Commissioner Clark stated he thought Diesel should be decreased from \$20,000 to \$17,000 or \$18,000. Commissioner Gallant stated the Chief calculated this based on an agreed price they have through July and gallons used. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Gallant made a motion to increase the Legal account from \$2,000 to \$5,000. This motion supersedes any previous motion on this account. Commissioner Auger seconded the motion. There being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Account 430 Maintenance & Repairs

Commissioner Clark stated he had circled this but he didn't have any notes why. Commissioner Gallant stated that includes money prioritizing fixing the wall in the bay that is kicking out. Chief Ober stated that line might go up.

Discussion ensued about how budgets are set and how they are changed.

Discussion ensued on how the Salaries & Wages and Benefits figured in the Commissioners budget.

Commissioner Clark made a motion to include Salaries & Wages lines 110 through 130 that totals \$844,500 in the Commissioners column of the spreadsheet dated November 1, 2011, and the Benefits lines 210 through 290 which total \$380,222 be put forward for a vote. Commissioner Gallant seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, vote was taken. Commissioner Auger and Commissioner Clark for, Commissioner Gallant against. Commissioner Gallant stated he supports Chief Ober's budget. That is his only dissention.

Old Ambulance

Chief Ober stated we have received an offer of \$10,000 for the old ambulance from the dealer we purchased the new ambulance from. This would be a nice clean quick transaction. The policy says anything for sale has to be listed for 30 days unless it is a trade. The dealer is willing to do this as a trade. The \$10,000 will come back to us and be deposited in the general fund. Commissioner Gallant made a motion to accept the \$10,000 as a trade. Commissioner Auger seconded the motion. Discussion: Commissioner Auger is willing to accept the deal. Chief Ober stated it is at Duane's to have the steering wheel fixed. If it is \$200 we should fix it. If it's \$1,000 then they should contact the dealer to see if he will take it as is and deduct the cost of the repair from the trade. There being no further discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Gallant made a motion to adjourn for a few minutes and then go into non public. Commissioner Auger seconded the motion. Meeting recessed at 18:37.

Meeting called to reconvened at 18:43.

TNFD Commissioner's Meeting  
November 9, 2011

Non-Public Session

Commissioner Gallant made a motion to go into non public session at 18:43 to deal with the dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted.. Commissioner Auger seconded the motion. There being no discussion, roll call vote was taken: Commissioner Paul Auger, yes; Commissioner Pat Clark, yes; Commissioner Tom Gallant, yes. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Gallant made a motion at 19:38 to come out of Non-Public Session. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. There being no discussion, roll call vote was taken: Commissioner Paul Auger, yes; Commissioner Pat Clark, yes; Commissioner Tom Gallant, yes. Motion passed unanimously.

Other

Commissioner Gallant made a motion to go into Public Session at 19:39. Commissioner Auger seconded the motion. There being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Gallant made a motion to seal the minutes of the Non-Public Session just concluded remain sealed as they deal with personnel issues. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. There being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Gallant requested to be able to review the minutes of the Non-Public Session prior to Tuesday night's meeting. It was decided they would meet at 5:15 P.M. to review the minutes. Discussion ensued.

Adjournment

Commissioner Gallant made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Auger seconded the motion. There being no discussion, vote was taken. Vote to adjourn was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 19:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Tobine  
Administrative Assistant

**Next Meeting Date, Time, Place:** November 16, 2011 at 17:30. Meeting to be held at Tilton Town Hall, 257 Main Street, Tilton.