

# Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS Commissioners' Meeting

Meeting called by:	Commissioners	Date, Time:	November 9, 2006 at 18:00 to 19:56
Note taker:	Janine Vary	Place:	Center Street Station

Attendees: Comm. Tom Gallant, Comm. Bob Watson, Chief Steve Carrier, Capt. Brad Ober, Fire Prev., Deputy Mike Robinson, and Clerk Janine Vary. Absent: Comm. Harold Harbour, Treasurer Roland Seymour

6:00 Tom called meeting to order. Review of previous minutes. Bob motioned to accept minutes and seconded by Tom. No discussion. Minutes accepted by commissioners unanimously.

Financial reports – first show numbers ending 10/31/06 for operating expenses. Chief feels we can cover some of the overages with other accounts. Legal, election, dry hydrant line is way over but expecting to get some money back for work that was done on dry hydrant. We are being charged for all hydrants now. Tom asked about grant monies - Chief will look into. App & Equip fund has a balance of \$63,000. We still have 2 months left for revenues so should meet the budgeted amount. Tom asked for a vote to accept treasurer's report. Bob and Tom voted to accept the treasurer's report.

Fire prevention report by Capt. Ober. Pizza Hut under construction. Tanger Outlet working on some power supply services, working with Bill Bernard. Stores demanding more amperage than they need. New development. Walgreens, have site plans for approval. Medical group going into Riverfront Place will take most of second floor. Retrofitting fire and sprinkler systems to rooms for that space. Tilton School will be finished before academic year is completed. Northfield - Crossmill Road met with Joyce Fulweiller and worked out numberings and other items. They don't have a completion date for that project. Lumber storage business will have a hydrant there, installed about 2 weeks ago. Showed numbers for 2 months. Did fire prevention education for 620 students total. Trailer went to Gilford and Ashland. We have new cleaner to get stains off sides. School Street side of Tilton School campus has been inspected. New maintenance supervisor understands life safety. Will commit to a time frame to get a sprinkler system in. T-N Aqueduct looking into private hydrant testing and will come up with procedure to have testing and maintenance. Water District will do and probably bill the private owners. Mike: will probably just bill private owners. They are concerned about liability issues, thou, Chief said. Relationship with water district is going well. Life safety task force still going. Fire side and fire marshal will meet and get a list and give to DHHS.

## Old business

Chief doesn't have any news on Building Committee. Tom commented on the PD research team. An RFP is going out today to hire an architect firm and was asked last night if we were on board to go on with them. It is probable but location is the big difference. All conversations to date re: location and structure call out a very prominent location and very visible in a very traveled area with access to the public. Arch engineering firm RFP went out. Made reference to individual items called out on that study. Need to get on board and commit for \$35,000 by end of December. Will narrow down to 3 companies and will talk about broadening to a public safety building. Is on TPD website and ad in paper. Potential problems with money allocated to town of Tilton and we are a separate district. PD/safety complex. If we could merge 2 committees from TPD and Tilton could have Al Laplante who is selectman and on TPD committee. Next step is to have a joint meeting. Chief and Owen call a joint meeting. Get committees together and talk this out. Would be by virtue of grants. With safety complex there is money. Location –look for 5 or 6. The old motel site that Gaudette owns, doesn't want to sell. Tom is talking to George Ryan and old tractor garage on Bittern Lane. Access and egress from Bittern Lane. These two are vacant lots. Would like to locate on 3 and 11 corridor and this side of exit 20. If not merging committees joint meetings of the committees. Brad asked if committee has spoken to towns who have had safety buildings. Tom stated that Owen has. Chief asked if we do something with Tilton PD, would it be a complete move for us? Tom thinks yes. Also, need to determine what to do with Northfield station. At some point it will move forward. In budget we are seeing increases in salaries due to employees now going to full years verses the 8 months for last year. The substation, would it be manned? Chief feels biggest confusion, if we don't combine with Tilton PD do we work with Northfield PD? Tom wants us to maintain a modern and full presence at both sides of the river. Can't put everything on one side. Tilton PD has to do something whereas Northfield doesn't.

New engine 3 special meeting. Going to court on Nov. 14 with Charlie representing us. If petition is granted, using the RSA guidelines, we could hold meeting as early as Dec. 7 but Charlie wants to give us leeway so we have set for the 11<sup>th</sup> of December. Only difference in two warrant articles is that in order to borrow the \$155,000, the wording has changed. Needs to be a ballot vote and polls need to be open for an hour. This is where we erred in March. Northfield has all paperwork into DRA and Tilton still doesn't. Technically, if the warrant article wasn't pending, Northfield could get tax rate but not Tilton.

Tom had indicated to both towns that if it would create a major financial problem for either town, we would withdraw the petition. Both administrators have indicated that they have gotten permission to extend TANs. If everything goes by for our meeting, the documents will be hand delivered to Concord the next day and DRA can set the tax rates. If we get approval on the 11<sup>th</sup> we can pay for the truck on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The truck was scheduled to be delivered in the 17<sup>th</sup> of November. The company

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knows of our situation and we will tell them next week of the status. Chief hasn't spoken to them today. Tom opened to questions from those at the table or public. a member of the newspaper asked if this special meeting was due to the lack of a ballot vote, just a technical glitch. Tom agreed. It is one warrant article that has 3 steps to it. Kevin Waldron asked if the new engine has been built and if we don't vote to approve, what will happen. Tom responded that the engine is built and unsure what decision will be made. Gretchen Wilder asked when we did the warrant in March, did we discuss how we were going to finance. Tom state at that time we didn't anticipate getting engine until next year. We had not ordered truck before that meeting. He indicated to the body that we didn't know how we were going to finance. He indicated that we would come back to the body when we needed to address the financing. So we are now again ratifying the acquisition and newly ratifying how to pay for the balance. We will indebt the district for a period beyond a year and RSA 33 requires us to take a ballot vote and it has to pass by 2/3'rd vote.

Kevin had a question on the proposed safety complex would involve the TNFD and TPD or NPD. How does it end up that Northfield isn't building a Tilton police station? Tom said there will be an allocation of costs that will be very defined. Tom has made it very clear to the Tilton PD group that we (TNFD) are a district. Tom feels that there will have to be something done at both towns, hopefully we can reach a balance so both towns benefit. Chief we take the seam away when we operate day to day. If incidents were 85% Tilton and balance Northfield, then might need to address.

Kevin asked about the other site on Sanborn Road between Kaliopees and JJill. It has too much value to them for them to sell. Used vehicles offers: Mike hasn't had any other offers. Nothing new on engine 3. We are committed for one year. As long as we don't sell directly to someone who has been influenced by them. Chief asked if we could advertise for bids and look at those. To advertise, we could use local bids like we did with forestry. We need to move them. We would set a minimum bid. With Fire Tec we could reduce the prices, also.

Comm. Gallant asked Comm. Watson to work with Janine and Roland on the Direct Deposit issue. No vote as to number of transactions, etc. was made when direct deposit was approved. Bob will handle.

2007 budget. How do we want to do this? Gretchen isn't sure as how to start up. Should not have separate meetings when we are talking about the same things. Her understanding is that Chief would present budget to committee and commissioners. She understood joint meetings. Chief wasn't sure about the dates she gave. A complete budget should be had in December. Let's set up some joint meetings. Tom commented that the only budget legally binding is one approved by body. Proposal made by commissioners and that which the budget committee has is also presented. Identifies what is recommended by each group. When added up, may be a \$1200 difference between Commissioners recommend and Budget Committee recommends. November 30<sup>th</sup> was recommended and could have a meeting in December and then meeting in January to set final meeting. Public notices. Budget committee has to have a public hearing of their own. Gretchen said she will need to distribute Chief's proposed budget to budget committee. He will email to Gretchen and she will distribute to her members and get back to us on a time for the November 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**New business**

New Ambulance warranty work. Chief explained when ambulance gets hot and you shut it down, it can't be restarted. When brought to most local Ford garage, work focused on sensors, etc. Said oil over filled and caused sensors to get dirty. Then went to the closest Ford dealership and we were told it was the injector o rings in transmission. It was a known problem.

Public comment: Kevin Waldron asked what we are looking at for fire hydrants for next year. Tom said nothing proposed to us yet. He feels it will be same as last year. Without having a representative from the water district, we can't really address that particular line item. Would like to have someone make presentation to the budget committee. They are bounded to the areas that they service and this is causing problems. If you want to extend the water line to a house beyond that boundary, you have to go before the water district.

Tom motioned as of 7:44 to close meeting to go into nonpublic session and seconded by Bob. Unanimously approved. Commissioners went into non-public session.

Tom motioned to pay bills. Bob seconded. Review of bills. Bills paid.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:56. Seconded by Bob. Meeting adjourned at 7:56PM.

**Next Meeting Date, Time, Place:**

**December 7, 2006 at 18:00 at Center Street Station**