

# Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS Commissioners' Meeting

Meeting called by:	Commissioners	Date, Time:	July 6, 2006 at 18:06 to 19:15
Note taker:	Janine Vary	Place:	Center Street Station

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

6:06 Tom called meeting to order. Harold motioned to accept minutes, seconded by Bob Watson. Tom had a correction on second page under old business, "Building Committee". Albert LaPlant may be appointed, not Albert Cross. Bob asked to also correct "20006" to "2006" for date of audit on first page. Minutes accepted unanimously with corrections as noted.

Review of Treasurer's report (prepared by Janine in Roland's absence). Question on elections being high. Was higher due to two district meetings and paid each clerk \$100.00. Janine pointed out Tanker Grant breakdown and \$7,153.18 overage from the Truck Fund trust account. Tom agreed that will need to be returned to the Truck Fund. Chief is expecting some future big expenses. \$8000 in hose purchases. Some portable radio charging equipment that has to be ordered, cost over \$3000. These will come out of Apparatus and Equipment fund. Call volume seems down from last year but a busy June. Tom mentioned the Comstar account seems to be a little ahead. Harold mentioned only at 47.7% for expenses. Tom motioned to accept the treasurer's report and Harold seconded. Commissioners voted unanimously to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Fire Prevention Officer report: Brad reported that Kohl's crew has been excellent to work with (Torey). They have to turn building over to Kohl's in August. Pizza Hut plans are in. Hoping to open as soon as they can. Will be in lot by Chili's. Actually 2 buildings on their site plan. Tom said that the other building has not been approved yet. Pizza Hut will have a drive through, just for pick up. No more word on Holiday Inn and Hampton Inn. Business Park Drive is getting Subest. Already started earth work. Four Dunkin Donuts in Tilton, newest one in Walmart. Tilton School will be bringing the plans in next week. Other inspections are not busy at the moment. May be summertime. Task force with DHHS still meeting as far as life safety code, etc. The Arches license is still revoked. They are working with fire protection engineers. Web site fire prevention pages are up and working.

Fire activity log- Chief stated we had 155 incidents in June. 761 calls so far; are still slightly behind last year's numbers. Probably about 1550 calls this year. Chief hasn't been tracking the response time closely this year. Tom would like to look at next month. Tom asked Chief his assessment with additional staff. Chief stated it works well, now there are 3 pairs of hands to do projects, have had a couple of fires, so more personnel to handle and officer can do the size up. Doesn't believe we have still seen the full benefit of having that third person. We haven't let them go alone yet. Tom asked about call dept. 42 people are on the roster. Chief said if we have a training session, may have 12 people show up. Often ones showing up for training don't show up to incidents. There is room for clean up to be happening. Tom feels we are going through the same period of time that Laconia and Franklin went through. Public may ask why we need more people. If people can't free schedules up to get to trainings may need to look at their availability to participate. Chief stated he and Mike have been looking at # of hours that they have come to trainings and incidents. Have informed people who are low. For the ones who don't meet the standards but they come to an incident and are productive, value needs to be added there. Chief not sure how to be fair in the "dead wood" issue. Tom: have to be looking at liability issue, esp. if not trained and at an incident. All commissioners agreed it is up to Chief's discretion. Mike agreed. Setting guidelines for training, like some members who are full time elsewhere, they are getting the training through their employers.

## Old business

Tom asked Brad how permits are working out. Seems to have good conformance with most people. In existing construction, Chief says compliance is the hardest. The installers would have to be honest. Brad said both building inspectors have a packet to hand out for anyone who is getting a building permit.

Winnisquam Fire Department. Tom mentioned that we had a proposal to Belmont relative to Winnisquam's dissolution. Agreement was forwarded to Atty. Rogers and we received no response. Much has happened since then. We do have an agreement that is a workable agreement. (copies handed out) Even though they don't say the money is coming from the Comstar account. If we waive any possession of capital assets, proceeds will go to the operation of the WFD as our two years of support. Tom motioned commissioners for their approval and authorization to sign the settlement agreement. Harold seconded. Discussion: Mike all it talks about is the \$35,000 becoming available. Tom explained that TNFD can receive the money, but upon signing, TNFD relinquishes said funds to WFD. This doesn't raise and appropriate any moneys. We hope it affects the district in a positive way. Belmont will not receive any of these proceeds. After discussion, vote taken and it was unanimously agreed for Tom to sign the agreement with WFD. Tom signed agreement. Original was dropped off at Charlie Chandler's Thursday evening by Clerk.

Water District relations: Chief mentioned that Roland promised to introduce him to the new manager, Jim Dalton. Mike and Chief have discussed items for this meeting. Roland requested this be done at one of their regular meetings. Waiting for Roland's return from vacation.

Update from budget committee. Gretchen reported they have met twice. No other members came this evening, probably due to holiday. Have a tentative schedule for dates to meet. They haven't met and approved minutes yet. Will probably meet at the beginning of September.

Building committee, Northfield representatives are: Michelle Bonsteel and Linda Pardy. We haven't heard from Tilton yet. Tom will check into.

Chief reported on Engine one, cost was higher than he had been told for the repair but not as bad as he had expected.

Roof at Center Street station to be done sometime in September.

Al a/c problem is all set and running well. E1 needed to have a/c work done, also

We received \$98,000 worth of radios through another grant. They only came with desktop chargers and we will need to buy vehicle chargers. Will be over \$3,000 for this and will come out of the Apparatus and Equipment fund.

Chief mentioned the thank you letters he sent to the elected officials who worked for the Assistance to Firefighters grant awards. He was told down in Washington that they really appreciate hearing of the benefit from the small districts for equipment that is received through these grant awards. He encourages all to send a note of thanks.

#### **New business**

Tom asked for Public comment: Gretchen, fire hydrant fee will not go away and she still feels that it will be an issue. It still is like salt on a wound. Harold doesn't see it going down for several years. They have bought into an expensive service. They can now change the money they borrowed and get it at a lower interest rate, which Tom stated they did. Tom feels if they could come up with a scheduled capital improvement program that the money we are paying can go to, not just to their profits, that may make it easier on taxpayers. Hope in next 6 to 8 months Jim Dalton will acclimate himself to new system and find where improvements need to be made. Tom feels town water should go up to Casey Nickerson's park. Chief commented that the warehouse (Subest) going into Nickerson's park doesn't require it to be sprinkled because of its size. Tom said it should be according to proposed ordinance changes that the town of Tilton just voted in. Chief will have Brad check into that. Chief stated we would support any commercial building being sprinkled. Depends on use of the building. If it is storage only, that's one thing, however, if assembling, that would be different. Tom feels that seeing that the water company is a municipality they should be looking at setting fees for the good of the community.

Chief mentioned the tanker delivery happened yesterday. Will only put in service after we can get people trained and comfortable with driving with that much water. Mike has a name of a company that sells fire trucks and he will look into for Engine 4 sale. Chief feels it's worth \$10,000 and is still serviceable.

Tom: motioned to pay bills, Harold seconded.

Tom motioned to adjourn. Harold seconded. Meeting adjourned at 19:15.

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

**August 3, 2006 at 18:00 at Center Street Station**

Respectfully submitted,

Janine Vary  
Clerk  
July 7, 2006