

**Tilton Northfield Fire District
Budget Committee Meeting
19 December 2011
Tilton School Academic Building**

Present:

Donnie Stevens, Northfield (2013), Chairperson
Jane Alden, Tilton (2013)
Kevin LaChapelle, Tilton (2014)
George Flanders, Northfield (2014)
Peter Fogg, Tilton (2012)
David Tracy, Northfield (2012)
Brad Ober, Fire Chief

Absent:

Commissioner Tom Gallant (2012)

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Stevens

1. November 7, 2011, Minutes
Jane Alden made a motion to accept the minutes as printed. Peter Fogg seconded the motion. There being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

2. November 28, 2011, Minutes
Kevin LaChappelle made a motion to accept the minutes as printed. Jane Alden seconded the motion. There being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

SALARIES AND WAGES

Chief Ober stated there is a correction to be made to line 110. Chair Stevens stated they would start with Category 110.

Category 110 Career Salaries and Wages

Chief Ober stated the Commissioners figure should be \$637, 403. Chief Ober explained the reason for the difference. Motion was made and seconded to fund this line at \$637,403. Discussion: Chair Stevens asked Commissioner Auger if that was something they had voted on. Chief Ober stated they haven't met yet. They have not had any action on that matter yet. It was asked what they were looking at for raises next year. Commissioner Clark stated there is a step and grade system. There is no raise, cost of living or anything else in place. The step and grade system was discussed. Chief Ober stated It is automatic, not based on merit. This is only second year of step and grade system. There being no further discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed with five ayes and one nay.

Category 110.05 Holiday Pay

Chair Stevens said that this number shouldn't change. Motion was made and seconded to fund this line at \$26,200. Discussion: It was asked why the difference between the Commissioners and the Chief. Chief Ober explained that his figure included one extra figure. There being no further discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed with five ayes and one nay.

Category 110.06 Overtime

Motion made and seconded to fund this line at \$110,000. Discussion: Chief Ober was asked if his proposal of \$105,000 was going to the 42 hour work week. Chief Ober replied it was. Chief Ober was asked about the November actuals. He replied he does not have that available tonight. There being no further discussion vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Category 120 Call Salaries and Wages

Motion was made and seconded to fund this line at \$70,000. Discussion: Chair Stevens asked the size of the call department. Chief Ober replied we have 24 on the roster and probably 10 to 12 are active. Chair Stevens asked if this \$70,000 covered the Deputy's pay. Chief Ober replied it does. Training was discussed. Kevin LaChapelle asked if this included a raise this year. Chief Ober replied it does not. They had a significant raise last year and the Commissioners thought they would hold it. There being no further discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Category 130 Elected Officials

Chair Stevens asked why that changed. Chief Ober replied the Commissioners decided to reduce the amount of the District Clerk from what they had in this years and the Treasurer was reduced as well. The Fire Commissioners are staying at \$900 per year each, the Treasurer is being reduced from \$2,500 to \$2,000, the District Clerk is being reduced from \$2,600 to \$1,500 and the Moderator is increased from \$50 to \$100. The biggest difference there with the Clerk is they were hoping that she was going to take the monthly Commissioner meeting minutes and she wasn't able to commit to that so they are not paying her that amount. Kevin LaChapelle asked what she is getting paid for. Chief Ober explained. Motion was made and seconded to fund this line at \$6,300. There being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

BENEFITS

Category 210 Group Health Insurance

Motion was made and seconded to fund this line at \$146,000. Discussion: Chair Stevens asked if the reason for the difference between the Chief's and the Commissioners is the additional man in the Chief's proposal. Chief Ober replied it is. There being no further discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Category 211 Health Insurance Deductible Reimbursement

Motion was made and seconded to fund this line at \$1. Discussion: Chair Stevens asked the reason for that. Chief Ober replied the Commissioners are going to take the remaining of that account and encumber it and use that amount of money for the deductible reimbursement. There being no further discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Category 215 Group Life Insurance

Motion was made and seconded to fund this line at \$8,841. There being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Category 220 Social Security

Chair Stevens asked if this line was going to change. Chief Ober replied it is. The new number is \$6,700. Motion was made and seconded to fund this line at \$6,700. Motion was made and seconded to fund this line at \$8,841. There being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Category 225 Medicare

Chair Stevens asked if this line was going to change. Chief Ober replied it will not. Motion was made and seconded to fund this line at \$12,250. There being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Category 230 Retirement

Motion was made and seconded to fund this line at \$170,430. Discussion: Chief Ober explained that the employer percentage is 22.89% through June 30, 2013. The reason in 2011 it jumped was because the numbers the State gave us were extremely high. Afterwards, it came back down. There being no further discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Category 250 Unemployment Comp

Motion was made and seconded to fund this line at \$500. There being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Category 260 Workers Comp

Motion was made and seconded to fund this line at \$32,700. There being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Category 290 Other

Motion was made and seconded to fund this line at \$0. Discussion: Chair Stevens stated they are just keeping this line open. Chief Ober stated this is the last year and then it can go away. There being no further discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Chief Ober stated he has a couple of lines that have been changed if the Committee would like to take action on them. Chair Stevens asked what lines they are.

PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL SERVICES

Category 320 Legal Services

Chief Ober stated the Commissioners have changed their proposed to \$5,000. Chair Stevens asked for an amendment to change it. Kevin LaChappelle made a motion to amend line 320 Legal Services from \$2,000 to \$5,000 as suggested by the Commissioners. Jane Alden seconded the motion. Discussion: Commissioner Clark stated they are finding that legal fees they are spending have gone up due to unfinished personnel issues. There being no further discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

SUPPLIES

Category 636 Diesel

Chief Ober recommended they reduce the diesel to \$16,500. Kevin LaChappelle made a motion to reduce line 636 Diesel to \$16,500 as suggested by Chief Ober. Jane Alden seconded the motion. Discussion: Chief Ober stated the usage has gone down. There being no further discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Category 685 Uniforms

Chief Ober stated they could reduce this to \$5,900. Kevin LaChappelle asked if this was due to the one person. Chief Ober stated it was. A motion was made and seconded to reduce line 685 Uniforms to \$5,900 as suggested by Chief Ober. There being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

WARRANT ARTICLES

Chair Stevens stated he didn't know why they talk about them. Chief Ober stated he believes they are supposed to indicate whether they support it or not. Kevin LaChappelle agreed. Discussion ensued.

Category 3910 Health Insurance Deductible Reimbursement

This was not discussed as they do not have to act on it this year as there is no money in it.

APPARATUS & EQUIPMENT

Category 331 Ambulance Billing Services

Chief Ober stated the Commissioners have not acted on this yet as they haven't met. Chair Stevens stated that isn't going to change. Chief Ober stated it is an estimate of what they will charge.

Chair Stevens asked if they had acted upon anything on this page. Chief Ober replied they have not. It is on the agenda for Wednesday.

Kevin LaChappelle asked Chief Ober if he had his list of equipment yet. Chief Ober replied he does not.

NEXT MEETING

Chair Stevens stated they need to schedule another meeting after the first of the year. They need to meet by mid January as they have to have their public hearing by February 17th and there is a little bit of paperwork that needs to be done. It was decided they would meet on January 23rd at the Tilton School Academic building at 7 pm.

Chair Stevens explained about the signing of the MS-37 to the new members. It has to be signed and submitted to the Commissioners for posting by February 22nd.

PUBLIC HEARING

Discussion ensued about the public hearing on the budget. It was decided they would hold their public hearing on Monday, February 6th at 6:30 pm with the public hearing on the warrant immediately following. It was decided they would hold the hearings at Northfield Town Hall if the meeting room is available.

Chair Stevens explained that after the public hearing each member must sign the MS-37. All agreed to go to the Center Street Station to sign when it is ready. Chair Stevens told the members that after the District Meeting they will need to sign the MS-37 again.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gretchen Wilder asked the Budget Committee to look at last year's budget. She did not see a line item for insurance deductible in it. Chair Stevens replied that it was in there because George found it. Chief Ober stated it was included in line 210.

Gretchen asked if the meeting minutes have been put on the website. Chair Stevens stated they just approved them. Discussion ensued. Chair Stevens stated the minutes are posted once they approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn. There being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Kathy Tobine
Administrative Assistant