

Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS Budget Committee Meeting

Meeting Called By:	Budget Committee	Date, Time:	01/05/15 at 19:00
Transcribed By:	Kathy Tobine	Place:	Tilton Town Hall, Downstairs Meeting Room, 257 Main Street, Tilton

Donnie Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM.

Present: Budget Committee Members Don Stevens, George Flanders, Timothy Sattler, Peter Fogg, Jane Alden; Commissioner Paul Auger, Chief Michael W. Sitar, Jr.

Public Present: David Hall, Matthew Gilman,

Don Stevens advised the Budget Committee that he received a phone call from Scott Davis the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for the Water District. Scott informed him that it didn't matter what they did, the fire department will get billed for the \$125,000. If they don't pay the bill the Water District will take them to court. Chief Sitar passed out information provided by Scott Davis showing the process of how they got to the \$125,988 for the fire hydrants. Discussion ensued. Don commented that he would like everyone to mull this over and they will revisit it once the rest of the budget is completed.

Budget

Professional & Technical Services

Account 341 Telephone: Jane Alden made a motion to fund this line at \$6,265. Tim Sattler seconded the motion. Discussion: Chief Sitar provided the Budget Committee the information on why the actual for 2014 was so much higher than what was budgeted. It is for a hot spot for his vehicle. There being no further discussion vote was taken. Motion passed.

Account 370 Vehicle Repairs Mechanic: Jane Alden made a motion to fund this line at \$22,330. Paul Auger seconded the motion. Discussion: Chief Sitar explained he asked for \$5,000 more than the Commissioners as he is instituting a preventative maintenance program. He is expecting this first year to cost a little more than it has in the past. Commissioner Auger explained how the Board of Commissioners decided on their figure for this line. Discussion ensued about the program the Chief wants to institute. There being no further discussion vote was taken. Motion passed.

Supplies

Account 631 Service Testing: Peter Fogg made a motion to fund this line at \$14,430. Jane Alden seconded the motion. Chief Sitar explained this line is for all the annual testing on all our equipment. Discussion ensued on why the actual was so much less than the budgeted amount. There being no further discussion vote was taken. Motion passed.

Account 635 Gasoline: Tim Sattler made a motion to fund this line at \$7,000. Peter Fogg seconded the motion. Discussion ensued on whether this line should be cut or not.

Peter Fogg made a motion to amend this line to \$5,500. George Flanders seconded the motion. There being no discussion vote was taken. Motion passed.

Account 636 Diesel Fuel: Peter Fogg made a motion to fund this line at \$17,000. Tim Sattler seconded the motion. Discussion ensued about the contract price on the diesel. There being no further discussion vote was taken. Motion passed.

Account 660 Vehicle Repair Parts: Peter Fogg made a motion to fund this line at \$20,000. Tim Sattler seconded the motion. Discussion ensued about the vehicle maintenance of the different pieces of equipment. There being no further discussion vote was taken. Motion passed.

Account 670 Books & Periodicals: Tim Sattler made a motion to fund this line at \$250. Peter Fogg seconded the motion. There being no discussion vote was taken. Motion passed.

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Account 680 Departmental Awards: Tim Sattler made a motion to fund this line at \$650. Paul Auger seconded the motion. Discussion ensued on why this line has increased so much. There being no further discussion vote was taken. Motion passed.

Account 681 Municipal Fire Alarm System: Don Stevens commented they do not have to take any action on this line as it has been three years without funding. It no longer needs to show.

Account 683 Fire Prevention: Peter Fogg made a motion to fund this line at \$1,500. Tim Sattler seconded the motion. There being no discussion vote was taken. Motion passed.

Account 685 Uniforms: Paul Auger made a motion to fund this line at \$9,980. Tim Sattler seconded the motion. Discussion ensued about Class A uniforms. Commissioner Auger commented the Commissioners had cut this line. Chief Sitar commented that the cost to outfit a new firefighter is over \$1,000. Don Stevens commented that if a company requires an employee to wear a uniform, they must provide it. Chief Sitar reported he raised the uniform allowance to \$500 per year, included outfitting a new firefighter and requested \$4,300 for dress uniforms. There being no further discussion vote was taken. Motion passed.

Account 690 Miscellaneous: Paul Auger made a motion to fund this line at \$100. Tim Sattler seconded the motion. There being no discussion vote was taken. Motion passed.

Salaries & Wages

Account 110 Career Salaries & Wages: Chief Sitar explained that he had requested a full-time firefighter, a part-time clerk and a new Step & Wage scale. The Commissioners did not approve these. They approved status quo with personnel with a step and a COLA. Discussion ensued about the part-time clerk. The position was for 20 hours a week and would have cost about \$13,000. Tim Sattler made a motion to fund this line at \$691,616. Paul Auger seconded the motion. Discussion: Chief Sitar explained that he wanted to hire an addition firefighter and go to four shifts. He explained the reasoning behind his request. Don Stevens explained that the 14½% pay raise was what defeated this last year. Chief Sitar explained in his request they were not getting a pay raise. He explained how his Step & Wage scale worked. There was discussion about salaries and benefits. How NH Retirement System works was discussed. Matthew Gilman spoke to this. He requested the Budget Committee allow the voters to make this decision. David Hall commented that it is very frustrating for the employees when the Budget Committee agree with it but won't put it to the voters. Chief Sitar commented that his budget would raise the tax rate in Northfield by 27 cents and Tilton by 26 cents. In Northfield that would increase taxes on a \$200,000 home \$54 a year. Don Stevens commented that two years ago they almost lost the fire department. Discussion ensued. Tim Sattler commented the Chief presents his budget of what he feels the department needs. The Commissioners review the budget and present their budget. The Budget Committee reviews both budgets and puts forth what they feel is reasonable. The reality is the taxpayers are not going to look at the \$50 they are going to look at the percentage.

Adjournment

Peter Fogg made a motion adjourn. Don Stevens seconded the motion. There being no discussion vote was taken. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Tobine