



## **Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS 2009 Annual District Meeting**

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The 2009 Annual District Meeting took place on March 16, 2009 at the Winnisquam Regional High School. Commissioners present were Kevin Waldron, Chair, Bob Watson and Paul Auger. Budget Committee Members present were Don Stevens, Chair, Charles Hall, Vicy Virgin, and Karl Barnard. Chief Stephen Carrier, Moderator Kent Finemore and Clerk Katina Lemay were also present.

Moderator, Kent Finemore, called the meeting to order at 19:04. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Chief Carrier. Moderator Finemore gave a moment of silence for our Troops. He thanked the Chief and Fire Department for being there when we need them. He also thanked those who helped at the March 10, 2009 elections – Charlie Hall, Vicy Virgin and Joyce Fulweiler. He thanked the Budget Committee for the work they've done over the past year on the budget.

Moderator Finemore then went over his Moderator Rules.

### **2009 Warrant Articles**

**Article 1:** To choose a Moderator for the ensuing year (Actual voting to be by official ballot on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at the annual Town voting sessions in Tilton and Northfield at their respective polling places and times).

**Kent Finemore elected as a write-in with 33 votes.**

**Article 2:** To choose a Clerk for the ensuing year (Actual voting to be by official ballot on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at the annual Town voting sessions in Tilton and Northfield at their respective polling places and times).

**Katina Lemay candidate elected with 692 votes.**

**Article 3:** To choose a Treasurer for the ensuing year (Actual voting to be by official ballot on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at the annual Town voting sessions in Tilton and Northfield at their respective polling places and times).

**Roland Seymour candidate elected with 732 votes.**

**Article 4:** To choose a Fire Commissioner for the ensuing 3 years (Actual voting to be by official ballot on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at the annual Town voting sessions in Tilton and Northfield at their respective polling places and times).

**Thomas Gallant candidate elected with 616 votes.**

**Article 5:** To accept the report of the Treasurer and the Fire Commissioners and pass any vote relating thereto.

Commissioner Kevin Waldron moved this Article to the floor for discussion, seconded by Scott McGuffin. No discussion. **ARTICLE 5 PASSED AS PRESENTED.**

**Article 6:** To see if the District will vote to form a Committee for the purpose of creating By-Laws for the District. The Committee will prepare a draft for Commission approval which would be brought before the voters at the 2010 Annual Meeting. The Committee would be made up of 2 Tilton residents, 2 Northfield residents and 1 Fire Commissioner.

Commissioner Kevin Waldron commented that Scott Davis and Pat Clark initiated this Article and that he is in favor. Point of Order – Thomas Gallant – Article was not moved to the floor. Article moved to the floor by Scott McGuffin and seconded by Scott Hilliard. Selectman Katherine Dawson asked who is on the Committee now.

Commissioner Waldron stated that there are 3 people currently on the Committee - Scott Davis, Pat Clark and Gretchen Wilder. Scott McGuffin asked how the Committee is appointed. Commissioner Waldron is under the assumption that they would be appointed by the Moderator. Moderator Finemore proposed that an Amendment to the Article be made that indicates that the Moderator is to appoint Committee members. Gretchen Wilder commented that the Committee reviewed copies of Bylaws from other fire departments and that they would work with those as a basis. She also invites anyone who is interested to be part of the Committee. Pat Clark commented that people are always asking how things in the District are put together and how they work. The RSA's leave options. Bylaws would give clarity to processes in the District.

**Amended Article 6:** To see if the District will vote to form a Committee for the purpose of creating By-Laws for the District. The Committee will prepare a draft for Commission approval which would be brought before the voters at the 2010 annual meeting. The Committee would be made up of 2 Tilton residents, 2 Northfield residents and 1 Fire Commissioner. Members of the Committee will be appointed by the Moderator.

Motion by Norm Boudreau to bring the Amended Article 6 to the floor, seconded by Don Stevens. Hearing no discussion, the amended Article was passed to accept for discussion. Leigh French asked if the Commissioners need to approve the Bylaws the Committee members' draft. Could the Commissioners stop the Committee from bringing recommended Bylaws to the public? Charles Hall commented that amendments to the Bylaws could be made at the Annual District Meeting. Helen Hanks commented that public hearings could be held for public input on the Bylaws in debate. Vote – **ARTICLE 6 PASSED AS AMENDED.**

**Article 7:** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate Sixty Four Thousand Dollars (\$64,000) for the final payment on Engine 3, with said funds to be withdrawn from the Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund established under RSA 31:95-C (ADOPTED March 7, 2005).

Motion to move the Article to the floor by Commissioner Kevin Waldron and seconded by Jerry Davis. Commissioner Waldron would like to propose an Amendment to this Article. Don Stevens, Budget Committee, commented that this Article never came before the Budget Committee.

**Amendment Article 7:** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate Sixty Three Thousand Dollars (\$63,000) for the final payment on Engine 3, with said funds to be withdrawn from the Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund established under RSA 31:95-C (ADOPTED March 7, 2005).

Motion to bring the amended Article to the floor by Commissioner Kevin Waldron and seconded by Norm Boudreau. Commissioner Waldron states that the reason for the Amendment is due to a closer pay off amount given by Franklin Savings Bank. In 2008, the interest on Engine 3 was just over \$3,000 and would be around the same for 2009. There is now \$198,890.45 in the Equipment and Apparatus fund. The District would have no debt if this was paid off – no loans on anything with wheels. Vote to accept amended Article 7 for discussion – passed.

Scott Davis asked what the balance in the Equipment and Apparatus fund was last year and was any money paid out of the fund for vehicles? Is this fund being depleted or is it staying around the same year-to-year? Commissioner Waldron does not know what the balance was in the fund at last year's Annual District meeting. Roland Seymour, Treasurer, did not have that figure with him. He does not feel that this fund is being depleted. Thomas Gallant commented that the bank account summary as of 12/31/08 in the Annual Report shows the fund at approximately \$153,000. Norm Boudreau commented that if Article 9 passes for another \$81,000 this would leave a balance of \$12,569 in that account. Commissioner Waldron stated that the \$81,000 includes 12 payments for Engine 3 which would need to be deducted. Thomas Gallant believes there is another \$235,000 in revenues budgeted into this fund in 2009. Leif Martinson asked since the Budget Committee was not aware of this Article, what is their opinion of it? Don Stevens, Budget Committee, commented that the Budget Committee had not discussed it as a group, but that he was not going to vote for it. Scott Davis asked how many more payments and total interest there would be until the end of the loan. Commissioner Waldron stated that the loan ends 03/12/12 and that the interest is about \$3,000 each year - so about \$9,000. Roland Seymour stated that the purpose of the fund initially was to pay for equipment and pay off debt. Commissioner Waldron stated that if all the Articles are passed tonight and with the new money coming in during 2009, the fund balance would be around \$300,000 by the end of 2009. Scott Davis asked if they anticipated revenues going down due to Franklin purchasing a new ambulance. Chief Carrier says he does not anticipate a huge drop off because collection was poor on the 50-100 calls they averaged from Franklin each year. Kevin LaChapelle asked if there were any foreseeable large purchases coming up within the next couple years. Chief Carrier stated that there are no capital improvement plans for the District, but they will need a new ariel ladder truck and ambulance, and Engine 2 would need to be replaced within the next 7 years. An ariel ladder truck could cost \$750,000 – possible savings if a used truck

was purchased. The current ariel ladder truck is a 1991 and the estimated repair cost is \$8,000. But, the truck would have to be driven to Montreal, Canada and left there while the repairs are done. There is currently a steering problem with the truck. It was looked at by a local company, but they can't get the parts. Kevin LaChapelle agrees that eliminating the interest on Engine 3 would be nice, but with a capital purchase this size coming up, spending these funds should be considered. Don Stevens, Budget Committee, stated that the Budget Committee approved \$123,321 for expenditures from the Equipment and Apparatus fund in 2009. Thomas Gallant asked what the balance in this fund would be as of 12/31/09 – including Articles 7, 8 and 9 being approved. Chief Carrier expects it to be \$200,281. Commissioner Waldron stated that if Articles 7, 8 and 9 are approved, he feels the balance will be around \$300,000. Scott Davis asked if it is the Commissioner's intention to make future purchases, like the ariel ladder truck, without loans? Commissioner Waldron would prefer paying cash for equipment. He figured that in 5 years, this account would have \$1,000,000. Scott Davis asked if this was an interest bearing account. Roland Seymour said it is and at about 2.3%. Vote – **ARTICLE 7 PASSED AS AMENDED.**

**Article 8:** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate Forty One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$41,500) for a new command vehicle for the Chief with said funds to be withdrawn from the Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund established under RSA 31:95-C (ADOPTED March 7, 2005).

Motion by Pat Clark to move the Article to the floor, seconded Pat Consentino. Motion to table by Gretchen Wilder and seconded by Jerry Davis – vote was declined and the Article was moved to the floor. Selectman Katherine Dawson would like to hear the discussion on this Article from the public and she would also like to hear Commissioner Waldron's opinion. Leigh French wants to know what the vehicle has that makes it so expensive. The same vehicle in Northfield was \$29,000. Chief Carrier explained that this vehicle is an Expedition as well and the State bid was \$23,998 for the basic vehicle, additional costs include lettering for \$1,000, \$7,500 for lights and radios, a command console, radio console for \$1000 (using two radios from the current vehicle). The mileage on the current vehicle is just under 98,000 and it is a 2001. Helen Hanks asked about the current vehicle's age and the annual maintenance costs. Chief Carrier again stated that the vehicle is a 2001 and that there are no specific annual maintenance fees. He has received word that the vehicle will not pass inspection this month due to the need for body work, a leak, and shocks. The estimate for these repairs is \$6,000. Don Stevens, Budget Committee, commented that the Budget Committee approved the purchase of a new vehicle because it comes from the Equipment and Apparatus fund. Repairs would come from the General Fund. Gretchen Wilder stated that she is opposed to the \$17,000 for additional equipment. In 2007-2008, most of the mileage was for Chief to go to and from work. She would like us to consider the carbon footprint and do more recycling of vehicles like the Police Department does. She would like to see this figure more conservative. Commissioner Waldron stated that no matter which account we pull money from - everything becomes the property of the two Towns. He is opposed to this purchase and would rather see it next year. He feels the estimate could be lowered. He does realize the need for a new vehicle though. Chief Carrier stated that the

old vehicle would be wholesaled for about \$5,000. Liam Jewell questioned putting \$2,200 of repairs into a vehicle worth \$5,000. Commissioner Waldron agrees. Scott Davis wanted to know why the total cost does not show the deduction for the \$5,000 wholesale price and wants to know if the extra money will go back into the Equipment and Apparatus fund. Donny Stevens, Budget Committee, said what they expect for a wholesale cost is more like \$3,500 – this comes from previous experience. \$41,500 is the full number needed to appropriate. We may not need to use it all. Scott Davis again wants to know that the trade in value will go back into the correct fund – not the General Fund. Chief Carrier explained that the trade in value would reduce the overall cost of the expenditure. We will just spend less than the \$41,500 (which is the maximum that could be spent). Dave Bolstridge asked where the wholesale figures are coming from and what happens to the old equipment? Chief Carrier explained that the Budget Committee figured the number from previous experiences. The equipment will not be trashed, but instead held for parts and pieces. Scott Hilliard explained that you can never be sure if you can trade in a vehicle and for what value. He also confirmed that as the Sheriff, he too has experience with exhaust manifold problems – Expeditions are known for it. Commissioner Waldron agreed that the equipment would not be thrown away and that it would be declared surplus and then disposed of properly. Chris Harris commented that the Chief's current vehicle does not have a command console, which is part of why the equipment expense is high. He feels that the command console could easily be moved to the next vehicle in the future. Commissioner Waldron commented that there is no guarantee that the command console would fit into the next new vehicle – due to possible body style changes. Call the question by Helen Hanks and seconded by Joe Demallo. Terminating vote – passed. Vote – 38 yes / 24 no – **ARTICLE 8 PASSED AS PRESENTED.**

**Article 9:** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate Eighty One Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty One Dollars (\$81,821) for the purpose of purchasing Fire, Rescue and EMS Equipment, paying vehicle payments and the cost associated with collecting the Ambulance Charges, with said funds to be withdrawn from the Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund established under RSA 31:95-C (ADOPTED March 7, 2005).

Scott McGuffin moved the Article to the floor, seconded by Jerry Davis. Commissioner Kevin Waldron has an Amendment to this Article due to the passing of Article 8.

**Amended Article 9:** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate Fifty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Forty Eight One Dollars (\$59,548) for the purpose of purchasing Fire, Rescue and EMS Equipment, paying vehicle payments and the cost associated with collecting the Ambulance Charges, with said funds to be withdrawn from the Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund established under RSA 31:95-C (ADOPTED March 7, 2005).

Commissioner Kevin Waldron moved the amended Article to the floor, seconded by Vicy Virgin. Don Stevens, Budget Committee, explained that they took the truck payments out of this budget line. Vote on amendment – passed for discussion. Leigh French wants to know what comes out of this fund - cost of collecting ambulance charges as well as

Fire, Rescue and EMS equipment. Chief Carrier stated that EMS \$5,000, Rescue Equipment \$9,000, Fire Equipment \$28,000, Ambulance billing Service \$17,550 and payment on Engine 3. Leigh French asked how we pay for collections. Chief Carrier explained through a collection agency. Vote – **ARTICLE 9 PASSED AS AMENDED.**

**Article 10:** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifteen Thousand Thirty Three (\$115,033) to pay for Pressurized Hydrants.

Motion by Joe Demello to move this Article to the floor, seconded by Jerry Davis. Joe Demello explained that bigger pipes were needed for water pressure. He pays user fees on his own home and then pays for the District. They're being used around town by all of us. We are in year 3 and have 27 years to go. Stop beating a dead horse and just pay the bill. Call the question – terminating the debate. Vote – **ARTICLE 10 PASSED AS PRESENTED.**

**Article 11:** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of One Million Three Hundred Forty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Four Dollars (\$1,340,860) for General District. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed.

Dave Liberatore made a motion to bring this Article to the floor, seconded by Jerry Davis. Gretchen Wilder would like to make an Amendment.

**Amended Article 11:** To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of One Million Three Hundred Forty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Four Dollars (\$1,315,860) for General District. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed.

Amended Article moved to the floor by Gretchen Wilder, seconded by Leigh French. Leif Martinson wants to know if this reduction is for a specific reduction. Gretchen Wilder would like to eliminate paving Park Street for \$25,000 line 720. Due to the present economy she does not feel it is a good idea at this time. Commissioner Waldron commented that the Commissioners did not agree with adding in this expense either. It does affect the tax bill. He does not feel there was a solid estimate and due to economy it does not need to be done now. He agrees that it will need to be done at some point – the top coat was never done and some repairs are needed. Vote on amendment – passed for discussion. Leif Martinson wants to know why the Heating and Oil line is so high at \$12,000 and what is the \$25,000 in the building fund. Chief Carrier explained that the \$25,000 in the building fund was for paving Park Street and the \$12,000 heating oil cost is due to not having a pre-buy in place for 2009 and possibly setting up a pre-buy for 2010. Vote – **ARTICLE 11 PASSED AS AMENDED.**

**Article 12:** To see if the District, in accordance with RSA 33:7, will vote to authorize the Fire Commissioners to borrow money in anticipation of taxes.

Commissioner Kevin Waldron moved this Article to the floor, seconded by Vicy Virgin. Commissioner Waldron stated that this Article has been in place for many years. Roland Seymour has the money lined up if needed, but it will not be used if it is not needed. Commissioner Waldron believes in conserving tax payers' money and will not be charged interest if not necessary. Vote – **ARTICLE 12 PASSED AS PRESENTED.**

**Article 13:** To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Scott McGuffin wanted to thank Bob Watson, the Budget Committee and the Supervisors of the Checklist.

Kevin Waldron would like Chief to address the public about some recent heroic deeds. Chief Carrier explained that the ambulance responded to a cardiac problem on Hodgden Road, middle aged male, chest pains while shoveling snow. The ambulance crew took an EKG and even though it did not show anything significant, decided to transport the patient to Concord Hospital. During the trip, the patient showed a significant change in his EKG. They managed to get him on the operating table in 71 minutes – 90 minutes was the allowed time. The surgeon called giving thanks for what they do. The Chief also commented on a recent article in the Citizen about Captain David Hall. He was on call in Belmont and was called out on a cardiac arrest. He was able to turn that person around since there was a paramedic on the scene.

Motion to adjourn by Scott McGuffin and seconded by Scott Hilliard. **Meeting adjourned at 20:45.**

Respectfully Submitted, Katina L. Lemay, Fire District Clerk