

Tilton-Northfield Fire District
Annual District Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 3, 2008

Moderator opened meeting at 7:00pm with pledge of allegiance.

Introduced Commissioners Tom Gallant, Robert Watson and Kevin Waldron and Clerk Janine Vary. He also introduced Gretchen Wilder, Chairperson of the Budget Committee, who introduced members of the TNFD Budget Committee: Peter Fogg, Dennis Allen, Vicy Virgin, Karl Barnard and Don Stevens.

Moderator gave ground rules for the running of the meeting based on Roberts Rules, if anyone is aggrieved by any decision Moderator has made, as a body can overrule what he says. Speak and use microphones. Two minute limit on first instance, comments directed to Moderator.

Moderator asked body if they needed all warrants read collectively before beginning. No one asked for that, so Moderator suspended the complete reading of the warrants collectively.

Article 1 through 4 – Moderator explained that these warrants would be addressed at town voting next Tuesday. No one had any questions.

Article 5. “To see if the district will vote to change the position of the treasurer from an elected position to an appointed position as authorized by RSA 41:26-c. Appointment to be made by the Fire Commissioners, which would take place effective the date of the 2009 annual elections.” Jerry Davis moved article. Scott Davis seconded. Comm. Waldron addressed. Commissioners voted to install on warrant. HB 257 effective 7/13/07. It allows for appointment rather than election of treasurer. Elected treasurer doesn’t have to answer to commissioners whereas appointed treasurer does. Scott Davis, T. He feels it takes away from the power of the legislative body. Too much power is given to the governing body. He does not agree with this warrant article. Valerie Care, N. Are there any costs that we are aware of in this change? Comm. Waldron is not aware of any. Valerie did have some knowledge on unemployment compensation that she wanted to share. Elected officials are not eligible to collect unemployment compensation wages; however, an appointed official would be eligible to submit a claim for unemployment compensation if they were to be terminated or quit. The District will need to pay premium for compensation. Will use wages earned to establish a claim. This article could cost the district money. Article 5 voted on. No have it by a voice vote. **ARTICLE 5 FAILS.**

Article 6. “To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate Ninety Seven Thousand One Hundred Seventy Eight Dollars (\$97,178.00) for the final payment on the 2000 International Rescue Truck, with said funds to come from the Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund.” David Libertore moved article and Jerry Davis seconded. Comm. Waldron took the question. Money is available to us from Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund. If article is approved \$20,846 would be saved. If the district approves Article 6, 7 and 8 tonight, the District will save \$57,941 a year. \$30,057 in interest. Comm. Gallant noted Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund is not funded by any monies raised through taxation. Money going into the account is the revenue from ambulance transports. This article removes \$97,108 from the surplus of that fund and Article 7 will do the same thing. The Apparatus and

Equipment Special Revenue Fund has its own budget. This money comes out of surplus in that account and will not affect taxes at this time. Dave Libertore asked how much is in the account. Comm. Gallant responded \$134,105 is in that account. Vote taken on Article 6. Ayes have it by voice vote. **ARTICLE 6 PASSES.**

Article 7. “To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate Thirty Six Thousand Six Hundred Two Dollars (\$36,602.00) for the final payment on two 2006 Ford F-350 Pick-up trucks, with said funds to come from the Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund.” Comm. Gallant moved article and seconded by Dave Libertore. Comm. Gallant said his description of Article 6 where monies are coming from the Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund surplus; same is true for Article 7. Money is in the surplus and will not affect taxes at this time. Pat Clark: he has heard some talk. Is this surplus being saved up that if we want to buy an expensive vehicle and to be used in a major emergency repair for vehicle or a roof collapse? Comm. Gallant answered. If there was a catastrophic roof collapse, that would come out of general fund surplus. There is one surplus which is excess that is in the budgetary operating fund. This money is in the Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund. Answer then is if we use this money today and pay off these notes, we have accumulated \$134,000, in last couple of years the cost savings will generate more of a surplus and that surplus will be available to us as we approach a large purchase in the future. Lets pay off the debt, don’t pay the interest on the debt. Comm. Gallant supports that idea and this article. Vote taken on Article 7. Ayes have it. **ARTICLE 7 PASSES.**

Article 8. “To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate Eighty Five Thousand One Hundred Nine Dollars (\$85,109.00) for the final payment on Engine 3, with said funds to come from the general fund surplus.” Dave Libertore moved to the floor and Jerry Davis seconded. Comm. Gallant addressed this article. This is unlike the preceding warrant articles. This article intends to take \$85,109 from the operating general fund surplus. This would save you tax dollars. Would reduce general fund surplus. \$263,000 has accumulated over a prolonged period of time. It is intended that this surplus be reduced. There are guidelines set up by DRA that general fund surplus should be retained in a percentage as it relates to the percentage of the budget. Some towns keep 10, 13 or 16 percent in surplus as noted in various articles in the newspapers. Our budget of \$1,287,126, reducing the surplus to \$175,000 would be borderline at 12% or 13%. Comm. Gallant does not agree with this warrant. He feels we should wait till next year’s Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund surplus and move at that time to payoff this debt. Comm. Waldron commented: the general fund surplus was raised by taxes but was a result of asking for more than what we need to run this operation. Money is not giving us any appreciable interest. We will still have the \$175,000 in account after paying off this debt. He has had several conversations with DRA about the retainage amount in general fund surplus. He was told by our rep at DRA and her boss as well, being a village district, DRA does not have recommended retainage amounts. Only after they were pushed for an amount they recommended that we apply same amount as towns. He feels we will save ourselves some money. Took a 5 year loan in April for \$1856 per month and still have \$89,000 in total payments left. He feels it would be a good use of surplus. We save \$3983 dollars in interest. We’ll be paying on until 2012. Comm. Gallant commented that over 4 years we will be saving almost \$4000 in interest; however, none of which is raised by taxation. Donnie Stevens, Budget

Committee, feels that we should pay this off and it would lower our debt. He has heard 8 or 10 percent for surplus if the roof caves in, but he feels we need to get rid of debt. We have \$260,000 just sitting there in a non-interest bearing account. Let's pay off the debt. Tom Cavanaugh: when ambulance fund was set up, the equipment debt would only be paid out of ambulance funds. Based on towns 8%, is just over \$100,000. Why not reduce what the taxpayers have to pay this year. What is \$85,000 over a few years. Interest is negligible. Who's responsible for putting the money in a non-interest bearing account? Reduce the taxpayers fees by \$150,000 and pay this out of the ambulance fund. The general fund was promised to never be used for paying off vehicles. Comm. Gallant: agreed entirely with Mr. Cavanaugh's comments and this is why he is vehemently opposed to this warrant article. Comm. Gallant also commented to the statement of \$260,000 just sitting around this is not true. At the end of January the surplus was down to \$109,000. it might generally be that at the latter part of the year. The early months up to March we don't receive revenues from the towns and this surplus is used for those expenses. Scott Davis: the truth being told here, the surplus is here due to the leadership of the Chief. He has been running the department under budget. If you look at budget it has changed. He is a proponent to pay down debt but if using money raised by taxation we are subsidizing that fund. He is not in favor of it. If they have to keep a certain surplus, and they have an amount not to keep them from taking out a TAN, good. He is totally against taking money out of tax revenues to subsidize the Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund. Steve Bluhm he went to DRA 3 times to set tax rate in Northfield. They told us between 5 and 10%. Right now Northfield is only running a 5% reserve. He doesn't know if it is humanly possible but would definitely back the idea to take the \$150,000 and give back to the taxpayers. Comm. Gallant: commented that he forgot part of Tom Cavanaugh's question, he is totally in favor, as long as we know what we are doing, of giving the money back to reduce taxes. Tom Cavanaugh wanted to make a motion to amend Article 8: "Motion to take \$150,000 from unreserved fund balance to reduce the taxes to be paid in 2008". Seconded by Steve Bluhm. Tom Cavanaugh agreed with Mr. Davis's comment that using this money would be subsidizing the Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund by paying this off now. Chief has a good plan and Comm. Gallant said we would not pay for the equipment through taxes if we made that fund. If we have too much money in the unreserved fund balance, give it back to the taxpayers. Comm. Waldron: he doesn't believe it is subsidizing anything. It is paying down a debt. He supported the creation of Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund and was led to believe to pay cash for equipment as we go. Spending \$58,000 on vehicle payments. Doesn't make any sense to make payments if you have the money to pay off. If we reduce the taxes one year, how much and how long will it last? We all know the budget will go up next year. If you want to have a feel good moment this year, that's fine. Moderator: asked if anyone could address the savings. Scott Davis asked if the Commissioners knew what this \$150,000 back to the taxpayers would break down to. Comm. Waldron could not. Scott Davis had some numbers to share \$.11 per \$1000 in Northfield and \$.10 per thousand in Tilton. Approximately Tom Cavanaugh said he did. For a property valued at \$100,000, eleven cents for Northfield and 10 cents for Tilton. Comm. Waldron still felt the money off the interest payment was better. Kevin LaChapelle stated he was at the budget hearing. Everyone has a different view. As a young voter he wonders where is community trust over next 30 years. If we made a decision as to how to pay the loan off, and if doing this changes the budget plan; then there's the surplus of general fund and Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund surplus. If we keep changing

midstream we will lose community trust and votes down the road, maybe now and for the next 20 years. People won't know what they are voting on over time. Comm. Gallant commented we are working on the amendment right now. Comm. Gallant said the amendment is inappropriate for this warrant article. It would have to be incorporated into the amount of monies to be raised through taxation under Warrant Article 11, he believes. Moderator agrees with Comm. Gallant. He asked if the author of the amendment would want to withdraw the amendment and introduce in a later more appropriate warrant article. Tom Cavanaugh understood where Mr. Gallant was coming from and also agreed with Mr. LaChapelle. If there is a time when we need to show integrity in governing body, it is now. A few years ago, the voters were sold a purchasing fund plan and it was voted on; and they may not even be here tonight. We shouldn't change it midstream. Don't use money through taxation for paying this debt. The way we keep taxes in line is if you follow the pennies, the dollars will follow. He does not agree with this article and hopes it is voted down. Mr. Cavanaugh said if Mr. Bluhm withdraws his second, he will withdraw the amendment. Mr. Bluhm withdrew his second and Mr. Cavanaugh withdrew the amendment. Moderator asked for any more comments on Article 8 in its original form. Comm. Waldron: keep in mind, if we do not pay off tonight, we will be paying \$1850 out of Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund for 4 more years. What happens down road when we need something big like a ladder truck? We'll use the Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund to make payments, he hopes not. Big purchase will cost money unless you let the fund grow. If we pay off the vehicles, it is \$60,000 more than it is growing now. If we are careful when it comes time to buy something big, we can own it rather than pay interest. Scott Davis: asked for a point of clarification. We don't have to wait four years to pay this vehicle off right. Can't we pay it off next year? Comm. Gallant addressed: said yes, he did try to address that earlier. He is opposed to this warrant because he disagrees with using tax money to pay off a vehicle and we have already voted to pay off two of the leases, thereby allowing the special revenue fund to grow and we can use entire amount of surplus next year to pay off the remaining balance of the loan. No more comments. Vote on Article 8 in its original vote. Nays have it by voice vote. Donnie Stevens asked for a show of hand count. Scott Hilliard and Mr. Lamanuzzi counted hand votes. 14 yes and 51 no. **ARTICLE 8 IS DEFEATED.**

Article 9: "To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Nine Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-Six (\$109,556.00) to pay for Pressurized Hydrants." Dave Libertore moved to floor and Jerry Davis seconded. Comm. Waldron: has spoken against this article every year. They want \$109,556 for 60 hydrants and they want us to keep shoveled from snow. Exposing our employees and vehicles to accidents and injury if someone gets hurt or a vehicle damaged. Bristol has 143 hydrants and 2 people from water department town shovel those. He calculated cost to be \$1825.92 per hydrant. He made inquiries to Belmont, Bristol, Gilford, Franklin, and Laconia. Fire hydrants costs ranged from \$0.00 to \$692 is the average. He is sure it will be said that this water district is a unique situation but feels they don't want us to compare because it doesn't come out in their favor. We'll hear how the water district needs this money to make their ends meet and he doesn't feel it is the fire district's responsibility to make their ends meet. Still feels people responsible to paying this bill are the water users should be responsible. Using 950 for the number of water users, if this amount was billed to users, it would be \$116 spread out equally. He's not against paying a fee for hydrants, but not this fee. Asked his insurance company how insurance rates will go up. They said if you live outside the

district, you already have cost. Those who live in hydrant district will have an increase in their rates without the hydrants. PUC has nothing to do with water district. Aqueduct Company was controlled by PUC. What happens if we don't pay? They can turn off hydrants. However, NH RSA's allow us to use in emergencies. They can take us to court and personally if they continue with this ridiculous fee structure then that is where it belongs anyway.. Or they can just give us a more reasonable fee structure. Scott Davis commented: Last year's bill was \$145,000 and it was reduced to \$125,000 after the flow tests. The fire district paid \$112,000 in 1999. There isn't a bill in any town that has gone down lower than it was 10 years ago. This year's amount is less. To flip that into dollars, if Mr. Waldron didn't feel it was right to give back the money for the \$85,000, that was ten and eleven cents. This is 14 cents per thousand for Northfield and 12 cents per thousand for Tilton. Not much of a difference. If it wasn't such a big deal in giving back then why is it such a big deal being paid for? Scott Davis continued that the water district has a good working relationship with fire district and they have given help in cleaning out hydrants, which Mr. Waldron said has not been happening. Any time Chief has asked for help we have provided it. The water district has a \$9.1 million debt and the bills have to be paid. If the Water District fails, then it will go under private ownership and it would be under the PUC and we would have to pay. Comm. Gallant: there has been a very good working relationship that has evolved over the last year. hydrant fee has been under compromise. He is in favor of full support of the warrant article. Commissioners in majority are in agreement with this article.

Gretchen Wilder: she has talked to PUC. No longer oversee Tilton-Northfield Water District. They did adopt the Tariff system. Flows were taken and each hydrant has been identified by color. Red is less gallons per minute, green is good. We found 20% aren't working to industry standard. Fee was adjusted for a customer service issue. They are working with the fire district. Water District has been formed just 2 years in January. When Water District was formed, towns lost \$250,000 in real estate taxes, according to 2005 tax rates. As a community Tilton-Northfield have lost that. When we gave rights over to water district, the thought was as a municipality, hopefully we would lose the hydrant fee. That hasn't happened. Numbers speak for themselves and she is against this fee. Hopefully the water district will correct the flow problem in the future, but she would like to see the hydrant fee corrected. The hydrants fee keeps coming up as an issue for the fire district and it won't go away. She hopes if this warrant article is voted down, and goes to court, that the fire district and water district would meet at a table with a mediator, hopefully before it goes to court, to try to work this out. 10% of the fire district budget pays 10% of their budget. They service around 900 locations in the community and the fire district serves the entire communities. For money to be well spent, she thinks both districts need to work together to work this out. Tom Cavanaugh: What you are looking for? They have come to the table with a 24% reduction. It seems to him that they have already come to the table. And if this is voted down, it will be paid for but also attorney fees on both sides and then we will be responsible for. The Water District has done the flows and are working with fire district. They have already reduced their price. He feels a lot more work could be done this year and he commends the budget committee and the commission anyone else who worked to get that done. He said the voters will be the ones paying the bill. He supports paying the bill. Roland Seymour: He was one of the original commissioners getting the water company into a village district. We did a lot of due diligence and knowing 9.2 million dollars in debt and all things considered in order to make as a viable purchase, decided that we would not pay taxes to both

towns. But amount of tax revenue lost was \$35,000 for Tilton and \$40,000 in Northfield, no where near \$250,000. We knew to buy this entity we had to be able to afford to pay this back. We are not sitting down with oodles of money. To eliminate the \$109,000 out of the revenue stream and try to pass onto the 900 or so users would be ludicrous. The Money family put in 5 million dollars were borrowed, about 3 million of that was dedicated to fire district and that is how the tariff was determined. PUC's statisticians came up with this revenue stream. Did reduce the hydrant fee and all hydrants are coded and in service; all flow some quantity of water. They were used in present state to fight a fire a few years ago. Maybe not at a level we want, but all do work and flow water at some level. He wanted to correct some inaccuracies stated. It would hurt to lose these funds and have worked hard to get it to where we are. He hopes the voters will vote for this warrant article to preserve the water district. Water district has a 30 year note at 4.25% interest for 7 million 9 hundred thousand dollars. He urges voters to vote to approve this article. Gretchen Wilder: combining the lost tax revenue from the real estate revenues and the hydrant fee of \$150,000 gives us the \$250,000. Steven Bluhm: to give Gretchen a current tax value lost, it is \$64,000 for Northfield, which makes it the third biggest company in town of Northfield. Peter Fogg: we are still paying \$1824 per year per hydrant and it is exorbitant amount for how much we actually use. We connected 13 times in a couple of years. He would be out to buy tankers and putting them around towns. He is also sewer commissioner. The sewer commission is for the entire town; however, when applying for bonds, they are always paid for by those who are users for the project. He is out of their district yet is paying this fee. He is against this fee. He would approve a lower fee that would be more representative of what we get. Would base on rate of capacity of pumps, and the amount of time, etc. like the users do. Comm. Gallant: counsel for the district has said it would be in our best interest to approve this warrant. Scott Davis: regarding the hydrants on West Main Street. There are 6 hydrants there that we are looking at correcting. There is no problem with water flow to regular household water users. Have checked into repairs. It will cost 1.2 million dollars to fix the 6 hydrants. Other capital improvements they are looking at: To fix the Park Street crossing will cost \$85,000 to fix. To fix a restriction in the line from Reservoir Road in Northfield to Bay Street in Northfield will cost \$150,000 to fix. Any improvements we are looking at are to accommodate the fire district. It has nothing to do with the domestic users. The 16" lines that were put in place when the Money's were owners, and other improvements were done specifically for fire suppression for the fire department. Comm. Waldron: if repairs were only for fire district, he wonders if water district will increase the rate because they fixed them. If so, then don't repair and we'll buy another tanker. A call to question was made. Vote taken and body voted to go to vote. Voice vote tried but the moderator was in doubt so asked for a hand count. Hand count taken. Yes: 43, No 24. Ayes have it. **ARTICLE 9 PASSES.**

Article 10: "To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate One Hundred Thirty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety One Dollars (\$137,991.00) for the purpose of purchasing Fire, Rescue and EMS equipment, paying vehicle leases as well 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). Don Stevens motioned and Dave Libertore seconded. Comm. Waldron addressed: due to passage of Articles 6 and 7 the number needs to be amended. He had it in writing: Moderator read amendment: "To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate One Hundred Two Thousand Three

Hundred Twenty One Dollars (\$102,321) for the purpose of purchasing Fire, Rescue and EMS Equipment, paying vehicle leases as well 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).” By Comm. Waldron. Arlow Stanley seconded. Comm. Gallant spoke to amendment. If looking at detailed budget for the Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund, the \$137,991 included payments for two leases, which we previously voted to pay off. Commissioner Waldron has reduced the \$137,991 by the amounts of those payments. No other comments. Moderator asked if body ready to vote. Moderator read Amended Article 10. Vote taken and Ayes have the vote. **AMENDMENT 1 TO ARTICLE 10 PASSES.** Now dealing with amended article which has decreased the amount from \$137,991 to \$102,321. Comm. Waldron: this money comes out of Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund. It pays for Engine 3 loan, ambulance charges, fire and EMS equipment. No one has asked and he is not sure why and what we are buying. He is perplexed. He did ask Chief Carrier what was going to be bought and was given a list. Couple of things he would like the Chief to be address: Two of the items are IV pumps in amount of \$5,000 and a thermal imaging camera for \$10,200. Comm. Waldron is personally against those purchases and would further want to amend this warrant article to pull those purchases out. So he basically wants to amend the article again. Moderator asked if he had in writing. He did need to look at again due to Article 8 failing. Comm. Gallant asked for a few minute recess. Moderator agreed to a 5-minute recess. Meeting back in order: Comm. Waldron read the second amendment to Article 10: “To see if district will vote to raise and appropriate \$86,821.00 for purpose of purchasing Fire, Rescue and EMS Equipment 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). The amount in this amendment removes the \$10,200.00 for the proposed purchase of a thermal imaging camera and \$5,000.00 for the proposed purchase of two IV pumps.” Don Stevens seconded. David Liberatore: asked Chief why we needed those two items? Chief the camera was a request basically from the floor. Thermal cameras have multiple uses in our business and technology is such now that you get a clearer picture in a much smaller package. The one we have now is large and bulky and is now on our second due apparatus. This new camera would be put on the ladder truck. Responds on its own often on mutual aid calls and operates in our district in roof sector, which is most dangerous area and it is critical to have a thermal imaging camera. Not realistic to think the camera on the attack engine would be given to ladder. IV pumps were requested by Captain Bousquet, who does the EMS purchasing. State protocols have recently been changed to allow paramedics to give certain drugs through IV pump therapy during transport. There are times when transfers of critical cardiac patients and these drugs would be essential to their well being. Kevin LaChapelle: first issue on thermal imaging cameras. To think as technology goes on that we can’t commit to fire department to not support their purchase of a thermal imaging camera seems to against why we are all here tonight, to ensure the safety of our towns. We are here to save money but when looking for safety equipment, we should listen to a trained fire chief’s request and run with it. The IV pump equipment is expensive. But when state protocol says we are required to have these pumps especially for cardiac arrest emergencies, we can shake our heads and say “when will we need that?” and hope it never happens to us. He is concerned that this issue is brought up at this body and appears hostile to Chief. Mr. LaChapelle did ask Mr. Waldron if he had checked into the

state protocol. Mr. Waldron asked if it is allowed or required. Mr. LaChapelle responded that it is required according to state protocol in full cardiac arrest. Scott Davis: he is against this amendment totally. We have hired the Chief for his expertise. He and the members are the professionals and know what they need. Don Stevens: doesn't have a problem with the camera but does with the pumps. He thought our rescue just brings the patient to the hospital. He didn't know we were doing transfers. Wants fire fighters in station and not going down 93 to transfer people somewhere else. No more comments. Moderator read amendment #2 to Article 10 again. Vote taken. Nays have it by verbal vote. **AMENDMENT 2 TO ARTICLE 10 FAILS.** So will proceed with the amended Article 10. Moderator asked if any other questions on Article 10 as amended. Dave French: What else are we buying with this \$102,000 besides the IV pumps and camera. He wants the whole list. Mr. Waldron read the list that Chief gave him. He had asked Chief if it was new or replacement and was told some of both. This hasn't come up at the fire station at another meeting, before he asked for this list, the Commissioners had never asked. There will always be bigger and better and he wants to know where his money is going before it goes there. Mr. French asked why we are looking at another outboard motor. Chief Carrier addressed the outboard motor. Motor currently on a rigid boat kept at Center Street station. Original motor doesn't stay running well, came from Navy surplus. Winnisquam Marine told them this unit is much older than we thought it was. It doesn't look repairable at this time. We also brought it to Channel Marine and they said the same thing. Does not keep running. Mr. French asked about 3 generators. Chief: we have a number of generators. One on ladder truck is underpowered and this is our largest generator. This is one we are trying to address. The new generators are smaller, camping type generators and also have lights attached to them. This way you have light available especially if you have to go well off the road to work. Call to question: Moderator asked for a verbal vote. Ayes have it. Vote taken on Amended Article 10. Voice vote taken. **ARTICLE 10 PASSES AS AMENDED.**

Article 11: "To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of One Million Two Hundred Seventy Nine Thousand Seventy Five Dollars (\$1,279,075.00) for General District Operations. The Fire Commissioners recommended sum of One Million Two Hundred Eighty Seven Thousand One Hundred Twenty Six Dollars (\$1,287,126.00). This article does not include special or individual articles addressed." Don Stevens moved article to the floor, Arlow Stanley seconded. Donnie Stevens: he wanted to know which number we are voting on, the Budget Committee's number or the Commissioners number. Moderator stated someone would have to address that. Comm. Gallant stated it is the Budget Committee's number. Tom Cavanaugh had an amendment for Article 11. "To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended sum of \$1,279,075 plus \$109,556 for Article 9 for a total of \$1,388,631 with \$1,238,631 raised by taxation and \$150,000 taken from the unreserved fund balance." Dave Liberatore seconded. Moderator asked as a point of order if anyone had crunched these numbers to be sure they were accurate. Roland Seymour said they were close enough. Comm. Gallant: is concerned, agrees with amendment, however, the amended version does not make clear that the amount as proposed under Warrant Article 11 includes the amount which has previously been approved in Warrant Article 9. He believes it should say that it does or does not include that amount. Moderator stated as a point of clarification that it basically recites the body of the unamended portion of Warrant Article 11 and then adds the language "plus \$109,556 for Article 9".

Moderator asked the body if they understood that the amount approved in Article 9 is being added to the bottom line of the operating budget. Body had no questions. Comm. Gallant made a point of clarification that we are voting on the Budget Committee's Budget. The Commissioners had approved a budget that was \$8,051 higher, but now the motion is only looking at the Budget Committee's budget. For sake of clarity, Moderator read the amendment to Article 11. Verbal vote taken on amendment 1 for Article 11. **AMENDMENT 1 TO ARTICLE 11 PASSES.** Moderator stated the amended Article 11 is now absent the fire commissioners' number for the budget. Pat Clark: wants a clarification of the difference of the \$8,051 difference between the Budget Committee's number and the Commissioners'. Comm. Gallant pointed out the orange sheets handed out define the difference. Moderator stated as a point of order that is not an issue here because it was voted to use the Budget Committee's number. Pat said it may determine how he votes. There was a call to move to question but Moderator wanted to be sure that everyone had enough time to think about the article. Pat Clark did have questions on things eliminated. \$4500 is for professional and tech services, are they necessary? Comm. Gallant asked if Budget Committee should address seeing they eliminated them. Gretchen: some changes made under supplies. When looking at the A/P reports found some categories vague/ambiguous. Looked at 610 General, 620 and 690 Miscellaneous. More financial people are staying away from "miscellaneous" categories. Therefore, Budget Committee did not fund 690 because it is Miscellaneous. Line 680 Departmental, cut from that, so took down from \$1,000 to \$600, they had spent less than \$200 dollars last year. Changes made from fire commissioners were minor. Data processing was another account we pulled money out. Chief had ability to purchase computers this year. So they felt they could pull money from that line item also. Chief commented: 3 major areas that were cut. All in \$2000 range. 342, Data Processing. We had intended to roll over a computer each year but the Budget Committee didn't believe we needed to buy another computer this year. 350 Medical Services, this line is for physicals for full time firefighters and any new firefighters we may hire. This line has usually been under expended in 07, but he was maintaining \$5000. He feels we don't offer enough physicals for our employees. There are other ways we are trying to approach this issue with our insurance company and he wants everyone to get annual physicals. Equipment Maintenance and Repairs, \$2000, for all equipment other than rolling stock. Over the years it has been expended, \$7566 last year, years \$7586 previous year and was cut down \$8000 to \$6000 for 2008 and that amount is lower than what we have spent over last 4 years. Don Stevens: said we bought two computers in December so they wouldn't need another one this year. Moderator read the article as again, as amended. Verbal vote taken and ayes have it. **ARTICLE 11 PASSES AS AMENDED.**

Article12: "To accept the report of the Treasurer and the Fire Commissioners and pass any vote relating thereto. Comm. Gallant moved to the floor. Seconded by Jerry Davis. No comments or discussion. Oral vote taken. Ayes have it. **ARTICLE 12 PASSES.**

Article13: "To see if the District will vote to authorize the Fire Commissioners to apply for, receive and expend federal and state grants, which may become available during the course of the year, in accordance with RSA 31:95-b and also to accept and expend money, from any other governmental unit or private source, to be used for the purposes for which the Fire District may

legally appropriate money.” Dave Liberatore moved to floor and seconded by Jerry Davis.
Discussion: none. Vote taken and Ayes’ have it **ARTICLE 13 PASSES**.

Article 14: “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.” Comm. Gallant moved to the floor and seconded by Jerry Davis. Steve Bluhm asked why we are voting to allow the Commissioners to enter into a TAN. Comm. Gallant stated the body is not voting for us to take out a TAN but gives us permission in the event that either town may not be able to make a monthly payment then the fire district could apply for a TAN to keep operating. No more discussion. Moderator asked for the vote. Vote taken, ayes have it. **ARTICLE 14 PASSES**.

Article 15: “To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.”
No discussion.

Comm. Gallant motioned to adjourn and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janine L. Vary, Clerk Appointed