

Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS
Special Commissioners' Meeting
Meet with TNFD PFFA, Local 4659;
Discuss 2009 Budget, Water District Line
Hold a Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II.a

Meeting called by:	Commissioners	Date, Time:	November 24, 2008 at 18:00 to 19:09
Note taker:	Janine Vary	Place:	Tilton School, Academic Building, 9 th Grade Seminar Rm

Attendees: Comm. Kevin Waldron, Comm. Bob Watson, Comm. Paul Auger, Chief Steve Carrier, and Secretary Janine Vary. Capt. Brad Ober, Pres. Of Local 4569, Greg Michaud, VP Local 4569, other members of Local and 7 members of the public and media.

Comm. Waldron called meeting to order at 6:02PM. Kevin asked Brad Ober to begin with the TNFD PFFA. Brad introduced himself, Greg Michaud, Tim Joubert and other members of the union. Brad shared the mission statement of the local. They haven't adopted the mission statement officially yet. But it is PFFA statement. Fraternal organization. Safety and health compensation benefits. It is not a charitable nonprofit organization. They do get involved in political arena. They are the voice in regulatory matters. TNFD members joined in Spring of 2008 to help get involved with the NHRS to have a voice with many revamps NHRS was going through. Everyone benefits from the retirement system. They also are members of the international membership. There is a geographical info system and deployment study. We are requesting that to be done for our fire district. Looks at locations and response times and does recommendations at staffing levels and locations. Looks at the entire district. The local is providing that info to them and are willing to share with commissioners. They have representatives on state boards. Have representatives on NHRS, Emergency management oversight committee, fire standards, EMS trauma review committee, Legislation oversight committee, etc. All the boards affect public safety and fire service. This allows the IAFF to have a voice on all these boards.

There is a Line of duty death benefit. If killed in line of duty, benefits are to living spouse and living children for that FF up to a certain age. Personal benefits: Professional FF, police officer and public employee can participate in a tax deferred retirement is a 401K public retirement. They could chose to make a contribution to that account. This would be a supplemental option. Mortgage and credit card opportunities. Insurance discounts for auto and home. Also there are the training opportunities at state and national level. There are a lot of locals that participate in this. Kevin asked if this is only for the permanent full time firefighter and Brad said yes, that is the only requirement.

Brad said after they get established they'd like to get involved with community, sponsor a little league team or co-sponsor a team. Scholarships at the local level. This is one of their goals. Kevin asked how they raise money. Brad said through fund raising or through their monthly dues. Paul asked how far will you go into it? Brad said Dave Lang, their local rep, said it is up to the group. They can be as involved as they want. We can be very active or just collect the dues. Paul said there are other organizations you can go to to put demands and ask for more things than you are asking for already. Brad asked Paul if he was asking about the local becoming a bargaining unit. Paul said yes. Brad said they are learning about the process. They have not decided that that is what they want to do. It is quite a process; this is very different from a bargaining unit. The union would be the agent to ask for a contract. It is not an automatic thing that they do next. Local 4659 will become the agent of the contract if the body asks for that. Some unions once unionized means you have a contract, That is not the way this local is set up, it is just a fraternal group.

Bob didn't have any questions. Kevin asked about the address is 12 Center Street and the fire station's number. Kevin asked if the union activities, letters written, are they done on department equipment while on duty? Brad: said it has mostly been done after hours. He doesn't have a scheduled break during his day. It is not taking away from his work time. Brad commented that takes care of the introduction part of the TNFD PFFA. Kevin asked if Brad would be available if other questions need to be asked. Brad said yes. Brad thanked the commissioners for their time.

Kevin said we will now go to budget line 590.2 Pressurized Hydrants. He asked Paul to speak to his meeting with the Water dept. last week. Paul wanted to defer to Scott Davis, one of the water commissioners in the audience, for an explanation of what they will do. Scott: gave an overview of their conversation. Paul's thought process was to come up with a fee that is a locked in fee, not a per hydrant fee. Annual fee. They did discuss, he is not in the position to handcuff the future water commissioners on a set water fee. They did not have the ability to change the hydrant rate; this can only be done through the legislative body. Any hydrant that doesn't flow at 450 gpm, they removed from the list, totaled 18 hydrants. Reduced 2008 bill by about \$35,000. That is much different than changing the rate. As is stated to the fire district letter, in addition to those hydrants that have been removed, when conditions were improved to about the 450 gallons per minute. They have made improvements on Peabody and Winter Streets, and also added, at the direction of the fire district, two at the end of the main line on Laconia Road at the Hampton Inn end. They did not put a hydrant on Bay Hill Road at the direction of the fire

commissioners. When we sent a letter to the fire district in September, stated that there will be another 4 hydrants added to the bill for the upcoming year. Scott explained a situation with Walgreens. Initial plans said there was supposed to be a private hydrant on the site. However, a wrong size line was put into the building so they couldn't put a hydrant on the site. So they had to put a hydrant on the public side of the property. This hydrant across from Walgreens will be paid for by Walgreens even though it is on the public side. This was their error. There are concerns that the fire district has had in the past with hydrants not flowing adequate water and they are trying to address those concerns. The current rate structure they are using was put in place in 2001. He isn't aware of any municipality operating off a 2001 rate structure. To move forward, they have a great working relationship with the Chief and fire dept. They will have spent \$195,000 between Peabody and the Bay Hill improvements. This fall they put new markers on the hydrants, so they are identifiable verses the wooden sticks. In capital improvements plan one item will give an increase flow. They had lost their third river crossing when the Park Street bridge was redone. This gives a bottleneck on either side of the river. Hoping that next year, they will be putting that in if the prices are acceptable to the district. Paul mentioned that there are other hydrants that people pay for and their rates are higher than the district's. Scott said the district pays \$468 per quarter. \$521.52 is paid by private sector. There may be 56 or 58 private hydrants. Holiday Inn and Hampton Inn had private hydrants added. Paul said if a new business came in and required a hydrant, they will have to pick it up. Scott agreed and that is what has been done recently. Paul said it limits us putting in any new hydrants because it will increase our cost. Scott said the fire district is the only customer that was reduced in payments. Scott wasn't sure if J Jill may be their biggest customer. Kevin asked what amount of money the district is looking at for 2009. Scott said the new/improved hydrants will add \$5477.76 to the current \$109,550.02. New amount is \$115,032.96 for 2009. This is lower than the amount we paid in 2001. Kevin questioned the communication the fire district gave to approve the two new hydrants down at Hampton Inn. Nothing has come before the board of commissioners to his knowledge. Scott said if there is a procedural change to allow the fire district to determine what the form of approval is for new hydrants, the commissioners will need to address a change of procedure and a letter needs to be sent to the water district. They have handled it the way it has been done in the past. All correspondence from water district is sent to the fire district. Not the Chief and not the Commissioners, but to the district. Two of the new hydrants, one is just beyond Ray's Machine Shop heading to Laconia and adjacent to the Hampton Inn. This was a direct result of the extension of the main line. Scott also explained that there is more care to protect the hydrants from freezing. The water district makes every attempt to prepare them and keep them from freezing up and working during the winter. Kevin asked about any correspondence from the Water District to Fire District in regards to the placing of the hydrants on East Main Street at Hampton Inn prior to them being put in. Scott said it is a main line extension project that Hampton Inn paid for. In the planning process, there were two hydrants recommended in the planning dept. Whether they came from the Fire Chief or the planning part of the fire dept., he's not sure. Again, if there is a procedural change and not just use the Fire Chief, who is the fire professional, to make recommendations on where they are to be placed, the commissioners will need to put that in writing to the water district. Kevin felt all the hydrants required to be paid for by the builder. Scott said the commissioners would have to address that change in procedure. Everything is run through the engineers because they are the professionals. Kevin said you can't change the fire rate due to tying the hands of future water commissioners. Scott said he has been on the water district since it became a water district in 2006. Kevin said the bottom line is: there is the number. Scott said well you have a number in front of you that is lower than the 2001 amount. The water district reduced the fire district's rate, yet his fire taxes have not gone down. If the water district doesn't raise the funds to pay the debt repayment plan, and if the water district goes back to a private owner again, the fire district rates will increase. Scott continued that the water district did not have to reduce the rates but chose to. Kevin felt that we don't have any option to reduce the amount the fire district owes. Then there was discussion about paying taxes for schools and library taxes and when you are not a user. Scott said there is an obligation to the water district customers also.

Kevin moved to line 391 at \$115,032.96. Bob motioned to pay the \$115,032.96 and Paul seconded the motion. Kevin asked for discussion: No more discussion. Vote taken: Bob and Paul ayes. Kevin opposed. Motion passes.

Kevin had wanted to go into other things. Tom Gallant (from the audience) said the way the meeting was announced/posted, the only two topics that can be discussed are the items already discussed.

Paul motioned to go into nonpublic session at 6:53PM, seconded by Bob. Roll call vote taken: Paul aye, Bob aye and Kevin aye.

Back into public session at 7:08. Kevin motioned to keep the minutes of the nonpublic meeting sealed. Bob seconded. Vote taken on keeping minutes sealed. All commissioners agreed unanimously.

Bob motioned to adjourn, and seconded by Kevin. All approved. 7:09pm meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Janine Vary, Secretary