



# *Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS*

Stephen M. Carrier, Chief  
Michael Robinson, Deputy Chief

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## **Commissioners' Meeting with the Selectmen of Tilton, Selectmen of Northfield and the Public April 6, 2009**

The meeting was called to order a few minutes after 18:00 by Scott McGuffin, Moderator. Scott explained that initially he would like everyone to share three minutes at a time and then roll back on to the next question and so forth. He asked if any of the select boards or commissioners would like to make a comment. No one did. He then asked for questions from the floor.

*Heber Feener:* Can you give us a run down on the proposal that was in the paper.  
*Commissioners Waldron & Gallant:* They didn't know there was one.

*Boards were introduced:* Glenn Smith, Town Administrator Northfield, Debra Shepard, Northfield Selectman; Jamie Knowlton, Northfield Selectman; Steve Bluhm, Northfield Selectman; Dave Wadleigh, Tilton Selectman; Katherine Dawson, Tilton Selectman; Normand Boudreau, Tilton Selectman; Sandra Plessner, Tilton Selectman; Pat Consentino, Tilton Selectman; Paul Auger, Fire Commissioner; Kevin Waldron, Fire Commissioner; Tom Gallant, Fire Commissioner; Steve Carrier, Fire Chief.

*Scott McGuffin:* There is a question from Mr. Feener about the article in the paper. Can anyone speak to that?

*Steve Bluhm:* Basically a couple years ago, Tilton voted to put together a study on the Tilton needs and the Tilton Fire District as a whole. We really need to go from there. We have had four meetings together with the Tilton Selectmen, ourselves and the Fire Commissioners to basically look at the deficiencies and what we need to improve on in the near future. This is basically nothing more than if you have any questions with your service, are you concerned about your service. I'm not sure exactly what is going on.

*Mr. Feener:* Does this include anything other than the Fire District?

*Steve Bluhm:* No.

*Peter Fogg, East Tilton:* With the closing of the Winnisquam Fire Station and the fact that Center Street and Park Street pretty much duplicate services with their locations fairly close to each other, what are the long term plans of for the district and in particular East Tilton's services?

*Tom Gallant:* That's currently being looked at, Peter. We understand the concerns of East Tilton. The MRI report which was published in July of 2008 specifically addresses many of problems there and we in effect are looking into that right now as a group. Both boards of selectmen and commissioners are looking into this as a group. That topic has been dealt with at some length throughout the last four meetings that have been referred to and will be a hot topic of conversation as we bring this whole thing together. I'm also certain that

that is something that the joint committee that was established in Tilton in March of 2009 will obviously be looking at.

*Peter Fogg:* Is part of the talks going to talking about making a change to the funding formula. That might be something that could resurrect Winnisquam?

*Tom Gallant:* Belmont has made it clear they are not interested.

*Dick Smigline:* I think you guys are the experts on this subject. Just looking at the placement of the fire station does not affect me but it affects others. Another thing is does Sanbornton need a fire station too to service that area. Perhaps that would be a source of revenue. Maybe close Center Street Station and look at to Winnisquam Auto. Maybe move to there.

*Steve Bluhm:* He has been talking to them. Sanbornton has problems as read in the paper. Katherine Dawson went to Belmont and tried to at least interest them. He doesn't know why they don't want to at least talk.

*Katherine Dawson:* She went over to Belmont and talked to the selectmen over there. Belmont is not interested at all. They have one selectman who might entertain it. They do not want to reopen the Winnisquam Station at all. They started talking about the funding and said it was unpleasant and they didn't want to have to deal with it again. Sanbornton was interested. She read something where they have to provide some kind of coverage in that area.

*Scott McGuffin:* Has anyone heard about this?

*Chief Carrier:* No.

*Katherine Dawson:* She read something where they have to provide some type of a station in the Winnisquam area. Never the less, Sanbornton is anxious to do something.

*Ben LaBelle, Tilton, Chair of Life Safety Building Committee:* Just wanted to say great job getting together and working on this. He's very interested to see what comes of this as it may impact what they are doing. Also, he's issuing an open invitation for any commissioner or selectman to join them or offer suggestions and feedback on the work they are doing. Hopefully, we can resolve the issues.

*Debra Shepard:* Tuesday night is a bad night for Northfield as it is a conflict for meeting with the study committee.

*Ben LaBelle:* They have to work out a meeting schedule.

*Heber Feener:* He was going to bring up a little history. Several years ago this question was raised to bring municipal services to the east side of 93. The individuals involved in this wanted to move the whole thing to the other side of 93. They wanted to cut the town in half using 93 and make two towns out of this again. Keep this in mind when you vote for this. Whatever you do, keep in mind everybody on both sides of I-93.

*Scott Davis:* Almost 5 years ago to the day we met as a district and we voted on putting an addition on the Park Street Station. Looking back at the minutes of that meeting was on March 15<sup>th</sup> and then we reconvened on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Nothing was ever done beyond that meeting. My question to the commissioners and select boards is why haven't we done anything about this in 5 years? They are in Center Street. This building has one way out if that building should it catch fire. We have issues with that. Looking back on it now,

\$400,000 was a small amount of money and a quick fix for the issue we were having at that time. He would like that addressed.

*Kevin Waldron:* First of all, \$400,000 is never a small amount of money. Secondly, if we had done that and housed everyone in Northfield, what do you think we would be hearing from East Tilton now?

*Scott Davis:* What is the response time between the two stations now? It can't be that great.

*Tom Gallant:* #1, men were already being housed at Center Street at that time. More importantly, it was never our intention of shutting down Center Street. We got shot down twice that year for \$400,000. We did have a building committee. That started to run in tandem with the building committee that the Town of Tilton had for a police department. We came back the year after that trying to get some money in a capital reserve fund. No one was interested in putting any money into a capital reserve fund. No one had any interest in doing anything at all. It doesn't mean that nothing has been done. It doesn't mean the effort has been stopped. It just simply means that it hasn't really gathered much momentum.

*Scott Davis:* The issue of housing the men has never gone away.

*Tom Gallant:* No not at all. In fact it's greater than ever. If we ever wanted to add another man, we certainly can't do it with the facilities we have now.

*Scott Davis:* I guess that's why I'm raising the point. We have tried to live the best we could with what we have. There is still a serious issue there in regards to housing the men.

*Tom Gallant:* You have read the MRI Report back to front several times. They deal with that specifically in the report. That's what we have all been coming together for.

*Pat Clark, Tilton:* Does your group plan on having some kind of a committee coming out of this meeting or a follow up meeting to study the issue of hearing the spirit of the MRI report for the entire district and using some of the format laid out in the MRI study to study the needs of the entire district. From that info, determine where your resources ought to be. And if that's what you are going to do, do you also have a thought of working in tandem with the Life Safety Building Committee Ben LaBelle is in charge of in Tilton?

*Tom Gallant:* He knows that it has never been discussed breaking into smaller groups. He is in favor of that because it is unmanageable to have a group this large discussing anything. Meetings last too long. One or two representatives from each board should meet on a regular basis and report back to their respective boards. As to what that committee would do hasn't been discussed. Although those you brought up are reasonable.

*Steve Bluhm:* There are still two questions we have here. We are still trying to figure out what the needs are. This by rights is a district mess. The district really needs to bear down and start planning to prepare for the future. Start putting \$100,000 away every year until you get it figured out. I don't know if this was planned wrong from the start when we went from on call to 24/7 but the calls haven't really changed. There is nothing there that tells me that this has changed. If we were happy three or four years ago, we should be happy now. We still need to plan for the future. It's going to take a lot of negotiation. Again, it was a bad plan from the start. Maybe the Chief, Fire Prevention guy and another person can work out of the Park Street Station. We need to start somewhere. (Heavy rain, unable to hear info recorded over the rain.) In four years we will have \$400,000 saved. Let's do what we need to do with Park Street. It's going to take a lot of negotiation. From

my end, the numbers haven't really changed enough to warrant that. Again, bad planning from the start.

*Chief Carrier:* The fact of the matter is, in 2003 I believe we did 1,365 calls and last year we did 1,570. There has been a pretty significant increase in calls over that time. The point about where the fire station should be located, I think we have talked about the possibility of renovating Park Street for a number of years now. We still think that's a viable option but it's only viable only if we do something on the other end as well. The point of hiring a fourth person per shift would allow us to split our shift and have two firefighters in each station. Whether it's two in Northfield or two in East Tilton, wherever that location may be it allows us to split our shift so that everybody is not in the same spot. What we did in 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 by hiring full-time people was that there was an effect on that and there was some planning behind it. We reduced the response times by almost five minutes on average. That was very visible to us when we ran the data in 2003 and 2004. During the times when we had full time coverage which was Monday through Friday days at time, the response time were an average of five minutes. We know that there are certain areas there was an effect on it and a plan. At night it went up to 10 minutes or more and it made sense as at night people were responding from their homes and it was taking as much as 10 minutes and sometimes even a little more. We know that there are some areas where response times remain high and by spreading out and de-centralizing somewhat, there is the possibility of us reducing some of those response times. That's why we are looking into getting into two different stations in two different areas, one in Northfield and one in Center Street.

*Katherine Dawson:* East Tilton lost its coverage with Winnisquam and there's nothing in place to take its part. They are very concerned about the response time of the fire department. It is a selectmen's responsibility as far as East Tilton is concerned.

*Question from the public:* If we did have a fire station where the auto store is in Winnisquam in that area, what kind of income could we get from Belmont? If they start using our services, is there any income that comes from that?

*Chief Carrier:* Off the top of my head, Belmont probably wouldn't be interested in entering any kind of agreement like that. As Katherine noted earlier, I believe Sanbornton probably would if we went far enough East to handle some of their issues. We do have rules in our mutual aid system that would allow us to bill in type of situation where we were providing first response if they were unable to provide that service. There is an avenue to do that. It would be something that very few departments in the mutual aid system do. But it does exist.

*Steve Bluhm:* There is mutual aid. It's a tough situation. There is no such thing as if you build it they will come.

*Scott Davis:* We talk about Sanbornton. A lot of there concerns is in the Black Brook area. If our men are way out on Black Brook, what kind of coverage are we going to have? That's a long haul out there. He would have concerns with that.

*Tom Gallant:* He couldn't agree more, Scott. We are having a hard enough time servicing our own District with the resources that we have. We are not in any position to start contracting out our resources. We are stretched enough as it is covering our own District. To go back to the point the Chief made and answer your questions sir. You have to emphasize, that would it be first response. We would become first response for Belmont in

your example. Again, I don't believe that will happen as we are stretched thin enough as it is trying to cover our own district.

*Pat Clark:* Steve, he doesn't know where you got your numbers or for what community. I do know that Belmont covers the Southeast corner of Northfield that is hard for us to get to and they do that all the time. In any case I hear what you are saying, Katherine. Winnisquam Fire Department was covering part of East Tilton and that was taken away. I think if there is anything we have learned from the MRI report it is we have to look at the District as a whole, whether you are a Tilton selectmen, Northfield selectmen or on the Fire District. If all we look at is one segment, we polarize the District. We need to look at the numbers across the whole District. He believes that we can do that. He believes with Steve Bluhm, that it should be the Fire Commissioners to take the lead on this and use their professional staff to come up with a something. They could probably come up within a couple of weeks the answers. The question that comes out of that is what do you think Chief?

*Chief Carrier:* I think that he was kind of pushed into coming up with some options back two meetings ago to answer the deficiencies that were outlined in the report. I think we should address the Park Street issue right away and then move on. That building already exists. It would take care of some of our deficiencies right away. It only puts us two minutes down the road. Whether or not we want to put our headquarters on Park Street or keep them in Tilton. Either way it could work. We put a small addition on Park Street or put the headquarters on Park Street. Now obviously that is sensitive to people that live in East Tilton so somehow I would think they would like some kind of insurance that we are addressing their concerns while we are taking care of this problem on Park Street.

*Mike Robinson, Tilton:* Don't we already have the vehicle in place to start this ball rolling? We are trying to make a decision as to where the right place is. We are all about location. All this has to be studied. Where the committee is already in place, do we need to expand the committee?

*Tom Gallant:* I think we need to start moving in some direction, I'm not sure what. The Chief has already said that clearly we need to do something on Park Street. We also need to decide if we are going to do something independently or in tandem with the police department. Until the other committee goes forward and reaches some decision within the next year. We can't make that final decision. That doesn't mean we need to put the brakes on Park Street; however, it changes what we are going to do on Park Street. If we are going to a life safety building, it makes more sense to put the administrative offices there. We are almost like spinning our wheels which is very frustrating. I have been on committees back to 2005 with no avail.

*Jeff Lyon, Tilton:* I hope the whole board and committee really puts some consideration into using the building that Tilton has already purchased. If it has been determined that the building will not work, then we will move on. We should give that building some huge consideration.

*Debra Shephard:* We don't want to be rushed into anything. We want to take our time to study this to see what is best for everyone.

*Steve Bluhm:* One thing we all have to understand is that there are a couple of problems with the building committee. A Town issue which is merging with a District issue. The District shares so by rights, the Town of Tilton cannot say that this is what's best for

everyone. It still takes an act of the Commissioners to say, yes that's right Northfield has no vote in anything they decide to do. On top of that, the Commissioners do not have a vote either.

*Jeff Lyon:* It's too bad that all this wasn't brought up before the people of Tilton voted to purchase that building.

*Tom Gallant:* With all due respect, I agree with you. The Fire District was not consulted when that building was purchased. I was on the committee at that time. We as a committee were not consulted. That building was bought and the people that voted thought that it was going to be a life safety building because that was what was implied. The fact of the matter is that this District was not consulted so don't hold us responsible. Hold us harmless.

*Jeff Lyon:* I just think we should put serious consideration into using that building.

*Tom Gallant:* I agree with you. I think that should be done.

*Member of the Public:* Back in 2006 I was on the first committee. The idea was looking for a life safety building. At that time, there was grant money for life safety buildings. There was no federal grant money for a police station or fire station. If you combined them all into one, there was federal grant money available. An additional idea was to make it a command center for this area north of Concord. I don't know if that holds true today but it is something worth investigating.

*Joe Demello, Northfield:* Years ago, we had a fire department in Belmont. Tom, am I correct in assuming that that department was supported by Tilton, Northfield, Sanbornton and Belmont?

*Tom Gallant:* We were all in that pool.

*Joe Demello:* Did we pay for any part of the building?

*Tom Gallant:* Winnisquam owned the building. All contributed a varying percentage to support their operating budget. Whenever any monies were spent for capital improvements, there was a separate warrant article to fund that.

*Joe Demello:* You have a large block of residents in both Sanbornton and Tilton that want coverage on that end. It would seem to me that we should find the land and go back to a call department to start out. Get some equipment, get some people, put up a building and get it going. It makes it difficult because we are not only a two town District; we are a two county area. Right now you have to be shovel ready to get in on the stimulus money that is available today. We should take a good look at getting a piece of property on the other side of 93.

*Tom Gallant:* Your thought plan is a good thought plan. It always has been over the years. However, the very reason why Winnisquam went out of existence is because it was a volunteer fire department. There were no volunteers left to house that. That's why they are gone. Unfortunately, call departments are few and far between. Your thought is a good thought; but number 1, starting out with a call department is probably foolhardy. Number 2, you would have to negotiate with Sanbornton to contract out services. I just addressed that before that we can't. Our area of concentration has to be to take care of our own needs in our own District before we try to go out beyond the bounds.

*Joe Demello:* Don't you think we are doing that now as far as our own needs in our own district?

*Tom Gallant:* According to the MRI Report, the answer to that would be no. Based on response times we can honestly say that response times on the east and west side of 93

are not equal. The answer to the question should the people in East Tilton have concerns, yes. Now if we take the whole shooting match and move it over to East Tilton should the people in West Tilton have a concern? Yes. We still have to maintain West Tilton. You have the soldiers' home over here. All the schools districts are over here. So west of the turnpike is very important. East of the turnpike is equally important. However, we need to find a balance. I believe that we need to put everybody's heads together and come up with some plan finally this year because it has been going too long with no plan whatsoever.

*Gretchen Wilder:* Just before the Winnisquam Fire Department was disbanded it was a non-profit or not for profit. Correct?

*Tom Gallant:* Correct.

*Gretchen Wilder:* The numbers for them responding to calls was diminishing more and more as the years went by. So there were problems with it. It looked ok because the building was there but the manpower was not there to man it. Now, go back to the committee that has been form. I think it's great. You guys are on the right track. You need to find out what your needs are. Because we have the Town of Tilton, you have the Town of Northfield and you have the Fire District. They all have their own form of government. For people in Tilton to talk about the Fire District and I'll just talk for me. I have been attending the fire commissioners meeting for the last three or four years, alone usually. There are people who have concerns. You can look at the meeting minutes. It's just in the last couple years that you are talking. I want to make sure that you are thinking of the Fire District not just the Town of Tilton. If you are talking about us, the District, spending money, making plans, moving forward, doing the right thing, I want to be sure that people from the Fire District who we have elected in these positions, the Fire Commissioners, are in seats to make decisions for the District because that is their function. Mike Robinson has years of experience, Tom has years of experience. Most of the call firefighters have been with us a long time. That's great. That's fine. I elected Fire Commissioners to make decisions for the Fire District. It would be nice if some of these people would come to the Fire District to talk about the Fire District and put the word out at the District meeting to talk about it so we are talking about it. More and more communities are looking to combine resources, to pool our resources. We are at that point where we are starting to pull away. Let's work together as a team and solve the issue of safety. When it comes to making decisions for the district, she would like to see a commissioner on the committee. I don't mind staff being on. Mike comes with years of experience. I respect him. I respect the Chief. They come with experience. But when it comes to making decision for the District, I believe that should come from the Commissioners.

*Tom Gallant:* I think it's important to note that the committee Ben LaBelle is chairman of, they have no intention of telling the District what they are going to do. Based on how that committee is made up, Mike Robinson is on that committee. At their first meeting, they asked that a Commissioner be appointed to that committee, a Northfield Selectmen be appointed to that committee and that they come to their meetings. They would be able to speak but they would not be voting members. Whatever comes from that can be brought back to the Northfield Selectmen and the Board of Commissioners on an ongoing basis and whatever decision that is made will be decision that the District makes on whether to participate or not. I know it's been said by a number of people here that they are going to make the decision. They are not going to make the decision and I'm sure they have no intention of making the decision. As far as grant money is concerned, Pat Clark has just

recently made other inquiries. There is money out there if we were to go with a life safety building. Those were fire act grants which would be available. As far as the police department is concerned, there really isn't anything out there right now. That could change tomorrow. It's just another thing to consider.

*Ben LaBelle, Life Safety Building Committee Chair:* He agrees. He feels strongly as well that there has been a lot of separation between the two communities. He sees this as a huge opportunity to work together. They have a couple of issues. First of all there is the police department. They have outgrown the police station in Tilton. We all know we have to do something about that. The secondary issue is the MRI Report. Is there a way we can resolve those together? Our task is to come up with a recommendation. Certainly everybody else has to buy into that. Our goal is to get everybody else to buy into whatever that is. We can't just suit the needs of Tilton when it comes to the Fire District. We have to suit the needs of everybody. I agree with you. That's our goal. There has been a lot of work already done. I'm hoping not to reinvent the wheel here. It's been a done a couple of times already. Hopefully, it won't be that hard a task. We are considering all options including the building we already own and any other sites that might suit the dual purpose if we go that route. There is a lot to consider.

*Steve Bluhm:* I agree with that. We don't need another study. We have a lot of smart people here. One thing I will say though, going back to the MRI Report there is tons of questions. There is one thing I have issues with is the response times. They look at 10 towns and where we stand in the 10 towns. The MRI report says our response time, and this is an average as the Chief told us, is 5.5 minutes. Five and one half minutes per call. Which by rights, only one other town is better. Another thing they have is ISO which is insurance rating. We are 7 out of 9 which by rights has us tied for first. This is just another step. On top of that if you want to look at other departments, Franklin came in at 4 over 9. They are below us. Most of the towns are below us. We have a very good Fire Department now obviously to the Chief's credit and to the Commissioners. Even if we stop this issue, I have also done another little thing with GPS for times. Yes, they are not accurate but they basically are all the same. They start you off at the station and get you to a certain address. We have plenty of houses in Northfield too that are way over 10 minutes. If we are going to go ahead for 18% of the calls in East Tilton and we are going to build a station over there we will need to remember that the Park Street Station will be answering calls in the Northfield area. What are the issues or problems mentioned with Winnisquam Auto? It's great for the three towns but by rights it's not even going to get to the 140 side of Northfield. Let's just keep meeting. Sooner or later we will come up with a plan. We just have to be really careful of this MRI Report as it's really questionable. It says we need this but it doesn't really say why. It says we need two extra firefighters but the National average is below where we are now. So, be careful of the MRI Report.

*Scott Hilliard, Northfield:* One of the comments that I thought tonight was that the most unbiased guy up front is the fire chief. The Chief had a really good plan. He supported the \$400,000 addition to the Park Street station. What he's hearing is that we all have ideas but no one idea has taken off. He really thinks it's important that we have firemen housed in a building that they can't get out of if there is a fire. He thinks that that should really take priority. Forget about Northfield or Tilton or anything else. He would like to see the Commissioners spend a little more time talking about that. We are going to charge the Commissioners with resolving that.

*Heber Feener:* Sometimes when you get too many people on this it gets snarled up and nothing gets done. When we came up with the conclusion, we went before the school board. We cannot hang onto this thing. You need to let it go when you have completed your study.

*Chief Carrier:* Steve, he wants to point out on the ISO numbers there, the lower the number the better the rating. Franklin's rating is better than ours.

*Steve Bluhm:* How does that work? I got all this information out of the MRI Report. Is the MRI Report wrong?

*Chief Carrier:* I don't know. I don't have that information.

*Kevin Waldron:* The Town of Sanbornton keeps getting brought up. The Town of Sanbornton has a fire department. The fact that they cannot answer their calls is not our problem. We are here, the gentlemen to my immediate left and right, as Commissioners of the Tilton-Northfield Fire District which is our primary and should be only concern. Our only help to Sanbornton and any neighboring community should be through Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association which we are very active in. We are not going to solve Sanbornton's problems. It is not our job.

*Heber Feener:* We are not trying to solve Sanbornton's problems. We are a Fire District. At that time we were a school district of all three times. It all worked out. We are another group of people who need to come up with the resolution of this problem. Otherwise, we probably wouldn't be sitting here today. We could be sitting down in the dump or someplace where they decided to put the building.

*Kevin Waldron:* The committee that has been formed by the Tilton Town Meeting, I think their primary focus is and should be the Tilton Police Department. Any future expansion of the Fire District should come from a consensus of the Fire Commissioners.

*Richard Montambeault, Tilton:* He was on the first committee that implemented the Northfield Police Station. As we are just getting involved in the life safety building in Tilton will be mainly police department. In event that we do implement something for the fire department, what is to say that the Northfield Police Department may want to have a life safety building to incorporate the fire department?

*Steve Bluhm:* Good question. He really does not see that happening. Northfield does not have the growth at this time to warrant that.

*Ted:* Northfield does have room for expansion.

*Scott Davis:* Both Boards of Selectmen and the Fire Commissioners need to look into the future. 25 or more years.

*Heber Feener:* He isn't against the life safety issue.

*Pat Clark:* There was a delicate balance in trying to craft that warrant article in Tilton. The way the warrant article was crafted was for finding a site that would fulfill the needs of a life safety building. To take care of the needs of the police department right away and potentially build a fire department in there to take care of the fire department needs. We say potentially because we realize that we are going to have to work with the Fire

Commissioners and the entire Fire District to get that vote to happen. That was going to be at a later time. Hopefully what the committee was going to do would be to study that well enough and leave be open for public hearings. Then there was talk about inviting the Commissioners and the Selectmen to these meetings. The big difference between last year's committee and this year's is that we recognize that we did not include input from the Fire District. The Tilton voters wanted to stay with the Fire District to include them. We are taking another deep breath and hopefully will report back next year with enough information to satisfy the whole district.

*Steve Bluhm:* That building is 20,000 square feet. By rights, the police department will only be using half of the building. The future will be there anyway. Whether or not it's for fire or an extension of the Police Department, it will be there anyway. If you guys break off and bring the taxpayers a plan for the police so be it. If it takes longer for the Fire District so be it.

*Jeff Hinds:* There are currently 14,000 square feet left over in the building with the existing plant with the Police Department right now.

*Joe Demillo:* Are there currently any properties owned by the Town of Tilton or the State on Route 3 between here and Mosquito Bridge?

*Katherine Dawson:* The properties that are owned by the Town are conservation properties.

*Joe Demillo:* What about the State piece of property?

*Tom Gallant:* I believe that it is a park and ride now.

*Joe Demillo:* But that is still owned by the State. That might be a possibility.

*Joe Plesner:* With all the ideas he has heard tonight he doesn't see how any decisions could be made. One of the things that keep holding things up from being done is that no money is ever put aside for this. It's always one of these things that we have to put off until Town Meeting. In all honesty, he doesn't see how any decisions can be made. Let the Commissioners make the decisions on where they want to be and let the Towns act on that.

*Steve Bluhm:* I don't agree with that. The only way we can come up with a plan is to get everything out there. That's where we are right now. We need to take our time. Make a plan. That's what we are doing right now. We are looking at where we are going to be in 4 years. It's still up to the Commissioners. It is their mission. This is a big plan, a very expensive plan. People are hurting right now. We need to take our time. That's what my feeling is. That's what we are doing right now.

*Jerry Davis:* Where that car dealership went out of business, is that viable?

*Tom Gallant:* That's been mentioned here tonight. It's a viable option and should be looked at as one option.

*Joe Demillo:* If you had the ideal location where would it be?

*Tom Gallant:* That's a question I would refer to the Chief.

*Chief Carrier:* In his mind, the calls East of Silver Lake Road. The numbers of calls are pretty low when we look at our overall call volume. The majority of our calls happen from 93 to the west. That's where the majority of the calls are. We realize that we still have long response times out that way. So by removing ourselves from Center Street and

spreading out toward 93 somewhere we would still allow ourselves, if we split and had two people in each station, we would have a decent response time to West Tilton from Park Street but then we would have a better response time East Tilton from the 93 area. My feeling is that somewhere just east of 93 would be the ideal location for a new station.

*Scott McGuffin:* Any questions or comments? As there are none shall we adjourn? There has been a request to plan for another meeting.

*Katherine Dawson:* From what we have heard tonight we should break down into smaller groups.

*Tom Gallant:* I agree.

*Steve Bluhm:* My suggestion is to wait a couple months for the Fire Commissioners to address the issues, to formulate a plan and come back in a couple months.

*Scott McGuffin:* He understands that the Commissioners have an intention to develop a strategic plan which would in part address the issues we have been discussing here. The where, the what, the how much.

*Steve Bluhm:* Does this mean they are looking at a special meeting? I know they only meet once a month.

*Tom Gallant:* Yes, the board agrees that there will be a special meeting to discuss this.

*Scott McGuffin:* Any idea when this meeting will be?

*Tom Gallant:* I just mentioned to Kevin that from my standpoint that the three of us should enter into some serious discussion as to where we want this thing to go and we will report back to the Boards either in person or by letter within 60 days.

*Scott McGuffin:* What is the pleasure of the Boards and Commission? Do you want to schedule another meeting out for 60 days or do you want to wait for them.

*Tilton Board of Selectmen:* Wait to hear from them.

*Northfield Board of Selectmen:* Wait to hear from them. They would like something in writing to study before the meeting.

*Scott McGuffin:* Anything else from the Commissioners, Chief, Towns, communities?

Alright, with that we will adjourn. Keep your eyes on the paper for information in regards to a special meeting of the Commissioners on the Strategic Plan.

Meeting adjourned at 19:35.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Tobine, Administrative Assistant

Approved April 23, 2009