



Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS

Stephen M. Carrier, Chief
Michael Robinson, Deputy Chief

Comprehensive Facilities Review Committee Meeting August 31, 2009

Call to Order

Commissioner Waldron called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

Present: Commissioner Paul Auger, Commissioner Tom Gallant and Commissioner Kevin Waldron, Chief Stephen Carrier, Deputy Chief Mike Robinson, Tilton Selectman Sandy Plessner, Northfield Selectman Steve Bluhm, Tilton Selectman Pat Consentino, Joe Plessner, Gretchen Wilder, Bill Wilder, Ben LaBelle, Chairman of the Life Safety Building Committee, Pat Clark, Captain Owen Wellington of Tilton Police Department, Reporters Michael Fitch from the Laconia Daily Sun and Donna Rhodes from the Winnisquam Echo.

Approval of Minutes

July 13th: Commissioner Gallant made a motion to accept the minutes. Selectman Bluhm seconded the motion.

Commissioner Waldron: A motion has been made and seconded to accept the minutes as printed. Is there any discussion?

Steve Bluhm: On page 4 of 10 the 3rd line from the bottom, delete the first "have".

Commissioner Waldron: Anything else?

Hearing none, vote was taken. All were in favor. Minutes approved as corrected.

August 3rd: Commissioner Gallant made a motion to accept the minutes. Commissioner Auger seconded the motion.

Commissioner Waldron: A motion has been made and seconded to accept the minutes as printed. Is there any discussion?

Steve Bluhm: I do have one. I actually called Kathy about it. On page 6 of 7, I just wanted to get a little bit of information. I didn't go into that much detail. I did write something up. Under Personnel halfway through where it goes Steve Bluhm showed his charts on the call data. Just a little more than a paragraph I would like to have put in breaking down what I talked about. He then handed out the paragraph he would like added.

Commissioner Waldron: So you want it after data?

Steve Bluhm: No. After you read the first line it actually states that. So basically my first line is Steve Bluhm showed his charts on the call data. I ad-libbed. Obviously it went on for 10 or 15 minutes.

Commissioner Waldron: If we insert it as you have printed, we will have a double line of the same word.

Steve Bluhm: Well then kill off starting from Steve Bluhm showed. On top of that because I must have missed it, right after that where it says Chief Carrier contested the information, I'm not sure what you contested because all of it came from you. Was it anything in particular that wasn't correct?

Chief Carrier: Without listening to the tape I don't know.

Steve Bluhm: I'm guessing that it had everything to do with the charts.

Commissioner Waldron: Is there any further discussion?

Commissioner Gallant: I don't know what we are doing here. I know what he wants to do but where does the information come from? "Steve Bluhm: I have heard from somebody, possibly you, that the average time on a call including fires is 1 hour. Does this sound correct? Chief Carrier: Possibly, yes."

Steve Bluhm: It's on the tape. She just didn't put it in.

Commissioner Gallant: Oh, you listened to the tape?

Steve Bluhm: Do you want me to ask how many people heard that?

Commissioner Gallant: I don't recall.

Chief Carrier: I don't recall the conversation. I recall the context of what we were discussing but I couldn't say that I said that or didn't say that without listening to the tape.

Steve Bluhm: We should probably hold off and let her write out the whole thing.

Commissioner Gallant: The transcript is incomplete is the point that I'm trying to make. I'm not disputing what you said by any means Steve. I think we should hold off on approving these minutes until she has gone into this point and done a little more than Steve Bluhm showed his charts on the call data. I don't think that covers the essence of what was shown.

Steve Bluhm: There are a lot of people who read these minutes.

Commissioner Gallant: Absolutely. I couldn't agree more. I'm going to withdraw my motion to accept.

Commissioner Auger: I withdraw my second.

Commissioner Waldron: Motion has been withdrawn. Second has been withdrawn. There is no motion on the table. These minutes will be put off to a future date.

Commissioner Gallant: Just so the transcriptionist is clear, we would like the area under page 6 of 7 Personnel at the point where it states Steve Bluhm showed his charts on the call data to be expanded to incorporate the essence of those charts and what was then said relative to one hour calls.

Life Safety Building Committee

Ben LaBelle: Thank you for having us tonight. I would like to point out some other members of the Life Safety Building Committee. My name is Ben LaBelle, I'm the chair; Owen Wellington, representative from the police department of Tilton; Mike Robinson, Deputy Chief and representative on our committee from the fire department; Pat Consentino who is representative from the Tilton Board of Selectmen; and Tom Gallant.

We are here tonight just to give you an update of the work that we have done so far since we started and share with you some of the information we have come up with, to bring comments and questions out on the table for discussion.

Mike Robinson is going to be presenting with me the demographics of the district, some of the challenges that the district has, calls by census zones and some of the information we have done to mapping and some call response scenarios that exist. We will talk about what our goals are as a committee, what we have done and where we are at with it. Then we will take any questions or concerns out on the table. With that I will turn it over to Mike to start.

Mike Robinson: Thank you Ben. I just want to spend a few minutes going over some of the data, where the data came from and how we produced the mapping.

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Mike Robinson, Deputy Chief. I have been very proud to serve the District for 32 years and approximately 25 years as Deputy Chief. I had a lot of fun and work going through looking at some of the demographics of the community. As I looked at the information that both town websites provided and they started talking about going back 50 years I realized that I could go back that far. I do remember a lot of these things as they progressed and watched how the communities have changed. I was born in the Town of Northfield, lived there for a year, moved across the river and have been in Tilton ever since. Again, I had a lot of fun going through this and realized how much the community had grown in what I consider a short period of time.

The District population, again I'm talking about the District, the combination of Tilton and Northfield, according to the 2007 census in both communities in their town reports comes in at approximately 8,717 residents. The District property value, fixed assets, before exemptions, combines about \$883,000,000 that the Fire District is responsible for protecting. The District area involves approximately 40 square miles when you combine the two. Our District calls volume ranges somewhere in the neighborhood of 1,500 to 1,600 calls per year. We have seen a little bit of variation in the last couple of years, a little up, a little down. I don't know if that is economy driven, weather driven. I don't have all the excuses for it. When I joined the department in 1977 I believe our call volume was approximately 325. Does that sound about right Paul? You were there too.

Commissioner Auger: Somewhere in there.

Mike Robinson: The point is, in a 34 year period our call volume has at least gone by four if not by five. That's just a little bit about the demographics in the area that we are responsible for.

Remember I said fixed assets. This is what the towns are evaluated on. There is a lot more property that we are responsible for protecting. When we had the fire at the Public Service building, certainly the building was a concern but I believe there was about a million dollars worth of equipment inside the building itself of which is not assessed there. I don't know what those trucks cost but there were eight of them in there. Again, we are looking at the fixed assets but as vehicles come and go and certainly vehicles and other types of property we are responsible for also.

I would like to talk a little bit about the challenges that this District puts before us. I strongly believe, when I was born in Northfield, we had an approximate population of 3,000 back then. That's changed and changed drastically. One of the many challenges that the District has presented to us is simultaneous calls. The figure does vary a little bit but between 20 and 30 percent of the time we will have a call back to back which creates a challenge to us.

The other challenge that it creates is certainly our daytime call volume. If you watch what happens, and it's charted out, is everybody goes to bed and our call volume kind of sets nice and low. About 7:00 in the morning, if you chart it on a graph, it starts to rise and it continues to rise until it levels off somewhere around 10:00 or 11:00 in the morning. Then as night time comes it starts to fall off. What affects that? Certainly the population of our community changes in the daytime. The little Town of Tilton-Northfield at 8,700 population, what happens to that population during the daytime when everybody wakes up and goes to work? As I started to look at things and look at capacities within the community, to me it's staggering what happens to our community during the daytime. What happens to our population? People in manufacturing go to work. We have places like Freudenberg that employs 200 people. We have places Wyman Gordon employs approximately 200, Eptam Plastics about 100, Tobin Tools about 100, J Jill 325, Tanger

Outlet 200, Home Depot 150, AutoServ 110, Wal-Mart 110, Shaw's about 100 employees, Tilton School employs about 85 people, 3M employs about 70 people. I don't know if anybody is keeping track but we haven't talked about schools yet, what our schools employ, the influx of people that that creates, many of the other businesses. We haven't talked about Lowes. There are a whole lot of people that move into our area during the day making our population rise.

Retail. Certainly on the Tilton side retail has gone through the roof. What's interesting is I spent a little time while my wife was in shopping; I counted the parking spaces at the Tanger Outlet. Any guesses? I said 600. No, there are 1,370. If you have ever gone by the Tanger Outlet and had trouble finding a parking space it's because 1,370 cars beat you there. How many people does that import? Is there an average of two people per car, an average of three people per car? I don't know that. I can tell you if there were an average of two people per car on a busy day at Tanger we have 3,000 people shopping. While she was in Wal-Mart on an average Saturday, there were 400 automobiles outside at Wal-Mart. I didn't bother to go anywhere else but Market Basket. Where are all these people; and, how many people are there there? There's a tremendous influx into our community. Restaurants, any idea how many restaurants there are in our two communities? The best I could come up with was 28. I think the number is closer to 30. These are places where you can sit and have a meal. Some of them are breakfast only places, some are dinner only. Those places have seating capacities. If you are out on a Friday night and can't find a spot, it's because 3,700 other people beat you there.

Our population is growing. Think of our elderly population. If you look at the demographics of each community, I forget the percentage of people over 50 who live in our two communities. Look at what the community does and has for housing for the elderly. How many of those units? The potential for more is in the works in both communities in high staggering numbers. Elderly care. We have a 250 bed hospital we are responsible for and protect.

Look at our recreation aspects. We cover and are responsible for any emergencies along approximately 8 miles of shoreline on the Winnepesaukee River which involves a couple of lakes. Becoming more and more popular is kayaking down the Winnepesaukee River on January 1st. We have taken steps to keep up with this. We have trained our people. We head up a cold water and swift water rescue division. We have geared up for this. Think about what is going on recreationally. One I like the most is we took an old ski area, got the lifts working. Now you go to the top of the mountain and ride your bike down through the woods, off eight foot jumps. That certainly has added to our call volume. In fact, we have landed a helicopter there on at least four occasions that I can think of. I am not criticizing the sport. I think it is fantastic. What I am trying to impress upon you is what happens to us as emergency responders as these things pop up. These are challenges we are faced to do as a District.

Certainly the schools. We bring in other communities to go to our school systems. The teachers come in. Again, our populations are growing.

Other. A little bit off a different track, but fuel supplies for our community. Every town has a local oil guy, a local propane guy where they store oil and propane. We have an area distribution center, a mixing center, located on 140 where LMG is piped under ground; I believe it comes up from Manchester, gets mixed and redistributed to other communities. Where is that located? Right across the street from one of the busiest McDonalds and Burger King Restaurants in the State of NH. They do a fantastic job there. Just look at where it's located. If they don't have a problem, that's fantastic. But it's just

across the swamp from the Tanger Outlet. Again, a challenge that we need to prepare ourselves for and train for which we do on a regular basis.

One of the biggest things that I see and have always seen with our District is our traffic. We are still and as recently as a few weeks ago or a month ago, the traffic study has been done by our own addition in Tilton of those new little speed signs. They not only project your speed, they count the automobiles. We are still putting about 24,000 automobiles a day, on average, through Routes 3 and 11. Is that traffic subject to 93? Some of it is, but Franklin still reports on their end about 22,000 vehicles a day. Route 3 and 11 are main corridors from one part of the State to another and we are sitting on it. Route 132 south to Concord, Park Street is a main exit off the interstate to get toward our community as well as communities west of us. Again, another busy street. What types of problems does that create for us? If there's anything we can't control is certainly traffic, the people behind the wheel and what condition they are in. There was a study done, I apologize I do not have the numbers and looked for them, of the amount of placard vehicles that get off in the Exit 20 area. The study also included Exit 19. I don't remember the exact number. Now remember, a vehicle only has to be placarded if they are carrying 100 pounds or 50 gallons. Chief is that correct?

Chief Carrier: I believe that has been bumped up to 1000 pounds.

Mike Robinson: One of the biggest hazards that I see that we really can't regulate that much is the traffic and the condition of drivers and vehicles that come through our community. The number was staggering of the placarded vehicles. We foresaw that as one of our biggest hazards. Last year there was a 2000 gallon LP truck that ended up in a swamp, rolled over this past winter. It did happen in the Exit 20 area. The tank was damaged. Fortunately it was not leaking. Had there been a leak a major evacuation would have occurred for that area. The time of day certainly helped us as it was late at night. These potentials are there, the challenges that are put forward to us.

We have added lodging recently, the hotels that have gone up, the hotels and motels along Route 3, along with that the apartment complexes in the Northfield side. Any time we get a group of people in a multi dwelling it certainly creates hazards. The beauty part is that when most of those buildings are built, they are strongly regulated by us by rules and regulations, fire alarms, sprinklers. That's a huge help. More people coming into our community all the time. What's the number on a busy day? Does our population double, triple? Do we become a community of 9,000? Does our population go to 18,000? Does it go to 27,000? I don't know how to count it all. On a busy day at Tanger Outlet and everybody working in manufacturing facilities in the various plants, remember one of those manufacturing facilities is a foundry with its own challenges, what happens to our population? I don't know.

What we have done is about 10 years ago we plotted or started what is known as census zones. This was recommended by another building committee for the department. You have a miniature map of this. The census zones themselves break the two communities down into smaller areas so we could get an idea of where the calls are. To define a census zone, if you go up School Street, everything on this side is one census zone while everything on the other side of the road is another census zone. Typically a census zone is divided by either a road or some other type of boundary. When we respond to a call and it's right smack dab in the middle of the road, you have to choose a census zone. The calls are taken down and broken down and the percentages are rounded to the nearest percent. These are based off the 10 year call average. The census zone totals 100 percent. It does not take into account mutual aid calls.

Ben LaBelle: I want to make a couple of points on the map. The first is a mistake. We put this together just before we came here. In 21102 should be 4% not 8%, so correct that. The other thing that is not included on this map is calls on 93 north and south.

Steve Bluhm: Right below Northfield, what is that percentage? I can't read it.

Mike Robinson: It is 12 and that is zone 21105.

Commissioner Waldron: Does 93 have its own zone?

Mike Robinson: 93 has its own zone. Thank you for asking the question. 93 North in Tilton is responsible for 1%, 93 South in Tilton is responsible for 1% of our call volume, 93 North in Northfield is 2% and 93 South in Northfield is 1%. The census zone is published on your paper if you have a question.

Commissioner Auger: This 21201, is that 28%?

Ben LaBelle: 21201 is 28%, correct.

Mike Robinson: As you look at the map in the downtown areas of our two communities. That's where the calls happen. There is a large volume of calls. If you look at 21201 which is basically School Street West down to the Winnepesaukee River, we get 28% of our call volume. Think about what's there. The Veteran's Home, this location, downtown, schools. It starts to make sense as to what is going on. If you look down just on the other side of the Winnepesaukee River into what I call the village section of Northfield we have 12% of our call volume in that zone. But also, look as you get outside that village section of Northfield, we start to get into a pretty populated area of 6 to 8% of our call volume. As you start to get out of the wooded area of Northfield it drops down to the 1%. If you look at what happens in the Tilton area, certainly this zone between 93 and Route 132, we have a 1% call volume. There isn't a whole lot up there on this side of the road. As you start to move over and get into the area by the mall, this census zone split by Rte 3 & 11, we have 10% on that side, 21204.

Commissioner Waldron: I'm showing 9%

Mike Robinson: You have two analogies in front of you. One of them is a 4 year. One of them is a 10 year. The 10 year shows 10% for 21204. The 4 year shows 9%.

Commissioner Waldron: I have a 5 year and a 2 year.

Mike Robinson: The 5 year is a printing error. It's actually 10. The point is, with both the 4 and the 10, is that it's actually a 10 year average. If you compare the 4 year and the 10 year it's within a percent one way or the other. It doesn't change a whole lot. When I charted on your map that you have in front of you I used the 4 year.

Steve Bluhm: 21204. I'm looking at 2001 we actually had 15% calls there? Would that be right?

Mike Robinson: Yes. We have higher years. We have lower years. That's the 10 year average. What's impressive to me is that over 10 years it has been pretty consistent. Maybe a little bit more on some of the census zones because of additions. Within the committee itself we have started to talk about if you were to put a new building up, where would it go and where would it make sense. We have played some what if situations.

Steve Bluhm: I'm going through this and trying to figure the fire & ems numbers are up there. I'm trying to figure out the zones and what the zone numbers are. You have the top zone at 850 to 2,690. Is that correct? I can't even find a number even remotely close. The problem is this is only three years. We are not even looking at the same thing.

Ben LaBelle: What it is saying is that you have two zones that are within this range.

Steve Bluhm: Our paperwork does not reflect this at all.

Commissioner Waldron: In what year did we have 2,690 calls?

Ben LaBelle: I don't know exactly. I know we pulled the percentages off. I'm not sure where the numbers came from.

Mike Robinson: If you can see the divisions of the census on that sheet that I gave you

Commissioner Gallant: If you add 2005, 2006 and 2007 together that gives you the total of 4693.

Ben LaBelle: The mapping guy added them together for the call data. He thought that fire and ems were two separate things. The percentages are still correct.

Mike Robinson: The mapping guy did what he did so you can just ignore this. The percentages are correct. So within this committee we have played the what-if game. Where would you put a fire station? Where would make sense? Park Street is an excellent location for a storage facility and our firefighters. If we put a station right smack dab in the middle of Route 3 and 140 what happens to our response area? Remember with us response times are key. If we can get there sooner, we can provide care sooner or control an incident sooner. Currently we are approximately, from Park Street to Route 3 up in Lake Winnisquam, 7 miles and we had approximately 6.2 miles from the Center Street location. A what-if situation if the station was relocated to right smack dab in the middle of Route 3 & 140, what would happen to our responses in miles? Remember that are many things that affect our responses, weather, traffic, things like that. One thing that doesn't change is distance. It's a matter of what affects us in traveling that distance that either slows or increases our response time.

I'm going to call our major response routes Route 3 & 11, Park Street, sections of Shaker Road, Fiske Road and Winter Street. If there was a station at Route 3 & 140 that would take us to our four farthest corners of our district then everyone in the district would be on those major response routes. The distance from Route 140 & 3 is approximately 4.6 to 4.7 miles, to Payson Road from Route 140 & 3 is approximately 3.3 to 3.6, from Park Street down Route 132 to the Canterbury line is approximately 4.5 to 4.6 miles. So along our major response routes to the four corners, that puts basically everyone under a 5 mile radius. I don't think I mentioned 3.9 miles to the intersection of March and Calef Hill Road from Park Street. What happens, in summary, is we have approximately 25% of our call volume east of 93 into the Tilton area. If there was a station located up in this area certainly we would decrease our response times to that 25% call volumes. We could certainly decrease our response times to probably this section of Northfield in the 4 to 5% range down there. Our goal is to decrease that response time and mileage.

Steve Bluhm: Are you talking about 25% of all Tilton calls east of 93?

Mike Robinson: No, 25% of the District's calls. We can certainly decrease the response time to 25% of the District's volume. The other thing that's interesting to note is that 33% of the District's evaluation lies east of I-93 on the Tilton side. Again about 40% of our District value in Northfield, 33% east of 93 and approximately 27% in this downtown area. Are there any more questions on the zoning?

Commissioner Auger: On the mileage, I know you have given mileage from this point to this point to this point. What is the mileage from the Northfield station to the outside of the corners there? What's the difference in the mileage?

Mike Robinson: From the Northfield station to this corner, 3.9. From the Northfield station to this corner, 4.5 to 7. From the Northfield station to this corner, approximately 7 to here and approximately 6 to Payson Road.

Commissioner Auger: So we are talking the distance between Northfield and the point on Route 3, you are saying somewhere between 2.5 to 3 miles.

Mike Robinson: From the Park Street Station to Route 140, yes. Route 3 & 11 is approximately 8 miles long. It is eight tenths of a mile from Park Street to the junction of Route 3 & 11, 1.7 miles to the junction of Route 140 & Route 3. From the intersection of Park & Main.

Commissioner Auger: So, a little over two miles from the Park Street Station.

Mike Robinson: Approximately two and a half.

Steve Bluhm: So from Center Street it would be under two?

Mike Robinson: Yes it is. Our primary concern in the emergency services is certainly life. Our number two concern is safety but safety overrides all of it and certainly property is one of the key things we are trying to protect.

Gretchen Wilder: When you talk about the valuation, that's merging residential and commercial?

Mike Robinson: Yes.

Gretchen Wilder: Now on some of the commercial I know they have the water towers. They have fire suppression. J Jill has their own fire suppression. They have their own hydrants. They have 170 acres over there. They have wet water there they can pull from. We know that Home Depot has their thing. When you mix all this valuation are you pulling out residential from them because these places all have fire prevention? I'm considering they are kind of prepared on their own with the fire brigade systems and the water and everything else. The other thing you talked about was how everything has grown. Because we are so unique being fire district of Tilton and Northfield. Have we, the Fire District, working with the towns of Tilton and Northfield, Northfield has been resistant to go commercial until recently they see the opportunity of it. Where Tilton has exploded. They have millions of dollars coming in for commercial real estate between Lowes, Home Depot, J Jill, all these things. Have we been working with them about their master plan? We are talking about how we haven't been planning. Have we been working with these communities about the master plans? I know Northfield has a master plan and it's pretty much residential and kind of let's keep it the way it is. Tilton, every time you turn around, I'm not slamming Tilton, Tilton has this opportunity that they are growing. You have Pizza Hut popping up there and Chili's. Have we been working with them to talk about what's going on? Like to hotels. We know we don't want a four story hotel because we don't have the equipment for it. So we have had that in place recently but have we been working with the towns over the last 10 to 15 years?

Michael Robinson: To go back to several of your points Gretchen, they are good points. As far as the master plan, I guess I'm not 100% sure. As far as these commercial properties come in, our Fire Prevention division is on them. This is what you have to have.

Gretchen Wilder: I know that J Jill checks their hydrants and fire suppression on a weekly basis. I know this for a fact. They check their equipment because they have a major investment there. I know Home Depot has put in their water tank and Lowes and everything else. When you throw in the valuation, there are some parts of that valuation being higher on a third; we are talking about commercial that has fire suppression. They have equipment in place. I'm trying to educate myself. I'm struggling with this. When you say a third of the valuation is here, Tilton explodes. We see these things. Have you been planning for this? Have they been working with us on this?

Sandy Plessner: I was with the town for 10 years in the Land Use Office. The fire department has very much been a part of all the planning.

Gretchen Wilder: I know that Chief Carrier is fairly new, seven years or less. I know that Brad Ober is six or seven years or less. I think we have kind of playing a little bit of catch up as to how it has exploded.

Sandy Plessner: Everything that was built over there was built after approval by the Fire District as well. They were included on all the plans. They all went through their office. It was always a condition of approval by the Planning Board that they had to

Gretchen Wilder: meet certain stipulations for the fire standards. You know, I get that. When you are throwing numbers out there and are saying that a third of the things are valuations over here. I don't know. To me personally I think it's kind of deceptive because along that Route 3 there's all those buildings in that small little cluster. You could probably tell me more. J Jill pays a half million dollars in taxes a year.

Mike Robinson: Three hundred fifty-seven thousand something dollars.

Gretchen Wilder: It was in the paper a few years ago so I am just using what the Citizen used a few years ago and kind of threw that out there. So you have that really small corridor, and I'm not slamming anybody, but you have that cluster of shopping to pull in the resources financially.

Mike Robinson: That little small cluster does produce 10% of our call volume. The points that you made are good and valid. We are able to regulate commercial buildings. The point being where we start to lose a lot of regulation is in the home itself. They are working on the sprinkler system thing and it's coming. All the fire deaths that have occurred in this community have basically been in residential homes.

Gretchen Wilder: So the residentially is really where the concentrations of incidents and calls have been coming from I would say. I know there are false alarms at J Jill because with working there. I know there are certain things that trigger it. I get that. It's the day to day business of things just happen. Most of the calls are residential, nursing home.

Mike Robinson: I want to say most of our serious calls in a residential or commercial setting would probably be in residential. However, these are still calls that we have to take care of. We are responsible for it whether they are a taxpayer in our community or not. We are responsible this that has 25% of our call volume. We have to go there.

Gretchen Wilder: It has just been the last four or five years that I have been sitting at commissioners meetings and stuff like that and wondering. It's a unique situation with Tilton is from Belknap and Northfield is from Merrimack.

Mike Robinson: I go back to my life long tenure here. This department I'm very proud off. This department never drew boundaries.

Gretchen Wilder: Your staff is wonderful. The guys don't care where the person is from. If somebody needs help you are there to assist them.

Mike Robinson: I cringe when I hear on the street of possibly breaking up. I don't believe it makes financial sense and I speak as a taxpayer. We know no boundaries and never have. My best friend's have from Northfield. We have served together on the Department and it's a good marriage. It's a good relationship and has been for years. Thank you for your questions and comments Gretchen.

Chief Carrier: I think just to point out that the tax rate is set on assessed valuation as well. The split right now is 62 to 38%. If you look at the call volume over time, there some is credibility for using this throughout. As you pointed out, 25% of the calls over a 10 year period occurred east of 93. The other point that came to mind is we had a couple of significant incidents in commercial buildings where one had a full sprinkler system that never activated down at Freudenberg and another which was Public Service which had an alarm system but no sprinkler system. You do have fires in those buildings. Those

fires are very dangerous. We try to protect ourselves using the best fire prevention we can but we still do have significant incidents in buildings.

Mike Robinson: I think as we look to the future. What happens? When I was born here we had approximately 3,000 people. We are approaching 9,000. We have almost tripled that in a 50 year period. How is it going to grow? Northfield experienced its largest growth and I think Tilton mirrored it although the Northfield population growth has been growing faster than Tilton's on residents. You experienced 40% growth between 1970 and 1980. The second largest growth period has been, as the town report said, the last 10 years. That was probably based off 2007 numbers. We have certainly come into a recession. Does that slow that down? I think so. When we come out of the recession what happens? Does the green light turn and off we go again. I don't know. History says we are going to. I know there have been several projects that have been put on hold, both residential and commercial, in both communities waiting for the economy to improve. There is a large 100 some odd elderly housing that was proposed a couple years ago. There has been proposes for housing for the elderly in both communities. You wonder is there room to grow. I was talking with a contractor today who was talking about possibly a housing development talking about financing for it in the Tilton area. I believe it's going to pick up and go again.

Maybe we have been a little bit slow to respond about housing our fire department. We are working out of a station built back in the 1800s. We did put up a storage facility in 1986. Other than that we haven't improved our facilities since. There are some other maps that Ben has got where they plotted the calls.

Commissioner Waldron: What happened with the plotted calls?

Ben LaBelle: There were a lot of calls that the mapping program didn't pick up because of the addresses weren't complete. When they respond to an automobile incident they may not have a street number, just the street. We need a street number for that to pick up on the mapping.

Discussion ensued about plotting of automobile accidents.

Ben LaBelle: These two maps will contrast in drive time. Drive time is not the same as response time. Response time is the time it takes for responders to get from the station to the source of the call. Drive time is the time it takes to get from Point A to Point B, the distance divided by the speed limit for that road. These are drive times not response times.

Steve Bluhm: So basically you are telling me that this is nothing more than GPS reporting.

Ben LaBelle: That is essentially what it is but what these are showing is the point of origin. For this first snap on the left the point of origins are our two current stations. What they are showing is, at three minute intervals, how long it takes to drive from these points of origins, what our coverage area is within those areas. The reason we use drive times as opposed to response times is that there are just too many variables to consider with response times.

Steve Bluhm: I hate to stop you. I have the same exact report and it sure as heck doesn't look like this. It's all done by GPS and I got laughed out of the room for it basically. I thought we were going to go for actual response times.

Ben LaBelle: How can you do that?

Commissioner Waldron: We have incident reports.

Ben LaBelle: When you have mapping how can you factor in all the variables? I would love to know.

Steve Bluhm: The variables are simple. When they call in that they are leaving the station and they call in when they arrive at the scene. I don't want to be hard on you but I'm just saying, I mean again. This is done off a GPS sitting in the parking lot of the Center Street Station and I don't have any times that are 14 minutes.

Commissioner Waldron: Those are three minute intervals? So if it takes 11 minutes and 5 seconds, you jump it to 14?

Ben LaBelle: No. It has to be within the 14 minute to get there first.

Commissioner Waldron: So what about 12 and 13.

Ben LaBelle: My point is with presenting the drive times and not trying to present actual response times is that there are too many variables with response times. I don't care how many times you get called from Park Street to Tilton School the response time is going to be different every time. What I am saying is relative to drive time. This is pretty much always going to be the same. It's not going to change. So we can look at drive times and help us to determine where the best point would be to plot a station. You don't have response times from anywhere east of 93.

Commissioner Waldron: Who doesn't? You can get them.

Steve Bluhm: It's on every single incident report.

Pat Clark: The point I would like to make is that on the left the chart that I'm looking at is Park Street and Center Street. What they are trying to do, Steve and Kevin, is they are trying to look at hypothetical's of what would happen if we played around with moving the station to Route 140 & 3 where we don't have any response times from that location. If we were to move the fire station or life safety building over to Route 3 & 140, in order to compare apples with apples, you can't use response times because we have no history with response times from the new hypothetical location. What you can do as an equivalent measure is to look at GPS type response times. This will give you an apples to apples comparison of what will happens if you try to move the station from here to over to here and what that does to your GPS response times.

Ben LaBelle: So your GPS program may be different than our GPS program. It might be a different software company, I don't know.

Steve Bluhm: GPS is GPS.

Kevin Waldron: You are jumping three minute blocks.

Ben LaBelle: We tried to do it by single minute layer but there were just too many different intervals.

Pat Consentino: It's a lane. You are not jumping to the next. 11.5 miles you are not jumping to the next color.

Commissioner Waldron: That map says orange is 9 minutes. That doesn't say orange is 5 to 7 or anything else.

Ben LaBelle: This is within 5 minutes. This is within 8. So this would be anything above five and under 8. This gray area is anything you can drive to within 3 minutes from these two points. The yellow would be 5 minutes. All that does is show you and it helps with Mike's illustration about driving from Point A to Point B. It may only be 4 miles but how far is that in minutes.

Steve Bluhm: Again, it varies every single day. It's going to be faster at nighttime when there is no traffic. What you are giving us is the same thing that I am which is why people had a problem with it. I'm telling you if you leave Center Street and go wherever you want it will be different every time. What you are giving us is if everything is perfect.

Ben LaBelle: That's the only way to compare these origins and these origins because you have no call data.

Steve Bluhm: We are all backing ourselves off of what CASS Standards is. I mean CASS Standards is what the fire department wants to work off. They don't. They'd like to have it which is under 9 minutes, 8:58, 8:59. My biggest question is, a truck leaves at 5:00 from God knows where going to East Tilton. How bad is the traffic? How slow do they go? How much slower is it through that traffic area compared to at night?

Ben LaBelle: Every day is different. Every time of day is different and that's why we went with the drive times rather than the response times.

Steve Bluhm: From Center Street every single one of my Tilton addresses were inside of CASS Standards and not Northfields. Again, it doesn't count. To me that is the big problem. If I'm looking toward expansion I want to know what days, times that the traffic is that bad to put a station over there.

Ben LaBelle: I hear you and I can't answer that question. It would be impossible to answer that question.

Steve Bluhm: You can track it.

Ben LaBelle: It would be impossible to track it from this location. I think what this shows you is that you look at the difference in your three minute interval by placing a station just east of 93. Now you have better coverage within your three and five minute time.

Steve Bluhm: You are always going to have better but how much is better?

Ben LaBelle: I think that it's relative.

Steve Bluhm: We are looking at putting every place in this town or the two towns or the District within the three minute drive time. Five minute? Ten minute?

Ben LaBelle: I think it's about finding the optimal. I think what we have right now is not optimal. I think what we could do is choose a strategic location for a Tilton PD.

Steve Bluhm: This isn't going to sound right but you won't know what optimal is until you know what the traffic patterns are and the time it takes to go through those traffic patterns. Common sense says that if it's over on the other side of 93 it's going to be perfect but it's not practical. It's not what the Chief goes through, what the firefighters go through daily. The first map to me is no different than this. Of course it makes sense to put it over there. It's common sense. It's right in the middle of the area you look at.

Ben LaBelle: This just backs up that hunch and that notion. We also have the opinion of our professionals and the MRI Report. It goes on and on and on.

Steve Bluhm: That's why I'm asking because the MRI Report goes off CASS Standards.

Ben LaBelle: That tells us the same exact thing that this shows. All of the information, all of the data that we are gathering is pointing us in the same direction. That's the only point with this.

Steve Bluhm: I'm just bothered because of the fact that I got laughed at and we are looking at the same thing. That's fine.

Ben LaBelle: I appreciate the hard questions.

Commissioner Waldron: It occurs to me that as members of the Life Safety Building Committee you have it pretty well settled that the PD needs to be east of 93.

Ben LaBelle: With all our research, the MRI Report and what the experts are telling us, yes.

Commissioner Waldron: That being the case, the Town of Tilton already owns a building east of 93. Why would you not just build a police station in that building and be done with it?

Steve Bluhm: That's what they are researching.

Ben LaBelle: Because part of our charge in forming this committee is to find a suitable location for a future life safety building to include fire services. That's what we are here to

talk to you about as you review your facilities and determine what to do about the aging Center Street Station.

Pat Clark: I would just like to point out that one of the things we talked about a short time ago was to look at the District instead of Tilton and Northfield. If you look at the District you will see that on the right chart there is a tremendous amount of decrease in the drive time in the entire District. So the entire District benefits from that simple move of 1.7 or 2 miles from Center Street over to Route 3 & 140 area. There are several pieces of potential real estate there that might be available. If we can get it in that zone, the entire District is going to benefit. Not just the Tilton Police Department but the entire district for the Fire District. I think that is really an important thing to point out to the people in the communities.

Commissioner Waldron: It's also worth noting that the whole District isn't asking for improvement.

Mike Robinson: I think the portion of the District that pays 60% of our bill and has 60% of our calls are.

Pat Clark: The significant change that happened in the District only happened on the Tilton side of it and that was Winnisquam Fire Department is no longer in play. Years ago it was in play and it gave people a feeling of security. It's like taking a paycheck away from somebody after you have gotten a certain paycheck. That only affected Tilton for the most part. So, yes, they have a history and they are concerned about that. I think as a fire district we need to be able to respond to that especially when you have a high call volume in that area.

Commissioner Waldron: You think 25% is high even though 75% is the other side of it. Chief can you tell us the last time Winnisquam was really good?

Chief Carrier: I don't know. That is pretty subjective. Six years, seven years.

Pat Clark: When I went to Belmont Fire Department, when Captain Dawes was over there, to ask if they would be interested in reopening that, their fire chief recognized that two or three years before Tilton-Northfield Fire District pulled out of that is when they were affected. Two or three years before we pulled out, so how many years ago was that. I don't know. It wasn't that long ago.

Commissioner Waldron: I'm not really sure but, if memory serves me, toward the end of it they had all they could do to muster a crew and we could beat them there most any day of the week.

Pat Clark: Right, the last two or three years.

Commissioner Waldron: To say that they have lost, when you think about it, what have they lost?

Steve Bluhm: Again, I'm going off the MRI Report whenever I can and I'm going off a CASS Standard. My question is if Center Street was a nice new building and probably closer up to the street where you can pull out without any problems that by this same standard would be a perfect spot. It has everything in it except for part of Northfield is not in the CASS Standard. All the way to the bridge I think it is 1 second shorter. It's on there you can read it.

Chief Carrier: Steve, I think that's where at least I drew an exception with your numbers.

Steve Bluhm: That's right because yours is more truthful of what is real. This here isn't. I was hoping for those numbers. I was hoping for response numbers because that would really clearly show me that we are in trouble over there.

Chief Carrier: I guess when I first saw it I said there is a problem with these numbers. When it was explained that there was no way to compare and there is no response times

from east of 93 we can't project what those would be by just throwing numbers out there so we went back to drive times obviously.

Steve Bluhm: You have history through response times.

Chief Carrier: I have history from Center Street. You don't have from Point B from wherever that might be.

Commissioner Waldron: But you could do a drive time from Center Street to wherever you think this new station ought to be and subtract it from reality. It would be a lot more accurate than what you are showing right there right now.

Steve Bluhm: Paul still has a question about getting rid of Center Street.

Ben LaBelle: That would be even further away from East Tilton.

Steve Bluhm: No, I mean leave Center Street is what Paul still has in mind. I don't know what everyone is thinking.

Chief Carrier: I thought you said get rid of Center Street.

Steve Bluhm: When we did everything at Center Street that's what it was.

Sandy Plessner: That's all part of the problem that we are looking at. It's in poor condition. It has a lot of things wrong with it and it's not really expandable. There's no room to allow it to grow.

Pat Consentino: They are living in deplorable conditions now. It's not up to code.

Steve Bluhm: I agree, but what we are talking about is adding \$900,000 to Park Street. If that's what it costs us for beds and a couple of offices, to put the main station over at Tilton it's got to be almost double. You have to talk brand new construction. It's got to be \$200,000. Now you are looking at is the reason we are doing all this because Center Street is inadequate for running calls or just because it's dilapidated. Which it is. There is no doubt.

Sandy Plessner: What about the future, the planning of what the District is going to be able to handle in the future, to be able to grow with the community?

Steve Bluhm: I agree. There's no doubt as it grows we are going to need something. That's our next thing we are meeting. What do we do for the future? What are our plans 10 year, one year?

Owen Wellington: We are trying to work with you folks. We are looking for you folks to explain to us that Center Street is revivable, that you can put a couple more ladder trucks in there and you can make that location and it's going to last for the 25 or 30 years. If you folks have come up to the understanding that that is not going to work for the future we are looking to make ourselves available and provide a location that will work for you in the future and will also work for the police department. If you are going to rule out Center Street then we are looking to work together in a new location so that is enough room for everybody for the future. It doesn't make sense to put a million and a half dollars into Center Street and have it not work. Have it not have the ability to pull a ladder truck out of there or the ability to have storage and parking that type of thing. If that's not going to work we are looking for a spot outside that location that will work. We think that a good location would be in that Exit 20 area. We think if we can make a spot that's going to be big enough for what you think you might need in the future then we want to be able to jump on that now. Not wait 20 years down the road when it's completely bought up and it's going to cost us \$5,000,000.

Steve Bluhm: I'm sorry you weren't at any of our meetings before. What they have for Center Street, by rights, one ambulance. It's a first response station that even if we are looking at putting something in East Tilton it's still going to have one ambulance and one engine. That's mainly due to the fact that there is not the personnel to drive it out. The

whole point with Park Street is that it's where everything is going to stay and that people on call can grab it and run it to wherever it has to go.

Chief Carrier: I think a big part of Center Street is that also it houses the administrative offices for the department.

Steve Bluhm: Right, which can also be done at Park Street or could be done, I know. What I'm just saying, what he's saying, is where to put the equipment as he brought up the ladder truck. Obviously it's never going to fit in Center Street. You don't even have a thought of putting it in Center Street or of putting it over in Tilton.

Sandy Plessner: Maybe not now but it would be something that would be built with the idea for expansion in the future.

Steve Bluhm: I'm just going off what has been said in the meetings. It was that most of the equipment was still going to be centered in Park Street.

Chief Carrier: I think what I said about that was that whatever the station is that is built in Tilton should be more than the two bays that we presently have. It certainly should be built with the forethought for it to be possible to hold more. It would make sense to put an aerial there at some point down the line. That's not going to work for us now because we don't have the staffing to do that. Certainly if we did or if we had call firefighters that lived in that area, you would want to that.

Steve Bluhm: Something with expansion. That's exactly what the Life Safety Building Committee is doing is looking for what's best to be expandable within 50 years hopefully.

Ben LaBelle: The idea is, if we can find a piece of land and build our police department, at some point down the road when it's determined what the best thing to do moving forward with the fire department you can plan your facility. The location will be there.

Owen Wellington: We don't have any intention of planning the fire station or how many fire poles you need or stuff like that. What we are looking for is larger than two bays with some office space and room for the future. Once we know that your future space is going to be 10,000 or 20,000 whatever it is, we can leave enough room hopefully so that we can put our station there with room for us to expand as well as room for you to come in the future if and when you are ready to go.

Mike Robinson: We talked about improving the response times to 25% of the District. We really are decreasing response times to about 40% of the District when we take some of the zones that are on the opposite side of I-93, the western side, and then there are sections of Northfield that we would provide a better response time to also.

Commissioner Waldron: No matter where you put a station you are going to take away response time from some to improve it for others. It's inevitable. Can you get here from Center Street quicker or can you get here from Park Street quicker?

Mike Robinson: Center Street.

Commissioner Waldron: So if we take Center Street out of the picture, run it over to McDonald's and plant it over there, now we are making these people wait more.

Mike Robinson: Why not balance it out a little bit more?

Owen Wellington: If we were looking at exactly the same benefits from each building we would want both buildings exactly dead center on top of each other and it wouldn't make sense to have two. Because we are planning on having two we want to have them strategically located so we can get the best coverage for the District. That's the location that we are looking for, the best location for that second station so that we can equally cover what we need to cover for a district.

Chief Carrier: Let's keep both and build a third I guess.

Steve Bluhm: By rights they want a third over in East Tilton. The MRI Report does. In that case I guess I will apologize for getting warm only because of the fact of what happened to mine. I understand what you are doing. It's great for details that you are looking for. As Kevin says to, anything over on the side of Exit 20 is going to be better for East Tilton regardless.

Pat Clark: And Northfield.

Steve Bluhm: Yeah, by one mile.

Sandy Plessner: If somebody had a heart attack and was lying on the floor that could make a big difference.

Commissioner Waldron: You can't live on what if. You cannot do that because if you do you will have a fire station every 300 feet.

Sandy Plessner: I realize you can't do that but if you improve it at all for a large section of the town even if it's only one mile, it's still an improvement.

Steve Bluhm: Right but what I am saying is by CASS Standards again even that one mile is still not putting some houses in Northfield covered even within 10 minutes. Is one mile shorter? Oh sure. What this is doing is addressing Tilton's concerns of response times to East Tilton. Yeah Center Street is falling apart but when we first started a year ago it was really about response times.

Pat Consentino: When you say it like you say it so like as matter of fact like Center Street is falling apart. That is a big issue. That is a huge issue here. We have a fire station that is deplorable. It's falling apart. There is no future. You have listened to the Fire Commissioners say that. That is a huge, not just a matter of fact that we have Center Street and want to move beyond that. Let's just not take that lightly. That is a huge factor in trying to incorporate the life safety and incorporate fire in site selection for all of this. That is a huge, huge factor. Center Street is not going to hold up in the near future for us. Where is the most and best strategic place to put it and what are the basic needs we need to have in it? Like Owen said, how big a square footage do you need so we can look at square footage for property? What is it we need and where is the best place we can possibly put it? You kind of skirt over Center Street like it's okay, it's Center Street but we have this bigger problem. We don't, Center Street is the big problem. That is the reason why we are trying to incorporate fire here, why we are trying to incorporate the District because we have a building that is no longer going to suit them in the near future. It doesn't suit them now. It's deplorable conditions they are living in over there and working in. They do the best they can.

Commissioner Waldron: It is not the official opinion of this board that Center Street is anything.

Pat Consentino: You three sat here the last time I sat here.

Commissioner Waldron: We have individual opinions. It has not gone to a vote.

Pat Consentino: Each of your individual opinions said that Center Street was deplorable, the conditions, needed work. One of them said let's do away with Center Street.

Commissioner Waldron: One of them. This is a board of three.

Pat Consentino: Another one said we need to work on it.

Commissioner Waldron: I believe that's what two said. Work on it is not flushing it down the toilet.

Commissioner Gallant: One person said, shut it down, move it over to Park Street. This other person, me, has said there is no sense putting any money into the building because it's not going to meet the needs. That's two out of three. My math is okay.

Commissioner Auger: I think my words were exactly, if I'm not mistaken, renovate Park Street with offices placed down there. I never said anything about not putting money into Center Street.

Pat Consentino: I think you should listen to the tape again because you said put them all over to Park Street.

Commissioner Auger: I did say that but I never said anything about not fixing up Center Street.

Pat Consentino: But consensus at the last meeting, and I sat here, that individually you said so I'm going home with the idea that you folks are saying that Center Street is not a very good building. I've been in it. I know it's not a very good building.

Commissioner Waldron: It's not a very good building.

Pat Consentino: I went home and said to myself now the commissioners are saying it's not a very good building. I think we are on the right track.

Commissioner Waldron: Did you hear me say I'm not going to throw it away?

Pat Consentino: Last week. No, I did not hear you say that.

Commissioner Waldron: I'm not going to throw it away without knowing what it's going to cost to maintain it, to remodel it, to bring it to what we can use. So if you are thinking that it's a done deal, that we are going to throw Center Street away and build a new building you are not on the same page as this commissioner.

Pat Consentino: I'm not thinking anything Kevin. What I'm thinking right now is we haven't gotten any direction from you folks and we have asked for that direction. We have asked for some input from you folks and we have not gotten that. Instead we have gotten sort of, pardon my impression of tonight, is stepped on. Instead we have gone out, done some research, done what the townspeople want us to do. We have invited you for your valuable input and let me rephrase that, valuable input, into this research and what we can do together as a team. It's not happening because you have gone around in circles here now for a couple hours here tonight and last meeting you did exactly the same thing. You have come to no conclusion so how can some one person think anything because you are going in different directions. That's the point. There is no focus. There is no decision. There's nothing there. We are up in the air in what we are trying to do. You folks are up in the air because the three of you can't come to an agreement. So where are the townspeople in both towns if the commissioners can't agree?

Steve Bluhm: The only thing I have to throw out there is how many meetings have the Life Safety Building Committee met?

Ben LaBelle: A dozen.

Steve Bluhm: Have you guys made any decisions yet? Got a property in mind? This is only our third. We have a check sheet here. It's pretty focused and we are not even at number five yet. We are still at that exploratory, trying to figure out what's best and then hopefully they'll make a good decision for the District. We are not even there yet. This is our third meeting.

Commissioner Waldron: If we are not going fast enough for you being that your initial and your primary charge is to build a police station, maybe you should just build a police station and if you want to put it on a piece of land big enough for a fire station and someday we want to come along, we will.

Pat Consentino: It's not a question of going fast or slow for us, it's a question of being able to work together as a team on it. That's what it is. It's not a question of fast or slow. It's working together going forward. That's what it means Kevin.

Ben LaBelle: Anything that we can do to help you to accelerate your information gathering, that's why we brought this information to you tonight. Is so that we can help you guys come up with a viable solution to what we feel is an issue with not only coverage to the Town of Tilton but coverage to the District. By separating them from the Center Street Station and moving it towards the east side, you not only get better coverage to the east side of Tilton you also get better coverage to the southern part of Northfield. It's good for everybody. We are not talking about going it alone in just one place.

Pat Consentino: I have trouble thinking in my head and I'm sorry because when I think of the fire district I don't think of Tilton, Northfield. I don't have any boundaries in my head. I have never come across that in my life in Tilton here and I just can't seem to get around this conflict within committees where there is this little rift here. It doesn't compute in my head. It's what is good for the District. It's not what's good for Tilton or what's good for Northfield. It's what's good for the District.

Commissioner Waldron: Does anybody have anything else?

Pat Clark: Is there anything that your committee has come up with that you would like to share with us in terms of direction or input that you have to this point?

Steve Bluhm: As far as I know we are not that far yet. This was just another meeting to gather more information. I don't know if you have seen it or not but Commissioner Gallant put together a nice five point outline. Again, this is our third meeting and we are still working on just the outline, going through all five subjects and going from there. That's where it is from my end. Last week we talked about personnel, CIP plan. The week before that were the facilities and that's about as far as we got. Even when we started, both Commissioner Gallant and I felt the same. We have to move it. We are trying to meet every two weeks. We haven't been successful yet. The fact that the Life Safety Building Committee is so far ahead and we are, this committee, still lagging behind.

Ben LaBelle: Do you have a time frame in mind or a goal for when you will reach your recommendation?

Steve Bluhm: That comes from the chair. I'll let the chair speak on that.

Commissioner Waldron: I think it was originally talked about that it, wasn't it six or eight meetings Tom?

Commissioner Gallant: Yes. I would say, if we were going to meet every two weeks, I don't see us going anywhere any, but if we are going to meet every two weeks, I would say probably within the next six weeks. That would put us at six meetings.

Ben LaBelle: Six weeks to a recommendation from you folks?

Commissioner Gallant: Does that sound fair based on what we have left to go through? Does that make sense to you?

Steve Bluhm: I would say it's probably quicker than that.

Commissioner Waldron: Barring any conflicts, I don't see any problem.

Commissioner Gallant: I'm just throwing a number out there for the rest of you to either agree with or disagree with. It doesn't make any difference. If you think you can do it in two more meetings that's great. If you can do it in one more meeting that's great.

Commissioner Waldron: Let me tell you, I don't want it to drag on because I'm about meeting out.

Commissioner Gallant: I think we all agreed on that when we started.

Steve Bluhm: Originally when we came to the Fire District meeting the last time we had a meeting between the boards of selectmen we actually thought that they were going to have an answer for us within 90 days. We are definitely behind, there's no doubt.

Commissioner Waldron: I think the formation of this committee was the answer.

Mike Robinson: Thank you for the opportunity for us to share some of the information. As the mapping improves and we can get some of those others plotted we will certainly keep you updated with what those look like. Certainly any questions regarding anything we have presented feel free to contact me, us.

Ben LaBelle: Or myself.

Commissioner Waldron: I do want to ask you some questions if you don't mind. You talked about simultaneous calls, 20 to 30%.

Mike Robinson: Yes.

Steve Bluhm: Back to back, I think he said.

Commissioner Waldron: Simultaneous means that you are on one call and you get another?

Mike Robinson: Right. We are handling one emergency and another comes in.

Commissioner Waldron: Okay. You have a span of 10%.

Mike Robinson: Yes.

Commissioner Waldron: I think you have to admit that 30% of the time is a bigger problem than 20% of the time.

Mike Robinson: Chief help me out with the stats. I think we went to 28 one year.

Chief Carrier: I can get those real numbers.

Commissioner Waldron: An average is one number. It's not a span. The number of employees that you spoke about of all these businesses and how our number of our people in town at once

Commissioner Gallant: Exposure.

Commissioner Waldron: The number of employees that a business employs are not all there at once.

Mike Robinson: I don't disagree with that.

Commissioner Waldron: If Home Depot employs 150, they don't have 150 there all the time.

Mike Robinson: Correct.

Commissioner Waldron: You also spoke about some hazards being, I don't know, Energy North, National Grid, whatever their name is this week. That's been there, is it fair to say, forever.

Mike Robinson: Oh, absolutely.

Commissioner Waldron: So how is that hazard any bigger than it has ever been?

Mike Robinson: It's never really been a serious problem. Will it ever be? Again, I can't say. It's something we have to train and be aware of because if you watch the news those places do have problems. Again, I consider it a challenge. We have to be aware of it. If you could have planned that place to be put into place I don't think. It came first and everything else came after. If you could have planned that location and knew everything was coming that wouldn't be the place to put it.

Commissioner Waldron: Do you think it's fair to say that your presentation was based on worst case scenarios?

Mike Robinson: In my presentation I asked for some input. In some cases I may have been conservative. I don't know how many people inundate. I know when I go by the mall and it's a busy day and you can't find a parking place there's pretty good chance that there's close to 3,000 people there. I didn't talk about what other. I don't know how many people are shopping in Lowe's at a time. I know if you did an average that Saturday that I looked at Wal-Mart, I'm guessing there was close to 800 to 1,000 people in that store. I didn't talk about Demoula's. I don't know what the number is for how many people are in

our town. I think if there was any way to track it, it would surprise us about how many people are here.

Ben LaBelle: On a busy day any of those retails is putting through a thousand orders an hour, a thousand customers an hour on a busy Saturday or Sunday. I know that from my retail experience. We are a slower store over at Hannaford and that's what we do on a Saturday. I can only imagine what Wal-Mart, Market Basket, Lowes are doing.

Owen Wellington: On the Friday after Thanksgiving it's off the charts. They are parking in the Shaw's parking lot, BJ's parking lot is completely full and people are just walking across the street because there is no place to park at the outlet mall. That's the worst case scenario if something is going to happen.

Steve Bluhm: Do you change your coverage, your manpower during days like that?

Owen Wellington: Yes. Actually the outlet mall pays us to have officers there for high visibility and cruise the traffic up there.

Steve Bluhm: So you do have fluctuating between times and days. Do you have the same coverage or as many officers on during the day as you do at night or more on the weekends than during the weekdays?

Owen Wellington: We try to make sure that we have enough people to respond to the calls so during the daytime we have more people.

Steve Bluhm: Because there's more calls?

Owen Wellington: Because there's more calls, there's more people in the office that type of thing. Weekends we have always added extra people for weekend traffic.

Steve Bluhm: So when you are busier you have more personnel on duty. I know ours is pretty well a flat schedule for Northfield.

Commissioner Auger: I have a couple quick questions. Is there any way to get the type of calls? I know you had a lot of fire calls there. You were talking a lot about fire calls. I'm sure the majority of them were medical calls. If you could get those numbers for me that would be great, fire calls versus medical. And how many of them are non-emergency calls like a service call.

Mike Robinson: These numbers are toned emergencies.

Commissioner Auger: I was on the fire department. I know when you get toned for a fire it could be water in a building, a sprinkler system going and I'm not saying that couldn't be an emergency but it's nothing you would drive a hundred miles an hour to get there. I'm looking for the non-emergency ones more than anything.

Mike Robinson: Obviously if somebody placed a call they feel they have an emergency. There are some things that people the department for that is not an emergency.

Commissioner Auger: Water in the basement to be pumped out is not an emergency.

Mike Robinson: I agree.

Commissioner Auger: There are a lot of calls, and there again, you know as well as I do that we have gotten toned out for a lot calls over the years that were not life threatening.

Chief Carrier: So we shouldn't count those?

Commissioner Auger: I didn't say we shouldn't count them.

Chief Carrier: I guess I'm asking how you want us to break it down.

Commissioner Auger: It's easy. The fire calls are obvious. You know yourself you have a lot of them, water in the basement. They are not life threatening. They are service calls. You get toned out for service calls all the time.

Chief Carrier: Not all the time. How many service calls do we have? Do you have last months report?

Commissioner Auger: I do not have last month.

Chief Carrier: Anyway we can break them down by fires and ems pretty easily. Service calls we can probably break out but you are going to get a map that's a mess.

Commissioner Auger: You can take percentages of them though. How many percent were actually emergency calls or fire?

Chief Carrier: Yes. That's pretty easy to do.

Commissioner Auger: Then the other one is are how many calls are not related in our town whether they be Sanbornton or Canterbury.

Mike Robinson: None of the calls we discussed this evening involved mutual aid.

Commissioner Auger: So none of them calls, out of all those calls toned, none of them were on there? Is that what I'm hearing?

Mike Robinson: There were no mutual aid calls on the map.

Commissioner Auger: I'm not asking mutual aid. I'm asking if there were any calls that we got toned to that are in Canterbury.

Mike Robinson: On that map this evening?

Commissioner Auger: Yes.

Mike Robinson: No. Those calls were separated by call zones. In other words for it to get into that call zone the call had to occur in that call zone. That falls under the mutual aid calls.

Commissioner Auger: So anything outside of Tilton-Northfield would not be on there, correct?

Mike Robinson: Correct. That percentage and that number are on both your four year and 10 year.

Commissioner Waldron: Is it true even if we are first response to that town?

Chief Carrier: I think what you are getting to is in our total number of calls what is figured into. You really want to know what was on the map.

Commissioner Waldron: The calls that we saw up there tonight, we are on a run card as first response for Canterbury, Sanbornton, Franklin on certain calls.

Chief Carrier: Some areas, yes.

Commissioner Waldron: If we are first response, are those numbers on there or are they in the mutual aid numbers?

Chief Carrier: They are in the mutual aid numbers.

Commissioner Auger: So none of them are on there?

Chief Carrier: District only.

Mike Robinson: This is District only. If you add the percentages it should come up to 100 approximately. It may be 101 because of rounding in the percentages.

Ben LaBelle: When you are looking to map something that is different every single time the zone actually tells you how busy that area is. You have calls on this side of the zone or that side of the zone; I mean especially in these far away ones. One percent you could have one here one day and another one way down here and response times are going to be crazy because you are not going to the same spot every time.

Commissioner Auger: By the same token though, you could have a call say at Tilton School, a fire alarm activation. Within an hour or two you could have another one, a faulty system. There's two calls right there within an hour. Now there are some places you could have as many as three to four within a time frame and that would boost up the number of calls on there.

Steve Bluhm: A call is a call, right?

Commissioner Auger: A call is call but all I'm saying is when we have fire alarm activations you come in, and there again it has happened quite a bit at different places,

you may have a fire alarm activation you come reset it and then within an hour later it goes off again because it's a faulty detector. So, there's two calls right there. Now if it happens two or three times there are four calls.

Mike Robinson: In the case of a fire alarm activation we have to treat it like an emergency.

Commissioner Auger: I realize that.

Steve Bluhm: A call is a call. When you pull out you don't know what it is. It's always the worst when you guys pull out.

Mike Robinson: Exactly.

Ben LaBelle: I certainly appreciate you folks taking the time to listen to us. We certainly want to make ourselves available for any future discussions or any future input that you want. You are certainly welcome to come to any of our meetings to weigh in or listen. The only way we are going to be able to move forward is to work together. The closer that we work together, I think the better the end result will be.

Steve Bluhm: Again, I will apologize for this report. I was looking for something more because what I had at the time wasn't enough. My fault.

Commissioner Waldron: Can we get a corrected version of data.

Pat Consentino: When they get it corrected we will make sure you get it.

Commissioner Waldron: Maybe something a little bigger than this 8-1/2 X 11. Something between this and

Ben LaBelle: Yes. Once we get it refined we can definitely bring back something. It's a lot of calls to pour through, pinpoint and then plot on the map. As soon as we can get that done we will definitely come back.

Commissioner Waldron: Those 400 calls that you can't plot are in the percentages aren't they?

Ben LaBelle: Yes.

Commissioner Gallant: Ben, I think he is asking for this enlarged.

Ben LaBelle: Oh, that enlarged.

Commissioner Gallant: Number one, I would like it enlarged so you can read it. Secondly these data sheets need to be corrected. They are either right or they are wrong and they are both wrong. The percentages are wrong but the headings and so forth are.

Commissioner Waldron: Do we need to set a date for another meeting?

Steve Bluhm: I don't mean to jump over the chair here but this is a question for the committee, especially Pat as I believe that you were researching it. Have we heard anything about the legalities? Have you heard anything more?

Pat Consentino: We have met with and retained Dan Green who is a municipality lawyer. He came and interviewed with the Life Safety Committee. There were several questions that were asked of him. The foremost one was could we, have you ever drawn up agreements between two towns, two counties, two municipalities and yes, it can be done. Yes, it has been done. We certainly could move forward. He was very emphatic about it. It should be done way before in the designing stages to get some of the issues squared away. Who owns the building? What is shared? What is not shared? What is designed together and so on and so forth? It is all drawn up in the agreement ahead of time.

Commissioner Gallant: He pointed out clearly the same thing we got from the State that State RSAs definitely allow it, number one. Number two; he's had extensive experiences working in this field putting together these types of agreements for many, many years. So yes it can be done and yes he's had experience doing it.

Steve Bluhm: That's number five. I figured while everyone was here we might as well ask you the question.

Pat Consentino: We have asked him and we, the Life Safety Committee, has drawn up a legal subcommittee. We can invite the commissioners now if you have any questions you would like to see asked on the legal end of it email them to me and we will see that they get answered. We will be glad to work together with you on that.

Steve Bluhm: While we are on number five are there any other questions? We can get another number out of here. Sorry Kevin, I keep doing that to you.

Commissioner Waldron: No, go ahead.

Steve Bluhm: It's number five on our outline. While the Life Safety Committee is right here, does anyone have any questions that affect the legalities? I think my part was answered.

Commissioner Waldron: I don't have any legal questions.

Sandy Plessner: Are we going to meet in two weeks?

Commissioner Gallant: How about the 14th?

Sandy Plessner: The 14th?

Steve Bluhm: Is that a Monday?

Commissioner Gallant: Yes.

Steve Bluhm: I'm fine.

Chief Carrier: That's the night the water district is having their meeting.

Commissioner Gallant: We can't do it then. Can we do it the 21st?

Chief Carrier: Yes.

Commissioner Waldron: I'm all set.

Commissioner Gallant made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Waldron 2nd the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Minutes prepared by: Kathy Tobine

Next Meeting Date, Time, Place: September 21, 2009 at 18:00. Meeting to be held at Tilton School, new Academic Building, School Street, First Floor, Ninth Grade Classroom, Tilton.

Approved with correction and clarification on 09/21/09