

Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS Commissioners' Meeting

Meeting Called By:	Commissioners	Date, Time:	February 18, 2010 at 18:04
Transcribed By:	Kathy Tobine	Place:	Tilton School, new Academic Building, School Street, 2 nd Floor, Room 213, Tilton

Commissioner Waldron called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

Present from the Board: Commissioner Paul Auger, Commissioner Tom Gallant and Commissioner Kevin Waldron.

Also Present: Treasurer Roland Seymour, Chief Stephen Carrier, Deputy Chief Mike Robinson, Administrative Assistant Kathy Tobine, Tilton Selectmen: Pat Consentino, Katherine Dawson, Sandy Plessner, Norm Boudreau; Firefighters: Captain Brad Ober, Captain Greg Michaud, Lieutenant Tim Ames, Travis Gosine, Bob Laraway, Lieutenant Chris Harris; Cindy Reinartz, Pat Clark, Scott Davis, Toni Belair, Kevin LaChapelle, Gretchen Wilder, Bill Wilder, Stacy Keeler, Reporters: Donna Rhodes (Winnisquam Echo), Victoria Guay (Laconia Citizen), Matthew Spolar (Concord Monitor), Michael Kitch (Laconia Daily Sun).

Green Insurance

Tom Green from Green Insurance provided a presentation on the Death and Disability Policy currently held by the Fire District. The policy has been in force for a number of years. It was started in 1996. Claims have been paid on the policy.

The policy provides protection for firefighters in the event they get hurt responding to a call, anytime they are doing training, fund raisers. The objective is to coordinate with workers comp trying to get the firefighters back up to whole with their pre injury disability income. If there is a line of duty death, they a pay death benefit. The death benefit is \$50,000. There is also an HIV clause in it should a firefighter become HIV positive as a result of a fire department covered activity. This is a \$50,000 living benefit. There is a bereavement benefit of \$5,000 for line of duty death. The dependent child benefit is \$10,000 to each surviving child the firefighter is financially responsible for in a line of duty death. There is a seatbelt benefit of \$12,500 if they are wearing a seatbelt while on a covered activity on top of the \$50,000 benefit. There is an impairment benefit of up to \$50,000. There is also income protection of \$200 per week. It starts at day one. They coordinate with the workers comp benefit. The benefit is payable up to lifetime. They also pay a partial disability benefit. It starts the first week. There is a cost of living adjustment rider. They will pick up medical expenses up to \$20,000 and plastic surgery up to \$10,000. Family assistance for each week they are in the hospital is \$105 for every week they are in the hospital. This is doubled for critical care. They also cover family expenses up to \$10,000. They provide a rehabilitation benefit, mental stress management benefit, traumatic incident benefit and health insurance premium benefit. The whole objective is to make sure the firefighter is taken care of.

Commissioner Auger asked if this covered just the career firefighters. Tom replied no, it covers all the firefighters in the department. The premium is \$3,948 per year and the premium is locked in for three years. It has been the same since 2006. Commissioner Waldron asked Tom if he was the Agent and Provident was the company. Tom replied yes he is the agent for NH and Maine. Further discussion ensued about the policy. The Commissioners thanked Tom for coming to discuss the policy.

After discussion, Commissioner Waldron requested Chief Carrier do a sole source request for the policy for the three year term.

Minutes

January 21

Commissioner Auger made a motion to accept the minutes as printed. Commissioner Gallant seconded the motion. Discussion: Commissioner Waldron had one correction. There being no further discussion, vote was taken. All were in favor of accepting the minutes as corrected.

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February 8 Warrant Hearing

Commissioner Gallant made a motion to accept the minutes as printed. Commissioner Auger seconded the motion. Discussion: Commissioner Gallant stated there were numerous errors. There being no further discussion, vote was taken. All were in favor of accepting the Clerk's Report as printed.

Treasurer's Report

Roland told everyone they all have a copy of the packet. The balances are as of today, as printed. It is Revenue and Expenses as there are no budgeted figures.

Account Balances

This shows our account balances as of February 18th.

The interest rate has increased significantly on the Franklin Savings accounts to 0.81%.

Roland reported that he requested that the Town of Northfield give something toward what they are anticipating to give us at the end of March. He requested \$50,000. It was brought before the Board of Selectmen in Northfield Tuesday. He received an email from the Board that after consideration the Board opted not to grant the cash advance. In their discussion Board members noted that the District has other means available to meet cash flow problems, including borrowing in anticipation of revenues or possibly utilizing a short term transfer from reserve funds. Commissioner Gallant stated he took the initiative after receiving the email to contact Shelley Gerlarneau at the Department of Revenue to confirm whether or not you can transfer monies from one account to another for a short period. Per DRA, you cannot transfer money from one account to another even for short periods. He contacted the towns to see if they would be willing to pay their installment earlier. That option is not available to us. The only option available to us is borrowing money in anticipation of taxes. Roland had a discussion a couple weeks ago with the Finance Manager of Tilton. He requested postpone our second payment until March. Commissioner Gallant stated Tilton is willing to pay if absolutely necessary. Discussion ensued about the ability to transfer monies between the accounts for short periods. Discussion ensued about payroll costs between now and when monies were anticipated from Tilton and Northfield.

Commissioner Gallant made a motion to authorize the Treasurer to contact the bank to borrow \$100,000 for no more than 90 days. Commissioner Auger seconded the motion. There being no discussion, vote was taken. All were in favor of having the Treasurer contact the Franklin Savings Bank for a TAN.

Commissioner Waldron asked Roland if he would be doing the cash flow projection. Roland replied yes. It just didn't make sense to do it the first couple of months.

Commissioner Gallant had a question on the Apparatus & Equipment Fun. He wanted to know if Roland has an outstanding ballpark number on the outstanding ambulance charges. Chief Carrier responded he will get the information. The average collection is 71%.

Commissioner Gallant made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. Commissioner Waldron seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, vote was taken. All were in favor of accepting the Treasurer's Report as printed.

Chief's Report

Chief Carrier stated they have his report. He spoke to the ladder truck.

Ladder 1

The aerial has been out of service for a month since the annual service test. We did get a quote from North American Equipment Fire Apparatus out of Hooksett, NH. It has a two page list of items that need to be repaired that came off the ladder test. There are two items that are critical. One is a rung that is punctured. It needs to be repaired as soon as possible. It has to be welded and it has to be done by a certified welder. The cost for that is \$887. A general service includes a 29 point inspection which would take care of the extension cables that are out of adjustment, clean and grease, etc. The

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cost for that is \$1,485. These two items would be approximately \$2,300 to repair. This is below the purchasing policy for repairs. He plans on getting that done. However there is a list of other items that cost approximately \$2,600 more if do all repairs. They are not critical repairs. They are repairs that we have been talking about for years. We talked about sending the truck to Canada at one time. The estimate for that was \$8,000. We can do this whole job for just under \$5,000 as long as he doesn't find anything else major wrong with it. He wanted to get a feel from commissioners on what they wanted to do with this. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Gallant made motion to authorize Chief Carrier to contract with North American Equipment Fire Apparatus, Inc. to have the items taken care of on their estimate dated February 16th. The amount is not to exceed \$5,000. Commissioner Waldron seconded the motion. Discussion: Commissioner Auger asked if they could get another couple years out of the ladder if they put this kind of money was put into it. Chief Carrier replied he hoped so. There being no further discussion, vote was taken. All were in favor.

Fire Prevention Report

There is no fire prevention report. Captain Ober is covering shift.

Chief Carrier reported that the Lochmere Meadows project is going to take place. The property has been sold. The Laconia Area Community Land Trust has purchased the property. They will be putting in multiple buildings. They just dropped off plans for Brad to review. It is similar to the project in Meredith. This is good news. It shows little bit of a resurgence of activity in the building trades.

Old Business

Web Site

Commissioner Gallant reported it has been put on hold. They are continuing to build the history on it.

New Business

Purchasing Requests

Fire Tech & Safety to purchase a 30" Pro Bar (hallagan) forcible entry tool for \$185. This is to replace the one lost from Engine 3 during the 2nd alarm fire in Belmont.

MB Tractor to purchase a Husqvarna 455 rancher chainsaw for \$398. This is to replace the chainsaw that caught fire.

Fire Tech & Safety to purchase two Scott Proton ZM single gas disposable CO detectors for \$390. These will be attached to the first-in bags located on Ambulance 1 & 2. They will provide continuous monitoring of the environment alerting responders and occupants of dangerous CO levels.

Sole Source Approval Request

Green Insurance to renew the Death and Disability policy without having to go out for three quotes. Commissioner Gallant suggested the request be for sole source vendor for the term of the three year contract. At the point where we get into another contract we request sole source again. Commissioner Gallant made a motion to authorize Green Insurance as the sole source for the term of the contract which is three years at \$3,948 per year. Commissioner Auger seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, vote was taken. All were in favor.

Commissioner Gallant made a motion to authorize the purchase of a hallagan tool from Fire Tech & Safety for \$185, a chainsaw from MB Tractor for \$398 and two CO detectors from Fire Tech & Safety for \$390. Commissioner Gallant seconded the motion. Discussion: Commissioner Auger asked if the chainsaw was covered under insurance. Chief Carrier replied we have a \$1,000 deductible. There being no further discussion, vote was taken. All were in favor.

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Commissioner Gallant brought up that he had requested two other things be put on the agenda for discussion. Kathy put them on. The first was the discussion of Warrant Article 6 and its potential affect on the District. The second was Northfield's Fire Service Committee Report and the Chief's comments on the same. You requested she take it off. She took it off. Commissioner Waldron asked if he wanted to do that now. Commissioner Gallant replied they should go through the correspondence and then come back to this.

Correspondence

Copies of two memos were received from the Town of Northfield.

1. Glenn Smith, Northfield Town Administrator, addressed to Steve Bluhm, Selectman, regarding RSA 154:1 IV. Commissioner Waldron read the letter. Commissioner Gallant stated that at the warrant hearing on February 8th Pat Clark brought up RSA 154:1 with relationship as to when the one year would pass. Commissioner Gallant agrees that RSA 154 does not apply as this is a dissolution and reorganization. It is not a restructuring.
2. Glenn Smith, Northfield Town Administrator, addressed to Steve Bluhm, Selectman, regarding Fire District Appropriation for Dissolution. Commissioner Waldron read the letter. Commissioner Gallant addressed the letter. He feels in this case they are looking at something a little bit more than shifting from one account to another. He believes that independent appraisers will be necessary. Otherwise they would be shirking their duties. How else would they be able to find out what the values of their hard assets are? He feels they need to be independently appraised.

A letter was received from the New Hampshire Retirement System advising us that Robert Bousquet has been found eligible to receive prior service credit due to employer enrollment oversight.

Other Business

Commissioner Gallant brought up petitioned Warrant Article 6 calling for dissolution of the District December 31, 2010. He stated he wanted to get into a general discussion on that and how it will affect the District. What thoughts they might have as Commissioner. He feels it is very important that the Commissioners of the District speak to the issue of dissolution of the District hoping they will give their full support to the District remaining as it is. He is asking for a discussion of the merits of staying together, the merits of separating and/or the unequivocal support of the District staying together. Commissioner Gallant feels very strongly the District should stay together. It is a tradition that has gone on for 140 years. He believes that there has been a significant breakdown of communications that has been going on for many years. He believes there has been a total breakdown in communication. It goes way back. He is wholeheartedly in favor of keeping the District together. They need to send a message to the voters, firefighters and administrative staff that work for the District as dissolution of the District would very much affect their future.

Commissioner Auger said his opinion is his opinion. He will not voice his opinion to everyone there. It is his private opinion. Whatever happens is up to the people. Pat Consentino stated Commissioner Gallant is asking him as a Commissioner, not as a person. Commissioner Gallant stated he is asking him how he feels as a Commissioner. Whether he feels it is in the best interest of both Tilton and Northfield to remain as a District. Commissioner Auger stated he has been to all the meetings for Town of Northfield. They do have good ideas. Is it the right idea? Personally he doesn't know. Is it good for the District? He doesn't know that either. He believes the Town of Tilton wants more than the Town of Northfield is willing to spend. Are they entitled to it? He thinks they are entitled to something. As far as the firefighters in the District, they do a swell job. He has nothing against any of them. He speaks highly of the volunteers also.

Commissioner Waldron's preference is to see the District stay AS IS. He does not believe in the expansion plan proposed by the Tilton Life Safety Building Committee. This District should stay as is and use the Facilities Review Committee Report as a guideline and roadmap for the future.

Commissioner Gallant asked if he would cast vote as a Commissioner for the District to remain as a together as a District. Commissioner Waldron responded yes, to remain as is.

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Commissioner Gallant asked Commissioner Waldron if he would take questions from the body. Commissioner Waldron responded yes.

Donna Rhodes stated the firefighters had come and asked a couple of times if the Commissioners would give them their support in a letter. Commissioner Waldron replied that in all actuality the Board of Commissioners has one employee, the fire chief. Everyone else in the District works for him. Commissioner Gallant stated he personally would be more than happy to sign a letter as a Commissioner. The men deserve it. He believes they need reassurance from them. They would like to have the District will retain its current structure. That structure is that the Chief works for us and he has the ability to hire and fire the men that are under them. Whether that information could be disseminated through the Chief by their authorization, he doesn't know. To answer your question directly, he has no problem signing a letter. Commissioner Waldron has no question as to whether or not that they should be concerned. Who wouldn't be in that situation? The truth of the matter is we can say what we want but when the voters cast their votes is what it comes down to as to how secure that future is.

Stacy Keeler asked if the fire commissioners would keep their current job if dissolution were to occur. Would they oversee both towns? How would that work? Commissioner Gallant replied no. As of January 1, 2011, there would be no employees at all in the fire department. It would be up to the Selectmen in either Town to set up a structure by which they will hire someone. They will need to retain a Chief and determine what they are going to offer.

Stacy then asked about the account balances. At one of the Northfield Fire Study Committee meetings it was said the money would be split if dissolution happened. If the District did split, how would the funds be divided? Would the money be split as each line? Would they have to use the money as it is listed here? Commissioner Gallant replied it be prudent if the money was spent in the manner it has been organized. You don't have to but would be it probably be prudent to go with the way the body had voted over years establishing the accounts. Basically what you do is take all the assets, get an independent appraisal for the trucks and stations and come to some agreement between the two towns, the split is 39/61, deciding who is going to get what.

Chris Harris stated one of the things running through his mind is the Fire District when they built the Park Street Station bought a few pieces of the apparatus. It was 50/50 back then. As a taxpayer, I think it's fair that you need to hire somebody to go through the records as to how it was purchased. Commissioner Gallant replied they are more concerned with the Engine 3, Engine 1, the tanker, things of that nature.

Scott Davis stated his concern as a taxpayer is in 2005 the voters of the District was presented with a plan to add on to the Park Street Station for \$400,000 to add on living quarters because it was a necessity then going full-time. Here it is, 2010, five years later we have done nothing. Now we have a comprehensive plan within the Fire District. His concern is it's the governing body that controls the Fire District. Where was the governing body in the last five years addressing those issues? That's pretty much what's gotten us in this jam that we are in. Now, we are in the worst economy that any of us have seen in this room. If the District breaks it's going to cost all of us money. Where were the Commissioners in the last five years? Commissioner Gallant replied when the plan was presented it failed. They came back the following year to do it in pieces. That failed. It was pretty loud and clear at that point that no construction was going to take place without the support of the body. We stayed at Center Street and did the best we could. We've been at a stalemate the last three years. There has been no progress. He has seen the District go nowhere in the last three years.

Scott Davis stated his question to the Commissioners has to do with the comprehensive plan that goes out eight years. How do you plan on carrying out that comprehensive plan when you haven't been able to carry out a comprehensive plan from the Commissioners in the past? Commissioner Gallant asked if he had seen the comprehensive plan. He said he should see the plan. The comprehensive plan has steps on the manner in which that is going to be accomplished each year over the eight years starting this year. Two of the warrant articles are tied directly to the eight year plan. Commissioner Waldron

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stated they are going to the voters with that plan starting this year. Everything else is up to them. You don't know what they are going to do.

Pat Consentino asked if the Commissioners are willing to take an official vote on whether or not they are in favor of keeping the District together. Commissioner Waldron stated they just did that. Pat Consentino responded they didn't vote they took a poll. Commissioner Waldron asked what the difference was. Pat Consentino stated you make a motion. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Gallant made a motion that the Commissioners offer their support to the District; reaffirm their support for the District for the District to stay together in the year 2010 and the years to come. Commissioner Waldron seconded the motion. Discussion: Commissioner Auger stated he will not vote. His opinion is his opinion. There being no further discussion, vote taken. Commissioners Gallant and Waldron for, Commissioner Auger abstained.

Gretchen Wilder remarked there have been all kinds of articles in the papers talking about this long standing relationship we have in the Fire District. People don't understand how the District is run. We haven't seen a lot of education being done. When she asked the Select Boards of Tilton and Northfield they are hands off because the Fire District is being governed by the Commissioners. Her understanding was people were looking to dissolve the District in 2007. Katherine Dawson commented on how the MRI Study came about. It was not to dissolve the District. It was more because of the Winnisquam Fire Station being abandoned and leaving East Tilton exposed. They were concerned about fire services. The Commissioners had been approached in previous years. Some citizens felt it wasn't being addressed. They asked for the study to address the needs of East Tilton.

Gretchen Wilder understands the firefighters concerns about their jobs and the fear. The Towns of Tilton and Northfield are not the same. Things change with time. She feels for the firefighters but as a taxpayer she sits at all budget meetings to see how things are going because the impact on them lately is great. She's sorry it causes uncertainty with the employees but as a taxpayer she wants to know how her money is being spent. She wants it spent in the most prudent way.

Pat Consentino appreciates the Commissioners standing up and saying they are in favor of the District staying together. One thing disturbs her about this back and forth. There is one underlying issue that she has throughout all of this with the Tilton Life Safety Building Committee. We were a committee that was established by the townspeople of Tilton. We were to research and develop plans for a Life Safety Building Complex, to come up with a report and deliver that report at this coming Town's Meeting. For months they have stated this is just a research project. They haven't tried to shove this down anyone's throat or said the Town of Northfield must come aboard with us. The Tilton Life Safety Building Committee simply came up with a design and a conceptual plan. As a matter of fact the Life Safety Building Committee said to the Budget Committee and the Selectmen and will say it at Town Meeting that right now with economic conditions the way they are they do not approve of the upcoming police station to be built yet. You folks as Commissioners came up with an eight year plan. No where does it state that the Life Safety Committee was against that or pushed anything toward you. We asked for your input so when we did do the plans we had what was necessary for the District. What would best suit the District in the event you should they decide to come on board. If you decide to come on board, then fine. The plans stay in the drawer. What disturbs her is the kind of quotes that we shoved it down your throat and came up with this plan. She's looking forward to working with the Commissioners, the District, firefighters and administration next year. Hopefully we do stay together as a District. She hopes this puts an end to this conditional Life Safety Building Committee that doesn't even vote for a police department this year. We do want to buy the land that it sits on because of the value of the land and the value to the townspeople whether it be now or 10 years from now. It's a tremendous value in its location to the fire and police. That's what they are going to go after at Town Meeting this year. Does that involve any no monies from the Fire District? No, none. She doesn't know where the numbers are coming from. They are incorrect. She's glad two Commissioners stepped up to the plate in favor of keeping the District together.

Pat Clark wanted to say one of the primary reasons for taking another look at the Life Safety Building process was to pull back from where they were the year before and look at their needs in covering East

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Tilton. One of the primary reasons to take another look at it was to look at the needs of the Fire District. It was abundantly clear to not only look at the police department needs in Tilton but to look at the Fire District needs as well. That was part of their charge. If you look at the work that the Life Safety Building Committee did and the charts that they did on response times you will find that a large chunk of Northfield is improved no matter where you are over there by an average of three minutes with the spot chosen on Route 132 to that end of Northfield depending where you are. There is nothing that is going to be passing this year. We need to step back and be positive with one another, look to the benefits of staying together and working it out. Commissioner Waldron said you are up against is people thinking if ain't broke don't fix it. The right approach to take is baby steps.

Norm Boudreau stated he read the Facilities Review Committee plan. He agrees with it. He has no problems with it. What was just said about if ain't broke don't fix it holds true for the dissolution of the District as well. Don't reinvent the wheel by creating two separate fire departments and spending all that start up money. As Pat said, nobody has told the District from Tilton this is what you must do. What I'm saying is here is an opportunity. If you want to take advantage of it, here it is. If not, fine we'll put the plans in the drawer. Commissioner Auger said this opportunity came up with once before. Tilton bought a building and they didn't even consult with the Fire District. The building is no longer any good. People are afraid that's going to happen again. Sandy Plessner stated they have been consulting with them right along. Pat Consentino stated that's why they went back to the drawing board, to consult with the Fire District. Katherine Dawson stated that the reason Tilton bought 61 Business Park Drive is because the thought at that time was to build a police station. That was the command at that time. Not to build a Life Safety Building. Discussion ensued.

Katherine Dawson asked if the commission has ever talked about or have plans to discuss services for Sanbornton. They have a need in the eastern area of their town as well in the Winnisquam area. Have the commissioners ever discussed that? Commissioner Waldron and Commissioner Gallant replied no.

Pat Clark wanted to go on record as taking the opposite stand. He can dig out enough information on 61 Business Park Drive to state pretty clearly that it was looked at for a possible fire department site in the future.

Chris Harris brought up the articles in the papers on the Fire District. There is obviously a lot of he said/she said. Some of the things he's seen written in the paper he went on and asked questions at the Northfield Fire Study Committee meetings for documents to prove some of their numbers from the Fire District. He couldn't prove them. Is the Fire District going to write something to the Northfield Fire Study Committee saying your numbers are wrong that we are not going in that direction and we never intended to or is the Fire District not going to stand up for your budget that you have and that you have no proposal for this stuff so the taxpayers know what the direction of the Fire District is and the three Commissioners where they stand. Commissioner Waldron stated we do have a plan for expansion. Chris Harris replied \$3,000,000. None of this information is correct because neither the Fire Chief nor the three Commissioners have produced a document to them saying any of this. Smoke and mirrors is their show. He's watched enough of their meetings to see it. There is no documentation for this stuff from the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Waldron asked where they are getting it. Chris Harris replied that's what he wants to know. His opinion is the Fire Commissioners need to go on record and a formal letter needs to be sent to the Northfield Fire Study Committee saying here's our numbers. Here is what our plan is. They are not what you are producing.

Pat Consentino asked if they have the eight year plan. Commissioner Gallant replied absolutely. It is in their town report as it is in our town report. It was hand delivered to their Board of Selectmen and it was to ours. He stated they have all the information.

Chris Harris asked if the Commissioners had sent a letter to the Northfield Fire Study Committee about all these numbers that are being produced that are false. Commissioner Gallant responded that they have not entered into the he said/she said. The committee has not had one request that has not been honored. We produce information electronically that would equate itself to probably a thousand pages of information. We plan to honor most requests as we possible can. The Chief, as a result of this report, penned some responses. They received a copy of it. He sees nothing positive could come out

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of reviewing that tonight. All the facts need to be put on the table by all parties involved and then it's up to the body to make that decision. Chris Harris stated it is nice that you have formally introduced this to the taxpayers. People might feel a little better knowing that the Fire Commissioners are for the District staying together.

Pat Consentino asked when the Commissioners put together the eight year plan she sees a lot of numbers on the Park Street expansion. Was there an estimate done to get that figure to what it is? Do you have solid figure on that? Do we have idea what it would be for the expansion on Park Street? Commissioner Waldron stated the answer to the question is solid number no. They wrote a grant for \$900,000. Discussion ensued.

Katherine Dawson asked how do the Commissioners plan on dealing with the rest of the warrant and budget if Article 6 passes. Commissioner Gallant stated if Article 6 passes the warrant articles that follow will be changed. The petitioned warrant article is before any money articles. It is the first thing that will be discussed at District Meeting on the 15th.

Commissioner Gallant stated they need to make some determination that if Warrant Article 6 passes what dollar items need to be added to the budget. He believes an amendment would need to be done that night. They have legal, appraisals and additional accounting at bare minimum. He has no idea where they are on this. Commissioner Waldron stated legal fees is a given. Commissioner Gallant stated they need to set parameters. They need to have a discussion with legal counsel. Commissioner Waldron asked if he was talking about Sean Chandler. That may be an issue as he is Tilton's attorney as well. Commissioner Gallant stated he sees no reason not to use Sean Chandler. Someone needs to give us an amount. Commissioner Gallant suggested they contact the attorney for an estimate of the legal fees involved. Commissioner Waldron stated that Roland had suggested they contact an auditor to see what was involved. Commissioner Gallant suggested they contact Melanson Heath & Company regarding the time and money involved. Commissioner Waldron has a problem using Sean Chandler in the event of dissolution due to conflict of interest. Commissioner Auger stated he has no problem using Sean Chandler. The Commissioners decided to contact Sean for a meeting with him at his earliest convenience. If Sean Chandler says it is a conflict for him they will ask him to recommend someone else.

Commissioner Gallant thanked Commissioner Waldron for supporting the District in staying intact. He appreciates Commissioner Auger's abstaining as well.

Public Comment

Pat Clark stated there are two things to look at should the District vote for dissolution. The Commissioners role and how long you have for that dissolution to take place. Commissioner Gallant told him that we had that discussion before he was here. We are getting our own legal opinion in the event dissolution passes. Commissioner Waldron stated the warrant article spells it out. Katherine Dawson stated the warrant article cannot supersede the law.

Stacy Keeler asked Commissioner Auger if he is a Northfield resident. Commissioner Auger responded he is. She feels it is better to have 24/7 coverage. Commissioner Auger stated he didn't think he said he was against it.

Bob Laraway asked if the Board of Commissioners is going to stand up and support keeping the District together at the District Meeting or will it be by majority. Kevin LaChapelle stated the root of the question is you have a Fire District that has 144 years of tradition and deep roots protecting both towns. They are not asking if they are going to support Warrant Article 6. They are asking if you are going to support the tradition of the fire department and emergency services. Commissioner Gallant replied that two of them have already spoken to it.

Kevin LaChapelle asked if they are going to speak on that as a board. Commissioner Auger asked if he thought it was a benefit for them to stand up and speak for it. Kevin LaChapelle replied yes if you believe in it. Commissioner Auger stated then you are taking sides. They way he looks at it is they have a job to do. They have the Tilton-Northfield Fire District. We represent them. We shouldn't stand

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on one side or the other. You are asking me to stand up and say support them that we should stay together. Kevin LaChapelle replied that it is not us against them. It's about the service that you provide. What type of service do the three leaders that are sitting down there right now want to provide? Commissioner Auger replied that he already said they provide a good service. Kevin LaChapelle asked what they want to provide for the future. Commissioner Auger asked how you know what kind of service you are going to get if they split up. You don't know that.

Bob Laraway stated you three are the representatives of the body. You are there to do the good of the body. Commissioner Auger responded we represent the District. Bob Laraway replied in order to represent the District the District needs to continue. Commissioner Auger replied you are right. If it doesn't that's it. Bob Laraway replied that you have to put forth the same argument that you are giving us at the meeting that says the District either needs to stay together or it doesn't.

Chris Harris stated that is the same question he had asked earlier in the night. He asked if the Fire Commissioners support this which the majority does. Are you willing to put something on paper at the District Meeting and sign as the Fire Commissioners saying you support the District staying together as it is? Do the three Commissioners support this as a board? So the people know where the Fire Commissioners stand.

Kevin LaChapelle stated he would simply his question. If you are the coach of a baseball team you stand behind your team. You say I have a good baseball team. We are a winning team and we are going to come out and play well. The coach stands behind his team. The three of you were voted in those positions to stand behind your team and lead the team. We are asking the question, are you going to stand up for you team. Commissioner Waldron replied he thinks they have done that. Are you asking if there is going to be big presentation at District Meeting as to what we want to do? Kevin LaChapelle replied no. We are looking for more than just I support or it's my personal opinion is not to speak. Commissioner Waldron stated he almost felt like he was missing something. Chris Harris stated the body voted you in as a Fire Commissioner to voice your opinion and to look out for the best interest of the body. People want to know what your opinion is. That's why they voted you in. Commissioner Auger replied you are asking me to give my opinion. Bob Laraway stated yes, they are asking him to give his opinion as a Fire Commissioner. Commissioner Auger if the District stays together he will support the District. Commissioner Gallant stated they are simply asking for affirmation for us to say we as a body either unanimously or as a majority wholeheartedly support the District to stay intact.

Bob Laraway commented he is not hearing a fight from the Board to stay together in his opinion. What are you doing to say it shouldn't happen? What has the Board decided to do to prevent or to fight or to stand up and say this shouldn't happen? Isn't that your charge as elected Fire Commissioners to defend your position? Commissioner Waldron replied he doesn't see how it's up to him to preach to anybody on how to vote. Their job is to follow the will of the voters, whatever that will is. Commissioner Gallant stated he lost the battle with these two gentlemen. When it came to either supporting or not supporting warrant articles his feeling is that more often than not average people are not familiar with that change. In order to vote people look to their elected officials for guidance. He feels people look to them for that.

Pat Consentino stated she feels as an elected official that as the people voted for Mr. Auger they voted for him as Commissioner. They did not vote for him as resident of Northfield. As a Commissioner, when you sit behind that desk, you should vote for the District and the people of the District not for Paul Auger. Commissioner Auger replied that he believes his decision is for the best for them. Pat Consentino continued that when you vote, you vote for the District and for the people of the District. So when they vote that's what you should be putting in. If cannot sit behind that desk and say with honesty and bow out every time there is a vote being taken because you don't want to share your opinion on what you feel is best for the District you shouldn't be sitting in that seat. That's here opinion. Commissioner Auger responded she could have her opinion just like he has his opinion. Pat Consentino stated people voted for you and that's what they want the answers want. When you go to the District Meeting a lot of people come and they are going to look for direction. There are a lot of

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people that don't come to these meetings and they do come to the annual meeting. When they come to the annual meeting they want to know what's going on. They want to know what the opinion of the Commissioners is. Do they recommend or they don't recommend. That's what they want to know and they have a right to know because that's what they voted you for. Discussion ensued.

Cindy Reinartz asked if the Chair would stand up and speak to the body and let them know that the Commissioners are not in favor of Warrant Article 6. Commissioner Waldron replied yes.

Bills:

Manifest

The manifest was reviewed and discussed. All bills were released for payment.

The Commissioners requested Kathy contact Melanson Heath & Company for a meeting at their earliest convenience regarding Warrant Article 6.

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Tobine
Administrative Assistant

Next Meeting Date, Time, Place: March 18, 2010 at 18:00. Meeting to be held at Tilton School, new Academic Building, School Street, 2nd Floor, Room 213, Tilton.