

Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS Commissioners' Meeting

Meeting Called By:	Commissioners	Date, Time:	November 29, 2010 at 17:30
Transcribed By:	Kathy Tobine	Place:	Tilton School, new Academic Building, School Street, 2 nd Floor, Room 213, Tilton

Commissioner Auger called the Budget Work Session to order at 5:40 PM.

Present: Commissioners Auger and Clark; Interim Chief Mike Robinson, Interim Deputy Chief Brad Ober, Captain Greg Michaud and Administrative Assistant Kathy Tobine.

Excused: Commissioner Gallant

2011 Budget

Commissioner Auger stated they will wait for Commissioner Gallant before they finish with the Wages and Benefits.

Apparatus & Equipment Replacement Fund

Account #760 Vehicles

This account was revisited. Interim Chief Robinson made a correction to a statement that he had made. The transmission in 21A2 was fixed in 2009 not 2010. The 2010 maintenance on that vehicle is \$5,856 to date. The transmission was repaired in 2009. The 2009 total expenditures for that ambulance were \$13,328. Interim Deputy Chief Ober pointed out that parts are a different line from labor. Account 370 is Labor. Vehicle Repair/Parts is 660. The 2008 figures for that vehicle were \$3,793. Commissioner Auger asked what was done in 2010. Interim Chief Robinson replied they fixed and installed the OnSpot chains for approximately \$300. A sensor was repaired at Irwin Motors for approximately \$500. Batteries were replaced for \$216. In 2010 we had a whole bunch of \$400 and \$500 repairs. Further discussion ensued about the repairs to 21A2. Interim Deputy Chief Ober commented 21A2 is out of service as of this weekend. Commissioner Clark asked what it was out of service for. Interim Deputy Chief Ober replied starting problems.

Interim Chief Robinson commented there are a lot of new chassis coming out. Most of those chassis are going to the larger size. What Captain Michaud is proposing is staying with the van chassis. Kevin Waldron makes a good point. Do we want to be first in on a new chassis? They are creating a new line of medium duty or business class truck. There is a lot going on with that. International is introducing a new chassis right off. Captain Michaud commented Navistar is approximately \$30,000. They don't have pricing on the Teristar. Interim Chief Robinson commented Greg is proposing a van style chassis that is still available through Chevrolet. There have been good reviews back on it. Ford is moving up to medium style or select gas engine. The vehicle Greg is proposing is 14,000 GVW.

Captain Michaud went over how they got to \$185,000. In looking at chassis they looked at their maintenance costs on A1 and A2. They are pushing the GVW on them. With all the equipment, patient, two or more providers you are right around 13,000. They believe that is one of the reasons why their maintenance costs are high on that vehicle. They did the research on a medium duty chassis. One they looked at had 17,000 GVW. Then they got the

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information that International is coming out with the Teristar chassis. It is brand new for 2011. There are specs but no pricing info on it. The only pricing they were able to get was on the Navastar chassis which is a little bit bigger. They found the price of the chassis alone is approximately \$30,000 more than the E series chassis alone. They went back and forth. They can only guess a heavier duty truck will handle load better with less repairs. Then again you have to look at it is a bigger truck and will cost more money to repair. With that heavy vehicle would they be able to extend life of it. Right now the Capital Improvement Draft has an 8 year replacement plan. The ambulance would be first due for 4 years, back up for 4 years and then replaced. With the heavier duty chassis will they be able to extend that to 10 years. They came to conclusion that this may not be the best time to sell that. The van chassis is what they should stay with. What they found with the van is they currently use the E450 with a diesel engine. As of now Ford is no longer offering that chassis with diesel as it won't fit due to new emission regulations. It is out of the question.

Interim Chief Robinson commented that with the research done, Chevrolet is going to be a good chassis. It is the G4500 rated at 14,000 GVW. Commissioner Auger asked if they have started using them. Captain Michaud replied they are very popular and have been around for a while. It is a Duramax diesel with a General Motors transmission. Speaking with a couple of other dealers and researching on line, people are having better luck with lower maintenance costs. The other thing thrown around is the Ford F450. It is a pick up chassis with an ambulance box. Ford still does make that. There are several departments that have them and have had significant chassis problems with them. It is a new Ford motor with no track record. It is assembled in Mexico. Interim Chief Robinson commented to separate career from call. This would be a vehicle the call company is familiar with. They are climbing into a van rather than a truck. There would be no adaptation period.

Captain Michaud passed out a spreadsheet providing information on revenue lost for the year while the ambulance was out of service due to mechanical. He used \$800 per transport. Commissioner Clark verified that there were 11 calls in 2010 to date. At \$800 per call that comes to \$8,800. Captain Michaud stated there were a couple calls in there that were not transports. He tried to estimate an average bill. Further discussion ensued.

Captain Michaud stated vehicle prices are down right now. They are cheaper than they were. Now is the time to buy a vehicle. Interim Chief Robinson stated everything is showing us that now is the time while we are still able to get smaller chassis. Hopefully four years from now all the bugs will be worked out of the new ones. He commended Captain Michaud and the ambulance committee for coming back with an honest evaluation of what was needed.

Commissioner Clark commented about scheduling in new vehicles over time and not getting out of sync with that. He asked Interim Deputy Chief Ober if he had looked into that at all. Interim Deputy Chief Ober replied that a 2009 Capital Improvement Plan spells it out all way to 2026. They are right on track for 2011 which would be approval. According to chart in 2011 they should be replacing ambulance and ladder. What they should talk about next is a ladder truck. Commissioner Clark asked if they would be looking at a quint. Interim Deputy Chief Ober replied that is something they will discuss. Commissioner Clark stated we are surrounded by people with ladder trucks if we needed one. Interim Deputy Chief Ober replied we are surrounded by people with tower trucks. It way is too premature to discuss that. It will be a couple of years of study, research and proposals coming forward to them.

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Commissioner Auger asked Interim Chief Robinson which ambulance was out of service. Interim Chief Robinson replied the old one, A2. Commissioner Auger asked what figures they are they are looking at. Interim Deputy Chief Ober replied it is spelled out in the narrative. This is budget figure not a bid figure. Interim Chief Robinson made a suggestion they do a warrant article and allow Captain Michaud and the ambulance committee to solicit three bids, select a vehicle from the bids and amend the warrant article at the District Meeting. Commissioner Clark asked how close to District Meeting they can put bids out and they will hold the price. Interim Deputy Chief Ober replied probably the first of February. Amend the warrant article on the floor to reflect the actual cost. Interim Chief Robinson explained process. Interim Deputy Chief Ober stated this process would cut down on time so they would be able to sign a contract after District Meeting approval.

Gretchen Wilder asked why A2 is out of service. Interim Deputy Chief Ober replied it won't start. They are waiting for the mechanic to look at it.

Commissioner Auger made a motion to present a warrant article for the purchase of a Chevy CG4500 Duramax chassis & ambulance body, Stryker Power Pro Cot, Spectrum Sigma IV Pump, Motorola Astro Digital 2-way radio, Communications/electrical labor. The actual total shall not exceed \$185,000. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Purchased Services

Account 590.2 Pressurized Hydrants

Hydrants were discussed. Gretchen asked if flow tests had been done this year on the hydrants. Commissioner Auger asked if it was the Water District's job to do the flow tests. Interim Deputy Chief Ober replied yes.

Wages & Benefits

Gretchen asked about the increase in health insurance. Commissioner Clark stated they are will be offering the family plan. Interim Deputy Chief Ober replied the plan being offered is changing. We are offering a 90/10 split. The District will pay 90% of the plan and the employee will pay 10%. We are now allowing more of the employees to choose the plan they need with the District picking up 90% of the cost. Commissioner Clark stated they will be offering Long Term Disability with a 50/50 split.

Gretchen asked how much the budget is going up without wages and benefits. Commissioner Clark replied they are going from \$1,457,000 to \$1,589,000. It hasn't been easy. They keyed off what the towns are doing and brought it down a notch. The 90/10 split came from the firefighters. They offered to pay 10% because they wanted to make sure all the men had family plans if they had families. Gretchen said when talking about union members and equality, a level playing field and some that are grandfathered on a family plan. They don't have level equality. It's basis for the union. Interim Deputy Chief Ober replied everybody will be paying 10%. He went on to explain how decision was made. Commissioner Clark stated he believes the plan adopted has a \$1,000 deductible for families. The District will pick that up. They will set aside about \$16,000. Based on background information, the cost will be approximately 35% of that.

Other

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Gretchen asked if they were proposing the purchase of new server. She asked if we didn't just by one. Interim Deputy Chief Ober replied the current server was purchased in 2002. We did propose one a couple years ago but it wasn't approved. Discussion ensued.

Apparatus & Equipment Replacement Account

Gretchen asked if Comstar was sent electronic now. Interim Deputy Chief Ober replied Comstar downloads the information.

Account 3409.6 Ambulance Charges for Service

Interim Deputy Chief Ober stated that Tom had reworked the number. He feels the number can be \$280,000 conservatively.

Account 331 Ambulance Billing Services

Kathy reported that the adjusted revenue should be \$21,600.

Health Insurance

Interim Deputy Chief Ober commented on the health insurance. We need to give LGC the information on the plan by December 1st if we are changing the policy.

Adjournment

Commissioner Auger made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. There being no discussion, vote was taken. Vote was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Tobine
Administrative Assistant

Next Meeting Date, Time, Place: December 1, 2010 at 17:30. Meeting to be held at Tilton School, new Academic Building, School Street, 2nd Floor, Room 213, Tilton.