



# *Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS*

Bradley A. Ober, Chief

Michael Robinson, Deputy Chief

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February 11, 2013

Budget Committee opened their public hearing at 6:58pm at the Northfield Town Hall in Northfield, NH. Budget Committee members were introduced.

Salaries and Wages (110) – no questions. Holiday Pay (110.05) – no questions. Overtime (110.06) – no questions.

Call Salaries & Wages (120) – Gretchen Wilder had a question about the \$5000 difference. Donny said it was due to none usage. Kevin Waldron asked if there was an increase in hourly wage. According to Chief not since 2012; it was about 2.5%.

Elected Officials (130) - Kevin Waldron wanted to know if the Commissioner's wage was still \$900 each. He feels they should be paid double what they are being paid. Donny does not feel it should be this year. Chief said last year, he suggested an increase but the Commissioner's declined it. Gretchen Wilder wanted to suggest the Moderator be increased from \$100. She asks that the Budget Committee consider raising this line item.

Group Health Insurance (210) – Bill Wilder wanted to know why budget for 2012 was more than the actual. Chief said it was due to two employees getting married during the year and a change in their health plans. Bill Wilder wants to know if the increase is due to only health insurance. He considers this a raise to the employee. Donny said they do not considered this to be a raise because it is not more money in their pocket.

Health Ins Ded. Reimbursement (211) – Donny said this line was zeroed out and in three years, it will disappear. Gretchen Wilder wanted to know which line these costs fall under now. Chief said they have a trust fund for this amount and they are looking at a three-year history and then will decide on how much is needed here. Gretchen Wilder wants to remind the committee that salary and benefits all make up pay.

Group Life Insurance (215) – no questions. Social Security (220) – no questions. Medicare (225) – no questions. Retirement (230) – no questions. Unemployment Comp (250) – no questions. Workers Comp (260) – no questions.

Other (290) – Gretchen Wilder wanted to confirm that this will be on the budget with a zero balances for three years before it can be eliminated.

Auditing (301) – no questions. Legal Services (320) – no questions.

School/Training Tuition/Fees (335) – Bill Wilder wanted to know why it is half of what it was in 2012. Chief said we didn't send an employee in 2012, so encumbered the money to be used this year.

Bank Charge/Interest (340) – no questions. Telephone (341) – no questions.

Information Technology (342) – Gretchen Wilder asked if this line item was for new licensing and new computers every year. Chief said the cost covers the IT support service plan. Gretchen wanted to be clear that none of the fire fighters are doing any of the IT work now. Chief said they are not. The cost for the IT support is \$8,700 per year on a year-to-year contract. Gretchen asked if this contract will be sent out to bid each year to ensure we are getting the best price. Chief said it will be up to the board.

Medical Services (350) – Kevin Waldron asked what is covered under this line item. Chief said firefighter's physicals. He also wanted to know if everyone had to get a physical every year. Chief said they do. Donny asked who mandates this. Chief said it's going by the standards. Bill Wilder asked if their medical insurance would cover their annual physicals. Gretchen Wilder asked if annual physicals were covered under their insurance. Chief said the fire firefighters need a specialized physical, much different from a regular physical, and it was not covered.

Vehicle Repairs Mechanic (370) – Bill Wilder asked if this line covered all vehicles. Chief said it does.

Elections (385) – no questions.

Other Prof. Services (390) – Gretchen Wilder asked what this line is for. Donny said it is kept open in case anything comes up. If in a couple years, nothing goes in here, it will be zeroed out.

Interest Expense (999) – no questions.

Electricity (410) – Gretchen Wilder wanted to know if they look into pre-buy plans. Chief said they do.

Heating Fuel (411) – no questions.

Water (412) – Gretchen Wilder asked why this line has gone up. Chief said it was due to a rate increase in July of last year.

Sewer (413) – rate increase due to same as above.

Repairs & Maintenance (430) – Kevin Waldron wanted to know what is on tap for this line in 2013. Chief said there are a lot of small projects at both locations. Some examples include removing the underground oil tank. At the Park Street building, they will be converting over to natural gas from propane. There are electrical updates needed at both stations.

Property & Liability Ins (480) – no questions.

Printing (550) – Gretchen Wilder was wondering about letter head and if we still need to purchase it since so much is being done online now. Chief said it is still needed because the ink is still expensive if printed from a template.

Dues & Subscriptions (560) – no questions.

Pressurized Hydrants (590.2) – Kevin Waldron wanted to know why Chief shows \$0 in this line item. Chief said this line came in after his budget was complete. It will have a number in the budget. Kevin Waldron wanted to know if this would appear as a warrant article at the district meeting. Tom Gallant said it would not. Discussion ensued with opinions about this line item.

General (610) – no questions. Office (620) – no questions. Postage (625) – no questions. Equip. Maintenance & Repair (630) – no questions.

Service Testing (631) – Kevin Waldron wants to know what we are testing this year that we didn't last year. Chief said this covers the service on the new cardio monitors. Kevin Waldron wanted to know if this was an annual service. Chief said it is. Gretchen Wilder wanted to know if this is a 3-month contract. Chief said it was for one year, just paid last in the year last year.

Gasoline (635) – Gretchen wanted to know if we are we using the contractor price from the school. Chief said we are for both gasoline and diesel.

Diesel Fuel (636) – no questions. Vehicle Repair Parts (660) – no questions.

Books & Periodicals (670) – Donny wanted to know if the items in this line item could also fall under subscriptions. Chief said they could be combined. Tom Gallant said these codes were adopted to be in line with the code books and law books. They could probably be combined but they were asked to go to this numbering system to follow suit.

Departmental (680) – no questions.

Municipal Fire Alarm System (681) – Donny asked if all the lines have been disconnected. Gretchen Wilder wanted to know if the boxes are going to be sold. Chief said they have all been disconnected but not sold. Gretchen Wilder said they could probably be sold at an auction house. Dave Tracy said the units could be repaired and sold. Kevin Waldron asked if the wire is still strung on the poles for that system. Chief said most is still there, but it is coming down, at no charge, as the cable company installs their fiber optics.

Fire Prevention (683) – no questions.

Uniforms (685) – Gretchen Wilder asked why this line is higher than normal years – up \$450. Chief said it was put in for the suggested new employee. Gretchen Wilder would like to have Budget Committee relook at this line and reduce it since we are not hiring the suggested new employee. Donny said it was an oversight and will be adjusted.

Misc (690) – Gretchen Wilder wanted to know what this line covers. Tom Gallant says it's a catch all for things that don't fall into any other categories.

Land (710) – no questions. Building (720) – no questions. Other (730) – no questions.

Furniture & Fixtures (750) – Gretchen Wilder wanted to know if the chairs will be brand new or office surplus. Chief said he does not know until they are looked at to buy.

Dry Hydrants & Cisterns (775) – Gretchen Wilder wanted to know why this has not been lowered since we have never spent this amount. Chief said there are a couple that need repairs so the cost is put in. Gretchen wanted to know if we have added any new cisterns. Chief said we have not. Spaulding is new, but was installed at their cost. We just take over the maintenance.

Pressurized Hydrants (590.2) – no questions. Grant Expenditures (970) – no questions. Ambulance Billing Services (331) – no questions. Vehicles (760) – no questions. Fire Equipment (740) – no questions. Rescue Equipment (960.5) – no questions. EMS Equipment (741) – no questions.

Donny said he is hoping to see a large surplus in the legal line item at the end of the year. Most of the increase to the budget is due to retirement and health care costs. Gretchen Wilder asked if these are this factual numbers from the year 2012. Chief said they are.

Public hearing closed at 7:55pm.