

**Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS**  
**Emergency Commissioners' Meeting**  
Approved May 22, 2013

**Meeting called by:** Commissioners  
Transcribed by: Pat Clark

**Date, Time:** May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013 17:30  
**Place:** Northfield Town Hall

**Commissioners Present:** Paul Auger and Pat Clark

**Others Present:** Pat Consentino, Joe Jesseman, Jane Alden, Katherine Dawson, Kim Sowles, Duane Harbour, Kevin Waldron, Glenn Smith, Gretchen Wilder, and Derek LaCourciere

**Call to order:** Commissioner Clark called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

For purposes of this meeting, the Commissioners agreed that Commissioner Clark would serve as temporary Chair.

**Business of the meeting:**

Commissioner Clark stated that the purpose of this meeting is to accept Tom Gallant's resignation from the Fire District Commission, dated May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and to take any action related to that resignation. After checking with counsel at LGC, Commissioner Clark said that the authority to hold an emergency meeting was per RSA 91-A:2, II which basically allows for such a meeting if deemed imperative to be held without the customary 24 hour notice. Notice of this meeting was posted at the Tilton and Northfield town halls today. It was noted that Administrative Assistant, Kathy Tobine was out until Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> and Chief Ober was at the Fire Academy so the notice was not posted on our department web site.

Commissioner Clark mentioned that the appointment of a replacement for former Commissioner Tom Gallant is allowed per RSA 670:12 "Vacancies". This states that the remaining Commissioners appoint a replacement and that replacement serves until the next District Annual Election in March of 2014.

Commissioners Auger and Clark agreed that the reason to hold an Emergency meeting was so as not to hinder the governance of the District by its Commissioners such as running into a 1 to 1 tie vote on the approval of a manifest. Commissioner Clark also mentioned that we have fallen behind in our work due to the fact that the last three scheduled Commissioners' Meetings have been cancelled at the request of Commissioner Gallant because of his health issues. Realizing that filling the position of a Commissioner would undoubtedly take time; time is of the essence. Per RSA 670:12 the reasons for holding an emergency meeting must be stated and the above mentioned reasons are on record as being the case.

**Former Commissioner Gallant's Letter of Resignation:** Tom Gallant had requested that his letter be read into the minutes. Discussion ensued with Commissioner Auger feeling that

the letter need not to read but Commissioner Clark felt that we should respect Tom's request. It was agreed to read it. Commissioner Clark read the letter and both Commissioners felt that the overall intent of the letter be included in these minutes. Tom Gallant regretted to be stepping down from serving as Commissioner after over 25 years but he felt frustrated by being out voted in almost every vote by the other two commissioners for a long time. He also felt that the re-election of Commissioner Clark was going to offer nothing to the District but continued negative attitudes towards the Chief. Tom felt that the Chief and the fire fighters were doing a commendable job in light of this negative atmosphere and he wishes them the best.

Commissioner Clark mentioned that the news of Commissioner Gallant's resignation got a great deal of attention and many people contacted him to share suggestions and he has contacted people to get their ideas as to how to best make an appointment to fill Tom Gallant's seat on the Commission: The Commissioners could appoint a person that ran in the most recent election for Fire Commission, they could pick a former Commissioner to fill out the remaining year as they have direct experience, or the Commissioners could ask for applications from District citizens. What Commissioner Clark proposed to Commissioner Auger was running an ad in local newspapers which would allow everyone mentioned above to apply for the position. Commissioner Clark shared a rough draft of a possible ad and read it to the public in attendance. Derek LaCourciere asked to be recognized and expressed concern that the topics in the draft ad may appear to the public that the Commissioners want to get someone that feels the same about District issues as do the Commissioners. Derek felt that it should be just a general request asking them what qualities they bring to the position. Commissioner Auger said that he felt that the topics in the draft ad were general enough about things so as to allow applicants an opportunity to qualify them and to give the Commissioners some idea about who would be a good choice for taking Tom's position. Joe Jessemen thought that we should just appoint a person that ran for the post in the last election because those candidates were vetted by the voters during the election campaign process. Commissioner Clark said that by running an ad for people to apply for the job they could get not only the candidates that ran previously but others that may also be qualified. It was decided by Commissioner Auger and Clark to run the ad and ask for applicants.

The ad was looked at again and feedback was asked for by the Commissioners from the public. Commissioner Clark asked Glenn Smith, the Northfield Town Administrator, how long the Selectmen in his town ran an ad and what was the deadline period for applicants to submit their letters. Glenn said that they ran the ad at the end of May and expected replies by June 7<sup>th</sup> so it was a bit over a week's time. With that in mind, Commissioner Clark said that if we get the ads in local papers soon we could request that we get the replies by May 29<sup>th</sup> and we could meet on that Wed night to review the letters. Commissioner Auger felt that we should meet at 6 pm rather than at 5:30 pm to give people ample time to get to the meeting after work hours. Kevin Waldron suggested that if this ad is going to run the exact wording needed to be approved tonight and he suggested that if we were going to review the letters on May 29<sup>th</sup> we should change the wording in the ad a bit in the opening line. The wording was changed to read that "...a vacancy on the Board of Commissioner for the period of the appointment to the March 2014 District Elections". It was also determined that all applications needed to be either mailed or dropped off at the T-N Fire District Station at 12

Center St., Tilton or e-mailed to the District Administrative Assistant, Kathy Tobine: [KTobine@tnfd.org](mailto:KTobine@tnfd.org) to arrive no later than 4 pm, May 29<sup>th</sup>. Letters would be reviewed by the Commissioners at 6 pm, May 29<sup>th</sup> at a Commissioners meeting at the Northfield Town Hall. The process for determining how to proceed will be discussed at that meeting.

**Other related information:**

Pat Consentino said that the purpose of this meeting was to accept the resignation of Tom Gallant and we never voted to do so; she suggests that we do. A motion was made to do so, it was seconded and it passed unanimously. Pat Consentino was thanked for catching this oversight.

Commissioner Clark stated that since we were going to be meeting for reviewing the letters on May 29<sup>th</sup> we needed to deal with two other conflicts on that night:

- The invitation by the Board of Selectmen in Sanbornton to meet with them, the Belmont Selectmen and the Tilton Selectmen. It was decided to let the Sanbornton Selectmen know that nobody from our department would be attending this meeting and that we would like to hold off on such meetings until we had three Commissioners.
- Personnel Policies Review with Peg O'Brien: Attorney O'Brien did the initial review of our revised personnel policies and procedures and said she could meet with us on May 29<sup>th</sup> (Wed evenings historically are the best nights for Commissioners to meet). It would be nice to meet with her after we have all Commissioners on board so she will be contacted, too.

Commissioner Auger also mentioned that we should invite people to our next meeting which is on May 22<sup>nd</sup> so that we could give Tom Gallant best wishes for his long time service to the Fire District along with giving him a plaque for his service. Commissioner Clark asked Chief Ober to get the plaque made, with Commissioner Auger's approval, and to invite any of our fire fighters that would like to attend. It was agreed by both Commissioners after finding out from Glenn Smith that the Northfield Town Hall would be available on May 22<sup>nd</sup> that we would hold the meeting there at 5:30 pm. Commissioner Clark will ask that it should be noted on our web site.

Commissioner Clark said that with Tom stepping down we needed to vote on a new chairperson for the Commission. Commissioner Clark made the motion to nominate Paul Auger and Paul seconded it. Commissioner Clark stated that having Paul as the Chair makes sense because it is customary to have the Commissioner in their final year of office be chair and that person is Paul Auger. The vote was unanimous and Paul Auger is our Chair.

Commissioner Auger made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Clark and the meeting adjourned at 6:19 pm

**Next meeting date, time and place:** May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 5:30 pm, Northfield Town Hall. Main floor.