

Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS Commissioners' Meeting

Meeting Called By:	Commissioners	Date, Time:	09/17/13 at 5:30 PM
Transcribed By:	Kathy Tobine	Place:	Northfield Town Hall, 21 Summer Street, Northfield

Commissioner Auger called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

Present: Commissioners Paul Auger, Pat Clark, Les Dolecal; Chief Brad Ober, Deputy Mike Robinson and Administrative Assistant Kathy Tobine.

Firefighters Present: Dave Hall, Tim Joubert, Judy Tilton

Tilton Board of Selectmen Present: Pat Consentino and Sandy Plessner

Budget Committee Present: Donnie Stevens, Jane Alden and Timothy Sattler

Public Present: Judy Tilton

Reporters Present: Michael Kitch and Donna Rhodes

Correspondence

Commissioner Auger stated on September 13th they received a letter of resignation from Chief Ober. He read the letter. His last day will be Friday, October 18th.

Chief's Resignation

The Board accepted the Chief's resignation. Commissioner Auger thanked Chief Ober for everything he has done for the department over the years. He did a lot and got a lot of grants. He really appreciates that and wanted to thank him for that. Commissioner Clark thanked the Chief for all the good things he brought to the department, in particular training. He appreciates that and what he did. Commissioner Dolecal commented that the fire department is a very professional organization and Chief Ober contributed to that. She appreciates it and wished him the very best.

Public Comment

Pat Consentino asked Commissioners Auger and Dolecal how much taxpayer's money was going to be spent. Three firefighters in the last year, two firefighters in two years and a Fire Commissioner quit under the regime of Pat Clark and she wanted to know how much money it is going to cost the taxpayers before they realize this is a personal agenda. She knows how much it cost the Town of Tilton when they got rid of 61 Business Park Drive. She wanted to know how much it will cost them before they realize that in the District.

Donnie Stevens asked for more detail.

Pat Consentino explained if you look at how many firefighters they have lost because of the health and residency issues. We had a fire commissioner write a letter blatantly stating he left because of Pat Clark. The legal budget went from \$5,000 to \$16,000 in the last year. Now they are spending money again to search for another Chief. Searching for firefighters and chiefs is a lot of money. The common denominator is obvious. She feels they should pull together and go forward. It is costing a lot of money going through people, hiring people and certifying people.

Commissioner Auger explained most people hired for these positions are trained. Discussion ensued about the cost.

Donnie Stevens commented people leave. It happens all the time all over the country.

Commissioner Clark stated they are trying to strike a balance setting up a good program for the firefighters and being fair to the taxpayers. A lot has happened over the past few years. The biggest was the State pulling out of its obligation to pay for retirement. There has been a lot of controversy over residency. He feels that is a big issue. Most of the fire departments around do have some type of requirement. As far as Chief Carrier leaving he feels that has nothing to do with him. The vacancy became open and he applied for it. It does happen. It's a lot of work and a certain amount of expense to find a good person. It is their responsibility to look at. They will do the best they can.

Chief Vacancy

Commissioner Auger stated the next thing is to come up with some ideas on how to handle the vacancy. He is hoping the Deputy and the firefighters would help until they can find someone.

Deputy Robinson commented we are in the fire service and handle emergencies very well. They train and cross train. They will not leave the community or anybody behind. We will endure. He would like Brad back but we can't have that. If asking will he do it, of course he will under his terms. The terms area very similar to what they went through before. He requested that Captain Joubert give him a hand. He has talked with Kathy. He has talked with the permanent officers. It has to be a team effort. He will rely heavily on them. If they can go forward with the team effort like they had before, it would work. He would not encourage that without having talked to Tim and Kathy.

Commissioner Auger stated that is one option. There are other options out there. They will decide. Commissioner Clark stated that is the preferred way for him as well. He feels they can do it again.

Deputy Robinson requested they move forward rapidly. Before it was September and they had a Chief in in December. That is acceptable. Keep to a three month period. If it is going to drag out six months, they will have to do something else.

Commissioner Auger stated there are other options out there. Family comes first.

Commissioner Clark passed out paperwork from last time. He checked with LGC. They no longer provide that service. MRI does it. He spoke with Don Jutton this afternoon. He emailed him information. He also talked with Glen Smith regarding the process they used.

Commissioner Dolecal was part of the Northfield process and explained how it worked from her view. She feels it is a good solid process and had lots of community involvement as well.

Commissioner Clark would like MRI to come down to give their presentation.

Captain Hall commented that the NH Dept of Safety also provides that service. Discussion ensued.

Captain Hall asked if they were going to talk about their interim options tonight. Commissioner Clark stated he like the Deputy's suggestion. Captain Hall stated between the full time officers they have 50 years of experience. Every option should be exhausted in house. They feel strongly as a group that it should be handled in house. Commissioner Dolecal asked what he was proposing. Captain Hall stated they will support what the Deputy, Tim and Kathy have proposed.

Deputy Robinson stated last time he was acting Chief and Brad was acting Deputy. Commissioner Clark is comfortable with that. Commissioner Auger would like to look at other options. There are retired chief's out there that could come in and work part-time to fill in. Deputy Robinson commented that they looked at that. It will be three months to get them up to speed and then they leave. He requested the Board let them know as quickly as possible so they can set forth their plan.

Commissioner Clark stated would just as soon as have them do the budget. Deputy Robinson stated let Brad go forward putting it together, let them get up to speed on it. Then move forward with it.

Commissioner Auger stated the Board needs to talk about it and decide what they are going to do.

Judy Tilton stated they have systematically harassed Brad to that point to leave.

Commissioner Clark commented they have to deal with personnel issues and need to go in to nonpublic. Discussion ensued.

TNFD Commissioner's Meeting
09/17/13

Nonpublic Session

Commissioner Auger made a motion to enter nonpublic session. Commissioner Dolecal seconded the motion.

Specific Statutory Reason cited as foundation for the nonpublic session RSA 91-A:3, II(a) *The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, **unless** the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted.*

Roll Call vote to enter nonpublic session:

Paul Auger	Yes
Patrick Clark	Yes
Les Dolecal	Yes

Motion passed. Nonpublic session entered at 6:30 PM.

Public Session

Motion to leave nonpublic session and return to public session was made by Commissioner Auger and seconded by Commissioner Dolecal.

Roll Call Vote to exit nonpublic session:

Paul Auger	Yes
Patrick Clark	Yes
Les Dolecal	Yes

Motion passed.

Public session reconvened at 6:07 p.m.

Motion made to seal these minutes was made by Commissioner Clark and seconded by Commissioner Dolecal because it is determined that divulgence of this information likely would Affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board.

Roll Call Vote to seal these minutes:

Paul Auger	Yes
Patrick Clark	Yes
Les Dolecal	Yes

Motion passed.

Commissioner Clark stated the Commissioners discussed how they felt things should be done based on what was discussed tonight. The Chief will be here until October 18th. They feel he should focus on the goals referenced in his letter.

Commissioner Auger stated Deputy Robinson will be the Acting Chief, Captain Joubert will be the acting Deputy. He hopes the other Captains will help in any way they can along with Kathy. He is sure they can handle it along with Kathy. If there is anything major, Kathy can get ahold of any one of them.

Commissioner Clark stated as far as the budget goes they felt Mike as acting Chief needs to be the primary person along with Tim working on that. Commissioner Auger feels Captain Hall should be involved in the budget as well. Mike and Tim will present the budget to the Budget Committee. Chief Ober will be here until October 18th. He's hoping that any questions they have, he will help them with. Captain Joubert commented that he and Kathy will be sitting down with Chief Ober and going.

Commissioner Clark would like a list of the things Chief Ober would like to complete for Thursday.

Commissioner Clark will contact MRI to come in with a presentation. The Commissioners can all meet Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. Commissioner Dolecal stated she is concerned about their fee. Commissioner Clark stated there is no fee for talking.

Captain Joubert asked how long the process for the Town of Northfield took. Commissioner Dolecal stated it took them about four weeks. Once it gets on track can be expedited. Getting the group together was the hardest part. It is an exciting process. She hopes for internal candidates as well as external.

TNFD Commissioner's Meeting
09/17/13

Captain Hall spoke for the staff. They appreciate their decision. They appreciate the quickness of the Board's decision. There will be no ripples. This will be a seamless transmission. He asked the Board let them know the goals they are trying to reach in the budget.

Pat Consentino reminded everyone they will be paving Center Street next week.

Adjournment

Commissioner Auger made a motion adjourn. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. There being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1923.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Tobine
Administrative Assistant

Next Meeting Date, Time, Place: 09/19/2013 at 17:30. Meeting to be held at Northfield Town Hall, 21 Summer Street, Northfield.