

Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS Commissioners' Meeting

Meeting Called By:	Commissioners	Date, Time:	01/03/2015 at 13:00
Transcribed By:	Kathy Tobine	Place:	Northfield Town Hall, Upstairs Meeting Room, 21 Summer Street, Northfield

Commissioner Dolecal called the meeting to order at 1302 hours.

Present: Commissioners Les Dolecal, Paul Auger, Patrick Clark; Chief Michael W. Sitar, Jr.

2015 Budget

Commissioner Dolecal commented that they were meeting to discuss the budget and go over some numbers.

Operating Budget

Commissioner Clark commented that the Chief's budget is at \$1,903,973 and the 2014 adopted budget was \$1,701,709. This is an increase of \$202,264 which represents a 10.6% increase over last year's budget. The Commissioner's budget is \$1,828,064 which is a \$126,355 increase over last year or 6.9% increase. Tilton, Northfield and the School District all have their annual meeting before the Fire District. Northfield is level funding their budget this year. Tilton has a 1.7% increase over last year. The School District is going to be a 1.9% increase over last year. We are looking at going up between 7% and 10% on our budget. The major cost increase is \$43,000 in Salary & Wages. There was a decrease in the Benefits of about \$3,000. Professional & Technical Services have increased \$21,830. Purchased Services decreased. Supplies went up \$21,000 from \$65,000 to \$86,000. Capital Outlay went up \$20,000 from \$3,003 to \$23,000. He feels they should be looking at anything they can do in Profession & Technical Services, Supplies and Capital Outlay.

Commissioner Clark commented that next year they need to look at the Apparatus & Equipment Replacement Fund as they have some major purchases that are depleting quicker than thought a few years ago. Chief Sitar commented he is already working on that.

Salary & Wages were discussed. Commissioner Clark commented he wants to double check the figures. Chief Sitar commented that he came up with the same numbers as Kathy.

Discussion ensued about Professional & Technical Services. Chief Sitar provided information on FireHouse Cloud. Chief Sitar explained the interior work on Rescue 1.

Commissioner Auger talked about the Budget Committee meeting and their decreasing the Pressurized Hydrants to \$50,000. Commissioner Clark commented that he had spoken with Scott Davis and was told that it will go to court of the Fire District does not pay the agreed amount. Discussion ensued about the Pressurized Hydrants being a separate warrant article. Discussion ensued on increasing the Legal line.

Commissioner Dolecal commented that they, as Commissioners, need to put together a responsible budget. They need to look at what is going on in the communities as far as money and taxes. They also need to look at the firefighters and the service the District provides and make sure they provide a good service. The more they try to cut the budget they are sending the message that they can sacrifice service by cutting the budget. That is not the message they should be sending. They know there will be reductions but if they don't ask for it and make the plea that these are important expenditures, they will never get it.

Chief Sitar commented he presented a very responsible budget to them. There is nothing frivolous in it.

Commissioner Clark commented that Purchased Services was \$127,988 in 2014. That is up \$1,000.

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Professional & Technical Services was reviewed. Commissioner Clark was concerned about the Budget Committees numbers. Chief Sitar commented that the Budget Committee has not reviewed all the items. They have only reviewed what the Commissioners had completed.

Purchased Services was reviewed. Commissioner Clark requested Commissioner Auger and Chief Sitar request the Budget Committee reconsider Pressurized Hydrants.

Supplies were reviewed. Chief Sitar commented that the Underground Storage Tank Committee is meeting on February 6th and increasing the fuel surcharge on diesel from two cents to five cents. Discussion ensued on adding the outstanding bills that have not been received to the actuals.

Capital Outlay was reviewed. Chief Sitar commented that he is still waiting for the pricing on the emergency generator for Park Street. He explained they need to size it correctly. The generator at Center Street is too small due to the draw of the Plymovent when it starts. Discussion ensued about the generator.

Apparatus & Equipment Replacement Fund Budget

Account 760 Vehicles: This line was reviewed. Chief Sitar explained that the \$687,000 would not be in one budget year. It would over two years. There will be more income in that line by then. Discussion ensued about the Capital Improvement Plan and vehicle replacement. Commissioner Clark requested the Chief provide the Board with the mileage on each vehicle.

Discussion ensued about the ambulance revenues. Chief Sitar commented he has budgeted \$280,000 per year.

Account 740 Fire Equipment: This line was reviewed. Vehicle repeaters were discussed. Chief Sitar explained the importance of the repeaters in assisting the portable radios in reaching Lakes Region. Thermal Imaging Cameras were discussed.

Account 960.5 Rescue Equipment: This line was reviewed. Chief Sitar explained the importance of the Hurst Extrication Tools.

Commissioner Clark asked Chief Sitar where they could make additional cuts in the Apparatus & Equipment Replacement Fund Budget. Chief Sitar commented he does not feel comfortable cutting any of it.

Commissioner Dolecal asked if the Budget Committee will give them a bottom line figure. Commissioner Auger explained they look at the numbers and then make their recommendations. Discussion ensued. The Board agreed to leave the numbers as they previously agreed.

Adjournment

Commissioner Dolecal 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 14:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Tobine
Administrative Assistant

Next Meeting Date, Time, Place: 01/07/14 at 17:30. Meeting to be held at Tilton Town Hall, Downstairs Meeting Room, 257 Main Street, Tilton.