



Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS

Michael W. Sitar Jr, Chief

Michael Robinson, Deputy Chief

Warrant Article Public Hearing. February 9, 2015

Called to order by Pat Clark at 8:35pm. Commissioners present Paul Auger and Pat Clark and Chief. Missing Les Dolecal (resigned due to personal reasons). No appointments for the next few weeks until elections.

Pat Clark read through each article inviting questions.

Article 01: To choose a Fire Commissioner for the ensuing three (3) years (Actual voting to be by official ballot on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at the annual Town voting sessions in Tilton and Northfield at their respective polling places and times). No questions.

Article 02: To choose a Treasurer for the ensuing three (3) years (Actual voting to be by official ballot on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at the annual Town voting sessions in Tilton and Northfield at their respective polling places and times). No questions.

Article 03: To choose a Clerk for the ensuing three (3) years (Actual voting to be by official ballot on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at the annual Town voting sessions in Tilton and Northfield at their respective polling places and times). No questions.

Article 04: To accept the reports of the Treasurer and the Fire Commissioners and pass any vote relating thereto. *This article is recommended by the Commissioners.* No questions.

Article 05: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate Eight Hundred Nineteen Thousand Nine Hundred Two Dollars (\$819,902.00) for the purpose of purchasing Fire, Rescue, EMS Equipment and Ambulance Charges, with said funds to be withdrawn from the Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund established under RSA 31:95-C (Adopted March 7, 2005). *(Majority vote required.) This article is recommended by the Budget Committee and the Commissioners.* No questions.

Article 06: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of One Million Seven Hundred Twenty-Six Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Six Dollars (\$1,726,476.00) for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. *(Majority vote required.) This article is recommended by the Budget Committee and the Commissioners.* No questions.

Article 07: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars {\$49,500.00} for the purpose of hiring a fire station consultant with said funds to be withdrawn from the Land & Building Capital Reserve Fund. *(Majority vote required.) This article is recommended by the Budget Committee and the Commissioners.* No questions.

Article 08: To see if the District will vote to establish a contingency fund and vote to appoint the Board of Commissioners as agents to expend from the contingency fund for the current year for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further to raise and appropriate Seventeen Thousand Dollars (\$17,000.00) to put in the fund. This sum to come from the Unreserved Fund Balance. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the general fund. *(Majority vote required). This article is recommended by the Budget Committee and the Commissioners.* No questions.

Article 09: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Dollars {\$4,000.00} for the purpose of health insurance deductible reimbursements with said funds to be withdrawn from the Unreserved Fund Balance. *(Majority vote required) This article is recommended by the Budget Committee and the Commissioners.* No questions.

Article 10: To see if the District will vote to appoint the Board of Commissioners as agents to expend from the Tilton-Northfield Land and Building Fund (a Capital Reserve Fund) pursuant to RSA 35:15. *(Majority vote required) This article is recommended by the Budget Committee and the Commissioners.*

Land fund being created so that the Commissioners can move on purchasing land if something becomes available before the next District Meeting. A public hearing would have to be called to announce the plans to spend the money. Gretchen stated that this is usually done at the District Meeting. She does not agree with this warrant article. Chief said this article was written with DRA's guidance. He said that this would only be in the case of land coming available for only a certain period of time and not missing the opportunity. This article would allow the Commissioners to hold a public hearing and expend the money on the land. It gives us flexibility to options, especially since they are looking at land right now. Donny is nervous that if this passes, the Commissioners might like a piece of land and choose to buy it even if the public does not agree. The public has to have faith that the Commissioners will listen to their wishes at the public hearing. Gretchen says communication to the public about meetings is not always effective – on bulletin boards, in newspapers, on the website. Only three people could show up and make such a big decision.

Article 11: To see if the District will vote to change the fiscal year from January 1 through December 31 to July 1 through June 30. The annual District Meeting will continue to be held on the first Monday after the second Tuesday in March. *(Majority vote required). This article is recommended by the Budget Committee and the Commissioners.*

Donny feels this article makes no sense. We meet at the same time for something that does not happen until June. Pat said the budget is not voted on until March, but the fiscal year starts in

January and we are spending money we don't even know if we have yet. This change would allow the budget to be passed by the voters and then the money spent – not before. Gretchen understands why this is, but feels it will be confusing for people. The School District and Town of Tilton run on a fiscal year. She feels we should change the policy rather than the fiscal calendar. Chief worries about spending money that does not get approved later on at the District Meeting. This was a recommendation of the DRA. Donny says it will not change the scrambling for money. Insurance is already paid on a fiscal year. If this plan passes, we need to determine how to create an 18-month budget in year one year – or probably over a two year plan. One year you pay 18 months, the next year you pay 6 months. Chief adjusts his spending pattern due to budget; this article would make this easier to control.

Article 12: Shall the District accept the provisions of RSA 31:95-b providing that any District at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, the Board of Commissioners to apply for, accept and expend, without further action by the District meeting, unanticipated money from a state, federal, or other governmental unit or a private source which becomes available during the fiscal year? (*Majority vote required*). *This article is recommended by the Budget Committee and the Commissioners.*

If a grant becomes available during the year, the Commissioners can use the money from this grant. Verbiage on this was enhanced by the DRA. Once this passes, it is indefinite until it is taken out at a District Meeting. Gretchen would like to see this voted on every year so it doesn't get forgotten about. Chief says DRA gave them the wording for all these warrants. It makes the warrant a lot tighter. Pat said he would have it looked at for a yearly rather than indefinite time frame. Donny feels this is probably a great idea, but he doesn't want it to leave the impression of not being trusted. Pat said the verbiage can be changed at the District Meeting to make this an annual article.

Article 13: Shall the District accept the provision of RSA 33:7 providing that any District at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, the Commissioners to issue tax anticipation notes? (*Majority vote required*). *This article is recommended by the Budget Committee and the Commissioners.* No questions.

Article 14: To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting. None.

Motion to adjourn by Pat Clark, seconded by Paul Auger. Public hearing adjourned at 9:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katina Provencal
District Clerk