

Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS Facilities Committee Meeting

Meeting Called By:	Tim Sattler	Date, Time:	11/11/2015 at 5:00 PM
Transcribed By:	Dennis Manning	Place:	Northfield Town Hall, Upstairs Meeting Room, 21 Summer Street, Northfield

Chairman Sattler called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Present: Committee Members Tim Sattler, Dennis Allen, Dennis Manning, Wayne Crowley, Lucinda "Cindy" Hope, Joe Jesseman, Chief Sitar

Public Present: Aiden O'Brien, Michael Elkin, Laurel Macpherson, Matt Gilman, Donny Stevens, and Paula Benski

Public Comment

Donny Stevens offered that the Fire District Budget Committee meeting will be on the 23rd of November at this, Northfield location.

Old Business

Chief Sitar handed out an updated space needs sheet from the previous meeting to be used in this evening's meeting

No minutes from the previous meeting, 28 Oct are available.

Tim advised Kyle had sent correspondence asking if his services were needed of which Tim replied in the negative but that he hoped to have an update after this evening's meeting.

Tim advised we needed to move into a non-public session to discuss details of a potential property of which the parties involved would like to remain confidential until such time it would become public knowledge.

Wayne moved to enter into non-public session. Dennis asked if would it would be appropriate for the non-public session at this time considering the unusually large number of residents in attendance. The audience was asked if they wished to address the committee of which no one wished to do so and stated they were fine with waiting 15-20 minutes for the session to end. Joe Jesseman 2nd Wayne's motion IAW RSA 91A and a roll call vote was taken with a unanimous result to move into non-public session at 5:05 pm.

New Business

The committee moved back into public session at 5:30 pm where Wayne moved to seal the non-public minutes, 2nd by Cindy and approved by all.

Time entered into discussion about potential locations where he deferred to Dennis Manning. Dennis offered that response times may in fact be skewed due to the current calculations being made from equipment responding from two different locations, Center Street in Tilton and Park Street in Northfield. He believed a single location where first and second calls originate from, a new fire station,

could in fact change response times dramatically thereby making the current model inaccurate, therefore opening additional locations for consideration.

Wayne stated we did not agree upon two engines and two ambulances being at the new facility, however Tim did remember such an agreement but Chief Sitar stated that he is uncertain where he would locate specific pieces of equipment, likely splitting the ambulances and engines between locations. His reasoning is that he would like three of each type of vehicles so as to have two of each in the new location with one of each at the Park Street location.

Tim asked if the new station had the space was hypothetically at Center Street would he likely locate both of each at that location. The Chief responded in the affirmative adding that having two stations located so close to each other is absurd. Wayne added that scenario is only plausible with full-time manning at both locations. Discussion ensued regarding locating stations so close to each other.

Wayne added that eventually all homes will be required to be sprinkled thus alleviating the need for residential fire service.

Dennis Manning asked if anyone knows what the Northfield resident mindset is with regard to station needs. Wayne responded that all 90% of all calls originate from Center Street and that it is working from that location where Dennis Manning replied of course this is the case because it has to be and no other data exists from a different location because there is no other location other than Park Street which no response data exists validating the point the response time data is skewed to a certain extent. Discussion ensued.

Tim stated he wants to come up with a solution the taxpayers will go for. For instance, if a new station is built with an "up-fit" for Park Street in the future, how long would people be willing to wait for that up-grade.

Dennis Manning expressed his concern about abiding by Northfield resident's needs trumping those of Tilton residents especially considering Tilton paying approximately 63% of the budget. Discussion ensued.

Tim refocused the discussion back to station location where discussion ensued with regard to response times and potential locations.

Discussion about the Park Street location ensued with respect to possibly relocating the entire district to that location as intended years prior. Wayne mentioned that the station was built to appease Northfield residents as would eventually be expanded becoming the main station location. Dennis Manning stated that in his opinion that decision was extremely short sighted reference what is going on today. Donny Stevens added that he was a fire commissioner at the time and that it was not short sighted, and that it was built to house equipment Center Street could accommodate. He also added it was located at the specific park Street location because of land costs. Discussion ensued.

Michael Elkin from Northfield spoke to the extent of voter buy-in with regard to the willingness of changes in response times to accommodate and preferred location. Tim answered that there is no intent to change response times or get rid of the Park Street station.

Matt Gilman added that it appears decisions are made more in fear of voter response opposed to looking for an optimal location. Discussion ensued.

Tim moved the committee into discussion to determine ongoing space needs for the new fire station. Wayne asked to get definitions so as to match needs on an apple to apple basis when comparing the Pelham station design to our needs. Specifically bay size was discussed in detail.

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Remaining space needs discussion included gear storage with regard to potential increases in call fire fighters, mezzanine space with regard to use and storage, kitchen space, etc. Pelham Fire Department provided a schematic of their station which is being used by the committee to determine needs for our district needs.

The committee discussed a strategy of what it will need to accomplish in the near future to accommodate Warren Street's needs to establish a design concept and get to public hearings.

Tim suggested the committee also look at costs for the up-grade of the Park Street location.

The committee discussed a date and time for the next scheduled meeting. 30 November was agreed upon.

Joe Jesseman moved to adjourn, 2nd by Dennis Manning, approved by all.

Minutes

None.

Adjournment

Chairman Sattler adjourned the meeting at 7:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis Manning
TNFD Facilities Committee Interim Secretary

Next Meeting Date, Time, Place: Monday, 30 Nov 2015. Meeting to be held at Northfield Town Hall, 21 Summer Street, Northfield.