

Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS Facilities Committee Meeting

Meeting Called By:	Tim Sattler	Date, Time:	30 Dec 2015, 5PM
Transcribed By:	Paula Benski	Place:	Northfield Town Hall, Upstairs Meeting Room, 21 Summer Street, Northfield

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM by Chair Tim Sattler.

Committee Members Present: Tim Sattler, Chief Michael Sitar, Wayne Crowley, Joe Jesseman, Dennis Manning, Lucinda Hope, Paula Benski

Public Present: None

Minutes

Minutes from the 11 Nov, 30 Nov, and 16 Dec, 2015, meetings were presented. Joe Jesseman moved to approve all three; Wayne Crowley seconded. Paula Benski wanted the record to reflect that she was abstaining from voting on the 11 Nov minutes as she was not on the committee for that meeting. The motion to accept all minutes passed unanimously.

Old Business

Wayne Crowley moved to go into non-public session per RSA 91A-3 to discuss real estate matters; Joe Jesseman seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by roll call. The committee moved into non-public session at 5:10 PM.

Joe Jesseman moved to come out of non-public session; Wayne Crowley seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by roll call. The committee came out of non-public session at 5:50 PM.

Paula Benski reminded Dennis Manning to be sure the Commissioners issued official authorization for the real estate agent to deal directly with this committee.

New Business

There was no correspondence to discuss.

Paula Benski suggested the committee consider creating a video of the current fire station in Tilton, to help convey the needs during the public hearing. Chief Sitar said he had done this in a former fire department, and offered to call the high school to see if there is a student who would like to take that on as a project. Dennis Manning suggested Mr. Harrington at the Tilton School, who is a videographer. The committee agreed to have Dennis contact Mr. Harrington to see if he is amenable to this project; Chief Sitar will hold off contacting the high school for now.

The committee then looked at the building needs documentation again. At this point, the square footage needs have been scrutinized, and the end result is 14,760 square feet. The committee estimated that this size building would cost around \$5 million. Tim Sattler noted that part of our due diligence is to show how we would pay for this building. Discussion on payment options ensued. Many options were discussed: asking businesses to kick in more; bonds; cash money, including selling the existing building to defray costs; grants. Joe Jesseman offered to gather details on bonds. Discussion ensued on the details of selling the existing building, including ascertaining if it was on a national history building list of any sort. Chief Sitar noted that grants for buildings are only available if we have

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an Emergency Operations Center, and the grant would be just for that portion of the building. Cindy Hope thought she had seen some grants for fire department buildings for small towns. Paula Benski offered to look into that option.

Wayne Crowley expressed concern about getting a \$5 million building approved. He thought \$2-3 million might be approved. He brought up the example that the community might not want to pay for a training center/conference room for 50 people when there are facilities available in other places, such as the schools. Discussion ensued; no changes were made to the plan at this point. Wayne also reminded the committee that once built, operational expenses will also go up.

The committee discussed possible secondary benefits of a new station. Tim Sattler pondered possible improvements to the insurance ratings, possibly resulting in residents paying less for home-owner's insurance. Cindy Hope mentioned that there could also be some pride in a new facility and noted that many people make decisions with emotions.

There was discussion on what our district might look like if we outsourced the ambulance portion of the district, but there was no time to get into many details.

Adjournment

Paula Benski moved to adjourn. Joe Jesseman seconded, and it passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paula Benski

**Next Meeting Date, Time, Place: 18 Jan 2016, 5 PM
Northfield Town Hall, 21 Summer St, Northfield, Upstairs
meeting hall**