

Village District of Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS Meeting Minutes

Polls were opened at the Pines Community Center, Dearborn Road, Northfield on the 8th day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand and sixteen at seven o'clock a.m. by Moderator Scott McGuffin. The polls were closed at 7:00 p.m. with 390 votes cast. Polls were opened at the Winnisquam Regional High School, Main St, Tilton on the 8th day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand and sixteen at eight o'clock a.m. by Moderator Charles Mitchell. The polls were closed at 7:00 p.m. with 207 votes cast.

Article 01: To choose a Fire Commissioner for the ensuing three (3) years (Actual voting to be by official ballot on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at the annual Town voting sessions in Tilton and Northfield at their respective polling places and times).

Paul Blaisdell won with 475 votes

Article 02: To choose a Clerk for the ensuing two (2) years (Actual voting to be by official ballot on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at the annual Town voting sessions in Tilton and Northfield at their respective polling places and times).

Stephanie Giovannucci won with 486 votes

Article 03: To choose a Moderator for the ensuing two (2) years (Actual voting to be by official ballot on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at the annual Town voting sessions in Tilton and Northfield at their respective polling places and times).

Kent Finemore won with 515 votes

The 2016 Fire District meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. on the 14th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and sixteen at the Winnisquam Regional High School, Main Street, Tilton, by Moderator Kent Finemore to act upon the following subjects.

Moderator Finemore introduced the members of the Budget Committee, Treasurer, Commissioner, Clerk, and Assistant Moderators Charles Mitchell and Bill Wilder, also mentioned that there is an open seat on the Budget Committee and to contact Kathy Tobine if interested. Read the rules of the meeting, and then read Article 1, 2 and 3 and the results of the election.

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.

Motioned by Charles Mitchell, seconded by Jerry Davis

Roland Seymour, Treasurer addressed an error in the annual report. The first bank account balance should be \$1,794,204.44 with a balance in the operating account of \$479,163.46.

Moderator Finemore opens floor for discussion to the article, hearing no discussion, calls for a voice vote.

Article Passes

Article 05: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate One Hundred Forty-One Thousand Seven Hundred Six Dollars (\$141,706.00) 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). This article is recommended by the Board of Commissioners and Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)

Motioned by Pat Clark, seconded by Jerry Davis

Commissioner Pat Clark spoke to the article, this on the Apparatus and Equipment Fund. This is made up of an entire list that was put together with the Commissioners, Chief and Budget Committee. One of the items is for the communication system \$16,578 that's a 5% match for radio equipment that we are buying. If the grant money comes through, that money will be spent as a match. We are hoping to get the grant the

Chief wrote for \$325,000. The current radios we are using now are from Motorola and are no longer supported; we are purchasing spare parts from Ebay, so we are really hoping to get the grant money. As far as the revenues, we don't have a prediction as to what the income will be, from Comstar for instance and ambulance funds; it's guess work and we were told we cannot put that down until we receive the money. We predict, based on past years, it'll be around \$285,000. The other monies we are getting through the forestry equipment grant. The amount awarded through the Northfield portion of that is going to be \$2,516, for Tilton \$3,392, that's the money we will get.

Chief Sitar, the money from Northfield will be \$6,516, \$4,000 of that would be returned by the State, and then for the Tilton it's \$7,392; \$4,000 of that would be returned by the State. The amount shown is the amount the Fire District actually has to match.

Moderator Finemore opens floor for discussion to the article. After discussion, Moderator Finemore calls for a voice vote. Moderator is not in doubt, **Article Passes**

Article 06: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate Two Hundred Twenty-Seven Thousand One Hundred Thirty-Six Dollars (\$227,136.00) for the purpose of a new ambulance, with said funds to be withdrawn from the Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund established under RSA 31:95-C (Adopted March 7, 2005). This article is recommended by the Board of Commissioners and Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)

Moved by Pat Consentino, seconded by Jerry Davis

Budget Committee Member Tim Sattler spoke to the article, as far as the Capital Improvement plan calls for we are buying a new ambulance every five years to keep it from 10. So 2016 is an appropriate year to buy an ambulance and replace our oldest one. The current ambulance has served us well to some degree, but is in need of replacement. Looking back historically, the two ambulances we own, the one we are looking to replace is a 2006 Ford diesel engine, and that was not one of the better years for the Ford diesel engine. Ford came out with a new engine that year but still had multiple problems, and they replaced the engine three other times, but could not come up with a reliable engine. The Chevrolet ambulance we purchased in 2011 was the first generation in the Chevrolets with a diesel emission control system issue, which was probably not the best year to purchase that vehicle as they have many problems. So far the Chevrolet has held up. We looked at going forward to not buying another diesel engine because our needs don't indicate that diesel is the way to go. So now is the time to purchase the vehicle, the funding is right, so the Board was in favor of purchasing the vehicle.

Moderator Finemore opens floor for discussion to the article. After discussion, Moderator Finemore calls for a voice vote. Moderator is not in doubt, **Article Passes**

Moderator Finemore takes a moment to thank the Supervisors of the Checklist we can't do these meetings without them, it's a tough job but somehow they get it done. I'd also like to thank Mr. Young and his crew who always do a great job of the PA system, and to Officer Patten for showing up today and making sure we have an officer present.

Article 07: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of One Million Nine Hundred Forty-Six Thousand Eight Hundred Two Dollars (\$1,946,802.00) for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. This article is recommended by the Board of Commissioners and Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)

Moved Dennis Manning, seconded by Jerry Davis

Gretchen Wilder presented an amendment to the Moderator Finemore.

Amendment 1: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Nine Hundred Forty-Three Thousand Eight Hundred Two Dollars (\$1,943,802.00) for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

Gretchen Wilder spoke to the amendment, in my amendment I am pulling out \$3,000 for the intent of not purchasing special event clothing for the officers, it roughly comes to \$3,000. I don't think it's appropriate for the tax payers to raise and appropriate special duty, special event clothing for the career staff. We are purchasing equipment and training and I think at that point it should be the end of it.

Article 7 Amendment 1 was moved by Gretchen Wilder, Seconded by Donald Stevens

Chief Sitar speaks to the Amendment, dress uniforms per say are not, but a portion of the uniform allowance is to go towards the purchase of items to go toward dress uniforms such as new badges, upkeep, shirts that are included in there; and I believe the amount is actually \$1,400, not \$3,000. It's a matter of pride for the department if we have to go to a funeral or special event where members wear their dress uniforms and everyone looks the same. They look sharp and they are representing the District and the community in a proper fashion. We haven't been normally purchasing in the past but in the short period I've been here we've had members go to these events and we're all dressed up differently. I know this may seem petty to some people but to people in the fire service, it's important how we represent ourselves in a specific manner. This is just part of it and the amount that I had in the budget for that was just over \$1400, and that will be the cost of basically one full dress uniform, we are spreading that out over seniority basis we are looking at the guys who have been in the department longer if they need an update or if they have a uniform to start with, I'd like to start providing that.

Moderator opens floor for discussion to Amendment 1 to Article 7. After discussion, Moderator Finemore calls for a voice vote. Moderator is not in doubt, **Amendment 1 to Article 7: Fails**

Moderator opens floor for discussion to the original article. After discussion, Moderator Finemore calls for a voice vote. Moderator is not in doubt **Original Article 7: Passes**

Article 08: To see if the District will vote to authorize the Commissioners to enter into a five-year agreement (beginning January 1, 2016 and ending December 31,2020) in the amount of Six Hundred Twenty-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Forty-Two Dollars (\$629,942.00) for the purpose of providing pressurized hydrant services necessary for fire suppression. The annual cost of One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-Eight Dollars (\$125,988.00) for this service is included in this year's operating budget and will be included in the operating budget for the next four (4) years. This article is recommended by the Board of Commissioners and Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)

Pat Clark moved, seconded by Jerry Davis

Budget Committee Member Donald Stevens speaks to article, the biggest reason for this being a warrant article is after last year's meeting and arguing for about an hour to spend \$125,000 I went to the commissioners because they had the three year before and asked why don't we just make this a five years agreement if possible and then we only have to visit this once every five years, I am in favor of this article and would like to see this article pass.

Moderator opens floor for discussion to the article.

Cathy Mitchell makes a motion to move the question, seconded by Charlie Mitchell, **motion passes by voice vote.** Moderator calls for a voice vote. Moderator is not in doubt, **Article Passes**

Article 09: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Seven Dollars (\$1,587.00) for the purpose of health insurance deductible reimbursements with said funds to be withdrawn from the Unreserved Fund Balance. This article is recommended by the Board of Commissioners and Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)

Paul Auger moved, seconded by Jerry Davis

Commissioner Paul Auger speaks to article, this money is a reserved fund, and this is to raise the money to bring up the deductible line item back to \$5000

Moderator Finemore opens floor for discussion to the article. After discussion, Moderator Finemore calls for a voice vote. Moderator is not in doubt, **Article Passes**

Article 10: 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 Eighteen Thousand Dollars (\$18,000.00) 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. This article is recommended by the Board of Commissioners and Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)

Dennis Manning moved, seconded by Jerry Davis

Commissioner Dennis Manning speaks to the article, we are looking to put money aside for any catastrophic events that may arise over the course of the year. Most people will say that you can apply to NH Department of Revenue for extra funding, but that money will not be made available until the end of the year. What we are trying to do is alleviate being in a position where we can't afford to take care of these events, and then waiting until the end of the year to be reimbursed for it.

Lisa Swancott makes a motion to Table, seconded by Gretchen Wilder

Moderator calls for a voice vote to table the article. Moderator is not in doubt, **Motion to Table, Fails**

Moderator Finemore opens floor for discussion to the article. After discussion, Moderator Finemore calls for a voice vote. Moderator is in doubt, asks for the assistance from the Assistant Moderators.

Moderator asks to hold up voting cards up one vote at a time for Article 10, In-favor 29; Opposed 29

Moderator asks for a Division of the House, standing vote 30 in favor, 22 not in favor, confusion on the nay side as to who was voting and who was not, because everyone was asked to stand. Moderator apologizes for the confusion during the standing vote, people are not usually scattered all over each side of the room.

Moderator calls for a secret ballot vote; 32 Yes, 30 No, 3 No Votes **Article Passes**

Article 11: To see if the District will vote to establish a Fire Prevention Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, for fire prevention training, education and safety materials and to raise and appropriate One Dollar (\$1.00) to put in the fund, with this amount to come from the Unreserved Fund Balance to establish the fund; further to name the Board of Commissioners as agents to expend from said fund. Future funding will come from Fire Prevention Fees collected. This article is recommended by the Board of Commissioners and Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)

Dennis Manning moved, seconded by Jerry Davis

Commissioner Dennis Manning speaks to the article, funding for this will come from fees collected. When the fire fighters go to the schools with the fire prevention trailer there's been on more than one occasion they'll get a call, and then they just have to leave the kids and go to the call. This fund will not be a tax burden on the tax payers. Having this fund will allow the full time fire fighters to respond to the call, and the call fire fighters to stay with the kids.

Chief Sitar added that the expenses in the operating budget for fire prevention will come out of the operating budget and be taken out of this fund.

Moderator Finemore opens floor for discussion to the article. After discussion, Moderator Finemore calls for a voice vote. Moderator is not in doubt, **Article Passes**

Article 12: To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Moderator Finemore had a request from Karen Ober to speak at our meeting; he asked the voters if anyone was opposed to her speaking at our meeting. No one opposed, moderator recognized Karen Ober. Karen Ober of Sanbornton, at the recent Sanbornton Town Meeting they had some fire department issues to be voted on. Two of our representatives, a Selectman and a County Commissioner came forward and gave us information at the meeting that the T-N Fire District Commissioners had specifically offered to be in negotiation with Sanbornton for regionalization and that they had proposed a new building being very close to our boundary which would facilitate this happening. I just wanted verification from the

commission that this is a true statement because it affected our vote at town meeting and I just wanted to make sure this is in fact the direction that we are going in.

Commissioner Dennis Manning, it is a false statement, that information was not put forth to the Selectman or the Commissioner in that fashion. Those two individuals called me, I gave my statement as I did during the election process, and I am for regionalization. In no way did I offer that we had purchased a building or purchased a piece of land or that we would go into negotiation. That was totally up to them to offer testimony however they wanted it, that's how that went down. It's unfortunate that your town meeting was dictated by people who offered their own testimony to kill it, it's unfortunate.

Karen Ober, I just want to clarify that this is not an option. And the information we were given, the Commissioner told us, that this regionalization could happen as quickly as the Selectmen wanted it to happen, that it didn't have to take years of planning, which is what we were told.

Scott Davis thanked Pat Clark for serving as a Fire District Commissioner.

Kent Finemore welcomed Paul Blaisdell to Commission and thank you for serving.

Donald Stevens thanked everyone for coming, thanked the Budget Committee for the many nights going through the budget line, by line. And thanked Chief Sitar and Kathy Tobine for furnishing us with all the information needed.

After no further discussion Moderator calls for a motion to adjourn.

Adjournment moved by Katherine Dawson, seconded by Jerry Davis at 9:05pm

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephanie C.", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Stephanie Giovannucci, District Clerk