

Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS Public Hearing

Meeting Called By:	Commissioners	Date, Time:	09/21/2016 at 5:30 PM
Transcribed By:	Kathy Tobine	Place:	Tilton Town Hall, Upstairs Meeting Room, 257 Main Street, Tilton

Commissioner Auger called the public hearing to order at 5:30 PM.

Present: Commissioners Paul Auger, Paul Blaisdell and Dennis Manning; Chief Michael W. Sitar, Jr., Deputy Chief Michael Robinson, Treasurer Roland Seymour

Public Present: Joe Jesseman, Paula Benski, Lucinda Hope, Kevin LaChapelle, Tim Sattler, Katherine Dawson, David Hall, Luke Wakefield, Jon Powell, Sean Valovanie, Justin Kantar, Heather Capraro

Commissioner Auger explained the purpose of the public hearing is to accept the \$76,900 left to the Fire District by Bert Southwick.

Joe Jesseman commented that it is a great thing.

Kevin LaChapelle commented that he would love to see the money entered into an interest bearing account and only the interest be expended so the amount never goes below \$75,000. It should go toward specialty items that cannot be purchased through the normal operating budget, things that are really out of the reach of the community, so it is really the gift that keeps on giving. He recommended the Board of Commissioners clearly outline what this money is to be used for.

Chief Sitar explained that there are two sums that Bert bequeathed to the Fire Department. This one lump sum that can be used for anything we want and a trust fund that we can only use the interest from.

Roland explained that the \$76,900 is in a separate interest bearing account. The balance that has not been litigated and is going through the process has covenants. When it comes through we are dictated to what can be done with those funds.

Commissioner Manning commented he is very concerned about Bert Southwick's legacy. He would like to see it used for something other than defraying his taxes for one year. He is in favor of letting it ride and have more discussion on the use of the funds.

Commissioner Blaisdell made a recommendation to accept the money and place it in a separate account. In the future determine what restrictions they will put on the money. He's 100% behind taking the principle, setting it aside and never spending out of the principle. Any money obtained through interest, use that for whatever the Commissioners or Fire Department feels necessary at that time. He would never want to see that principle reduced.

Commissioner Manning asked if the money is in a separate account. Roland explained it is in a savings account. The money came directly to the District. It was deposited into the operating account and then transferred to a savings account.

Commissioner Auger explained the public hearing is to accept the money.

Deputy Robinson commented something like this has an intention. Obviously the communities must have done him some good so he wanted to give that. No matter what you do, it should be long lasting and ongoing, not a one shot fiduciary action to reduce taxes.

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Commissioner Blaisdell made a motion to accept the \$76,901.56 from the Bert Southwick Annuity Bequest and that money be held in an account until a further date when they decide what to do with it. Commissioner Manning seconded the motion. There being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Auger closed the public hearing at 5:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Tobine
Administrative Assistant