



# *Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS*

Michael W. Sitar Jr, Chief

Michael Robinson, Deputy Chief

## **Warrant Article Public Hearing Minutes of the Meeting of February 2, 2016**

Commissioners Present: Pat Clark, Paul Auger, Dennis Manning

Also Present: Chief Michael Sitar

Commissioner Chair Pat Clerk opened the public hearing on the Warrant Articles at 7:01pm

The Commissioners took turns reading each warrant article and answering questions from the public.

**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). No Questions*

**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). No Questions*

**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). 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 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(\$141,706.00) for the purpose of purchasing Fire, Rescue, EMS Equipment and Ambulance Charges, with said funds to be withdrawn from the Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund established under RSA 31:95-C (Adopted March 7, 2005).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.) No questions*

**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Thousand One Hundred Thirty-Six Dollars (\$227,136.00) for the purpose of a new ambulance, with said funds to be withdrawn from the Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund established under RSA 31:95-C (Adopted March 7, 2005).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.) This article is to replace a ten year old ambulance with approximately 80,000 miles. It caught fire on the way to the hospital in December and is continually breaking down. Equipment from this ambulance will*

be salvaged and used in the new ambulance. The \$227k will cover the new ambulance bumper to bumper including decals.

**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.)* This is a 4.74% increase from last year. Gretchen Wilder and Dennis Manning do not agree with the cost of dress whites, but Dennis did add that this does not bring the budget up to \$1.9 million.

**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.)* This is a joint contract with the Tilton-Northfield Water District. The contract includes snow removal. There is not a non-appropriation clause. The legalities of this contact have been discussed with the NH Municipal Association legal department and NH Department of Revenue. The article must pass through the Fire District and the Water District before the contract is signed. Kevin LaChapelle added that this improvement is not just for water flow to your house, but to protect our communities, this is an investment.

**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.)* Research for a lower cost in coverage has been done. Pat Clark added that they have compared the cost of health insurance with both Tilton and Northfield and the health insurance they have now is still lower.

**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.)* With the large forest fire in 2015, the cost cut into the budget leaving the Chief to make sacrifices to training, time in station, repairs, etc. This fund is only for unexpected costs which will be spent only under the direction of the Commissioners. Catherine Dawson stated that this is what your unreserved fund is for. This money should be left over at the end of the year. Dennis Manning added when you go to DRA to access those funds; for example, if something should happen after District meeting, you have to wait until the end of the year to gain access to those funds. Creating this account with allow us to have access to the funds during the year.

**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.)* The money that will be added to the trust fund are fees raised, this is not to be added to the tax rate. The use of this fund will be for Fire Prevention such as buying hats for the kids, maintenance for the fire prevention trailer, training, etc. In 2015 \$5,500 was collected which went back into the general fund. Chief Sitar's goal is to increase the fire prevention program, training, having Call Company personnel assist at the school, repairs to the trailer and equipment all based on fire prevention. Diane Watson commented the children love this program. She thinks this is a great idea.

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

Gretchen Wilder asked about the line under the Apparatus and Equipment Fund or a thermal imaging camera. She wanted to know if this is to replace an old one or is this for an additional new one. Chief Sitar replied that this for a new one on engine one, this will bring our cameras to a total of three.

The Board of Commissioners approved and signed the 2016 Warrant.

Motion to adjourn by Pat Clark, seconded by Paul Auger. Public hearing adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Giovannucci  
District Clerk