

**Tilton – Northfield Fire & EMS District
Warrant Article Public Hearing
Minutes of the Meeting of February 14, 2017**

Present: Paul Auger, Dennis Manning, Paul Blaisdell
Also Present: Chief Michael Sitar

Commissioner Chair Paul Auger opened the public hearing on the Warrant Articles at 6:20pm

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 14, 2017 at the annual Town voting sessions in Tilton and Northfield at their respective polling places and times). No Questions

Article 02: 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 03: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate One Hundred Forty-Three Thousand Two Hundred Eighteen Dollars (\$143,218.00) for the purpose of purchasing Fire, Rescue, EMS Equipment and Ambulance Charges, with said funds to be withdrawn from the Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund established under RSA 31:95-C (Adopted March 7, 2005).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 04: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of One Million Nine Hundred Sixty-Nine Thousand Twenty-Seven Dollars (\$1,969,027.00) 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.) No Questions

Article 05: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate Forty-Five Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$45,530.00) for the purpose of refurbishing Engine 1, with said funds to be raised through taxation. This article is recommended by the Board of Commissioners and Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.) Dennis Allen asked why this money does not come out of the apparatus fund, Chief replied that maintenance is not allowed out of the fund only purchase of vehicles and equipment this is how the fund was set up. Gretchen Wilder asked when this fund was set up we weren't adding ambulance fees to the fund, how is that okay now, and have we checked with Department of Revenue. Paul Auger replied that it has to do with the wording of the fund. Chief added that we check every year with DRA. Gretchen questioned the meaning about refurbishing, and are we not doing regular maintenance, are we doing maintenance now. Chief replied that there is body, frame rails, and fuel take corrosion. The last approved capital improvement said this was due to be replaced in 2015, but it did not pass at district meeting. This has not been brought back to the district meeting because it has not been approved by the Commissioners and the Budget Committee. So instead of asking for a new vehicle we are asking to fix it. Paul Blaisdell added that in 3 years we've received 3 different repair estimates; however none of them addressed the frame rails. The rust between the rails cannot be removed. Engine 1 will need to be replaced in at least 1-2 years if we do nothing, if we spend this money we can fix the issues now, and we are looking into getting opinions on the life of the vehicle once fixed. If this article fails, then we are going to have to add an article next year to purchase a new vehicle. Pat Consentino asks what the cost of a new vehicle is. Paul Auger replied approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million dollars around, Dennis Manning replied, between \$750,000 to \$800,000, Paul Blaisdell added last year's estimate was \$780,000. Dennis Allen, Northfield asked why we don't oil the frame rails. Paul Blaisdell stated that it's too late for this vehicle, and added that we don't have a facility to wash the vehicles. Park Street they can wash with a garden hose and lying on the ground and spraying them. Dennis asked about installing new frame rails. Chief did check into this, but the truck would be out of service for four months, that would leave two engines and if one of those brakes we would not have extra equipment to cover a fire call. We've spent almost what we purchased the vehicle for in maintenance charges. The truck is possible worth approximately \$15,000, even sinking the \$120,000 into it to replace the frame rails it would still be only worth \$15,000 due to age and the NRPA standards. Dennis Allen asked who would do the frame rails, Chief replied that it would go out to bid. Paul Auger added that they would have to take the whole truck apart to replace the frame rails. Dennis Allen suggests that we start to oil the truck to protect them going

forward. Chief confirmed that we do oil all trucks now once a year through Lakes Region Fire Apparatus in Tamworth. Paul Auger added no matter what is done it's not worth anything. Dennis Allen is looking at the use and why we would need a new one. Chief explained what calls the engine's go to and what calls the ambulance goes to by itself.

Article 06: *To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$7,860.00) for the purpose of adding to the existing Fire Prevention Expendable Trust Fund 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.) No Questions

Article 07: *To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500.00) for the purpose of purchasing materials, tools and equipment related to public education, code enforcement, training, etc. with said funds to be withdrawn from the Fire Prevention Expendable Trust Fund. This article is recommended by the Board of Commissioners and Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)* No Questions

Article 08: *To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the purpose of adding to the existing health insurance deductible expendable trust fund 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.)* Pat Consentino asked if this was checked with Department of Revenue due to the wording, Chief replied yes, the wording is from DRA. Pat Consentino added why you don't implement an HRA so receipts are not coming through the department, and personal info stays personal. Chief replied that the receipts do not have any medical information on it, just the price to reimburse. Wayne Crowley added that Group Dynamics and Benefits Strategies that will handle this for the Fire District, and just bill the Fire District for the use. Gretchen Wilder added this could be in violation with HIPPA, or IRS regulations. Chief and Commissioners added that they will look into this benefit.

Article 09: *To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Six Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-Eight Dollars (\$76,898.00) for the purpose of adding to the Land & Building Fund 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.)* Chief added that this is money that was donated this year from Burt Southwick and one other person, the commissioners decided that this money would go to the Land & Building Fund. Gretchen Wilder asked for the balance of the L&B Fund. Chief replied \$220,000 as of December.

Article 10: *To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$120,000.00) for the purpose of design services and permit fees for a new fire station with said funds to be withdrawn from the Land & Building Fund. This article is recommended by the Board of Commissioners and Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)* Pat Consentino asked how we can vote on this if we don't know where the building is going to be. Dennis Manning stated that they are working with the land owner now, but the land owner has asked to keep it quiet. A proposal of one option will be presented to the public. Public hearing will be held on March 1st on Wednesday at High School. Gretchen Wilder asked about a run off amount if not spent. Dennis Manning added that this is \$60,000 for design fees and \$60,000 in permit fees, this will give us a better understanding as to what this building will cost.

Article 11: *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 Nineteen Thousand Dollars (\$19,000.00) 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.)* Pat Consentino if this is due to the issues we had a few years ago? Chief stated that DRA said this is good business practice and due to what happened a few years ago, the recommended to do this fund instead of going to them. Its money we don't anticipate spending, but it's there in case they need it, and the Chief would have to go to the Commissioners in order to use any of this money.

Fire Commissioners approved and signed the 2017 Warrant.

There being no other business motion to adjourn the meeting by Paul Auger, seconded by Dennis Allen. Public hearing adjourned at 7:00pm.