

Tilton – Northfield Fire & EMS District
Public Hearing
March 1, 2017

Replacement of the Center Street Fire Station

Commissioners in Attendance: Paul Blaisdell, Dennis Manning, Paul Auger

Facility Committee Members in Attendance: Timothy Sattler Chair, Wayne Crowley, Joe Jesseman, Cindy Hope

Dennis Manning opened the meeting at 7:05pm

Tim Sattler presents a slide show outlining the history of the committee, the work they have been doing for the last two years, which includes the need of a fire station, the issues with the Center St Station, and the process they went through to come to the presented option.

Proposal - which included the location on Main St in Tilton just before the Police Department, land availability which is land from the Tilton School and new 14,000 square foot station plan that includes four bays, office space, equipment storage space, living quarters and decontamination spaces.

Cost - which includes site acquisition and improvements, construction of building, design fees, furniture and equipment, utilities, administrative costs, contingency for a total of \$4,960,000.

Funding – Land & Building Fund currently has about \$200k with another \$75,000 from donations going in this year. There has been discussion on the Equipment & Apparatus Fund and if we can withdrawal without any negative impact for future capital purchases, the Commissioners are currently working on updating the CIP plan to see what amount would be feasible. The balance would be bonded.

Tax Rate Impact – on a \$4,800,000 bond, each year bond payment equals \$370,333, with each towns evaluations tax rate impact would be Northfield \$0.48, Tilton \$0.47. For a \$100,000 home this increase would equal Northfield \$47.51 and Tilton \$47.03 per year. If the bond can be reduced by \$25,000 from the Equipment & Apparatus fund, this will reduce the per year taxes for a \$100K home to Northfield \$44.30, Tilton \$43.86.

Tim added that this year's district Warrant includes \$120,000 to be used for civil engineering to create the design and permitting for the driveway, building site, wetlands, architectural and engineering plans and for guaranteed maximum price for next year's bond. Approving this will provide a fully permitted and shovel ready plan.

Tim Sattler opens the floor for public input.

Residents asked about the location, turning onto rout 3, wet lands, lot size, funding, and plans presented at the last public hearing, Park St station, design of new building and regionalization.

Commissioners and Committee members took turns answering questions. A lot of the unknown such as final design, fees, permits for wetlands, route 3 access will be answered if warrant article 10 passes at the district meeting. Lot size is still under negotiation. Park St station would still be used to store other equipment such as boat, trailer, alter-rain vehicle, ambulance, etc. Park St location is not centrally located to handle where the majority of calls comes from. Regionalization is always a discussion amongst fire chiefs and with Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid, but it has a lot of different challenges. You have to look at how that district is going to be funded, some communities would pay less and others would pay more for the same service they currently are getting. The control of the fire department would also change, instead of commissioners you may have a city council that you elect to make all the decisions. This could take years, if ever, to get communities to approve this.

Paul Blaisdell thanked the Facilities Committee that has been working on this project for two years.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm