

**Tilton – Northfield Fire & EMS District
Annual District Meeting Minutes March 20, 2017**

Polls were opened at the Pines Community Center, Dearborn Road, Northfield on the 14th day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen at seven o'clock a.m. by Moderator Scott McGuffin. The polls were closed at 7:00 p.m. with 210 votes cast. Polls were opened at the Winnisquam Regional High School, Main St, Tilton on the 14th day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen at six o'clock a.m. by Moderator Charles Mitchell. The polls were closed at 7:00 p.m. with 335 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 14, 2017 at the annual Town voting sessions in Tilton and Northfield at their respective polling places and times).

**Paul Auger won with 303 votes
Helen Hanks received 216 votes**

The 2017 Fire District meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. on the 20th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen at the Winnisquam Regional Middle School, Winter Street, Tilton, by Moderator Kent Finemore to act upon the following subjects.

Moderator Kent Finemore introduced the members of the Budget Committee, Treasurer, Commissioner, Clerk, and Assistant Moderators Charles Mitchell and Bill Wilder. Read the rules of the meeting, and Article 1 with the results of the election.

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.

Moved by Arnold Drake, seconded by Jerry Davis

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

Article Passes

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(\$143,218.00) for the purpose of purchasing Fire, Rescue, EMS Equipment and Ambulance Charges, with said funds to be withdrawn from the Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund established under RSA 31:95-C (Adopted March 7, 2005).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.)

Moved by Dennis Manning, seconded by Kim Watson

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

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.)

Moved by Tim Sattler, seconded by Jerry Davis

Budget Committee Member, Tim Sattler spoke to the article, highlighting the changes throughout the budget and the total bottom line increase of 1.1%. 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 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.)

Moved by Lucinda Hope, seconded by Jerry Davis

Commissioner, Paul Blaisdell spoke to the article, the intent is to extend the life of Engine One. These funds will assist in keeping us from having to purchase a new truck for at least 2-5 years, a new truck would cost between \$700k-\$750k fully equipped.

Kevin Waldron presented an amendment to Moderator Finemore.

Amendment 1: To see if the District will 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 withdrawn from the Unreserved Fund Balance.

Kevin Waldron spoke to the amendment, stating that there's approximately \$350,000 in the Unreserved Fund Balance that can be used for Engine 1, instead of taking it from taxation.

Article 5 Amendment 1 was moved by Kevin Waldron, seconded by Greg Hill

Treasurer Roland Seymour stated as of December 31, 2016 the fund had \$535,000, however we would have an exact amount after the financial audit was complete, we believe there will be between \$350,000 - \$400,000.

Moderator Finemore motions to accept Article 5 Amendment 1 as written calls for a voice vote. Moderator is not in doubt, Amendment Accepted. Moderator opens the floor for discussion.

Chief Sitar noted that the article will not fix the main issue with the Engine, once the frame goes it will need to be replaced. Commissioner Paul Blaisdell added that we do not know how long this fix will last, no one will give an estimated time. If we do nothing then we have to continue to repair as it breaks, refurbishing now gives us time knowing we will have to replace it in 2-4 years. It doesn't make sense to replace it now, when it's used so little.

Gretchen Wilder made a motion to Table Article 5 as amended, seconded by Greg Hill

Moderator Finemore calls for a voice vote on Tabling Article 5 Amendment 1, Moderator is not in doubt, motion to Table Fails.

Moderator Finemore opens floor for continued discussion to the amended article. After discussion, Moderator Finemore calls for a voice vote, Moderator is in doubt calls for a voter card tally. Yes 92 No 31 **Article Passes**

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.)

Moved by Tim Sattler, seconded by Jerry Davis

Budget Committee Member, Tim Sattler spoke to the article, stating these are fees collected from fire prevention services, and to be moved into the Fire Prevention Trust Fund approved at last year's Town Meeting Moderator Finemore opens floor for discussion to the article. No discussion, Moderator Finemore calls for a voice vote. Moderator is not in doubt, **Article Passes**

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.)

Moved by Tim Sattler, seconded by Jerry Davis

Budget Committee Member, Tim Sattler spoke to the article, stating this is to come out of the Fire Prevention Trust Fund to purchase items listed in the article.

Moderator Finemore opens floor for discussion to the article. No discussion, Moderator Finemore calls for a voice vote. Moderator is not in doubt, **Article Passes**

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.)

Moved by Tim Sattler, seconded by Jerry Davis

Budget Committee Member, Tim Sattler spoke to the article.

Moderator Finemore opens floor for discussion to the article. No discussion, Moderator Finemore 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 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.)

Moved by Kevin Waldron, seconded by Jerry Davis

Chief Michael Sitar spoke to the article, noting that most of this money came from the Bert Southwick 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 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.)

Moved by Joe Jesseman, seconded by Jerry Davis

Budget Committee Member, Tim Sattler handed a request for a Secret Ballot Vote signed by five registered voters. Moderator Finemore accepted the request.

Tim Sattler did a brief presentation for this article, highlighting needs for the department, issues with the Center St station, options, lot plans, location, cost breakdown, funding and process going forward.

Moderator Finemore opens floor for discussion to the article. After discussion Pat Consentino moved to call the question, seconded by Helen Hanks, Moderator Finemore calls for a voice vote. Moderator is not in doubt, motion to call the question passes.

Moderator Finemore, asked all registered voters to proceed to the Supervisors of the Checklist and collect a secret ballot, bring the ballot to the front and drop it in the ballot box which he will monitor. Once all ballots were cast Assistant Moderators sorted and counted the ballots. **Yes 54 No 74 Article Fails**

Motion to protect the vote by Kevin Waldron, seconded by Wayne Crowley. Moderator Finemore calls for a voice vote. Moderator is not in doubt, **Motion to protect the vote Passes**

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.)

Moved by Tim Sattler, seconded by Jerry Davis

Chief Michael Sitar spoke to the article, stating this money is in case something happens unexpected this year, and can only be spent under the approval of the Commissioners. The NH RSA allows up to 1% of the budget for this use, the amount presented is less than the 1%. The Article is wording from the Department of Revenue. 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.

Kevin Waldron stated he was in dismay that the twelve people sitting at the table were unable to tell us the amount of money that was in each fund. They need to be ready at these meetings to answer questions.

After no further discussions, Moderator Finemore calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Joe Jesseman moved, seconded by Jerry Davis. Moderator is not in doubt. Meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Stephanie Giovannucci, District Clerk