

Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS Commissioners' Meeting

Meeting Called By: Commissioners

Date, Time: 06/16/2020, 5:30 PM

Transcribed By: Beth Joslin

Location: Park Street Station
149 Park Street
Northfield NH

Call to Order

Commissioner Auger called the meeting to order at 5:38 PM.

Attendance

Commissioners Paul Auger, Jon Cilley, Eric Pyra; Chief Michael Sitar, Deputy Chief Tim Joubert, Administrative Assistant Kathy Tobine, Moderator Kent Finemore

Tilton & Northfield Water District: Scott Davis, John Chase, Rene LaBranche,

District Meeting

Kent commented the Governor lifted the 10-person rule. We just need to enforce masks and social distancing. Discussion ensued about the meeting logistics and proper social distancing.

District meeting planned for July 13, 2020 at 7 pm at Winnisquam Regional Middle School.

Commissioner Pyra made a motion to accept the quote from Dumka Productions for \$200. Commissioner Cilley seconded the motion. There being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed.

Public Comment/Members of the District/Employees of the District

No public comment.

New Business

Tilton & Northfield Water District

Chief Sitar commented on the sprinkler flow test that drained the system.

John Chase explained how the water level dropped setting off alarms and they didn't know why because they were not told about the test happening.

Rene explained how system works stating that it depends on demand, currently there is high demand due to everyone being home. Wells turn on and off throughout the day depending on the levels. He explained that they guarantee they can provide so much water for fire pumps and the change in the NFPA pump test regulations requires 150% for tests rather than 100%, putting a strain on the system.

John explained that it is not that they are running out of water but that the demand the tests create causes pressure to drop in the system.

Scott stated that the problem is when the buildings were built the engineers at the water district agreed that they could provide the water at 100% but now that NFPA is requiring they test at 150% they aren't sure they can provide that. The concern is when it affects public drinking water as these tests are often done in the middle of the day when the normal demand is higher. He stated that they have tried to make adjustments to make this work as smoothly as possible, but they are still finding problems with providing 150%.

Chief referenced NFPA 25, stating that it is the standard and is incorporated into state law that they must now follow. They know there is a problem. They need to find the solution that will meet the need

of both the water district and local businesses. He suggested the water district try to get a member on the NFPA committee for creating these standards.

Rene stated that the 2017 edition of NFPA gave local authorities the ability to give a waiver to businesses if the district is unable to provide 150%, to test at the maximum capability (NFPA 25.8.3.3.1.1) They can use computer models to look at each pump and what it can handle.

Commissioner Auger asked if it was better to do the computer models before making any decisions.

Rene commented that they could do that so that when someone is requesting a test the fire district will be aware of the limitations of that system.

Chief asked about new additions to the system and how that will affect it.

Rene acknowledged that they are evaluating new systems at 150%.

Extensive discussion ensued regarding regulations and cooperation between the water and fire districts.

Commissioner Auger requested the water district provide the commissioners with the information from the models and go they can go from there.

Hydrant training was discussed as well as out of town fire companies using local fire hydrants.

Old Business

Fire Engines

Chief Sitar presented the Board with information on the engine problems being encountered, the solution he is recommending and the benefits.

The two trucks are engine 1 (20 years old) and engine 3 (15 years old).

The problem is the engines have become so unreliable and so expensive to repair that it would be more beneficial to the district to purchase 2 new trucks. Maintenance cost for the engines would go down approximately \$30,000 per year and they would save \$50,600.00 in engineering and other costs by buying 2 identical trucks at the same time. The plan would be to buy one engine outright and lease purchase the other over a 5-year term. Extensive discussion ensued.

Discussion about properly bringing this up at district meeting and predicted questions from the public.

Commissioner Cilley expressed concern that purchasing new engines would cause problems in the future because they will now be on the same timetable for being replaced unless one is replaced early. Discussion ensued.

Next Meeting

July 2, 2020 2:30pm to review before district meeting.

Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2020

Commissioner Pyra made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Commissioner Cilley seconded the motion. There being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed.

Other Business

June 16, 2020 Manifests

The Board reviewed and signed the manifests.

Investment Policy

The Board signed the policy they approved on April 6th.

Step Labor Grade / Step System Policy

The Board signed the policy they approved on May 5th.

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Adjournment

Commissioner Auger made a motion to adjourn at 7:34 PM. Commissioner Pyra seconded the motion. There being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Joslin

Beth Joslin
Office Clerk

Next Meeting Date, Time, Place: 07/21/20 at 5:30 PM. Meeting to be held at Tilton Town Hall, Downstairs Meeting Room, 257 Main Street, Tilton.