

Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS Combined Budget Committee & Commissioners Meeting

Meeting Called By: Budget Committee Date, Time: 07/02/2020 at 5:30 PM

Transcribed By: Beth Joslin Place: Northfield Fire Station
149 Park Street, Northfield

Jason Wright called the combined meeting of the Budget Committee and Commissioners to order at 5:35 PM.

Present: Jason Wright, Kevin Waldron, Dennis Manning, Paul Blaisdell, Charles Broughton, Jane Alden, Commissioner Paul Auger, Commissioner Jon Cilley, Chief Michael Sitar and Admin Asst Kathy Tobine

Minutes

February 6, 2020

Dennis made a motion to accept the minutes as printed. Jane seconded the motion. There being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed.

June 25, 2020

Jane made a motion to accept the minutes as printed. Paul seconded the motion. There being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed.

Fire Truck Purchase

Jason commented it was his understanding Chief Sitar had done some numbers for them. Kathy explained that \$677,450 was to be paid as a deposit and \$689,999 to be paid on delivery of the second truck. They will have to pay slightly more for not paying the full amount upfront but they are still saving engineering fees as well as not having an interest payment if they were to borrow money.

Charlie is all in. Jane is all in.

Dennis stated that in the minutes from the previous meeting Paul had said they could save about \$180,000. If that is the case then they should go for it. Jason commented that some of the savings had to do with what they would be saving in maintenance costs.

Dennis commented on Kevin LaChapelle's suggestion in the previous meeting of delaying the delivery of a truck. Paul replied that later in the meeting it was made known that they would not get the discount unless they purchased both trucks simultaneously.

Dennis commented that he is concerned that asking to purchase a second truck may put voters off of buying any trucks. Kathy commented that the warrant article cannot be changed and will still be only for one truck. Paul asked how they go about buying two trucks then? Kathy stated that they need to let people know what has happened and what they would like to do, that they would like to sign a contract for two trucks. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Cilley commented that having unreliable vehicles puts the district in a tough spot, they have to borrow vehicles and rely on mutual fire aid from departments that are also busy. Kevin asked if he thought it was an emergency situation. Commissioner Cilley replied that he did. Kevin asked if it is a true emergency then why are we waiting a year for a truck to be delivered. Discussion ensued.

Extensive discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of various payment methods.

TNFD Budget Committee Meeting

07/02/20

Jason commented that he wants to buy two trucks as quickly as they can with what ever method gets them there legally and saving the most money possible.

Commissioner Auger commented that he felt he had made his feelings fairly clear and if it means they need to postpone purchasing an ambulance for a few years than that's what they need to do. Paul asked if they could make the purchase without putting the Apparatus & Equipment fund into a deficit. Commissioners Auger and Cilley replied that they had looked at it and the fund could support it though it may be tight in a few spots. Extensive discussion ensued regarding legality and proper process.

Dennis made a motion that the Budget Committee, in line with the Commissioners, recommend Chief Sitar present Sutphen's proposal for two fire engines to the public. Jane seconded the motion. Extensive discussion ensued about payment. There being no further discussion, vote was taken. Five for, one against.

Paul asked the commissioners how they feel being that there isn't currently enough money for both trucks? Commissioner Auger said that he is ok with it. What is the difference, if we are buying one truck this year and one truck next year anyway then why not save the money? Jason commented that they would save time as well in receiving the truck if they order it now. Commissioner Cilley commented that he would feel more comfortable voting a lease purchase. Paul asked him to explain. Commissioner Cilley stated that he felt they were crossing lines by spending money that they don't have yet. Jason commented that doing that they are approving money this year to be spent next year.

Dennis asked what is a lease going to cost us. Chief Sitar commented that if they entered into a lease and then paid it off next year after district meeting, they would only pay eight months of interest. Dennis asked where the cost savings are if they are paying interest, regardless for how long. Discussion ensued.

Paul stated that if they are going to do a lease, they need to alter the budget to include lease payments for 2020. Kathy commented that there should be a motion to vote Article 6 for the fire truck before Article 5 for the total Apparatus & Equipment budget so that it can be amended if they wish to add the lease payments into the budget. Discussion ensued.

Adjournment

Dennis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jane seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Joslin

Beth Joslin
Office Clerk

District Meeting Date, Time, Place: Monday, July 13, 2020 at 7 PM
At Winnisquam Regional Middle School, Gymnasium
76 Winter Street, Tilton, NH