

Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS Commissioners' Meeting

Meeting Called By: Commissioners

Date, Time: 07/21/2020, 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 5:46 PM.

Attendance

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

Public Present: Kevin Waldron

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

Kevin Waldron commented on District Meeting.

He asked about scheduling of meetings. The Commissioners meet on the same night as Northfield Selectmen's meetings. He requested the Board change their meeting night.

Kevin commented they missed an opportunity at District Meeting to fix engine 1. He wanted to know where the money was going to come from. Chief Sitar commented it will have to come from the Operating Budget. Chief Sitar commented it is his job to manage the budget.

Kevin asked what they were going to do about the \$166,000 that was not voted for engineering fees. Commissioner Cilley replied that they will have to wait till next year or hold a special meeting. They can't take that money without approval from the public. The public voted and now they have to deal with the bottom line.

Kevin asked about spending money out of the Apparatus & Equipment Replacement Fund. Chief Sitar explained we purchased the SCBA because they were expiring at the end of June. Through the Governor's emergency order 23 it allowed the district to spend money, even from Capital Reserve Funds.

Kevin questioned why we District Meeting wasn't held at WRHS. Chief Sitar responded that the floors in the high school were being refinished.

Kevin wanted to know where we are relative to buying a fire truck. Chief Sitar explained they would be discussing that tonight. It went out to bid, they have a price, and tonight they need permission to move forward. Once the contract is signed, they will have a truck delivered in 11-13 months. Discussion ensued.

Kevin asked if they would be hiring any additional personnel in 2020. Chief Sitar replied that they would not as it was not in the budget to do so.

Commissioner Auger commented he does not have a problem meeting on Wednesday night. Chief Sitar commented he cannot meet on Wednesday as he golfs all summer. Different days were discussed. It was agreed that Tuesday night is the only night that works for everyone. Further discussion ensued. Commissioner Auger commented that the meetings will stay on Tuesday.

Chief's Report

Budget

- Operating Budget: Chief Sitar commented that his biggest concerns are Call Salaries and Equipment Maintenance & Repair. Discussion ensued about various lines.

Old Business

Park Street Communications Tower

Chief Sitar commented this is before the Northfield Zoning Board. They meet Monday, July 27th, at 7:00 PM. Discussion ensued about why it is back before the Zoning Board.

Commissioner Cilley asked how the fall zone impacts the property. Chief Sitar replied as long as the tower stays standing, it will not impact the station at all. Discussion ensued. The Board requested Chief Sitar contact Primex to see if the station being in the fall zone has any impact on us.

Park Street Property

Chief Sitar commented he received word from the State of NH that our request for the additional property has been approved. They have not done the appraisal of the approximate 18,000 square feet. They will let us know what the amount is and we will have the option to purchase the property for that amount. Discussion ensued.

New Business

District Meeting Review

Commissioner Cilley asked if we did a pre-meeting check of audio visual. Chief Sitar commented that the projector wasn't powerful in the gymnasium to overcome the lights. Discussion ensued.

Fire Engine

Chief Sitar commented the voters at District Meeting approved \$703,677 for the engine. He requested the Board make a motion authorizing him to sign the contract with Sutphen and Dingee Machine Company. Commissioner Cilley commented that he thought the price of the engine was \$677,000. Chief Sitar replied that was the price per engine if they had bought two. Commissioner Pyra commented the warrant article was for \$732,127. Chief Sitar commented that amount is including the \$28,450 in equipment. Commissioner Pyra made a motion authorizing Chief Sitar to enter into and sign a contract with Sutphen and Dingee Machine Company to purchase a new Sutphen engine for the Tilton-Northfield Fire District with a sum not to exceed \$703,677. Commissioner Auger seconded the motion.

Chief Sitar reviewed the truck specifications.

Commissioner Auger asked if we order another truck next year, can we use the same specs. Chief Sitar replied that he had asked that question and he was told it depends on when next year due to manufacturing changes. Chief Sitar also noted that the company would be having a 2%-4% price increase beginning in September.

Commissioner Auger asked if they would give us anything toward the truck, we are getting rid of. Chief Sitar commented not really, but Larry Dingee hasn't looked at the truck. This will be a discussion he will be having with Dingee.

Discussion ensued about the truck body being stainless versus aluminum. Commissioner Cilley asked if there was a prescribed maintenance plan. Chief Sitar replied that the truck is warrantied bumper to bumper for one year through Sutphen. Some components are not included in that like the engine which is warrantied through the manufacturer. The frame rail has a lifetime warranty. Discussion ensued

Kevin commented that he doesn't believe it is appropriate for anyone who is not a member of a Board to make a motion, ask for a motion, provide wording for a motion. It is not appropriate for the Board to take public comment when a Board is in discussion of a motion. He commented that if they go through the specifications, he believes there is a bigger difference than \$1800 between the stainless and aluminum body. Discussion ensued regarding specifications that he believes could be different. Kevin stated the truck you buy should be the most truck you can get for the least amount you can get it for to get the job done. Life expectancy was discussed. Kevin commented that they are told it's a 20-year truck but they never last that long. Commissioner Pyra commented that there are a lot of factors that go

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into how long a truck lasts including the number of calls it is on or maybe we have a mild winter. These are things we can't know. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Cilley commented that in potentially in seven years it will develop corrosion on the cab. Chief Sitar commented that yes that has been his experience in this environment because paint bonds differently to aluminum than it does to steel. Aluminum tends to hold contaminants no matter how hard they try. He expects to see none on the stainless. Commissioner Cilley commented he wants to see an alternate breakdown of all this before they put a signature to it. He wants to validate the numbers.

Travis Gosine spoke. He was a member of the Committee. On the body there are more spots where you will see corrosion. As a Committee they went with the cheapest truck. You are not going to see crazy numbers if you have an itemized breakdown. They went with the best bang for the buck. That's why they went with the stainless body. The cost was very minimal.

Commissioner Cilley commented that he still wants an itemized breakdown. Chief Sitar commented he will ask them. Further discussion ensued.

Commissioner Pyra withdrew his motion. Commissioner Auger withdrew his second.

Commissioner Cilley made a motion to reach out to the manufacturer to get an itemized cost to do due diligence and bring that before the Commissioners on August 4 review and to make a decision. Commissioner Pyra seconded the motion. There being no discussion, vote was taken.

Meeting Minutes

July 2, 2020

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

Other Business

July 20, 2020 Manifests

The Board reviewed and signed the manifests.

MS-232

The Board reviewed and signed the MS-232.

New Engine

Chief Sitar requested Commissioner Cilley write down the information he wants on the itemized pricing. Commissioner Cilley requested the put prices to the bill sheet.

Adjournment

Commissioner Auger made a motion to adjourn at 7:08 PM. Commissioner Cilley seconded the motion. There being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Joslin

Beth Joslin
Office Clerk

Next Meeting Date, Time, Place: 08/04/20 at 5:30 PM.
Park Street Station, 149 Park Street, Northfield