

Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS Budget Committee Meeting

Meeting Called By: Budget Committee

Date, Time: 12/18/2020, 5:30 PM

Transcribed By: Beth Joslin

Location: Northfield Town Hall
21 Summer Street
Northfield, NH

Present: Jason Wright, Kevin Waldron, Katherine Dawson, Commissioner Eric Pyra, and Administrative Assistant Kathy Tobine. Attending Electronically due to COVID-19: Charlie Broughton, Scott Lewandowski, and Deputy Tim Joubert

Katherine Dawson called the meeting to order at 5:53 pm.

Minutes

No Minutes to approve.

New Business

4130 Executive - \$8,000

Kevin asked if the moderator was paid \$500 for just one meeting. Kathy replied that last year it was voted to increase it from \$250 to \$500. That the moderator attends the District Meeting as well as attends both polling places for voting. In addition to any other meetings, they may need to hold. Katherine clarified that the moderator is paid the same no matter how many meetings. Kathy replied that that was correct.

Kevin commented that the Clerk has been paid the same amount for some time but has been doing less work over time. Commented that he doesn't believe the town clerks or moderator are paid that much. Kathy commented that the clerk attends the public hearings, manages all the postings for the hearings and district meeting, and manages the ballots. Discussion ensued regarding the clerk's duties and pay.

Commissioner Pyra made a motion to reduce the clerk's salary to \$1,000. Jason seconded the motion for discussion. Kevin asked if they would be voting line by line. Katherine replied that if they want to reduce the salary that is what they need to do. Being no further discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed.

Commissioner Pyra – Yes

Kevin – Yes

Jason – Yes

Charlie – Yes

Scott – Yes

Katherine – Yes

4140 Elections - \$2,000

4150 Auditing - \$8,100

4153 Legal Expense - \$3,000

Kevin commented that he had a question about legal expenses. Jason asked Commissioner Pyra what expenses they were anticipating? Commissioner Pyra replied

that the main one he could think of was likely to be a warrant article and it is the purchase of state land in Northfield and there may be some other contracts but that you don't really know when you will need legal until you need them.

Scott asked Commissioner Pyra about the land purchase as it's the first he had heard of it. Commissioner Pyra explained that there was a small piece of state land abutting the Park Street Station that they were looking at purchasing to square off the property. Kevin asked if there was a price from the state. Commissioner Pyra replied that it was \$5,000. Kathy noted that it will also need to be surveyed. Jason commented that he'd rather see legal expenses for land come from the Land & Building Fund.

Kevin made a motion to reduce line 4153 Legal Expense to \$1,500. Jason seconded the motion. Charlie asked if legal fees for the land would still come out of that line. Discussion ensued whether the legal fees for land should be under the legal expense line or from the Land & Building Fund. Being no further discussion, vote taken. Motion passed.

Commissioner Pyra – Yes	Kevin – Yes	Jason – Yes
Charlie – Yes	Scott – Yes	Katherine – Yes

Jason made a motion to approve line 4140 Elections for \$2,000 and line 4150 Auditing for \$8,100. Commissioner Pyra seconded the motion. Kevin commented that they hadn't voted on the rest of line 4130 Executive. Discussion ensued regarding the voting process. Being no further discussion, vote taken. Motion passed.

Commissioner Pyra – Yes	Kevin – No	Jason – Yes
Charlie – Yes	Scott – Yes	Katherine – Yes

4155 Personnel Administration - \$870,183

Kevin asked if anything under line 4155 involved anything regarding the new hires under the grant. Kathy replied yes and Jason noted the worksheet that detailed the grant funding. Discussion ensued regarding what was grant funded and what is via taxation in Personnel Administration and Salary & Wages.

Kevin made a motion to reduce line 215 Health Insurance to \$286,449.72. Jason seconded the motion. Charlie commented that he was processing. Kathy replied that the motion cut out the grant funded positions. Jason commented that he believes that more was cut out given the health insurance increase.

Katherine asked if before continuing if they should make a decision on whether to fund the grant positions as there are other lines in the budget that they are included. Jason replied that that is a discussion to have but he is still concerned that the numbers don't add up for health insurance. Discussion ensued regarding health insurance.

Katherine suggested that they rescind the previous motion and make a motion to remove grant funding from all lines within 4155 Personnel Administration, if that is the intent. Jason stated that he was okay with that. Kevin replied that that was his intent.

Kevin withdrew his motion. Jason withdrew his second.

Jason made a motion to fund line 4155 in the following manner:

- 210 Group Health Insurance - \$286,449.72
- 215 Group Life Insurance - \$12,775.76
- 225 Medicare - \$18,985.89
- 230 Retirement - \$360,864.37

Kevin seconded the motion. Commissioner Pyra asked why they were cutting out the four grant employees? Kevin replied that the tax payers were pretty clear that they did not support two new employees never mind four. Commissioner Pyra commented that in the first vote that was taken it passed. Discussion ensued regarding hiring additional employees and the grant.

Charlie commented that you really can't compare to the 2020 appropriations because there will be additional people.

Scott commented that he does not agree with the motion. He echoed Commissioner Pyra's statement that there was a lot of community support at the Commissioner's Meeting for the grant. He stated that this discussion may be a bit above their group and may be better suited for district meeting and have the Chief available to provide information on how these additional people will benefit the district operationally.

Katherine asked Commissioner Pyra if the Commissioner's intention was to discuss the grant and additional hires at district meeting. Commissioner Pyra replied that it was. Kevin commented that they would be hired and working before that happens. Commissioner Pyra replied that that was true due to stipulations in the grant. Discussion ensued regarding the grant and budget process.

Being no further discussion, vote taken. Motion failed.

Commissioner Pyra – No	Kevin – Yes	Jason – Yes
Charlie – No	Scott – No	Katherine – No

Katherine made a motion to fund line 4155 at \$857,035. Charlie seconded the motion. Being no discussion vote was taken. Motion passed.

Commissioner Pyra – Yes	Kevin – No	Jason – No
Charlie – Yes	Scott – Yes	Katherine – Yes

4194 General Government Buildings - \$48,229

Jason commented that there was a jump in the budget for water and sewer. Katherine asked why the Commissioners decided to raise the budget for those lines. Commissioner Pyra replied that it was to accommodate the additional personnel and he also believes that rates went up but was not sure. Jason commented that the grant isn't paying for that.

Kevin made a motion to reduce line 412 to \$900. Jason seconded the motion.

Kathy commented that the Chief had not included in his budget the increased water usage at Park Street Station if they install a shower. That increase is included in the Commissioner's Budget.

Being no further discussion vote was taken. Motion failed.

Commissioner Pyra – No Kevin – Yes Jason – Yes
Charlie – No Scott – No Katherine – No

Kevin commented that he has a problem with the \$9,075 to renovate the bathroom at Park Street commenting that it is not just a shower. Commissioner Pyra commented that it is also to make the bathroom ADA accessible. Kevin commented that that was not the plan last year when they wanted to add the shower. Discussion ensued regarding the plan for the bathroom and ADA requirements.

Kevin made a motion for decrease line 430.02 to \$4,700. Jason seconded the motion. Commissioner Pyra asked if they were cutting the \$5,500 for regular building maintenance or just reducing the amount to renovate the bathroom. Discussion ensued.

Kevin revised his motion to fund line 430.02 at \$10,200. Jason seconded the motion. Scott asked what that was removing from the budget. Jason replied that they were removing the ADA upgrades and level funding for what had been budgeted for the shower last year.

Being no further discussion vote was taken. Motion failed.

Commissioner Pyra – No Kevin – Yes Jason – Yes
Charlie – No Scott – No Katherine – No

Charlie made a motion to fund line 4194 at the Chief's budget of \$47,565. Katherine seconded the motion. Being no discussion vote was taken. Motion passed.

Commissioner Pyra – Yes Kevin – No Jason – No
Charlie – Yes Scott – Yes Katherine – Yes

4196 Insurance - \$70,998

Kevin asked if any of the amount under this line had anything to do with the grant. Kathy replied no. It will affect workers compensation but not in 2021, it will in 2022. Discussion ensued.

Katherine made a motion to the fund line 4196 for \$70,998. Commissioner Pyra seconded the motion. Being no discussion vote was taken. Motion passed.

Commissioner Pyra – Yes Kevin – No Jason – No
Charlie – Yes Scott – Yes Katherine – Yes

4220 Fire – \$1,696,730

Katherine asked why there was a difference in the Chief's budget for wages versus the Commissioner's budget. Commissioner Pyra replied that the Chief had included a COLA and a step increase. The Commissioners voted to only include the step increase.

Kevin asked about the overtime increase and how many people they have that receive overtime. Kathy replied that there were twelve. Discussion ensued regarding how they arrived at that number.

Kevin made a motion to fund line 111 Overtime at \$200,000. Jason seconded the motion. Commissioner Pyra commented that he wasn't sure how exactly they got to that

number but would like to have the Chief's input. Deputy Joubert commented that some of that overtime was to cover shifts for training and certifications. Discussion ensued.

Being no further discussion vote was taken. Motion failed.

Commissioner Pyra – No Kevin – Yes Jason – Yes

Charlie – No Scott – No Katherine – Yes

Commissioner Pyra made a motion to reduce line 111 Overtime to \$215,000. Katherine seconded the motion. Scott asked what his thoughts were in getting to that number. Commissioner Pyra commented that it is a ball park number. Scott commented that he would like to hear from the Chief on how he got to that number but it appears to be roughly a 15% increase even at a 10% increase would bring them down to \$224,166. Discussion ensued regarding the amount of overtime.

Being no further discussion vote was taken. Motion passed.

Commissioner Pyra – Yes Kevin – No Jason – No

Charlie – Yes Scott – Yes Katherine – Yes

Adjournment

Kevin made a motion to adjourn. Jason and Katherine discussed getting Salary & wages complete and school training fees so they can finish the page.

Kevin made a motion to adjourn. Jason seconded the motion. Being no discussion vote was taken. Motion passed.

Commissioner Pyra – No Kevin – Yes Jason – Yes

Charlie – Yes Scott – No Katherine – Yes

Meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Joslin

Beth Joslin
Office Clerk

Next Meeting Date, Time, Place: January 8, 2021 at 5:30 PM.
Northfield Town Hall
21 Summer Street, Northfield, NH