

Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS Budget Committee Meeting

Meeting Called By: Budget Committee

Date, Time: 1/22/2021, 5:30 PM

Transcribed By: Beth Joslin

Location: Northfield Town Hall
21 Summer Street
Northfield, NH

Budget Committee Members Present: Scott Lewandowski, Kevin Waldron, Jane Alden, Katherine Dawson, & Jason Wright. Attending Electronically due to COVID-19: Charlie Broughton and Commissioner Eric Pyra

Also Present: Chief Michael Sitar and Administrative Assistant Kathy Tobine

Katherine Dawson called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

The Chair of the Budget Committee finds that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet in person and electronically.

Please note that the physical location to attend the meeting is Northfield Town Hall at 21 Summer Street in Northfield. If you are unable to join the meeting in person, and wish to observe and listen electronically, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are utilizing Microsoft Teams for this electronic meeting. All members of the Budget Committee have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone #1-603-370-3071 and the Phone Conference ID is 267 641 442#, or by emailing info@tnfd.org for the invitation to join the meeting on your computer or mobile app.

If anybody has a problem, please email at: ktobine@tnfd.org.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

Minutes

January 15, 2021

Katherine made a motion to approve the minutes of January 15th as written. Jane seconded the motion. Being no discussion, vote was taken.

Kevin: Yes

Jane: Yes

Charlie: Yes

Jason: Abstain

Scott: Yes

Katherine: Yes

Commissioner Pyra: Yes

Motion passed.

Old Business

Chief Sitar asked if the committee would reconsider funding the OptiCom repair. Chief Sitar stated that he spoke with Senator Giuda. The state will not be coming out. They have done a diagnosis and repaired the things that needed repair on their end. The state gave Chief Sitar a list of parts he will need to repair the ones that are still not working. If the line is funded at \$650 they will be able to get them repaired.

Jason made a motion to fund line 630.230 for \$650. Jane seconded the motion. Being no discussion, vote was taken.

Kevin: No Jane: Yes Charlie: Yes Jason: Yes
Scott: Yes Katherine: Yes Commissioner Pyra: Yes

Motion passed.

New Business

Warrant Articles

Article 5 Land & Building Fund - \$100,000

Chief Sitar commented that the Commissioners heard the budget committee's suggestions and made changes to the warrant article. Jason asked how the unassigned fund balance was doing, since in previous years there was concern for the balance. Chief Sitar replied that he is comfortable with what is in there.

Katherine made a motion to recommend article 5. Jane seconded the motion. Being no discussion, vote was taken.

Kevin: Yes Jane: Yes Charlie: Yes Jason: Yes
Scott: Yes Katherine: Yes Commissioner Pyra: Yes

Motion passed.

Article 11 Communications Tower ETF

Chief Sitar commented that the Commissioners changed the warrant article after hearing that budget committee's comments. So now 50% of the revenue will go towards offsetting the Operating budget.

Katherine made a motion to recommend article 11. Scott seconded the motion. Being no discussion, vote was taken.

Kevin: Yes Jane: Yes Charlie: Yes Jason: Yes
Scott: Yes Katherine: Yes Commissioner Pyra: Yes

Motion passed.

Article 13 Pressurized Hydrants

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed agreement and adding an escape clause.

Katherine made a motion to recommend Article 13. Jane seconded the motion. Kevin commented that he would much rather buy another tanker than pay the rates in this contract. Discussion ensued regarding the ability to use the hydrants with no contract.

Jason discussed how the contract came about in the first place. Being no further discussion, vote was taken.

Kevin: No Jane: No Charlie: Abstain Jason: No
Scott: No Katherine: Yes Commissioner Pyra:

Motion failed.

Article 14 Apparatus & Equipment Budget - \$129,185

Katherine made a motion to recommend Article 14. Jane seconded the motion. Being no discussion, vote was taken.

Kevin: No Jane: Yes Charlie: Yes Jason: Yes
Scott: Yes Katherine: Yes Commissioner Pyra: Yes
Motion passed.

Article 17 Operating Budget – \$2,588,566

Katherine made a motion to recommend Article 17 for the amount of \$2,589,216. Scott seconded the motion. Kevin commented that they cannot change the warrant article. Katherine replied that her intent of the motion was to recommend this amount, if the Fire Commissioners do not change their number on Article 17 then the Budget Committee does not recommend it. Discussion ensued. Being no further discussion, vote was taken.

Kevin: No Jane: Yes Charlie: Yes Jason: No
Scott: Yes Katherine: Yes Commissioner Pyra: Yes
Motion passed.

Public Hearing

Discussion ensued regarding the public hearing and where it may be held as well as how they will maintain social distance.

Adjournment

Kevin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jane seconded the motion. Being no discussion, vote was taken.

Kevin: Yes Jane: Yes Charlie: Yes Jason: yes
Scott: Yes Katherine: Yes Commissioner Pyra: Yes

Motion passed.

Katherine adjourned the meeting at 6:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Joslin

Beth Joslin
Office Clerk