

Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS Budget Committee Meeting

Meeting Called By: Budget Committee

Date, Time: 12/22/2021, 5:00 PM

Transcribed By: Beth Joslin

Location: Northfield Town Hall
21 Summer Street
Northfield, NH

Call to Order

Katherine called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Attendance

Commissioner Eric Pyra, Charles Broughton, Jane Alden, Jason Wright, Katherine Dawson, Kevin Waldron, Scott Lewandowski, Chief Michael Sitar, and Administrative Assistant Kathy Tobine

Water District

Katherine asked Chief Sitar what was happening with the Special Meeting regarding the Water District. Chief Sitar stated that the Fire Commissioners reviewed a proposal from the Water District and have made some changes and sent it back for consideration. Lawyers from both sides requested a continuation and the judge agreed. Chief also noted that the fire department is shoveling hydrants as usual.

Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Katherine commented that the word "to" was missing from a motion on the bottom of the second page.

Jane made a motion to accept the minutes of November 17 as written, with the one grammatical error corrected. Charlie seconded the motion. There being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed, 1 abstention.

December 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Jason made a motion to accept the minutes of December 15 as written. Jane seconded the motion. There being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed, 1 abstention.

2022 Operating Budget

430.04 Grounds Keeping & 660.11 Riding Mower

Jane makes a motion to accept \$350 for grounds keeping. Charlie seconded the motion. Jason comments that he recognizes that it is not a big spend and has not been the last few years as materials have been donated, but in their last conversation they discussed if they really needed to find a few hundred dollars they should be able to find it somewhere in the budget. Katherine agreed. Commissioner Pyra commented that they don't want to assume there will be a donation. Being no further discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed, 4 to 3.

Charlie made a motion to spend \$150 on the riding mower. Jane seconded the motion. Jason commented that he is opposed because they just approved \$350 for a line in that category that traditionally is not spent and that the mower can use money from that line if needed. Being no further discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed, 4 to 3.

685 Uniforms

Jane made a motion to accept \$14,050 for total uniforms. Commissioner Pyra seconded the motion. Being no further discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed.

690 Miscellaneous

Charlie made a motion to approve \$1 to miscellaneous. Jane seconded the motion. Being no further discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed, 6 to 1.

775 Dry Hydrants & Cisterns

Katherine asked if all dry hydrants belong to the fire district and asked about one on River Road in Lochmere. Chief Sitar stated that they have used it though it is not one that they maintain. Chief Sitar commented that the money is for a diver to inspect all the hydrants and repairs as needed. Katherine asked what the cisterns were. Chief Sitar explained that they are cement tanks placed sporadically outside of the hydrant district. Scott asked if the diver was something that could be done every other year. It was noted that it was yearly because they can get clogged if they are too low or if a screen is broken, they can suck up debris and fish.

Charlie made a motion to accept \$2,500 for dry hydrants & cisterns. Commissioner Pyra seconded the motion. Being no further discussion, vote was taken. Motion Passed.

4723 TAN Interest, 4900 Land, 4902 Capital Out Machinery, Vehicle, Equipment

4903 Capital Out Building, 4909 Other

Kevin asked how much was spent on TAN Interest last year. Kathy replied that nothing was spent. Katherine asked what was going on with the Building Committee and asked if they had raised money for the land and building fund. Chief Sitar replied that the building Committee has been meeting but has not expended any funds at this point. Kathy explained that there are two different funds, Land & Building and then Design, Engineering, & Architectural Fees. Both had money raised and appropriated last year.

Commissioner Pyra made a motion to approve lines 4723, 4901, 4902, 4903, 4909 for \$1 each. Charlie seconded the motion. Katherine asked why they need to keep the TAN Interest line open. Chief Sitar stated that it is the line that will show interest if they borrow money. Being no further Discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed, 4 to 3.

Jason asked what the other line was for since they have a miscellaneous line. Commissioner Pyra stated that it was for other equipment purchases, things that don't fit in other categories. Discussion ensued regarding previous purchases in the category.

2022 Apparatus & Equipment Fund Budget

Chief Sitar gave an overview of the items in the Apparatus & Equipment Fund.

331 Ambulance Billing Services

Chief Sitar gave an overview of Ambulance Billing Services.

Charlie made a motion to accept \$31,500 for Ambulance Billing Services. Jane seconded the motion. Katherine asked if there was a contracted amount that they pay Comstar. Chief Sitar explained that they charge 6% of whatever they collect. Being no further discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed.

740 Fire Equipment

Chief Sitar gave an overview of the items in Fire Equipment. Chief Sitar stated that he would like to add \$2,000 to line 740.170 for hose because he applied for a hose grant and that is the portion they would need to pay.

Katherine and Jason wanted to know what line 740.103 Base Stations & Repeaters was. Chief Sitar stated that it was a project he was working with the police on to add additional repeaters to expand coverage, he also stated that he has applied for a grant to fund this project. Katherine asked why the Commissioners didn't fund the project. Commissioner Pyra stated that they were waiting to see if the grant would pass.

Kevin made a motion to fund total Fire Equipment for \$47,443. Jason seconded the motion. Being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed.

741 EMS

Chief Sitar gave an overview of EMS. Adding that he has applied for a grant for the Zoll Z-Vent but that they do not know if they have received it yet. Hopefully they will find out before district meeting and the amount can be lowered to the co-payment amount.

Jane made a motion to accept total EMS for \$82,295. Charlie seconded the motion. Being no further discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed.

960 Rescue Equipment

Chief Sitar gave an overview of Rescue Equipment.

Scott made a motion to fund total Rescue equipment for \$1,365. Charlie seconded the motion. Being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed.

Warrant Articles

760.14 New Car 3

Chief Sitar gave an overview of the new car for the Deputy Chief and the types of cars that had been considered.

Katherine asked how old the current Car 3 was. Chief Sitar replied that it is a 2009 with 151,000 miles on it and listed off a number of issues it has had including intermittent headlights, check engine light, etc. Kevin asked why the department needs two command vehicles. Chief Sitar replied that they alternate being in command and take the vehicles home so that they can respond more quickly to calls when needed. Discussion ensued regarding the command vehicles being out of town. Scott asked if the old vehicle will be traded in. Chief Sitar replied that it would, but did not have a value yet. Scott asked when the next big vehicle purchase would be. Chief Sitar replied that in five years they will need to purchase another ambulance. Discussion ensued regarding when the new engines and ambulance will be in service.

Charlie made a motion to accept \$53,984 for a new Car 3. Scott seconded the motion. Jason asked if this would be a warrant article. Chief Sitar replied that it would. Being no further discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed, 5 to 2.

Next Meeting

Katherine commented that the next meeting will be after the Commissioners finish the Warrant Articles. Kathy noted that that would take place at the next Commissioners' meeting and she will send the committee the proposed articles. Katherine commented that Kathy will contact everyone to schedule the next meeting. Voting days were discussed.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

Commissioner Pyra made a motion to adjourn. Charlie seconded the motion. There being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:03 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Joslin

Beth Joslin
Office Clerk

Next Meeting Date, Time, Place: TBD