

**Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS District
Budget Public Hearing
Meeting Minutes of February 4, 2022**

Commissioners Present: Paul Auger, Jon Cilley, and Eric Pyra
Budget Committee Present: Charles Broughton, Jane Alden, Jason Wright, and Katherine Dawson
Also Present: Chief Michael Sitar, Kathryn Tobine, Camden Steady, Paul Blaisdell

Katherine Dawson, Chair of the Budget Committee, opened the floor for discussion about the 2022 proposed budget at 6:10pm.

Paul Blaisdell asked if other suitable, less expensive options were investigated for the new command vehicle. Kevin Waldron replied that the Budget Committee did not investigate other options as that should be done before it got to the budget committee. Mr. Waldron stated that he doesn't feel it's a lot of money for a fully equipped command vehicle, he just doesn't feel the District needs two command vehicles. Ms. Dawson commented that though the command car shows on the budget it is indeed a warrant article and will be discussed later.

Mr. Blaisdell asked if the items regarding the water department were in the budget or a warrant article. It is a warrant article and questions should be directed to the Commissioners during the Warrant Hearing.

Mr. Blaisdell asked if the budgeted legal expenses were so high because of the court case with the Water District. Ms. Dawson replied that that was correct. Mr. Blaisdell asked if they felt that would cover the legal fees. Ms. Dawson replied that question would be better answered by the Commissioners.

Mr. Blaisdell asked the Committee to summarize the major differences between the Chief's budget and what the Budget Committee recommended. Jason Wright noted there was a larger difference between the Chief's budget and the Commissioners budget. The Commissioners and Budget Committee budgets were close.

Kathy Tobine commented that the Chief's budget totaled \$2,861,316 and the Commissioners budget totaled \$2,817,631, reducing it approximately \$44,000. Mr. Blaisdell asked the difference between the Commissioners and Budget Committee. Mr. Wright commented that theirs went up about \$400. Kathy noted that was for the internet, a number they didn't previously have. Kevin Waldron stated that they went for it to get better technology.

Katherine Dawson closed the public comment session for the proposed budget at 6:23pm.

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January 13, 2022 Minutes

Kevin Waldron made a motion to accept the minutes of January 13, 2022, as written. Jason Wright seconded the motion. There being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed, 2 abstentions.

Discussion ensued regarding providing a detailed budget in the future at the public hearing.

Mr. Blaisdell thanked the Budget Committee for their time and effort put into the budget process.

Katherine Dawson made a motion to adjourn, Jane Alden seconded the motion. Being no discussion, vote was taken. Meeting adjourned at 6:29pm.

Transcribed by,

Beth Joslin

Beth Joslin
Office Clerk