

**Village District of Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS
New Hampshire
2022 Meeting Minutes**

Polls were opened on the 8th day of March in the year two thousand and twenty-two at the Pines Community Center, Dearborn Road, Northfield at seven o'clock a.m. by Moderator Scott McGuffin. The polls were closed at seven o'clock p.m. with 202 votes cast. Polls were opened on the 8th day of March in the year two thousand and twenty-two at the Winnisquam Regional High School, Main Street, Tilton at eight o'clock a.m. by Moderator Charles Mitchell. The polls were closed at seven o'clock p.m. with 136 votes cast.

Article 01 To Choose a Fire Commissioner for the ensuing three (3) years.

Jon Cilley 338

Article 02 To Choose a Clerk for the ensuing two (2) years.

Kevin Waldron 3

Article 03 To Choose a Moderator for the ensuing two (2) years.

Recount to occur Monday, March 21, 2022 at the Tilton Police Department

The 2022 Fire District annual meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. on the 14th day of March in the year two thousand and twenty-two at the Winnisquam Regional High School, Main Street, Tilton, by Moderator Kent Finemore to act upon the following subjects.

Moderator Kent Finemore introduced the Commissioners, Treasurer, Clerk, members of the Budget Committee, Assistant Moderators Tim Sattler & Paul Blaisdell. Read the rules of the meeting.

Moderator Finemore introduced Chief Michael Sitar for a brief presentation.

Moderator Finemore read articles 1, 2, and 3 with the results.

Article 04 To accept the reports of the Treasurer and the Fire Commissioners and pass any vote related thereto.

Moved by Pat Consentino, seconded by Jerry Davis

Moved by Pat Constantino, seconded by Deb Tessier to reorder Article 13 before Article 5.

Moderator Finemore opened the floor for discussion. Pat commented that she felt that it was an important enough Article that they should discuss it now rather than at the end when people who are tired have left. It is very important that all voices be heard.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Finemore called for a voice vote. **Motion Passed.**

Moderator Finemore opened the floor for discussion regarding Article 04.

There being none, Moderator Finemore called for a voice vote. **Article Passed.**

Article 13 To see if the District will vote to authorize the Commissioners to enter into a five-year agreement (beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2026) in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) for the purpose of providing pressurized hydrant services necessary for fire suppression and raise and appropriate the annual cost of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) for this year. This article is recommended by the Board of Commissioners and is not recommended by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)

Moved by Pat Consentino, seconded by Jerry Davis

Commissioner Jon Cilley spoke to the article explaining what had happened with voting down of the article pertaining to the Water District last year and Commissioners decision to have money for a potential contract as they have been in discussion throughout the year.

Moderator Finemore opened the floor for discussion.

Pat Clark presented an amendment to the Moderator.

Amendment 1: To see if the District will vote to authorize the Commissioners to enter into a three-year agreement (beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2024) in the amount of Four Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-Seven Dollars and Seventy-Six Cents (\$425,377.76) for the purpose of providing pressurized hydrant services necessary for fire suppression and raise and appropriate the annual cost of One Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Nine Dollars and Fourteen Cents (\$136,269.14) for 2022; One Hundred Forty-One Thousand Seven Hundred Nineteen and Ninety-One Cents (\$141,719.91) for 2023; and One Hundred Forty-Seven Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-Eight Dollars and Seventy One Cents (\$147,388.71) for 2024.

Moved by Pat Clark, seconded by Center Sanders

Moderator Finemore asked Pat to speak to his amendment. Commented that he regrets not attending last year's meeting and feels they should pay their fair part for the hydrants. He spoke with John Chase and agreed to propose the amendment written by the Water District's lawyer. Discussed the rate study and proposed savings. Moderator Finemore opened the floor for discussion.

Discussion ensued about why the Budget Committee did not recommend this article, which was because it was a number chosen in good faith but not mutually agreed upon with the water department. Discussion continued regarding the value of a hydrant, rate studies, if there were unpaid bills to the Water District and the legal fees incurred through this process. Statistics regarding the number of fires yearly requiring hydrants and the number of hydrants in the district. It was asked why the contract was brought before voters when it has not been in the past? The response was that new contracts have always been brought before the voters. It was asked what would happen if Article 13 fails, the response being that there would be no money budgeted for pressurized hydrants and there will need to be a special meeting held to enter into a contract.

Pat Constantino requested John Chase from water district speak to the matter for education purposes

Moderator Finemore called for a voice vote to allow John Chase to speak. **Vote passed.**

John Chase, Superintendent of the Water District spoke about the contract history between the districts, how hydrants have been charged, the multitude of improvements made and that are planned.

Moved by Jason Wright, seconded by Mark Hebert to call the question. Motion Passed.

Kevin Waldron asked for clarification that they were voting on the amendment.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Finemore called for a voice vote.

Moderator Finemore is in doubt and asks for a hand count. Yes 9, No 33 **Amendment Failed.**

Moderator Finemore opened the floor for discussion on the original article.

Discussion ensued regarding mending the relationship between the districts and paying a fee for the year rather than a multi-year contract.

Moved by Greg Hill, seconded by Kevin Waldron to table Article 13.

There being no discussion, Moderator Finemore called for a voice vote, noting that 2/3 majority was required.

Moderator Finemore is in doubt and asks for a hand count. Yes 26, No 16 **Motion Failed.**

Moderator Finemore opened the floor for discussion on the original article.

Discussion ensued regarding changing the warrant article to pay for a single year. Discussion ensued if money had been set aside to cover the Fire District's share and what that number is. Chief Sitar replied that the auditors

set aside the amount billed by the Water District for the hydrants in 2021, a total of \$201,502.00 and reduced the unassigned fund balance by that amount.

Moved by Kevin Cate, seconded by Greg Hill to call the question.

There being no discussion, Moderator Finemore called for a voice vote, noting that 2/3 majority was required. Moderator Finemore is not in doubt. **Motion Passed.**

Moderator Finemore read the warrant article so there would be no question on what they were voting for and called for a voice vote. **Article Failed.**

Moved by Kevin Cate, Seconded by Mark Hebert to protect the vote. Motion Passed.

Article 05 To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) to be added to the Land & Building Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This article is recommended by the Board of Commissioners and is recommended by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)

Moved by Pat Constantino, seconded by Jerry Davis

Commissioner Auger spoke to the article this is money to be put aside to build a fire station, they have added to it the last few years and should continue to.

Moderator Finemore opened the floor for discussion.

It was asked what the fund's current balance is. Chief Sitar replied that it is \$555,279.22.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Finemore called for a voice vote. **Article Passed.**

Article 06 To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-Seven Dollars (\$9,627.00) for the purpose of adding to the existing Fire Prevention Expendable Trust Fund with said funds to be withdrawn from the Unassigned Fund Balance. Funds appropriated from this fund do not affect the tax rate. This article is recommended by the Board of Commissioners and is recommended by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)

Moved by Pat Constantino, seconded by Jerry Davis

Commissioner Pyra spoke to the article explaining that the funds generated for this are from fire prevention inspection fees raised throughout the year.

Moderator Finemore opened the floor for discussion.

There being no discussion, Moderator Finemore called for a voice vote. **Article Passed.**

Article 07 To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-Eight Dollars (\$4,488.00) for the purpose of purchasing materials, tools, and equipment related to public education, code enforcement, training, etc. with said funds to be withdrawn from the Fire Prevention Expendable Trust Fund. Funds appropriated from this fund do not affect the tax rate. This article is recommended by the Board of Commissioners and is recommended by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)

Moved by Pat Constantino, seconded by Jason Wright

Commissioner Pyra spoke to the article explaining that this is the money that is taken out to use for training materials and fire prevention. Any addition money will remain in the fund for the eventual replacement of the Fire Prevention Trailer.

Moderator Finemore opened the floor for discussion.

There being no discussion, Moderator Finemore called for a voice vote. **Article Passed.**

Article 08 To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty-Six Dollars (\$2,836.00) for the purpose of adding to the existing health insurance deductible expendable trust fund with said funds to be withdrawn from the Unassigned Fund Balance. Funds appropriated from this fund do not affect the tax rate. This article is recommended by the Board of Commissioners and is recommended by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)

Moved by Jason Wright, seconded by Jane Alden

Commissioner Auger spoke to the article commenting that the purpose of the article is to replenish the fund to its previous amount.

Moderator Finemore opened the floor for discussion.

There being no discussion, Moderator Finemore called for a voice vote. **Article Passed.**

Article 09 To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) for the purpose of adding to the existing Communications Tower Expendable Trust Fund with said funds to be withdrawn from the Unassigned Fund Balance. Funds appropriated from this fund do not affect the tax rate. This article is recommended by the Board of Commissioners and is recommended by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)

Moved by Jason Wright, seconded by Jerry Davis

Commissioner Cilley spoke to the article explained that the funds will be used to maintain communications tower

Moderator Finemore opened the floor for discussion.

Discussion ensued regarding rent paid for the tower and the allotment of those funds.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Finemore called for a voice vote. **Article Passed.**

Article 10 To see if the District will vote to establish a Dry Hydrant/Cistern Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, expenditures from this fund will be used for the design, engineering, purchasing of materials, installation, and any fees or permits required to install dry hydrants and cisterns within the District and to raise and appropriate One Dollar (\$1.00) to put in the fund, with this amount to come from Unassigned Fund Balance; further to name the Board of Commissioners as agents to expend from said fund. Future funding will come from warrant articles at annual district meetings. This article is recommended by the Board of Commissioners and is recommended by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)

Moved by Jane Alden, seconded by Jason Wright

Commissioner Cilley spoke to the article explaining that the fund will allow them to put aside money to install dry hydrants and cisterns in the more remote areas of the district that may not have a readily available water source.

Moderator Finemore opened the floor for discussion.

Comments were made that it was a good option as a secondary water source.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Finemore called for a voice vote. **Article Passed.**

Article 11 To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) to be added to the Dry Hydrant/Cistern Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This article is recommended by the Board of Commissioners and is recommended by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)

Moved by Kevin Waldron, seconded by Jerry Davis

Commissioner Cilley spoke to the article explaining that it was to add money to the fund they've just created.

Moderator Finemore opened the floor for discussion.

It was asked what the cost of a cistern and dry hydrant were. Chief Sitar replied that a cistern is \$65,000 to \$85,000, while a dry hydrant will cost \$4,000 to \$12,000, depending on permitting, site work, and other fees. Also noting that the presence of cisterns like hydrants can have a positive effect on insurance and tax rates. There being no further discussion, Moderator Finemore called for a voice vote. **Article Passed.**

Article 12 To see if the District will vote to establish a contingency fund per RSA 31:98-a and raise and appropriate Twenty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Four Dollars (\$29,404.00) to put in the fund. This sum to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the general fund. Funds appropriated from this fund do not affect the tax rate. This article is recommended by the Board of Commissioners and is not recommended by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)

Moved by Pat Constantino, seconded by Jerry Davis

Commissioner Pyra spoke to the article explaining that it is 1% of the previous year's budget
Moderator Finemore opened the floor for discussion.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the fund is necessary and how it can be used. It was asked how much money was in the unassigned fund balance. Chief Sitar replied that if all the warrants pass there will be \$271,159. Discussion ensued regarding what affect the balance of the Unassigned Fund has on bond rating, and the rising costs of fuel.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Finemore called for a voice vote. **Article Passed.**

Article 14 To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate One Hundred Sixty-Two Thousand Six Hundred Three Dollars (\$162,603.00) for the purpose of purchasing Fire, Rescue, EMS Equipment and Ambulance Charges, with said funds to be withdrawn from the Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund established under RSA 31:95-C (Adopted March 7, 2005). Funds appropriated from this fund do not affect the tax rate. This article is recommended by the Board of Commissioners and is recommended by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)

Moved by Jason Wright, seconded by Jerry Davis

Commissioner Auger spoke to the article commenting that as it states to purchase and equipment needed for EMS and fire rescue.

Moderator Finemore opened the floor for discussion.

There being no discussion, Moderator Finemore called for a voice vote. **Article Passed.**

Article 15 To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty-Three Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-Four Dollars (\$53,984.00) for the purpose of purchasing a new command vehicle with said funds to be withdrawn from the Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund established under RSA 31:95-C (Adopted March 7, 2005). Funds appropriated from this fund do not affect the tax rate. This article is recommended by the Board of Commissioners and is recommended by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)

Moved by Pat Consentino, seconded by Jerry Davis

Commissioner Pyra spoke to the article explaining that this is to purchase a new command vehicle for the Deputy Chief, whose current car is in pretty rough shape and barely passed inspection. They chose to look at a specific vehicle because they will save several thousand by continuing to use the command center they currently have.

Moderator Finemore asked what year the vehicle is and how many miles are on it? It is a 2009 Ford Expedition with about 160,000 miles on it.

Moderator Finemore opened the floor for discussion.

Discussion ensued regarding the use of the vehicle, how much of that use is commanding incidents, and other vehicles that were looked at.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Finemore called for a voice vote. **Article Passed.**

Article 16 To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of Two Million Eight Hundred Seventeen Thousand Nine Hundred Two Dollars (\$2,817,902.00) for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. This article is recommended by the Board of Commissioners and is recommended by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)

Moved by Pat Constantino, seconded by Jerry Davis

Commissioner Cilley spoke to the article explaining that there was a lot of thought a preparation put into the budget, feels it is a solid budget

Moderator Finemore opened the floor for discussion.

There being no discussion, Moderator Finemore called for a voice vote. **Article Passed.**

Article 17 To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Moderator Finemore thanked the Commissioners, Budget Committee, and Fire Fighters.

Paul Blaisdell thanked the Budget Committee for the hard work put in during the holidays.

Kevin Waldron commented that the Budget Committee spent more time on \$350.00 for a lawn mower than anything else and thanked Kent Finemore for being one of the best moderators in the state.

Moved by Kevin Cate, seconded by Kevin Waldon to reconsider Article 15.

Moderator Finemore opened the floor for discussion.

There being no discussion, Moderator Finemore called for a voice vote.

Moderator Finemore is in doubt and asks for a hand count. Yes 7, No 19 **Motion Failed.**

Moved by Commissioner Pyra, seconded by Jennifer Tupeck to protect the vote on Article 15.

Moderator Finemore opened the floor for discussion.


There being no discussion, Moderator Finemore called for a voice vote. **Motion Passed.**

Moved by Jason Wright, seconded by Kathryn Dawson to adjourn the meeting. Motion Passed.

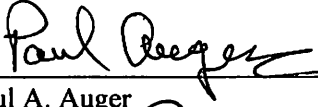
Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

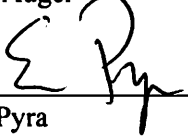
Board of Commissioners



Jon P. Cilley, Chair



Paul A. Auger



Eric T. Pyra