

Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS Commissioners' Meeting with Tilton Board of Selectmen

Meeting Called By: Tilton Board of Selectmen Date, Time: 07/21/2022, 4:50 PM
Transcribed By: Beth Joslin Location: Tilton Town Hall
Upstairs Meeting Room
257 Main Street
Tilton NH

Attendance

Commissioners Paul Auger, Jon Cilley, Eric Pyra; Chief Michael Sitar

Tilton Board of Selectmen Joseph Jesseman, Scott Ruggles, Jonathan Scanlon and Patricia Consentino, Eric Pyra, and Town Administrator Jeanie Forrester

Ballfield Property

Fire Commissioners Jon Cilley, Paul Auger, Eric Pyra and Fire Chief Michael Sitar went before the Tilton Selectboard to discuss the possibility of a Fire Station on the 132 Ballfield property off Sanborn Road in Tilton.

Selectman Pyra commented that he will be participating in this portion of the meeting as Fire Commissioner as he is on both boards and suggested he move his seat.

Selectman Jesseman commented it would be good for the Fire District as part of a two-station system, build out on Park Street and have a station on Sanborn Road. Selectman Ruggles agreed with Selectman Jesseman that it would be prime spot to get town services in that area and an upgrade from Center Street and the troubles pulling out into traffic. It would benefit that area of Tilton as it would be quicker response.

Commissioner Pyra asked if there was going to be a cost to the land? Selectman Jesseman replied that there would need to be a cost but he isn't looking to make money on it. Selectman Ruggles asked what the plans are for Center Street. Commissioner Cilley replied that once something is built, they will not have use for it. Possibly they could trade property for property.

Selectman Consentino commented that promises had been made that there would be a football field. Discussion ensued about comments that were made during the process for the police station regarding the ballfield property.

Commissioner Cilley noted the Fire Station Building Committee is still in the proposal phase; they are looking to send out requests for proposals and will be going to the public in March with the details of the building, location and costs. Commissioner Cilley noted they are not planning to build this year, but hopefully next year. There was discussion of the various factors for building including current utilities present and what may need to be run.

Commissioner Pyra asked if a land swap could be done and if there was anything legally binding that would require a field be built. He commented that he has been told by several residents that they would not support a fire station that does not include a Tilton location, and many have also suggested the space next to the police station. Promises made for a field but nothing binding, it was felt by the selectboard that they should bring this matter to Town Meeting. Commissioner Pyra commented that he believes Tilton residents would not want to pay for the land twice and believes a land swap may be an option to alleviate that. Selectman Consentino asked about leasing.

Commissioner Cilley confirmed they are trying to find the right contractor for a conceptual design to present to the public. Chief Sitar clarified they would be sending out RFQ's/RFP's to complete the design/build process - you hire a contractor - that contractor hires the architect. Commissioner Auger commented that there had already been two pieces of land considered, spending taxpayer money, now there is this site; he agrees there should only be one station. Chief Sitar commented the one fire station would stay, and now there are options for picking where they would put the other one; they are looking at the data where most of the calls are, and plan to choose a location that would be suitable for improved response times. Chief Sitar believes this a great opportunity for the Fire District and the Town of Tilton to work together to provide better service to the residents of the Fire District as well as the much-improved response time for the residents in Northfield, off Rte 140, in the Shaker Road area. Discussion ensued regarding working with multiple stations.

Selectman Scanlon commented it is key to involve the residents.

More discussion by Chief Sitar on the response times for calls, keeping the Park Street station (mainly for the call personnel) and moving the Center Street location. With an increase of call volume expected this next year, the Chief anticipates there would be a need to hire more personnel.

Selectman Consentino encouraged the Commissioners and the Chief to work together to create a viable plan to benefit the District residents. When a plan is reached, they can meet again to discuss it further.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:33 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Joslin

Beth Joslin
Office Clerk

Next Meeting Date, Time, Place: August 2, 2022 at 5:30 PM.
Tilton Town Hall, Downstairs Meeting Room,
257 Main Street, Tilton NH