

# Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS Budget Committee Meeting

Meeting Called By: Budget Committee

Date, Time: 11/16/2022, 5:30 PM

Transcribed By: Kathy Tobine

Location: Tilton Town Hall  
Downstairs Meeting Room  
257 Main Street  
Tilton NH

## Call to Order

Katherine called the meeting to order at 5:30 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

Public: Firefighter Travis Gosine and Deputy Sean Valovanie

## Meeting Minutes

### October 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Jane made a motion to accept the minutes of October 19th as written. Jason seconded the motion. There being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed.

## 2022 Operating Budget

Discussed wage increases and the difference between the Chief & Commissioners numbers and competing departments starting wages. Commissioner Pyra commented they are trying to stay competitive

Katherine asked why \$750 was appropriated for the Treasurer but \$1,500 was spent. Kathy replied that the Commissioners chose to take \$250 each out of their appropriations to pay the treasurer \$1,500 because they felt he was being under paid.

Kathy noted that the clerk will be over expended due to the extra meeting. Other lines that would have been affected were reviewed.

Katherine asked what the fill line was. Discussion ensued regarding new meters per mediated agreement with water district.

There was discussion about Shedd Road Tower monitoring, increases in utilities, Microsoft Office, physicals, Amazon Prime, Vehicle Maintenance, water coolers, dry hydrants & cisterns, pressurized hydrants,

### 4130 Executive

Katherine commented that it was a \$1,250 increase. Jason commented to level fund it. Scott asked what the justification was for the Treasurer's increase. Jane replied that that was what he had always made in the past. Discussion ensued regarding the Treasurer's duties.

Jason made a motion to level fund line 4130 with 2022, Executive, for \$8,000. Kevin seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed, 4 yay, 3 nay.

### 4140 Elections

Jason made a motion to approve line 4140, Elections, for \$2,500, because he doesn't foresee them spending the proposed \$4,000 when they haven't spent that much the past three years.

Commissioner Pyra commented that they don't know how many district meetings they will need to have. Discussion ensued regarding the cost of the meetings and how many meetings there may be. Jane seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed.

#### 4150 Auditing

Jason made a motion to approve line 4150, Auditing, for \$8,200. Jane seconded the motion. Kevin asked if the audit was required annually. Chief Sitar replied that it was and that they also need it when applying for grants. There being no further discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed.

#### 4153 Legal Expense

Katherine asked why the commissioners budgeted \$10,000 more than the Chief. Commissioner Pyra stated that if they go to trial, it will be \$20,000, so the amount was changed after the results of Saturday's Special Meeting.

Charlie made a motion to approve line 4153, Legal Expense, for \$40,000. Jason seconded the motion. There being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed, 6 y, 1 n.

#### 4155 Personnel Administration

Discussion ensued regarding the cost and employee contribution of insurance and the items in the category based on wage. Kevin asked when they knew the insurance price went up. Kathy commented late October. Discussion ensued regarding the price fluctuation the past few years, shopping around, and if employees like what they have.

Jane made a motion to approve line 4155, Personnel Administration, for \$899,832. Jason seconded the motion for discussion. There being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed, 6 y, 1 n.

#### 4194 General Government Buildings

Discussed utility increases and how Chief came to those numbers using the consumer price index. Discussed building maintenance and water softener systems and why they are needed.

Jason made a motion to approve line 4194, General Government Buildings, for \$68,092. Jane seconded the motion. Katherine asked about the training facility. There being no further discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed, 6 y, 1 n.

#### 4196 Total Insurance

Jane made a motion to approve line 4196, Insurance, for \$86,319. Katherine seconded the motion. Being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed.

#### 4220 Fire

Call salaries were discussed. Chief Sitar commented he increased the call pay by \$1 per hour. The proposed COLA was discussed. Call company response was reviewed. Kevin commented he believes call salaries and wages, with the exception of the deputy chief, should be raised. Call vs career qualifications was reviewed. Bonuses were discussed. Scott proposed lowering call salaries to \$75,000 from \$100,000 given the numbers from this year. Jason suggested voting to level fund the bottom line of salaries & wages. Adjustments could be made as needed.

Jane made a motion to approve line 100, Salaries & Wages, for \$1,715,258. Charlie seconded the motion. Extensive discussion ensued. Deputy Valovanie thanked the Budget Committee for getting them to the middle. Once that happened, we stopped losing staff. Keep us right below that middle of Central NH. That's what keeps the guys here. Jane called the question. There being no further discussion, vote was taken. Motion failed, 3 y, 4 n.

Katherine commented she would like to see it somewhere between the 2022 budget and 2023 proposed budget.

