

TNFD Commission Meeting
Minutes
October 5, 2006

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Gallant at 1800 hrs. Present: Comm. Gallant, Comm. Watson, Comm. Harbour, Chief Carrier, Deputy Robinson, and Treasurer Seymour.

Comm. Harbour made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 11th meeting that had been previously distributed by mail. Comm. Watson seconded, and the minutes were accepted unanimously.

Treas. Seymour gave the Treasurer's report. He reviewed three different reports that had been printed for the meeting and credited Secretary Vary with producing them and for her hard work.

#1 – Apparatus and Equipment Account- The current budget status was reviewed and we currently are showing a \$16,000 revenue surplus. Additional '06 expenses will be limited to vehicles and minor equipment expenses. Chief Carrier pointed out that the AFG grant we have received requires a 5% co-pay which will come out of this account – it will be \$8,000. Budget Committee Chair Wilder asked how the revenue in this account could be spent? Comm. Gallant explained it could only be spent on Apparatus and Equipment.

#2 – Operating Account – Budget vs. Actual - Treasurer Seymore explained that the grant monies are accounted for separately.

#3 – Grant Monies – This print-out shows a surplus in the Lowe's Grant line and the 2005 Tanker Grant – AFG line. Comm. Gallant pointed out that there may be money left over from the tanker grant that may need to be turned over to the Federal Government. Chief Carrier will review the terms of the grant and determine the appropriate actions.

Comm. Gallant asked about the \$11,000 expense in building capital. The Chief explained that it was spent on the new roof at the Center Street Station. There will also be money expended for electrical work on the exterior lights at Center Street. Some issues arose due to the roof job. Comm. Watson made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Comm. Harbour seconded, and the report was accepted unanimously.

Captain Ober was absent. Chief Carrier reported no significant changes in construction projects since last month.

Old Business

Chief Carrier reported that the Building Committee has not met. He is awaiting the release of the Police Department report. Comm. Gallant, who sits on the PD Study Committee, said the report is expected in on 10/12. He further stated that the PD Committee is interested in pursuing a joint facility with the Fire Department. It feels that grant monies would be easier to obtain if it were a joint venture. A discussion ensued.

Comm. Gallant reported that he will be meeting with Attorney Chandler tomorrow to start the process of drawing up documents for a special District Meeting to address the warrant article problems associated with the purchase of the new Engine 3. The court will set the date which will be at least 30 days from now. More likely it will be 45 to 60 days.

Comm. Gallant read an e-mail from Secretary Vary detailing the facts she obtained in researching the election process that will be required next year. In 2007, all elected positions will be elected by an official ballot. There will be an increase in line 385 of the budget because of the advertising and printing costs.

A question came up of the terms and election/appointment process of the budget committee members. Most people present remember that the terms were staggered (3,2,1 years) and they were to be elected. Comm. Watson found the minutes and they confirmed the staggering of terms, however it indicated that the members were appointed. In the minutes the question was not resolved and left as a question for the moderator. Comm. Gallant will speak to Moderator Randall about that.

Deputy Robinson reported on the attempt to sell Engines 3 and 4. Although there have been offers, they are below our asking price. He asked for some direction from the commissioners on what they would like to get for the trucks? Comm. Gallant motioned to let Chief Carrier and Deputy Chief Robinson negotiate the best possible price for both trucks. Comm. Watson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. There have been only 2 offers to date.

Secretary Vary will be talking with someone from Franklin Savings Bank this week about direct deposit.

Comm. Gallant stated that the review of the 2007 draft budget has begun and deferred discussion on it to the November meeting. Budget Committee Chair Wilder needs a copy. Chief Carrier will send one electronically.

New Business

Chief Carrier reported that he has been notified that the department's 2006 Assistance to Firefighters Grant has been approved and the department will receive an award of approximately \$158,000 to purchase new breathing apparatus and a fill station for SCBA cylinders. Our share will be approximately \$8,000.

Chief Carrier asked that the November meeting date be postponed by 1 week to November 9th as he is serving as the emcee of the NH Fire Academy Awards on the 2nd. The Commissioners granted the change.

Chief Carrier reviewed the letter from Comstar, our ambulance billing company, concerning Anthem's reimbursement rates. The main question centered on whether or not we were going to sign their service agreement. If we do not sign, as Comstar suggests, the patient will be paid directly at our billed rates. If we do sign, we will receive payment directly from Anthem, but at a rate approximately 38% below our billed rates. Discussion determined that it would be in our best interest to receive the payments directly, even at the lower rates, so that we would not have to chase individuals for payments. Comm. Gallant motioned to have Chief Carrier sign the agreement with Anthem and to continue to accept their rates. Comm. Harbour seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Chief Carrier reviewed the year-to-date activity log.

Michelle Bonsteel asked if the Tilton selectmen have appointed representatives to the FD Building Committee? Chief Carrier stated that he has not heard who the representatives are. Comm. Gallant will look into this.

Comm. Gallant motioned to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II. a. The motion was seconded by Comm. Harbour. Roll call: Gallant – yea, Watson – yea, Harbour – yea. The Commissioners, Chief Carrier, and Deputy Robinson entered non-public session at 1924 hrs.

Comm. Gallant motioned to come out of non-public session and it was seconded by Comm. Harbour. Roll call: Gallant – yea, Watson – yea, Harbour – yea. The Commission returned to public session at 1939 hrs.

Comm. Watson reported that he spoke with Attorney Chandler and was told that the TNFD Commission is ruled by State of NH RSA's and there is no reason for the District to have ByLaws. He said he would attend next year's District Meeting to explain this if the Commission feels there is a need.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 9th, at 1800 hrs. in the Center Street Station.

The commissioners signed bills for the previous month.

Comm. Harbour made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Comm. Watson. The vote to adjourn was unanimous at 1945 hrs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chief Stephen M. Carrier
For Clerk Janine Vary