

Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS Commissioners' Meeting

Meeting called by:	Commissioners	Date, Time:	December 1, 2005 at 18:04 to 19:45
Note taker:	Janine Vary	Place:	Center Street Station

Attendees: Comm. Tom Gallant, Comm. Andy Sleeper, Comm. Harold Harbour, Chief Steve Carrier, Capt. Brad Ober, Fire Prev., Deputy Mike Robinson, and Clerk Janine Vary and guest, Bob Watson. Absent: Treasurer Roland Seymour

Review of previous minutes. Andy motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Comm Harbour. Discussion. No comments. Minutes accepted unanimously by commissioners. Treasurer's report: treasurer not present tonight and will be there on budget meeting. Tom motioned to discuss this treasurer's report that Janine had printed out for this evening. How are we standing. Chief: we are very tight. Projected \$13,000 over, due to having a 53 week year, may almost be a wash. Tom: we cannot overspend the budget. Any over expenditures will need to explained. Janine mentioned that the Ambulance income line (3409.6) did include November's deposit of \$20,289.32. Tom explained we cannot expend more than was budgeted. There was more discussion on budget numbers. Will be over on payroll items but also higher on income. Tom would like to look at numbers and comment on Monday night. Andy and Harold also will wait. Further discussion on the budget will be had on Monday, December 5, 2005 and no final action was taken at this time.

Fire Prevention Officer report: Capt. Ober handed out several sheets. Lowe's moving along. Konover has approved to provide funds to install fire alarm code. Chief mentioned \$15,000 will be paid for completion of project. Comm. Gallant asked to have a press release done for that. Fireworks store is neither approved nor denied right now by Fire Marshall's office. Will do Tilton School and Spaulding Youth Center with the new fire trailer in spring 2006. Riverfront Place seems to have slowed down. Their master box is on line. Handed out two other sheets: New Franklin Apartments had a fire due to the candle, so new hand out was developed to hand out to that population. Also copied a Christmas Tree Regulation from NFPA that Brad sent to schools, etc.

Old business

Fire prevention ordinance: Chief does have a sample and is working on a fee schedule. He believes can be done with a one-page ordinance. One code that adopts other codes by reference. House numbering and require gas permits are a couple of other items. Tom: it would behoove us to get on agenda with the Tilton Planning Board. Even though codes were brought before planning board before, board didn't support. He feels that with all the construction going on Capt. Ober could go forward with a plan. Copy the selectmen also. Why the life safety code should be enacted, how it works, where applicable, etc. If we adopt 101 it includes the residential piece. Harold: the fire marshal could say no if we have not adopted the 101 safety code. Tom feels we could educate through proper presentation and show how often it is actually used could lead to better agreement. Brad asked if the district could adopt it. Harold said no, each town has to adopt it, the district cannot. Chief had conversation about the village district and was told we could adopt it. Chief will check on this, he will see if we have power to enact ordinances. Fee structures are ordinances and don't need to be sanctioned by the towns. There is another issue we are trying to get cleared up like yards that have gotten to be "junk yards". He will need to check on that also. Harold mentioned that Franklin can do this because they have a code enforcement officer that serves the city of Franklin. As long as it meets your stated purpose, then you would have the authority. Chief suggested that we restate our purpose at district meeting, restate by laws seeing originals cannot be found, and have public vote on it. Andy asked if other fire districts have "stated purposes". Tom felt we are different because we are a village district, whereas the other fire districts come under the umbrella of the town/city. We need to have a stated purpose, our focus what we are here for and what we do. In that stated purpose we can probably expand on the original stated purpose to include the medical part that was not probably in the original purpose.

Chief has a meeting with Chief Hilliard and Moe Gagnon later this month on the 12th. Tom would like to be present even as an observer. It will need grant writing and he would like to do that. Suggested that with Chief as chairman of the building committee, to draft a letter to others inviting their participation.

Truck committee: Chief: committee has presented their choice which will cost \$230,000 if ordered tonight. Don't need money up front and we can pay all at delivery but have been offered a 3% discount on any money paid up front. Harold asked who low bidder was. Chief reported Dingee was low bidder who proposed a wet sided tanker. Tank is "T" shaped and low compartments. E-One also came back with a regular truck drawing which they liked better. Mike: Dingee's proposed truck almost mirrored E2. This one allows for storage for ladders, etc. Designed with a 20 year use. Chief stated the other significant difference was the warranty Dingee offered compared to 5, 10, 10 or 5, 10, 20. Chief thought whole process went well. Mike stated Gary Bouchet participated as a member of public who also offered his opinion and comment. There was more discussion on this topic. Chief stated they will meet with E-One re: the engine on 12/15/05. Committee's goal is to go with same distributor for the engine and they are satisfied with E-One. Andy didn't have any reservations on the decision but doesn't like to be put on the spot to make a decision tonight.

Chief: Committee is asking fire wards to make a motion about entering into the agreement. Chief will get information from the grant people to see how the money is released. Tom: we'll have to come up with \$30,000. Chief: feel that for the engine being made next year we would go with a lease/purchase set up as a replacement for engine 4. Andy: will there be any additional expenses with this new tanker? Chief: will have basic fittings and adapters. Will buy more hose. Comes with a ladder that it needs. Tom motioned to enter into a conditional agreement with E-One for a tanker for \$230,000 with the condition that it has to be approved by the body in March. Harold seconded. All commissioners agreed unanimously. It is further understood that \$199,500 of this expenditure will come from a grant that has been received for this purpose.

Chief asked what if it is not approved at District meeting? Tom: Future acquisitions of any apparatus will not affect the tax rate. We would take the \$30,000 out of the apparatus fund. There are two funds this year. We will have an apparatus fund effective 1/1/06. Apparatus fund can be expended for capital equipment. Need to report what is perceived that the major expenses would be so that the public would be aware but is not a voting item.

Winnisquam Fire Dept. Just received a letter today from Belmont Fire. Belmont is not interested in a flat fee structure. Tom noticed that Belmont does not state they are taking them over. Winnisquam needed to get approval of all members, not sure if that vote was taken. There was a poll taken and the members assented to the takeover. Now a plan of dissolution has to be filed with AG's and has to detail the assets how they will be liquidated. Belmont has included a bill that is just for 9 months of \$17, 634.25. But this is a bill from Belmont, not Winnisquam. They have to wait for Belmont to vote on in March. Tom has asked Winnisquam to prepare a budget for Jan., Feb and Mar of 2006. Mike has had issue with the assets of Winnisquam and seems Belmont is just taking over. He'd like to know what TNFD paid towards the assets to see what is happening to things we paid for. Tom has asked what Belmont needed (capital items) to take Winnisquam over. He does not believe Belmont will ever pay for any assets they are taking over in Winnisquam. And he believes we should relinquish the rights to the physical assets. Harold mentioned that we could send them back a letter that says for the whole year this is what we will pay. Tom: doesn't want us to write a letter until we get a call into the town Administrator and then commissioners can discuss on Monday night. Tom would like to put in \$18,000 to support Belmont for a substation in Winnisquam area. Chief will call Jeanne for clarification. Tom doesn't mind if the amount is for 12 months. Tom wants to get the Comstar monies returned, however. Andy asked if we would put this item in the general budget and not as a separate article. Tom doesn't want to put anywhere until this letter is clarified.

Budget 05 was handed out in draft form. Will be discussed on Monday night.

Chief: E-1 is finally back but the warranty was on different parts of the vehicle with different company warranties. Chief still not happy with the repair work done and wants Central States to still fix some of the mistakes.

Regarding commission election by ballot, Comm. Gallant felt we might just need to submit a warrant article request to both towns. Clerk Vary mentioned that she had done some research as to changes that occurred with the voting on commissioners/fire wards in the past. In 1958 we went to staggered terms for the fire wards. The AG's office wrote back in 1958 that, not finding any by laws for the district, its opinion was to just put any change for the elections process as a warrant article. If approved would be effective the next year. That was done then and how we got to elect one commissioner each year. Joyce Fulweiller had sent a letter from the Northfield selectmen asking if we would consider election by official ballot for our elections. Clerk Vary communicated that we had already started this effort. Joyce suggested to contact our attorney, NHMA and a Bob Anderson who is a DRA auditor. Mr. Anderson requested Clerk Vary to fax him the information she had gathered and said he would look into it. Ms. Fulweiller did not interpret our 2003 warrant article to mean the "official ballot" that the towns use for voting but just that commissioner elections should be done by ballot. It was decided to wait upon Mr. Anderson's opinion before we determine how to proceed.

New business

New ambulance won't be here until end of January, 2006. Chief isn't totally confident in that date, he knows that we'll get the truck we want but he is aware that they are having trouble due to Road Rescue's plant closings & mergers.

Budget work session at 6:00pm on Monday, Dec. 5, 2005. Has been posted for public notification on internet web sites for towns and public areas around town.

Chief requested permission to speak on behalf of the NHAFC in his position as president of that organization. Dealing with Goffstown fire chief who is losing his position. Chief is trying to stay out of the personnel side but wants to at least publicly speak against the combining of police/fire public safety organization. Chief wanted to be sure that it is OK with the commissioners. Tom didn't have any problem with it. Neither did Harold or Andy. Request approved.

Regarding the distribution of Christmas food baskets, Tom asked Chief to get members together on the 17th at 8:00am to distribute the food baskets at 9:00am.

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Chief wanted to verify that he can sign the contract with E-One for the tanker. The Commissioners agreed with the condition as previously stated.

Public comment: Bob Watson, Tilton. Why would Northfield want to support the Belmont Fire Dept. Tom: Belmont services a part of Northfield and Winnisquam a part of Tilton. Andy: they have to see that a portion of our district needs this coverage. Tom: this question really isn't anything new and will probably be discussed again.

Andy had a comment: he missed going to the awards ceremony and would like to have attended but was not able to due to such a late notice from Clerk Vary. Andy wanted to apologize to the members of TNFD for not being there. Tom, agreed, also. He, too, was only notified later in the day of the event and was not able to attend. Tom mentioned that there have been numerous oversights lately and these have been discussed with Clerk Vary. Need to be more attentive to our responsibilities in notifying the public when we change meetings, posting dates, etc. All meetings have to be noted. We are using the web sites to post minutes right after they are approved as well as meeting dates and times. Meetings are also posted at both Town Halls, Jim's Drive-In, the library and department doors.

Harold motioned to pay bills. Andy seconded. Bills voucher signed.

Harold motioned to adjourn the meeting, Andy seconded. Meeting adjourned at 19:45.

**Next Meeting Date, Time,
Place:**

January 5, 2006 at 18:00 at Center Street Station