

Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS Commissioners' Meeting Monthly Meeting

Meeting called by:	Commissioners	Date, Time:	April 5, 2007 at 18:00 to 19:26
Note taker:	Janine Vary	Place:	Center Street Station

Attendees: Comm. Tom Gallant, Comm. Bob Watson, Treasurer Roland Seymour, Chief Steve Carrier, Capt. Brad Ober, Fire Prev and Clerk Janine Vary. Absent: Comm. Kevin Waldron due to illness, Deputy Mike Robinson

Comm. Gallant called meeting to order at 6:05.

Review of minutes from March 22nd special meeting. Tom motioned to accept minutes and seconded by Bob. Discussion: Tom didn't have any comments. All in favor of minutes. All approved.

Moved to Treasurer's reports. Tom motioned to review. Roland: this is the March report. Northfield has given us a check for \$123,000 which will go into the operating account on Monday; this is for 3 months. Tilton has paid 3 months. The "Transfer in" line of \$10,945.80 is part of the \$47,000 from A & E account. It is the balance of the \$25,000 paid to E-One to cap their charges. Roland commented that the difference at the end of the report of \$11,432 is the liability accounts for NHRS and Dental payments. Check books are in balance up to the penny up to March 31, 2007. Comstar deposited \$20,530.73 in receipts for March. Average of \$16,500 for each month so far. Rest of report shows no variance in bookkeeping. We have about \$61,000 in the A&E account. Will have another \$123,000 in the Operating account. Pretty early to see any anomalies in the budget items; Roland couldn't find any that raise his attention. The budget figures are according to the district meeting. Tom: asked if we knew what Tilton's share was for 2006 - \$801,504. The difference is \$70,000 and this is not a 20% increase. Tom motioned to accept the Treasurer's report for January through March as written. Bob seconded. No other comments. All commissioners unanimously accepted the Treasurer's report.

Tom commented about the situation re: Article 5. DRA had approved it as crafted. An amendment was made on the floor by Scott Davis, Tom warned not to change and the amendment passed. Now DRA says Moderator should not have allowed the change. Davis wanted to shorten the period of time and amount, which was fine, but it should have come to us before the final meeting; we would have known what the rate would be. The original warrant said what the payments would be but we didn't say what the amount would be in the passed article. DRA came back and said it should have not have happened. We could purchase the truck and we would reconcile the error. Janine commented on her conversation with Jamie Dow. Evidently, the \$16,700 amount authorizing to pay the loan this year was supposed to be reflected on the MS37 as a plus and a minus figure. It doesn't appear that way because we had worded it as an "authorization" (not raise and appropriate) and yet DRA had approved the MS37 without it being shown. Jamie also stated that she was waiting for another MS37 but had never communicated that to Janine. Jamie indicated that DRA would not be able to make a decision where this money would come from until they review all the reports and the minutes. These were mailed to DRA via priority mail today. Tom mentioned that it was made clear from DRA that the Moderator should not have allowed the change to ever happen. We did get the forms all approved from DRA before public hearings. Worse case scenario will cause a problem for us if it has to come out of the operating budget. The \$25,000 budgeted for the stop gap for E-One wasn't all used, so some of it can come from that money. Tom hopes that after their review of the minutes that DRA sees the intent of the body was to take it out of the Apparatus and Equipment account. Jamie was specific that there should be no amendment to articles that have been approved by DRA. However, just because DRA reviews them it may not mean that they are legal (as noted above in Janine's comments). Tom asked Janine to forward the email she had sent him regarding this conversation with Jamie to the other commissioners.

Next order of business is backing up to review the minutes of March 1, 2007 meeting. Tom motioned to accept the minutes and Bob seconded. No discussion. Both commissioners accepted minutes from March 1, 2007 regular monthly meeting.

Brad: Aeropostale got permits and will be stocking store and will be in building 3 and not sure of opening date. Only thing pending is the new building in the parking lot. New development: Tractor supply store and Mr. D's general retail, like Dollar Tree store in Town Line Plaza. Was there before. Northfield: not much info

but they are doing a site walk on Sat. for a 23 subdivision on Keasor Road and then another smaller 3 acre lot. South Bay moving forward with conversion. Kalliope is closed and Walgreen's is progressing. Not sure if fully permitted yet. He hasn't heard from them for a while. Academic and residential buildings are coming according to schedule in Tilton School. Working with town of Tilton and will be naming road that comes in by dean's house and back into ice arena. All of it was School Street, will now be McMorin. Chief said that Joe Plessner had some questions about how the numbering will go, would like letters. Hampton Inn has stopped construction. Brad stopped in about 3 weeks ago to speak with general contractor. The owner has to free up some money before they can continue. The Nova Voyages lumber building is about 1 week before coming online. The greenhouse is actually their business office. Chief has had discussions with Joe Plessner about businesses moving in to Tilton. This is a business going into a residence and we should be getting notice. Brad continued: Anna's Bakery is coming back to Main Street in the spot where Sleeper Photography was. A school for special needs children has been looking at property to rent on W. Main Street but again we haven't been told anything. No big projects coming in except Walgreen's. Haven't heard from Holiday Inn on property on Rt. 140. Doesn't know what the Keasor Road development is all about. Tom asked if Northfield got approvals for Scribner Road. Brad said they have resubmitted plans. Problem is that state is not issuing anymore Medicare beds. Granite Media Center on Autumn Drive, which was Flyshaker's building. Sprinkler system will be online in a week or so but have done a real good job with that building. Will be occupied and will start pushing the movie projection business. Then there are the year to date totals the commissioners had asked for. Discussion on the amount of alarms that happened at Wyman and Gordon and NHVH. Alarm activations due to power outages and were legitimate. Brad listed under training the fire taskforce that he participated in Berlin. It was a good experience and he learned a lot, had 20 inspectors. Chief commented this was at the request of the fire marshal's office to get exposure and education. Picked up good experience up there. Tom asked where we stand with a new hire. Chief commented that Greg Stetson, who already is on full time, will be working in the newly created FF/Fire Prevention position. Tim Joubert from Plymouth will take the firefighters job. He was the number 1 candidate last year but wasn't available. Tom motioned to accept the FP activity log and seconded by Bob. Janine asked about the ordinances that were passed at district meeting. There were questions about fee structure, warning and appeals processes and Brad commented that the Commissioners would be coming up with that wording. Brad thinks RSA 154 addresses that. Chief thinks that you can make ordinances, post 90 days before and accept comments and then ordinances are enforceable. Brad will check into that and Chief will get copies of the RSA 154 item. Chief said there was a question on the fireworks fee, seeing it is an annual fee. Brad hasn't heard from the store. The fee for fireworks store is \$1000 at annual renewal. We expect it may be questioned by current company.

Old business

Tilton Police Dept. committee. Tom doesn't have anything new to report. The committee narrowed properties down to three and presented it to board of selectman 2 weeks ago. They chose not to do anything and will probably take it up at tonight's selectmen meeting. Committee will meet after select people do something. The committee has reached a point that if nothing happens tonight will need to go before the board and ask for further direction.

Ambulance billing: Chief had some discussion with representative from Comstar. She said we could improve our return rate by sending more than one letter to the resident. She said you need to read the letter again, not collection but asking for insurance information. Policy now is one letter. If tossed aside, they forget about it. Suggested we send 3 letters to residents and that may improve our return drastically. Tom said then we should go that way. We can work on wording if we want.

2007 budget and warrant. No more comment. The budget has been laid out. Warrants were ratified by the Commissioners on March 22.

Master box system, there are no new comments.

New business

Chief reported that Engine 3 has been put in service.

Tilton warrant article: Chief put it on in reference to the study and maybe the commissioners would like to discuss it. This could help us; it is not as negative as it was originally written. Best interest to work with

whomever does the study and give information that is needed. Tom agreed. His question is what parameters will they set for this study. The town will be in charge of that. Hopes we can put forth the information so that individuals cannot discuss incorrect information. Chief is wondering about the \$20,000 to investigate something that could be told them for no cost. We could say the best thing is to have a station in East Tilton and have it staffed. It really is - how do you make it a reality? Tom afraid that it will end up like Belmont with a study that cannot even be met by tax dollars. Chief feels that if they do a study they will find that their response times won't be as bad as they are reporting. The underlining tone or issue is that the boards of selectmen in both communities chose to take action without talking to us. We were snubbed by the towns when invited to a forum. Bob commented that the select people were asked if it was discussed with the fire dept. and Tom Cavanaugh said he talked to Chief but never the fire commissioners. Tilton said they will be using LGC to do this study.

Review of activity log. Chief commented we have been slow for this first 3 months of year. However, the gentlemen on duty last night maybe got 1 hour's worth of sleep. The night of the power outage they were busy again. We've had some bursts. He feels we haven't had a lot of weather and motor vehicle accidents. He feels we may have a busy summer. When he started it was busy in winter and slow in summer and now has reversed itself. Maybe drawing more people in during the summer.

Tom asked for public comment. Gretchen Wilder asked if activity numbers include mutual aid calls. Chief said yes. He does separate them out. Our incident reports are sent electronically to the fire marshal's office. Gretchen said during the budget committee meetings, items have gone up like gas and diesel, things that we cannot control like retirement. The group did talk about forming a health insurance committee. It may come to pass sooner than later that if we can't control the costs that all employees will have some out of pocket expense towards the health insurance premiums. Some factors that may be changing are the co pays for doctors and prescriptions. Chief said we only offer single person coverage. Salaries are going up as we are trying to retain the people we have. If salaries are in line with those around us and the benefits get changed or cut, it causes the same problem. There was much more discussion about the health care benefits and Gretchen just wanted the commission to be aware that it is a line item the budget committee will be looking at later in the year. Gretchen commented that there are some people who are getting two and family plans for free. Chief commented that the commissioners chose to freeze or grandfather the longer term employees when they decided to go with the single person health plan. Chief also mentioned that each employee took the job with the benefits and salary in place and know the realities of health care costs. Chief hoped that the Budget Committee would look at all the items of the budget, not just look at what they are going to slash. Tom said if there are people who have questions about any budget item and its cost, they should come in and ask their questions. She wants us to be aware so we can prepare information now.

Tom closed the session of public comment.

Tom motioned to pay bills and Bob seconded. Janine did ask for clarification of which account to pay the new engine's loan from. Tom indicated to take it out of the operating budget until we hear the decision from DRA. Bills were paid.

Tom motioned to adjourn at 7:26pm. Bob seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:26pm.

Next Meeting Date, Time, Place:

May 3, 2007 at 18:00 at Center Street Station