

# Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS Commissioners' Meeting

Meeting called by:	Commissioners	Date, Time:	May 4, 2006 at 18:00 to 19:17
Note taker:	Janine Vary	Place:	Center Street Station

Attendees: Comm. Tom Gallant, Comm. Bob Watson, Comm. Harold Harbour, Chief Steve Carrier, Capt. Brad Ober, Fire Prev., Deputy Mike Robinson, Treasurer Roland Seymour and Clerk Janine Vary. Public present: Gretchen Wilder

Tom opened meeting at 6:10.. Chief introduced FFS Shawn Wheeler as one of the new fire fighters. The other 3 new members are on calls right now. Commissioners welcomed Shawn.

Review of previous minutes: minutes were made by Harold and seconded by Bob and no discussion. Accepted unanimously.

Treasurers report: Roland. Tom suggested that Janine to write a letter to Plodzick and Sanderson requesting a date for the audit.

Roland handed out a copy of the Comstar account that shows ambulance monies received and expenses. Comstar income and expenses. Towns are caught up to April, 06. Roland needs to send a new letter to towns saying the new amounts that each town should be paying now with adjusted budget.

Chief in career salaries and wages was an increase in OT since beginning of year and some major events where there was a lot of OT. He believes it will balance itself out as the year goes on. Roland: we still show the \$18,000 for Winnisquam FD in expenses. We need to adjust the Tilton and Northfield lines in taxes raised. Tom asked about Comstar account. Roland said we started year with \$500 because we had transferred all other funds to the Providian National Bank operating account. Apparatus and capital equipment expenses are the only expenses to be taken out of Comstar account now. Tom wants it to be a continual report that goes on and shows all income and expenses. No other questions. All commissioners accepted the treasurers report unanimously. Minutes reflect any changes.

Brad: Chili's is open, Kohls is doing ground work now. Fire works store is scheduled for May 11 for all systems testing. This week received academic plan for Tilton School and has started review. They want to begin construction when school ends this year. This will be a 4 story building on lower side. Hampton Inn still in approval process. We have approved everything and they have made some changes that we requested. Boards are aware that Brad needs to sign off before approving. Cross Mill Road still in construction, tree clearing and road building. Water suppression was approved for 1 30,000 gal. tank and need their own 20,000 gal. water tank for domestic water supply. The buildings are prefab and are insulated concrete. Believes there will be 50, probably a 3 or 4 year project. Activity is for 2 months. Fire alarm cable has been run from Main St to Lowes Drive. Will be tying in to Chilis tomorrow. Working on an application form for the new fee structure. End of May or beginning June will be effective. Fire prevention info to get on the web site. Residential developments are continuing. Two on Laconia Road. Just tree clearing and dirt working right now.

We now have a new web site [www.tnfd.org](http://www.tnfd.org). Very much in infancy but has begun. Chuck Mitchell has helped with setting that up.

## Old business

Fire Prevention ordinance. Chief, take effect on May 29, 2006. Need to be publicized more. Tom asked how we are going to work that. A number of projects that are in process. Most of permits that we would be dealing with are equipment, so when subcontractors come in to do their portions of the project, they will pull the permit and pay the fee. Done only during normal business hours. Need to work closely with building departments. Maybe a copy of ordinance or the application could be given by Joe or Dana.

Old ambulance: sold to Beauchines' for \$1050 and they have already taken possession. They will be removing all the lettering.

Building committee. Chief contacted all the members and only heard from one, Michelle Bonsteel. The other three have not contacted him, Catherine, Linda Pardi and Bob Samson. Have a meeting tentatively at the end of May to tour facilities. May need to find new members. Tom recommended to re-circulate the letter to verify if interested or not.

Winnisquam Fire Department. We have had no response to our proposal which was a win win solution and they haven't alluded to the fact that we sent it to them. Instead just received a letter from Attorney John Rogers. Our council recommends that we do nothing at this time. Tom did give an article to the newspaper. Belmont won't be absorbing the WFD. Sanbornton has contacted the AG's office. No answers received yet. Tom has been in touch with interested parties.

Would we be willing to sit down with Belmont, Winnisquam, Sanbornton and us. Jean Beaudoin presented to board in Belmont and Belmont said not interested and doesn't involve them at all. We cannot understand this but they don't want to meet. Tom received call from Steve Ober and wanted to know if we want to put together an agreement to deal with the Comstar account, but we have already tried that. If Belmont or Winnisquam wants to take it to court, that's ok. We requested to receive our portion of the Comstar money. This was our money, once they agree to that we will give it back to them and that will be our share to support WFD for 2 years. He is told that nothing has changed. The WFD still has to continue on their own with no budget. Belmont does have some money in their budget for WFD. He will notify everyone if any other meeting is called for or changes.

Water district relations. Chief spoke with Roland and Roland suggested that we put together a list of things we would like to see happen from the water dept. Then there will be something to discuss when we get together. Chief received a call from Ken Money saying that the flows on West Main Street are not adequate to put any new hydrants in. Jensen's has 6 inch all the way down. Chief would like to be involved in the planning stage of projects like this. Roland said that he was told that hydrants can be installed anytime by Ken Money. Harold said there is a lot of water flow, though, so pressure is not an issue. The truck could pull the water at enough pressure. The Water District meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00PM. Let Roland know if you want to get on the agenda. June 14<sup>th</sup> the Money's are leaving. Hoping to have some people to replace them before they leave. Ken said that he would be available to help in the transition.

Chief introduced Sean Valovanie as another of our new FF to the commissioners

Tom reported on the Committee that has been formed for Tilton PD. They set meeting for Tues. at 4:00pm. Tom was in court on that date so he missed that first meeting. He will get the minutes and share them with commissioners. They are supposed to hire a person to evaluate and review every aspect of PD. Come up with recommendations on various aspects, including physical facilities. With that report, the committee will make recommendations to the selectpeople. Hopefully could link up with the fire department building committee.

#### **New business**

Budget committee will be meeting on Monday, May 8, 2006 at the Center Street at 4:30 with Ken Randall.

Chief: had question on medical insurance from a member who was hired several years ago. He was requesting to go to a 2-person coverage as was available at that time. Tm is afforded the same benefits when his date of hire was. New hires from that date forward would be single coverage. He could get a 2 person that would cover him and his child. Tom suggested to amend the personnel policies to show that . Make an email to tom and get the wording for the policy.

Mike: have we done anything to recognize Andy Sleeper for year's of service. There was discussion and a plan is being put in place.

Public comment: Gretchen Wilder: likes the web site. Gretchen hadn't read the Sun article but Tom alluded that we have money in Comstar. Does Sanbornton have money also? Just about \$9,000 maybe. She had a question on our tabling the warrant article. Tom mentioned that we tabled the raising and appropriating money to pay anything. However, if Winnisquam agreed with our offer, they could use that money as our support. Gretchen asked if we think there will be any changes in response. If Winnisquam FD dissolves, will Belmont come through? Chief responded that he believed the response would be the same.

Harold moved to pay bills. Tom seconded.

Chief spoke about the incident report. We are down by 70 runs from last year. Had a mild winter so much fewer accidents on the highways. We picked up a lot this month in vegetation fires. The medical aid numbers are even low. Tom would be interested in looking at the activity for the current months in the current year and the same months in the prior year. Look for trends in why things are changing.

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Janine brought up a question about "buyout" for health insurance. She reported we did have buyout since 2002 and onward. It is based on single, double or family plan. Tom stated that if an employee is eligible for a single plan, they could get a thousand dollars. Tom asked that we include this, as well as the medical insurance policy, in a proposed document. Do a combined policy motion. Note that the "buyout" is considered taxable wages. Medical coverage would have to be verified by us to protect employee from any undue hardship should illness arise. Employee would have to buy out each year. They could request/accept insurance when new policy renews at the beginning of the year. Tom would like, in the foreseeable future, to structure a review of the personnel manual and just look at pieces of it. So we should look at that section. If it is an ever evolving item, then the commissioners should be aware of it and should be notified, this way they could see it. Chief stated that we have the personnel manual available electronically and a lot of operational things are updated all the time.

Tom motioned to adjourn and Harold seconded. Meeting adjourned at 19:17.

<b>Next Meeting Date, Time, Place:</b>	<b>June 1, 2006 at 18:00 at Center Street Station</b>
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Respectfully submitted,

Janine Vary, Clerk