

## **Tilton-Northfield Fire District Meeting Monday, March 6, 2006**

Moderator Kenneth Randall called meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Meeting started with the pledge of allegiance and then a moment of silence for those who were lost in the recent fire on Lancaster Hill Road.

Moderator read a short letter from Scott McGuffin appointing Mr. Randall as Moderator for this meeting due to his being away at Junior Olympics with his son.

The Moderator reviewed some of the rules (copies were available for everyone) for the running of the meeting.

Discussed limiting debate, reconsideration and optional restriction on reconsideration (protecting your vote). If protection passes and reconsideration of that vote is asked for later in meeting, issue cannot be reconsidered this meeting, vote is protected. Issue cannot be brought back up until at least 7 days later, after being advertised and announced in paper and then we come back and go over the whole thing again. Moderator asked if the body understood how to protect your vote so you don't have to worry about reconsideration at a later time. No questions or comments came from the body. Instructed for standing votes, voters will use voter cards, just hold up card to be counted.

Moderator mentioned that he respects Chief Carrier same as a superintendent of the school or the selectman of a town. Therefore he is giving the Chief permission to make any presentation to the assembly and answer any question upon request by the Commissioners. Capt. Brad Ober is also given permission to speak during this meeting.

Moderator asked for a motion to accept the ground rules as printed. A motion was made and seconded and the body voted that the Ground rules adopted for this meeting. Moderator also asked for suspension of the reading of the warrant until each item was being placed on the floor for discussion.

**Article 1:** To choose a **Moderator** for the ensuing year. Tom Gallant nominated Ken Randall for moderator for ensuing year. Seconded by Scott Hilliard. No other nominations for moderator. Ballot cards held up for vote. By unanimous vote **Ken Randall** was elected as moderator for the ensuing year.

**Article 2:** To choose a **Clerk** for the ensuing year. Harold Harbour nominated Janine Vary and was seconded. No other nominations, closed nominations by verbal vote. Ballot cards held up for vote. **Janine Vary** elected as clerk for the ensuing year.

**Article 3:** To choose a **Treasurer** for the ensuing year. Tom Gallant nominated Roland Seymour for ensuing year. Jerry Davis seconded. No other nominations, closed nominations by verbal vote. Ballot cards held up for vote. **Roland Seymour** elected as Treasurer by unanimous vote.

**Article 4:** To choose a **Fire Commissioner** for the ensuing 3 years. Doug Smart nominated

Bob Watson, seconded by Scott Hilliard. No other nominations; closed nominations by verbal vote. Ballot cards held up for vote. **Bob Watson** nominated unanimously.

At this time Moderator acknowledged Chief Steve Carrier who had a short presentation to show the body.

**Article 5:** To see if the voters at the Tilton-Northfield Fire District Annual District meeting shall vote to adopt the non-partisan official ballot system for the election of district officers as provided in RSA 670:7 Ballot Systems. (By petition). Motion moved by Leif Martinson, N., seconded by Jerry Davis, T. Discussion: Leif: didn't submit the article but will speak to it. Idea of ballot vote for commissioners to keep same as town voting system. A secret ballot vote is less intimidating. Tom Gallant totally supported article #5. Steve Bloom, N. would like to move article 5 to a ballot vote. Moderator asked if there was a minimum of 10 hands to agree and there were, so a ballot vote was taken for article 5. No more discussion. Moderator read article again. Ballot boxes opened at 7:40. 7:50 ballot box closed. All voters having voted, ballots counted by Scott Hilliard, Mr. Smart. Ballots: yes: 74 no: 17. **Article passes.**

**Article 6:** 'To see if the voters at the Tilton Northfield Fire District Annual Meeting will act upon the following question: "Shall we rescind the provisions of the RSA 31:95-c (adopted March 7, 2005) which restricts all of the revenues from the Ambulance Billings to expenditures for the purpose of apparatus and equipment replacement. (Simple majority vote needed to adopt the rescission). The purpose of this warrant article is to eliminate this special revenue fund so that expenditures are once again accounted for in the general fund and approved through the budget process.'" (By Petition). Steve Bloom, N. moved question on the floor. Seconded, Jerry Davis, T. Scott Bloom, N., to explain the article. Authors looking for checks and balances on spending. Several people questioned the 2 pickup trucks purchased and not done through warrant system. By law it was legal to make purchase but voters are looking for more input on purchases. At this point there was much discussion regarding the acquisition of these trucks. Comm. Gallant explained that the Fire District would still come before the body when we are taking money out of capital reserve funds need to ask for approval from the body to expend money from that apparatus and equipment fund. Revenues come into the account from the ambulance charges. This will be self sustaining fund, accelerating fund. The district would no longer be raising and appropriating monies to put in for truck and ambulance funds and other special accounts. Kevin Waldron, N., asked why two pickups had to be purchased and where did funds come from. Comm. Gallant explained the pick up trucks are on a lease basis. They were included in last year's budget, ie. the Equipment replacement account included money for that lease and the budget was not overspent. The reason for two, one truck is to replace the forestry truck, which was replaced and now have a slide on tanker that holds 200 gals. of water, the other pick up truck was used for plowing, etc. this new truck has a plow on it and when plow is off, then the water tank will be put on this truck. The second truck is used by fire safety officer. It is a 4-door vehicle, used to take crew to training exercises and pull the safety trailer which we also received by a grant last year. Hal Beor, N., asked how long the lease was for and Comm. Gallant answered 5 years. The lease agreement has a fiscal funding clause, an escape clause, that says if the funding is not approved, the leases are null and void, the vehicles are returned. Hal: if not a one time, one year fee then let's say tonight that the towns don't want them, they have to go back. Comm. Gallant agreed. There was much more conversation and Moderator brought body back to the purpose of the warrant article on the floor

- to eliminate the apparatus and equipment fund. The question was called and seconded. Moderator asked if body wanted to end discussion and by verbal vote, the ayes had it. Voice vote taken on the article and the nays had it. Steve Bloom stated that according to the RSA 31:95-d I. (a).this vote had to be a ballot vote. After review, Moderator agreed. Ballot vote taken, voting closed at 8:23. yes 36 no 58. no vote wins, **Article 6 is defeated**. Mr. O'Leary wanted to protect his vote. Moderator said this request was according to RSA 40:10, optional reconsideration. Verbal vote taken. Ayes have it. **Restriction on reconsideration is granted on Article 6.**

**Article 7:** "To see if the Fire District will vote to adopt a Fire District Budget Committee to become effective at the Fire District Meeting 2006 per Chapter 32 of the Municipal Budget Law RSA 32:14. The budget committee shall have 6 members (split equally between the towns of Northfield and Tilton) plus one additional member from the Fire District Board of Commissioners. The terms of office shall be for one year. Whenever it is voted to establish a budget committee, the Boards of Selectmen in each of the towns shall appoint the members of the budget committee, except for the additional member appointed from the Fire District, within 15 days of the vote establishing the committee. " Gretchen Wilder made a motion to put on floor but she had an amendment. Moderator instructed that she needed to place article 7 for discussion. Gretchen Wilder: "To see if the Fire District will vote to adopt a Fire District Budget Committee and further in accordance with RSA 32:15, the budget committee shall consist of seven (7) members, comprised of one Fire District Commissioner and six members-at-large. The six members-at-large shall consist of 3 members from Tilton and 3 members from Northfield who shall be appointed by the Fire District Moderator and shall serve staggered terms of 3 years. The staggering of terms shall begin in 2006 with one third of such members chosen to hold office for one year, one third for two years and one third for 3 years and each year thereafter one third shall be appointed for terms of 3 years and until their successors are appointed and qualified. All such appointments shall be made within 30 days after the 2006 Annual Fire District meeting. (Majority vote required. Voting shall be by ballot and the polls shall remain open and ballots shall be accepted by the Moderator for a period of not less than one hour following the completion of discussion on the question.)" Seconded by Greg Hill, N. Moderator explained that the motion placed on the floor is not identical to the warrant. It need not be same as original as long as subject matter is compatible with the original warrant. Discussion: Gretchen Wilder: we thought an additional resource for the fire commissioners is to have a budget committee to review the expenditures and keep things in line. What prompted it was the purchase of the two pickup trucks. They would like commissioners to have help. Kevin Waldron, N., wondered why going from 6 to 7 members and why the Moderator does appointing of members of said budget committee. Moderator stated the answer would have to come from the floor. Michelle Bonsteel, N. stated the original warrant asked for selectman to appoint. Moderator clarified that we were not discussing the original warrant. Leif Martinson, N., if the body votes to form the budget committee, the first year the Moderator appoints the committee. The following year will the commissioners appoint members for the following years? Moderator was not sure if this is correct or not. Scott Davis asked if the amendment needed to be voted on before any other action. Moderator answered no, the original was found as not enforceable. Leif Martinson: spoke in favor of the article. As the total budget for fire district grows, this adds a second level of oversight. Question being called for and seconded. Ayes have it to proceed to voting. Moderator explained that the polls have to stay open for an hour and we are voting on the creation of a budget committee. 8:33 polls opened for an hour for Article 7. After a short

break, Moderator continued meeting. Moderator: time being 9:39 polls closed for Article 7. He asked Mr. Hilliard and Mr. Lamanuzzi to count the ballots as we continued meeting. **Count on ballots for Article 7: yes 53 no 43. Yes vote passes. A majority vote has it, Article 7 passes.** Rick Hill motioned to protect his vote. Vote taken. Ayes have it. **Article 7 vote is protected.**

**Article 8:** "To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00), to be added to the Land and Building Capital Reserve Fund." Comm. Gallant motioned to move to the floor after reading article again. Seconded by Dan Murphy, T. Michelle Bonsteel asked for clarification. Comm. Gallant asked Chief Carrier to speak to the article. Chief Carrier: This is a continuation of an attempt to put money away for a building project that is coming up in the future. District still has building needs. Building committee has met sporadically. Worked with Tilton Police Dept. and their committee and also exploring options with Northfield Police Dept. We are in favor of the public safety building concept. Tilton Police Dept. wants to move headquarters on Sanborn Road and don't feel appropriate at this time. Possible opportunities for Sanborn Road for a substation but do not have a proposal yet. This is seed money to grow that account. Kevin Waldron, N. how much money is currently in fund and what are plans for buying land and can fire dept. take land by eminent domain? Comm. Gallant answered last year \$100,000 was voted on, so \$108,850.53 as of 12/31/05. We have no intention to purchase any land. A couple of years ago we talked about putting an addition on Park Street. Would put this money in an account for us to use in the future. Valerie Kehr, N. asked who has authority to use funds and what kind of oversight does this body have. Comm. Gallant: the oversight is in the hands of the Trustee of Trust Funds in Northfield. The body makes the decisions as the commissioners would present articles to the body. Valerie: do you have to come back to body to use the funds, how much and for what. Comm. Gallant: yes. Kevin Waldron: asked again about eminent domain. Comm. Gallant: commissioners are not qualified to answer that question. Discussion ended. Went to hand vote. Cards counted by Scott Hilliard and Jim Lamanuzzi. yes 67 and no's 26. **Article 8 passes.**

**Article 9:** "To see if the District will vote to renew the Water Contract and raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thirty Five Thousand Dollars (\$135,000.00) for that purpose." Comm. Harbour restated the article and moved to the floor. Comm. Gallant seconded motion. Discussion: Hal Beor, N. asked how often we use these hydrants. Chief Carrier: actual fire fighting purposes combined with training, maybe 10 to 15 times a year. Hal Beor continued to say discussion was already had regarding the percentage of how many work or don't work adequately enough to put out fires. Couldn't we put water meters on fire engines and put the meter right on the hydrant so we pay for the water we actually use? Seems a bit high to pay 10% of budget for water we don't use and can't use in some cases. Comm. Gallant: we don't own the water company and PUC regulates what is charged. Comm. Harbour stated that the town just purchased the water company and he's hoping that as we get things straightened out rates will go down. Hal Beor, N.: why can't we say no? Kevin Waldron, N. if used 10 times, understands that we'll have to pay \$13,500 every time we used. Now just learned towns own the water company, how many times can we pay for the same thing? If there is a fire, won't we still hook up to hydrant? Clarification is that the Water District now owns the water company, not the towns. Question was called and seconded. Oral vote taken. Nays have it. **Article 9 fails.** Roland Seymour would like to see a card count for Article 9. Moderator stated vote had been taken. Hal Beor, N. moved to protect his vote on Article 9. Vote taken, ayes have it.

**Restriction on reconsideration is granted on Article 9.**

**Article 10:** "To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighteen Thousand Dollars (\$18,000.00) for the support of the Winnisquam Fire Department." Comm. Gallant: motioned to table warrant article 10, seconded by Arlow Stanley, N. Non-discussion. Hand count was done. Moderator explained to pass this needed a 2/3 vote. 85 total votes. 2/3 of 85 is 58. 79 yes votes, 6 no votes. **Article 10 is tabled.**

**Article 11:** "To see if the District will authorize the Commissioners to raise and appropriate One Hundred Seventy Six Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Seven Dollars (\$176,257.00) for the purpose of purchasing Fire, Rescue and EMS Equipment, paying vehicle leases as well as the cost associated with collecting the Ambulance Charges, with said funds to be withdrawn from the Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund established under RSA 31:95-C (Adopted March 7, 2005)." Comm. Gallant re-read article "To see if the District will authorize the Commissioners to expend One Hundred Seventy Six Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Seven Dollars (\$176,257.00) for the purpose of purchasing Fire, Rescue and EMS Equipment, paying vehicle leases as well as the cost associated with collecting the Ambulance Charges, with said funds to be withdrawn from the Apparatus and Equipment Special Revenue Fund established under RSA 31:95-C (Adopted March 7, 2005)." And motioned to move the article, seconded by Comm. Harbour. **[NOTE:** Clerk enters this directly from the tape of this meeting to validate the following discussion.] Comm. Gallant: article deals with the same information dealt with in Article 6, which was defeated. Dave Tracy, N. asked for clarification of numbers presented. Comm. Gallant explained: \$14,040 to pay for ambulance billing services, the collection agency. Vehicles \$57,733 includes the leases on 2 pick up trucks, heavy rescue, chief's vehicle and proposed tanker (engine 3 replacement) is also included. Fire equipment \$40,000, rescue equipment, \$20,000 EMS equipment, \$44,480, and \$40,000 for fire equipment which can be anything from fire hoses, pagers, portable radios, all fire equipment. During discussion, Kevin Waldron, N. brought up that the printed article stated "raise and appropriate". Comm. Gallant stated his record of what was sent to DRA had "to expend". Clerk checked records of final warrants and "raise and appropriate" was in record for Article 11. Comm. Gallant moved to amend article to read "to expend" not "raise and appropriate" for Article 11. However, after checking his records which stated "expend" and seeing Comm. Gallant put it on the floor that way and so seconded, this is the same situation as brought up as Article 6 which was put on the floor with different wording. Moderator accepted. Comm. Gallant explained monies brought up in article will not affect tax rate because monies would come out of Apparatus and Equipment fund. Kevin Waldron, N.: wants amount reduced by cost of one of the pickups and would like to see one returned. Pat Clark: mentioned "raise and appropriate" is legal term defined by RSA's doesn't have to be through taxation. Could be "raising" through the ambulance fees and "appropriate" is using the funds with district approval. Moderator commented he's not a lawyer so could not give an answer. Kevin Waldron asked what is amount of lease payments for one of pickups. Comm. Gallant said approximately \$9,000 per year. Kevin Waldron asked Moderator if now was the time to amend article. Moderator asked for amendment to be written down and signed, so he called a 5 minute recess. Amendment to Article 11: "To see if the District will authorize the Commissioners to expend one hundred sixty seven thousand two hundred fifty seven dollars (\$167,257.00) for the purpose of purchasing fire, rescue, and EMS equipment, paying vehicle leases as well as the cost associated with collecting the Ambulance charges, with said funds to be withdrawn from the apparatus and equipment special revenue fund

established under RSA 31:95C.” Amendment submitted by Kevin Waldron, N. Kenny French, N. seconded. Moderator: Reduces Article 11 by \$9000. Discussion: Scott Hilliard, N. asked to clarify that this amendment would reduce the amount by \$9,000 so that will send a piece of equipment back and we'd no longer have it. Chief agreed. Mr. Hilliard didn't think it was wise. The body had expressed our dissent and would caution not to vote for this. Ken Finnemore, N. wanted one point made clear. Whether we address the amendment of sending the truck back, it is up to commission how the \$9,000 is handled. He asked the Moderator if he had received in writing the motion that is on the floor, asked if he received Mr. Gallant's change in writing. Moderator: was told there was a difference from the way it was read and the way it was posted. It was read to "expend" not as written "raise and appropriate", so there was no amendment there because it wasn't placed on the floor that way. Ken Finnemore: feels that that could be challenged. Obviously a link to Mr. Waldron's amendment. Also feels minutes are vulnerable to challenge. If voting had gone in favor of Article 6, to eliminate the apparatus fund, could have stymied Article 11. There were more comments regarding questions on article 6. Article 11 moved to question by Foster Peverly and seconded. Moderator read article 11 as amended. Oral vote taken, nays have it. Amendment defeated. Back to voting on original article as moved by Comm. Gallant. Moderator read article. Moved to question and seconded. Verbal vote taken. Ayes have it. Motion carried. **Article 11 passes.**

**Article 12:** “To see if the District will authorize the Fire Commissioners to purchase a new 2500 Gallon Tanker. Further to see if the District will vote to appropriate Two Hundred Thirty Six Thousand Dollars (\$236,000.00) to purchase said Tanker, and to further authorize the Commissioners to withdraw Thirty Six Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$36,500.00) from the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund. Such amount is to be added to the One Hundred Ninety Nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollar (\$199,500.00) Grant received for this purpose. The combined amounts are to be used to fund the purchase of the Tanker.” Comm. Harbour, N. moved Article 12 to the floor, Jon Powell, N. seconded. Discussion: Comm. Gallant asked Chief Carrier to address. Majority of money procured from federal grant. Have a co-pay of \$36,500 that we need to raise. This is an essential piece of apparatus for us. Jason Wright, T.: Felt that to get that grant to pay for so much of the vehicle was great and felt it was a win win and was fully in support of it. Ken Waldron: only asking for \$36,500. Asked Chief if we have a place to house this truck right now. Chief answered we do not have it now but we will be replacing engine 3 with tanker, so, at the time of delivery, Engine 3 would be put out of service and tanker would be parked in its place. Pat Clark moved to question and seconded. Vote taken. Ayes have it to move to question. Vote on article taken. Ayes have it. **Article 12 passes.**

**Article 13:** “To see if the District will authorize the Commissioners to purchase a new, E One Custom Built Typhoon Pumper, 1500 GPM top mount pump, with a 1000 gallon water tank for the District. Such engine shall be a replacement for Engine 4 which is a 1974 International Pumper. Further to see if the District will vote to appropriate an amount not to exceed Three Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars (\$310,000.00), to purchase said Engine, and to further authorize the Commissioners to fund such acquisition by withdrawing One Hundred Fifty Five Thousand Dollars (\$155,000.00) from the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund, and enter into a financing agreement for the balance of One Hundred Fifty Five Thousand Dollars (\$155,000.00).” Comm. Gallant motioned Article 13 be moved as read. Seconded by Comm. Harbour. Discussion: believed that the Chief addressed the need and the cost. take \$155,000 out of capital reserve fund where funds are currently there. Arlow Stanley: asked about

financing. Comm. Gallant: we'll see what is available at that time. Manufacturer's lease agreements or we may bond on a long term basis, then we will have to come before body again. Jason Wright, T. asked what is the effective life of a new piece of equipment. Chief: we put together a capital improvement replacement program. 20 to 30 years for a piece of fire apparatus. The original vehicle has gone past that. Life depends on use and use of other vehicles. One factor is that E4 is used for water supply at this time. Not a lot of runs but serious mechanical issues with current vehicle. This new truck would be first attack vehicle. Mr. Wright is in full support of this article. Lee French, N. asked difference between Article 12 truck and Article 13 truck. Chief explained tanker is specifically for carrying and moving water on wheels. They took advantage of grant to have the large pump and 2000 feet of hose, much too large to use as a water supply role. Arlow: so Article 13 is 1000 gal and 1500/gpm pump. Truck is empty in 45 seconds. Chief: do not usually pump at max capacity at a fire. Also, hand lines flow 250/gpm for larger hand lines so time is actually extended. Arlow: also looking at the difference in cost. Chief: tanker was built with a 2 or 3 person standard cab. Attack pumper has a 7-man, fully enclosed custom built cab, generator and lighting equipment on it. Ken Finnemore, N. what is fire truck capital reserve fund amount now? Comm. Gallant: truck fund currently has \$192,096.59 in it. Mr. Finnemore: so between the two articles we are emptying out that fire truck fund. Comm. Gallant: yes and would then begin using money from equipment and apparatus fund. Ken: He doesn't see any other article asking to expend monies for this engine. Comm. Gallant: correct; cap reserve funds were raised and appropriated through taxation. The apparatus fund will be strictly from proceeds raised through ambulance funds. The \$155,000 asking to finance in the future will not be raised by taxation. Kevin Waldron: this will be a primary attack piece. Chief: yes. Engine 1 is the primary attack piece. Engine 2 also has capability to be first attack piece. Mr. Waldron: this is described as E-ONE, do we have anything else built by them? Chief: not now, but new tanker is being made by E-ONE. Question called by Comm. Harbour. Verbal vote to question. Ayes have it. Vote taken on Article 13. Ayes have it. **Article 13 passes.**

Pat Clark asked to protect his vote on article on articles 12 and 13. Protection of vote on Article 8 added by Michelle Bonsteel. Body voted to protect votes on Articles 8, 12 and 13. Ayes have it. **Votes on Articles 8, 12 and 13 protected.**

**Article 14:** 'To see if the District will "re state" the purpose of the formation of the Tilton-Northfield Fire District, to be the "extinguishment of fires", the "maintenance of ambulance services", and the provision of other duties related to the protection of life, property and the environment. Comm. Gallant moved Article 14 as read. Comm. Harbour seconded. Discussion.' Comm. Gallant: This is a housekeeping item relative to the intent for which we have been established. Wording has been recommended by Fire Marshal's office. Ken Waldron, N. does this change any of the authority of the fire district. Comm. Gallant: it affirms exactly what we have been doing all along as an entity. Mr. Waldron: do we operate under by laws. Comm. Gallant: he is sure there were bylaws at one time. Last year Attorney Chandler has had a statement signed by both boards of select people which affirms existence of the fire district and this in effect affirms why we have been established. Mr. Waldron: will there be a set of bylaws established. Comm. Gallant: this is the piece of re-establishment of these bylaws. The towns have turned their responsibilities of fire protection over to the fire district and the fire district has accepted that responsibility. No other comments. Vote on article taken. Aye vote has it. **Article 14 passes.**

**Article 15:** "To see if the District will vote pursuant to RSA 52:3.11, 31:39.i.e and 41:9-a, to adopt the NFPA 1, Uniform Fire Code, as adopted in the most current version of the State of New Hampshire State Fire Code, Chapter SAF-C 6000. Additionally, the District will adopt documents listed in Chapter 2 of NFPA 1; prescribing regulations governing conditions hazardous to life and property from fire or explosion; providing for the issuance of permits and collection of fees; repealing any ordinance of the Tilton-Northfield Fire District and all other ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict therewith; providing a penalty; providing a severability clause; and providing for publication; and providing the effective date." Comm. Gallant re-read the article again due to slight error in Moderator reading. Comm. Harbour moved to the floor. Seconded by Arlow Stanley, N. Discussion: Comm. Gallant: is a housekeeping item to an extent. Life Safety Code is being adopted formally by this body. Governs all construction in both communities. Northfield adopted Life Safety Code but Tilton did not. Fire Chief is empowered by State Fire Marshal's office to institute. The fee structure would not affect privately developed homes being built. Brad Ober has been authorized to speak to the article. Lee French, N. does this put any handicap on businesses in Tilton? Stricter fire codes or make it harder on small businesses in town? Chief: no, it doesn't. Adopts NFPA 1 which gives authority for a fee structure, one time permit fee for residence or business, would be some renewable fees for businesses like fire works stores. Doesn't see any impact on small businesses. Moderator asked if body ready for the question. Body ready, vote taken. Ayes have it. **Article 15 passes.**

**Article 16:** "To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Three Hundred Thirty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty One dollars (\$1,338,761.00) as the operating budget for the Fire District." Comm. Gallant moved article with a change to the amount - One Million One Hundred Eighty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty One Dollars (\$1,185,761.00). This included all warrant articles that were passed and excludes Articles 9 and 10, totaling \$153,000, which didn't pass. So noted by Moderator. Kevin Waldron, N.: it's been pointed out a big chunk of this raise is salary. How much percentage increase are we putting for each position, 17 and 35% per person? Comm. Gallant: as a percentage, not a fair measure. The chief in doing a survey of other districts, what we are raising people to is 5% lower than these districts. Chief: Increases 17 to 29% for line personnel from rank of captain and below. Mr. Waldron: this is based on towns around us and this is due to concern that if we don't pay people this much they may go somewhere else. Chief: based on towns around us as well as police departments. We have one member leaving who will be making \$3.00 more an hour. Gretchen Wilder, N. doesn't approve making these double digits jumps but would like a chance to phase in, not an immediate one time jump. A 2 or 3 year proposal would be a nice option. Lee French, N. top line for raise for everybody? Chief: wage increases alone total \$56,000. Mr. French: how many personnel we looking at? Chief would be for 7 shift personnel. Hal Beor, N.: ambulance in 2005 brought \$222,093 and proposed for 2006 \$216,002. If that is going down, why do we need 3 firefighters? Chief: the \$216,000 is a conservative figure done before we had year end figures for 2005. It is a conservative estimate and we know that if there are any overages it will offset any expenses out of the apparatus funds. A request to see slide on payscales again. Chief put slide back up on screen. Pointed out on slide, our ranges are very narrow. We have a set hourly wage for each employee. Two lieutenants would be set; do not have a step plan, or any built in cost of living increases. Raises are strictly on merit. Ken Finnemore, N. if \$1,217,636 was full budget for 2005 and 2006 budget is adding 3 positions

and these raises, how is it that the operating budget is less? Chief: one difference is the apparatus and equipment fund. Those expenditures are no longer in the budget. Mr. Finnemore is in favor of raises for firefighters but would like to address the land and capital reserve fund. Article 9 is voted down and we will be seeing that again. There was more discussion as to the current hourly wages, residency requirements for new hires. Chief commented that we advertise state wide but candidates have to pass a written test as well as physical ability test, do not have a residency requirement. Difficult to find residents to meet qualifications. Discussion ended when Rich Wilcox, N. stood up to say he lives in Northfield and is a firefighter in Mass and there is no problem with residency requirements. Article called to question by Comm. Harbour. Vote on article, ayes have it. **Article 16 passes.**

**Article 17.** "To accept report of the Treasurer and the Fire Commissioners and pass any vote relating thereto." Comm. Harbour moved Article 17 as written; seconded by Comm. Gallant. Discussion: Some residents commented that they had not seen town annual reports yet. Tilton had some annual reports out. Moved to question by Arlow Stanley. Vote taken, ayes have it. **Article 17 passes.**

**Article 18.** "To see if the District will vote to authorize the Fire Commissioners to apply for, receive and expend federal and state grants, which may become available during the course of the year, in accordance with RSA 31:95-b and also to accept and expend money from any other governmental unit or private source, to be used for the purposes for which the Fire District may legally appropriate money." Comm. Harbour moved article 18 as written. Seconded by Comm. Gallant. Discussion. Arlow Stanley called to move to question. Vote taken, ayes have it. **Article 18 passes.**

Barbara Isensee, N. made a motion to protect her vote on Article 16. Arlow Stanley seconded. Vote taken, **Vote on Article 16 is protected.**

**Article 19:** "To see if the District, in accordance with RSA 33:7, will vote to authorize the Fire Commissioners to borrow money in anticipation of taxes." Comm. Gallant motioned to move Article 19 as read. Jerry Davis seconded. Comm. Gallant: we have not done this in years and this is to protect our ability to be able to borrow in case need arises. Moved to question by verbal vote. Article was voted in affirmative. **Article 19 passes.**

**Article 20:** "To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting." Kevin Waldron, N.: the District's meeting used to be held after both Tilton and Northfield town meetings. It has been changed the last two years. He requested that our meetings be held after town meetings once again. Judy Tilton, T. asked why. Mr. Waldron: there was low attendance here and some were not aware of the meeting. Comm. Gallant: tonight there are 94 people voting. We usually have 100 or less; for many years much less. Comm. Harbour motioned to adjourn. Comm. Gallant: called a point of order. Article #9 was turned down and vote was protected. Cannot be reconsidered in this meeting but can be reconsidered. Moderator: if you wish to call for reconsideration on Article 9, can only reconsider it after a period of 7 days.

Roland Seymour, N. Would be hard to run fire district without water. Need to run the water district as a community. Roland Seymour: requests for reconsideration our action on Article #9.

Moderator: If body affirms that reconsideration, then that can happen. Seconded by Officer Weissensee. Kevin Waldron: thought we could not reconsider anything tonight, can't discuss Article 9. Moderator: if reconsideration vote passes, then after 7 days it can be reconsidered. In that 7 days, notice has to be put in newspapers. According to RSA 40:10 that protects the vote tonight at this meeting. Mr. Waldron: Is it up to the commissioners? Moderator: no, it has to be voted on for reconsideration. Hand count requested. Hand count taken of those still at meeting. Yes 35, no 18. **Vote for reconsideration of Article 9 has passed.** There were other questions/comments regarding the water district article and its reconsideration. Moderator suggested that discussion needed to be had at the reconsideration meeting.

Comm. Harbour motioned for adjournment and seconded by Comm. Gallant. Meeting adjourned at 11:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janine L. Vary  
Clerk

Clerk's comment: Although the meeting was taped, the student doing the taping had to leave at 10:00PM. Therefore, the tapes cover from the beginning of the meeting until Article 16 in Gretchen Wilder's discussion. The tapes are being stored at the Center Street station.