

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF FEBRUARY 17, 2009  
WITH A COMMITTEE OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO DISCUSS  
ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman David Canada, Selectmen Bruno Federico and Tim Copeland, and Town Administrator Paul Deschaine.

The meeting opened at 5:36PM.

The Board met with the Fire Department Organization Committee members, which was comprised of Chris Rowe, Sr., Les Barker, Nancy Keane, Bob Law, and Stan Walker. Mr. Canada stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the results of the meeting of the Town with the State Attorney General.

Mr. Deschaine related the discussions that came from that meeting. Those present at that meeting were Terry Knowles, the Assistant Attorney General, David Canada, Paul Deschaine, Doug Scamman, and Stan Walker. Mr. Walker agreed with the summation as stated that the Attorney General was looking to establish a way to allow the Town to continue the way it has been all along. Mr. Canada asked Mr. Walker if he had had the opportunity to inquire about private insurance coverage for the Fair Association, if it was separately organized. Mr. Walker said he had a general estimate for the cost of about \$10,000. Mr. Deschaine summarized the results of his discussions with PRIMEX, which is the Town's insurance carrier, which followed the discussions with the meeting with the Attorney General. He asked if PRIMEX could do any one of the following: First, could the Fair Association continue to be insured under the Town's insurance policy? PRIMEX stated that was not possible. The second scenario discussed was could the Fair Association, if it was a private organization, become a member of PRIMEX. PRIMEX stated they were not eligible. The third item discussed was the availability of the Special Event Liability Insurance program offered by PRIMEX and whether the Fair would qualify under that program. PRIMEX said that was a possibility but an application form would need to be completed in order to rate that separate insurance policy. The last option discussed was what would happen if the Town assumed the role of sponsor of the Stratham Fair. It was noted that that was not desirable for the Town and that PRIMEX had some misgivings about that arrangement.

Mr. Canada expressed the specific concerns with providing insurance for the Fair and was hopeful that maybe the Fire Department, as a Town Department, could sponsor the fair. That way, it could still fall under the Town's insurance policy. Mr. Deschaine stated that he understood that the Attorney General was against having the money for the Fair being held outside of the Trust that would be established to hold the Fire Department's money. Mr. Canada said that he thought that the Trust could be written to include the Fair so that a check could be written for the start-up funds and the net proceeds returned to the Trust.

Discussion turned to establishing the Trust as suggested by the Attorney General's Office, its terms and the mechanics of dissolving the Stratham Volunteer Fire Department as a separate association. The discussion also continued regarding how the current bylaws would or would not apply, and whether rules of procedure would replace the Fire Department's bylaws when the

Trust documents were adopted. There was a general belief that the Department should continue to meet with the Attorney General's Office to clarify these issues and begin to start forming the Trust. If after meeting with the Attorney General's Office a private attorney was needed, the Fire Department could continue with that effort. The discussion regarding the Fire Department organization then ended.

Chris Rowe, Sr., asked that the Selectmen accept the donation of \$4,000 for the purchase and installation of a stove for the Fire Department kitchen. Mr. Canada moved to accept the donation as presented and authorize the installation in the Fire Department kitchen. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 7:00PM, Mr. Copeland moved and Mr. Canada seconded to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reviewed By,

Norma Corrow  
Recording Secretary

Paul Deschaine  
Town Administrator