

SELECTMEN'S MEETING
SPECIAL MEETING WITH WATERBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.
AUGUST 18, 1997

Attending: Dennis Abbott, Dale Witman, Brenda Charland, Elias Smith, Pam L'Heureaux, Tom Jones, Beverly Sinclair, Howard Doe, Frank Birkemose, Tony Fantasia, John Littlefield, Mike McAlevey, and Pat Sicard.

Absent: Neal Courtney **Meeting of all Selectmen, Fire Department Trustees and Directors, and Neal Courtney rescheduled for Monday, September 8, 1997 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall.**

7:00 p.m. Dennis Abbott called the meeting to order, and began the discussion by stating that Neal Courtney's report is extensive, and highlight administrative and operational issues that must be addressed prior to the time that the Town assumes control of the town's emergency services. He stated that we had seen a problem arising from a town employee working for the Fire Department recently, and did not expect that the situation would occur in the future.

He asked if any member of the Board, any officer, or any Fire Department volunteer had reservations about the transfer of operations to the town, and the response from all was "no". Everyone agreed that a 5 to 10 year plan must be devised to allow for a phase-in of the recommendations, that all recommendations may not be adopted, and that a solid base must be built for operations before major purchases or building.

Additional comments: The change to a town department is not necessarily driven by an increased ability for town departments to get grants, but the real issue is liability or tort coverage. As the town grows, a plan is needed to provide for an increased demand for emergency services of all types and the volunteers to staff fire and rescue. Future growth may require a police department, more dry hydrants, and more full time staffing.

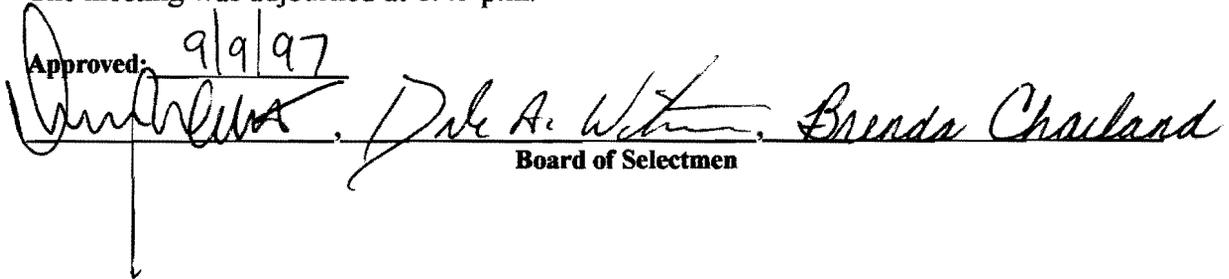
Discussion of each of Neal's recommendations:

- | | | |
|--|-----|---|
| 1. Change to a Town Department: | Yes | |
| 2. Streamline and modernize equipment: | Yes | Suggestion: Replace 3 old tankers with 1 new tanker |
| 3. New headquarters: | Yes | This will be a "big emotional event" |
| 4. Reconfigure satellite stations: | Yes | Keep current stations until we are sure we will not need them |
| 5. Proactive fire protection | Yes | Neal to give greater explanation on September 8 th |
| 6. Implement Fire Protection Program | Yes | Will be easier as a municipal department |

- | | | |
|--|-----|---|
| 7. Enhance the Delivery of Ed. Programs | Yes | |
| 8. Improve relationship with area services | Yes | Put in written agreements, outline what is expected of Ross Corner Department, multiple mutual aid agreements. No interest was expressed in moving toward a county-wide fire protection system. |
| 9. Increase & certification of personnel: | Yes | Budget preparation is a key. |
| 10. Expand the Fire Chief's role: | Yes | Supervised by the Selectmen, soon may have to be full time, and will play a major role in the reconstruction. |

Mike McAlevey suggested talking to the Water Department to expand the water system, and Dale Witman suggested involving the Finance Committee in forming a plan to present at Town Meeting. It was agreed that we must have a plan with the numbers prior to a Town Meeting, and Dennis Abbott discussed looking at the town's investments to get a better yield. Also discussed: The structure of the new town department will be the Selectmen and Fire Chief setting policy; the Fire Chief with the help of an advisory committee, possibly called the Public Safety Committee, overseeing the day to day operations of emergency services. Finally all agreed to take part in the taping of an open informational program about the upcoming changes and put it on the public access station.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Approved: 9/9/97

 Board of Selectmen