

Town of Belgrade and the Town of Rome

Joint “Study” Committee

To

Investigate the “Merger” of our Local Fire Protection and Rescue Services

Background: The Towns of Belgrade and Rome have cooperated to provide fire protection and rescue services for many years through a joint “mutual aid” agreement. This has been and is a common practice between communities throughout Maine and has worked well due to the support of our community members who have volunteered countless hours to train for and provide these services. However, our society is changing, and our communities are growing older. Consequently, the number of volunteers to support these community services is declining while the need for these services is growing.

These are concerns that have prompted a mutual interest in investigating how our communities, working together, can continue to provide high quality fire protection and rescue services.

Authority: By signing this document, the Boards of Selectpersons for both Belgrade and Rome have agreed to form a joint *ad hoc* committee to investigate how our communities can, working together, continue to provide these necessary services in our rapidly changing society.

The Committee:

Purpose - This committee is to investigate alternatives to how our towns, working together, can continue to provide and/or improve upon the high quality of fire protection and rescue services in our rapidly changing society.

Structure - Membership shall consist of the Fire Chief from each town as well as three additional residents from each town. Our local Fire Chiefs will co-chair the committee.

Administrative Support - Each town shall appoint an individual to provide administrative support to the committee.

Meetings - The committee shall meet as necessary to fulfill its charge. All committee meetings shall be posted as soon as the meeting date is known in the usual manner that the towns provide for public notice of any committee meeting.

Final Report - The committee shall issue a final report and present that report before a joint meeting of the Boards of Selectpersons by [DATE] that discusses alternatives investigated identifying the pros and cons for each alternative and the final recommendations made by the committee for action by the local towns.

This agreement has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Selectpersons for the

Town of Belgrade

Town of Rome

Richard Damren, Chair

Richard LaBelle, 1st Selectman