

Onset Fire District
By-Law Review Committee
15 Sand Pond Road
Onset, Massachusetts 02558

Meeting Date: November 6, 2019

Location: 15 Sand Pond Road, Onset, MA

1. Open Meeting with Pledge of Allegiance:

Robert Brousseau opens the meeting at 5:04PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present are Len Gay, Jovina Dean(left at 5:49PM), Ken Fontes, Pamela Pike(arrives 5:20PM) Members, Melissa Goodell Recording Secretary. Absent, Chief Goodwin Member.

2. Approve Minutes:

Jovina Dean motions to accept the minutes of October 2, 2019. Karl Baptiste seconds the motion, vote 5-0-0.

3. Discuss Attorney opinion on Strong Chief By-Law Change:

It is confirmed through Attorney Sumner in conversations with Pam Pike, Chairman of the Prudential Committee, that a by-law change to the Strong Chief would have to go before legislature.

There is discussion regarding the responsibilities of a Strong Chief versus a Chief Engineer. It is agreed the current chief would be well suited for the Strong Chief but there is concern about the future after the current chief retires.

Robert Brousseau states if it's not broken, don't fix it. There is discussion about having a Board of Engineers and whether or not the fire department can run efficiently going forward.

There is discussion about clearly defining the responsibilities of the deputies and keeping the By-Laws as they are, with a Board of Engineers.

Robert Brousseau asks for a consensus of the By-Law Committee. Karl Baptiste states to leave the By-Laws the way they are. Ken Fontes would leave the Board of Engineers but tweak it. Len Gay is in favor of Strong Chief but feels the Committee needs to listen to what the current Chief thinks before making a decision. Robert Brousseau states he needs a stronger reason to change the By-Laws.

4. Discuss Attorney opinion on 5 Member Board

Pamela Pike states in her conversation with Attorney Summers, he does not recommend merging the Prudential Committee and Water Commissioners into one five member board. This decision is made in part because of the difference in funding. The Prudential Committee has funding through taxation whereas the Water Commissioners are funded through revenue. Len Gay states he would like to discuss this further and perhaps get another opinion.

5. Discuss and solicit ideas for changes to the By-Laws

Pamela Pike states the By-Laws should be gender neutral. There is discussion that that suggestion would be an easy fix.

6. Items not reasonably anticipated by the chair 48 hours in advance of this meeting.

The next By-Law Committee meeting will be scheduled for January 22, 2020 at 6:00PM.

Len Gay motions to adjourn at 6:25PM. Pamela Pike seconds the motion, vote 5-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted

Melissa Goodell Recording Secretary

By-Law Committee

Robert Brousseau Chairman

Chief Goodwin

Pamela Pike

Len Gay

Jovina Dean

Ken Fontes

Karl Baptiste

Documents Used: Minutes to Oct. 2, 2019, By-Laws

