

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

Meeting Date: October 2, 2019 5:00PM

Location: 15 Sand Pond Road, Onset, MA

1. Open Meeting with Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Robert Brousseau opens the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present are Chief Goodwin, Jovina Dean, Ken Fontes, Pamela Pike, Len Gay Members, Melissa Goodell Recording Secretary. Karl Baptiste Member arrives at 5:40PM.

2. Approve Minutes

Jovina Dean motions to accept the minutes of September 5, 2019. Robert Brousseau seconds the motion, vote 5-0-1 with Len Gay abstaining.

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

Pamela Pike spoke with Attorney Sumners regarding a By-law Change to adopt a strong chief. Pamela Pike states Attorney Sumners informal opinion relating to how the District was formalized any change relating to moving towards a strong chief would have to go through legislation. Pamela Pike suggests the By-Law Committee continue with the mechanics as they are now until there is a formal written opinion from the Attorney.

Robert Brousseau asks if it is the intent of the Committee to recommend to the District a Strong Chief. Len Gay motions to recommend changing the By-Laws to adopt the strong chief statute. Pamela Pike seconds the motion, vote 6-0-0.

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

Ken Fontes would like to have one governing board for the District consisting of five members instead of two boards with three members each. Pamela Pike thinks it is a reasonable idea and could be a huge savings to the District. There could be an issue with finances with the District being tax based and the Water being revenue based. Ken Fontes believes this is not an obstacle that can't be overcome.

Chief Goodwin makes a motion to recommend combining Water Commissioners and Prudential Committee into one 5 member board and to consult Attorney Peter Sumners to see if it is possible and how to accomplish it. Karl Baptiste seconds the motion, vote 7-0-0.

Len Gay would like the By-Laws to reference that there will be an annual report presented at

every District Meeting. There is discussion and it is decided the Prudential Committee should set that policy.

It is decided the next meeting will be November 6, 2019.

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

There are none

Robert Brousseau motions to adjourn at 6:10PM. Chief Goodwin seconds the motion, vote 7-0-0.

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: Agenda, Minutes of September 5, 2019, By-Laws