

HYANNIS FIRE DISTRICT

95 HIGH SCHOOL ROAD EXT
HYANNIS, MA. 02601

DISTRICT BY-LAW COMMITTEE

Nathaniel Munafo, Chairman
Laura Cronin, Commissioner
Lt. Brian Lawrence
Michael Medeiros, EMS Supervisor
Larry Decker, Clerk

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Peter Cross, Chairman
Demetrius Atsalis, Vice Chairman
Victor Skende, Clerk
Laura Cronin
Dennis S. Sullivan

HYANNIS FIRE DISTRICT BY-LAW COMMITTEE

January 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Nathaniel Munafo (Committee Chair), Laura Cronin (Commissioner), Lt. Brian Lawrence, Larry Decker (Clerk), Deb Krau (Moderator)

Absent: EMS Supervisor Michael Medeiros

Visitors: None

Chairman Munafo called meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

Minutes of November 9, 2016 – motion made and seconded to accept. Passed unanimously.

Public Comment: None

Nathaniel Munafo stated that only the By-Law changes approved at the last Annual Meeting can be changed at this time, per HFD Attorney Brendon Moss. There must be approval by the District voters in order to correct the grammatical errors that were identified when reviewing the revised By-Laws provided by Moss. Laura Cronin will contact Moss and inform him that the latest version of the revised By-Laws that he provided is acceptable, after he corrects the headers and footers to reflect that this is the final accepted version. She will also discuss the inclusion of enabling legislation with him. Once the final version is ready, it will be given to the District Clerk-Treasurer, who is responsible for publishing and posting the By-Laws, with Moss keeping a “master copy” at his office to help prevent any potential digital tampering. A digital copy of the By-Laws will also be provided for posting on the District website. After discussion, the Committee suggests that only a few paper copies of this version of the By-Laws are actually printed, especially since the Committee is recommending more changes at the upcoming Annual Meeting in a few months.

It was noted that a proposal to ensure compliance with New Public Records Law requirement was approved at the last meeting.

Laura Cronin is working with Commissioner Victor Skende and the District Clerk-Treasurer on changes to the annual report, formatting, etc. Laura also suggested possibly using Power Point presentation at the Annual Meeting to enhance communication.

As discussed at the last meeting, Nathaniel introduced a change to the numbering structure of Article III Section 2 (a) to help clarify the section. Laura made a motion to accept as proposed in changing the format and groupings. Seconded by Larry Decker. Passed unanimously.

Nathaniel presented a slight modification to Article III Section 3 (b), as a follow-up to discussion at the last meeting. This deals with filling a vacancy in the Deputy Fire Chief position. The proposal adds a reference to “Hyannis Fire District Job Descriptions and Promotion Policies” which “resulted from meetings with the Chief, Union and Board of Commissioners” and includes provisions for the appointment of a temporary Deputy Chief. Laura made a motion to accept as written, seconded by Larry Decker. Passed unanimously.

Laura made a motion, seconded by Brian Lawrence, to accept the proposal to alleviate the redundancy in Article V (b) (iv). Passed unanimously.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding Article X, Indemnification of Retired Personnel. Laura noted that it appears very lengthy and ambiguous and might need formatting revision or perhaps clarification. However, it appears that it may have been written this way on purpose, perhaps by legal counsel. Lt. Brian Lawrence provided some clarity when he indicated that this article pertains to firefighters retiring as a result of an injury on the job, in the line of duty. The consensus of the Committee was to leave the article alone and not pursue any changes.

Considering the difficulty in understanding the meaning of Article X behind the many qualifiers in the text, Brian Lawrence suggested that the District have bullet point cards relating to each Article, thereby allowing for questions to be quickly answered, including allowing one of the Commissioners to respond to questions presented at the Annual Meeting. Everyone agreed.

Brian Lawrence has been serving on the By-Law Committee as the Chief’s designee since he was appointed in October by Chief Brunelle. Since there is now a new Acting Chief, now that Chief Brunelle is officially retired, Brian asked if he should continue serving on the Committee. The general consensus of the rest of the Committee and Moderator Krau, who appoints the By-Law Committee annually, was that his appointment should continue for the remainder of this assembly of the Committee – until a new By-Law Committee is formed after the Annual Election.

As a follow-up to discussion earlier in the meeting, Laura Cronin asked how best to correct typographical errors and formatting inconsistencies that still exist in the By-Laws. After discussion by the Committee, there was general agreement that a simple way to do this would be an addition to the By-Laws granting the By-Law Committee the ability to correct typos and grammar errors, but not content, without requiring warrant articles for every spelling change. The changes would be listed in the By-Law Committee’s Annual Report and given to the Clerk-Treasurer, who is responsible for publishing the By-Laws. Nathaniel will offer a proposal for this at the next meeting.

Public Comment: None

Next Meeting: February 22, 2017

Meeting Adjourned: 7:22 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Larry Decker
Clerk