

Colchester Fire District #1 2003 Annual Meeting Minutes

The duly warned annual meeting of Colchester Fire District, No. 1 was held on Monday, 20 January 2003 in Alliot Hall, on the campus of Saint Michael's College in Winooski Park. Three resident voters were present as were Peter DeGraff of Otter Creek Engineering and Jay Nadeau of Champlain Water District. The District Clerk, Brian Cummings, called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

1. On a motion by Brian Cummings, SSE, seconded by Marcel Rainville, SSE, Joseph McLaughlin, SSE was unanimously elected as Moderator.
2. The Clerk distributed the minutes of the 2002 annual meeting, after which Marcel Rainville moved, seconded by Joseph McLaughlin, their acceptance; accepted unanimously.
3. The Moderator called on the Treasurer, Brian Cummings, to report. Fr Cummings distributed copies of CFD's annual financial reports for 2002. He noted that the volume of water usage had gone down and that water loss had been reduced dramatically to less than 1 percent. Total income rose slightly (reflecting last year's water rate increase); total expenses rose a bit, but the overall net was favourable, permitting an addition to net assets. There was discussion about the possible replacement of the District water main in conjunction with a rebuilding of Rt 15; the estimated cost (about \$75 per foot) could be met out of net assets. After a review and discussion of the reports, Marcel Rainville moved, with the second of Joseph McLaughlin, to accept the Treasurer's reports for 2002; so accepted unanimously.
4. Marcel Rainville moved, with the second of Brian Cummings, to approve a District salary of \$10,000 for the Clerk/Treasurer during 2003; motion passed unanimously.
5. Marcel Rainville moved, with the second of Brian Cummings, that a stipend of \$120 per quarter be given to the Prudential Committee members during 2003; passed unanimously.
6. The Moderator opened the floor for nominations to fill a three-year term on the Prudential Committee, the term of Marcel Rainville having expired. Brian Cummings nominated Marcel Rainville, seconded by Joseph McLaughlin. There being no other nominations, the Moderator entertained a motion to close nominations; the motion passed unanimously and Marcel Rainville was elected to a new three-year term as a member of the Prudential Committee. [Brian Cummings was elected to a three year term in 2001; Scott Foster to a similar term in 2002.]
7. The Moderator opened the floor for nominations for the offices of District Clerk and Treasurer. Marcel Rainville nominated Brian Cummings for both offices. There being no other nominations, the Moderator entertained a motion to close nominations; the motion passed unanimously and Brian Cummings was re-elected to a one-year term as District Clerk and Treasurer.
8. Brian Cummings moved, seconded by Marcel Rainville, to set the District's 2003 tax rate once again at zero (\$0); the motion passed unanimously.
9. Brian Cummings moved, with the second of Marcel Rainville, to approve the District making a donation of \$1,000 to Saint Michael's College Fire and Rescue for annual operations. The motion passed unanimously.
10. Brian Cummings moved, with the second of Marcel Rainville, to approve the District making a donation of \$2,000 to Saint Michael's College Fire and Rescue for the construction of a new firehouse. The motion passed unanimously.
11. Brian Cummings moved, seconded by Marcel Rainville, to increase residential and commercial water rates by 11.7 % as of 1 July 2003 to reflect the wholesale rate increase by Champlain Water District. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
12. Marcel Rainville moved, seconded by Brian Cummings, to set the date for the 2004 annual meeting of the District for 19 January 2004, the 3rd Monday of the month; passed unanimously.
13. Other business included an extended discussion of a proposal by Jay Nadeau for upgrading the District's water meters to a new radio-read system at an estimated total cost of about \$55,000, with CWD assuming cost of some of the technological equipment and doing the subsequent meter readings. Comparisons were made with the current state of the district's meters, arrangements for reading meters, and possible alternatives. There was general agreement that District officers should explore the proposal further with CWD and major water users in the district. In response to Peter DeGraff's question, Brian Cummings reports that the past year's discussions with the town over sewerage matters had been amicable and that no issues were outstanding.
14. On a motion by Marcel Rainville, seconded by Brian Cummings, the annual meeting adjourned by unanimous vote at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph McLaughlin, SSE