

## COLCHESTER FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 – 2009 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

The duly warned annual meeting of Colchester Fire District No. 1 was held on Monday, 26 January 2009 in the Hoehl Welcome Center on the campus of Saint Michael's College in Winooski Park. Five resident voters were present as were Jerry Flanagan (Manager) and Thomas Van Dzura (Assistant Treasurer). The Clerk, Joseph McLaughlin, SSE, called this, the 72<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the Fire District to order at 7:07 pm.

1. On a motion by Joseph McLaughlin, seconded by Marcel Rainville, Brian Cummings, SSE was unanimously elected to serve as Moderator.
2. The Clerk distributed the minutes of the 2008 annual meeting. Brian Lee moved, seconded by Marcel Rainville, their acceptance; passed unanimously.
3. The Moderator called on the Clerk, Joseph McLaughlin, to make a report summarizing the principal activities of the District since the last Annual Meeting. The Clerk distributed copies of his written report (dated 26 January 2009), noting it had been another eventful year for the Prudential Committee and District officers. He corrected the reported date of the Colchester Select Board's public hearing to approve its application for State designation of Severance Corners as the Town's 'growth center' from 'this' evening to 'tomorrow' evening, and he called attention to the application's wildly inaccurate claims about the amount of available water storage capacity to meet the needs of the proposed growth center. Concerns were expressed over the Town's inaccurate depiction of the current state of available water storage capacity and over its inconsistent behaviour with respect to addressing future capacity needs. In response to questions, he elaborated on the large water losses at Windemere MHP and on the comprehensive planning study of Windemere now under way. He indicated that he did not see how the study could be completed and its recommendations - whatever they are - be implemented before the scheduled beginning of construction of the 'campus connector' roadway in April 2009. He also reported that Windemere residents had recently protested at Sen. Leahy's office in connection with the relocation of at least two residential units to make way for the roadway. Concerns were expressed for the Windemere residents. In response to a question about the cost of the District's new banking arrangements, the Clerk and Asst. Treasurer reported that the projected annual cost of the new package of services was less than that proposed by another institution, and the quality of the new services was far superior. At the end of discussion, all commended the Clerk's fulsome report and on a motion by Marcel Rainville, with the second of Brian Lee, the report was accepted unanimously.
4. The Moderator called on the Asst. Treasurer, Thomas Van Dzura, to report on the District's finances. The Asst. Treasurer distributed draft copies of the District's financial statements for 2008 (dated 26 January 2009), which he had prepared, and he highlighted items in them. With respect to the Balance Sheet, he noted the presentation of checking/savings instruments showed that all liquid assets were now in interest-earning vehicles, which reflected the District's adoption this year of new banking arrangements with TD Bank. He then led a review of the income statements of each of the District three funds, starting with the Water Operating Fund, where line-items compared actual to budget figures. The net income before transfers for this fund was positive and somewhat better than budgeted. The persistent problem of reconciling the rate of increase of water purchases and water sales manifested itself again. It was hoped that Treasurer Vincent's forthcoming updated study of purchases and sales within the District will shed some light on this matter. The income statement of the General Fund showed actual and budget figures to be fairly close. He noted that the Water Capital Fund reported income much higher than budget, reflecting mainly the stronger than anticipated transfers of net income from the other funds. The record amount of interest earned, he said, reflected the Finance Taskforce's active management of liquid assets as was explained in greater detail in the Clerk's report. He also explained that 2008's record level of capital investments was due to three projects the District undertook to upgrade its water infrastructure. Consolidating the activity in all three funds, the District in 2008 realized a modest net income of \$3,740, a figure that compared favourably to the budgeted deficit. At the conclusion of the review and discussion, all commended the Asst. Treasurer's fine report, and Brian Lee moved, seconded by Marcel Rainville, to accept the District's financial statements for 2008 as presented; accepted unanimously.
5. The Moderator called upon the Prudential Committee Chairman for a motion to set the total amount of annual stipends for District officers. Chairman McLaughlin, after noting that total amount expended in 2008 was slightly less than the amount budgeted, recommended approving the same amount this year as last year. He then, with the second of Brian Lee, moved to approve total disbursements of up to \$23k in 2009 for stipends to

District officers and for attendance at Prudential Committee meetings, and to authorize the Prudential Committee to determine the specific amounts of stipends for each; passed unanimously.

6. The Moderator opened the floor for nominations to fill a three-year term (2009-11) on the Prudential Committee, the term of Marcel Rainville having expired. Joseph McLaughlin, with second of Brian Lee, nominated Marcel Rainville. There being no other nominations, the Moderator entertained a motion to close nominations; the motion passed unanimously and Marcel Rainville was re-elected to the Prudential Committee for a full three-year term. [Joseph McLaughlin was re-elected in 2007 (2007-9); Brian Lee was re-elected in 2008 (2008-10).]
7. For the office of District Clerk, Brian Lee, with the second of Marcel Rainville, nominated Joseph McLaughlin. There being no other nominations, a motion to close nominations passed unanimously, and Joseph McLaughlin was re-elected to a one-year term as Clerk.
8. For the office of District Treasurer. Joseph McLaughlin, with the second of Brian Lee, nominated Jeffrey Vincent. There being no other nominations, a motion to close nominations passed unanimously, and Jeffrey Vincent was re-elected to a one-year term as Treasurer.
9. Joseph McLaughlin moved, seconded by Marcel Rainville, to set the District's 2009 tax rate once again at zero (\$0); the motion passed unanimously.
10. Marcel Rainville moved, with the second of Brian Lee, to keep the date stipulated in the Bylaws (Art. 4.1) for next year's Annual Meeting - the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of January, which is 25 January 2010 – rather than set an alternative date; the motion passed unanimously.
11. By unanimous vote, the 2009 annual meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph McLaughlin, SSE