

**SIMSBURY FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 12, 2014**

1. President North called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm at the Main Fire Station. He then led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. All Annual Meeting reports will be available for viewing at the SVFC website - www.simsburyfd.org.
3. Don Tuller was appointed as the Parliamentarian for the meeting.
4. Clerk Ketchabaw read the Call of the Meeting as published in the Hartford Courant on April 1, 2014; as posted at the Town Hall; and as available for viewing on the SVFC website - www.simsburyfd.org.
5. It was moved, seconded, and carried that the reading of the 2013 Annual Meeting minutes be suspended with the understanding that a copy of the minutes have been on file in the District Office and posted on the SVFC website. The minutes of the meeting were approved. A copy of the minutes is on file in the District Office.
6. Public Audience: In response to a question from C. Williams, President North commented that time would be made available to comment on the proposals to come before the meeting during discussion time allotted for the proposals.
7. Treasurer P. Pabich then summarized the most recent audit report as prepared by King and King Associates, the appointed auditors for the District. Treasurer Pabich commented that the two recommendations noted in the report have been addressed – specifically software has been purchased for District asset management and revenue is being booked as earned. A copy of the audit report is on file at the District Office.
8. In the absence of Fire Chief J. Baldis, Deputy Chief Mike Jepeal presented his report. A copy of the report is on file at the District Office.
9. Fire Marshal K. Kowalski presented his report. A copy of the report is on file at the District Office.
10. President North presented his report. A copy of the report is on file at the District Office. It was noted in his report that June 2014 will be the 70th anniversary of the District and the Fire Company.
11. Treasurer P. Pabich presented the Financial Report for the period ending April 30, 2014. It was moved; seconded; and carried unanimously that his report be accepted as presented. A copy of the report is on file at the District office.
12. Treasurer Pabich moved that King, King, and Associates be appointed as the District Auditors for the fiscal year 2014/2015. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

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13. President North presented the proposed District By-law amendments.

Discussion that followed brought forward the following comments/suggestions:

- That the formation of the nominating committee and their role be included as a topic of interest to the community.
- In response to a question concerning the elimination of nominations from the floor, President North commented that the current by-laws lacked documentation, process, and procedure for the nomination process. The proposed change provides for direction for the Nominating Committee; disclosure ahead of the meeting of candidates standing for nomination; and public openness to the process.
- In response to a question on how the vote for the proposed by-laws would be conducted, President North commented that it would be by voice vote unless a “registered voter” asks for a ballot vote.
- In response to a question concerning the process to establishing the Nominating Committee, President North commented there is no change planned to the current practice.
- It was suggested that the District consider collection of “cell tower rental funds” by the Tax Collector. President North responded that the District will consider the suggestion.
- Cliff Williams led considerable discussion of opposition to the proposed by-laws. His comments concluded with a motion that the vote on the proposed by-laws be conducted by secret ballot. The motion was seconded and carried with a count of 27 for and 24 against. As a result of that action President North moved that the agenda be amended to allow for the preparation of the paper ballots and to proceed to the 2014/2015 proposed budget. The motion was seconded and carried.

14. Following presentation of the proposed 2014/2015 Fire District budget and an answer to a clarifying question by T. Post on hydrant repair and turnout gear, it was moved; seconded and carried that the Simsbury Fire District Budget of \$2,895,554.00 be adopted. This budget represents a 1% increase when compared to the 2013/2014 budget. A copy of the approved budget report is on file in the District Office.

15. Based on the revenue and expenses contained in the accepted budget it was moved; seconded; and carried unanimously that the Fire District mil rate for the fiscal year 2014/2015 be set at 1.19 mils. This represents a decrease to the 2013 mil rate of 1.22 mils.

16. Since the ballots were not yet ready for a vote on the proposed by-laws, it was moved; seconded; and carried that the agenda be modified to proceed with the Nominating Committee report for the District Officers for 2014/2015. Captain K. Kelley presented the Nominating Committee report.

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It was moved; seconded; and carried that Kevin North be elected as President; Gary Wilcox be elected as Vice President; Peter Pabich be elected as Treasurer; Bill Ketchabaw be elected as Clerk; and Colleen O'Connor be elected as Tax Collector.

17. It was moved and seconded that the proposed District Bylaws be approved. President K. North opened the meeting to discussion. Following comments from the audience, both in favor and opposed to the proposed by-laws, it was moved; seconded; and carried to call the question. Ballots were distributed to eligible voters. Carolyn Keily and Don Tuller were appointed as tellers for the ballots cast. The voting result was 63% in favor and 37% opposed. The proposed by-laws were defeated based on the 65% favorable threshold as defined in Roberts Rules of Order.

18. There was no Old Business or New Business to come before the meeting.

19. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted

William Ketchabaw
Clerk