

Representative Curt Taylor's Testimony for H.718

H.718 validates the dissolution of Colchester Fire District #1 (CFD#1) as a corporate and political entity.

Vermont's 1961 Acts and Resolves No. 311 validated the existence of CFD#1 as a Municipality defined by Vermont law (see submitted document "1961 Acts and Resolves No. 311.pdf"). The district had been organized as an entity since 1938.

In the spring of 2019, the Colchester Selectboard began the process of merging the town's volunteer fire districts into one department under the auspices of the Town. CFD#1 only provided water services to its residents. The water for CFD#1's distribution system was purchased from the Champlain Water District (CWD). That distribution system was maintained and upgraded by CFD#1 through contracts with CWD. Fire and rescue services for residents of CFD#1 were provided by the other fire districts, the Town, and Saint Michael's Fire and Rescue.

In 2020 CWD entered into an agreement with CFD#1 for the transfer of property, assets including cash and deposits, and liabilities from CFD#1 to CWD (see submitted document "CFD #1 Operating Agreement Executed 2020_10_29.pdf"). The water distribution system is one of those assets. On January 1, 2021, ownership of the CFD#1 water system was transferred to CWD.

The current CWD general manager, Joseph Duncan, affirms that as of May 2021 all necessary transfers have taken place (see submitted document "CWD Letter of Support for CFD#1 Dissolution"). The residents of CFD#1 receive fire and rescue services from the Town of Colchester and Saint Michael's Fire and Rescue. Water services are provided by CWD. CFD#1 has dissolved as a corporate and political entity. H.718 validates the dissolution of CFD#1 as an operational, corporate, and political entity.