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Message from the Mayor

The City of Rutland in Fiscal Year 2015 continued to capitalize on previous years' successes in a number of areas that, for a decade or more, presented significant challenges for policy makers and the general public alike. Long-term strategies continue to achieve success as we endeavor to reign in long-term debt and control financial instability, improve our neighborhoods and focus on public safety, and ensure proper investments are made in city infrastructure while we leverage private funds to further economic development efforts.

With the conclusion of police union negotiations, the city has now moved all future employees from the Rutland City Pension to the Vermont Municipal Employees Retirement System (VMERS). It has long been recognized that the City has limited capacity to effectively manage and appropriately fund its own employee pension, while a pool of state-wide municipalities (under a legislative mandate) has both the resources and expertise to ensure the viability of our employees' pension. All newly hired city workers will be enrolled in the state VMERS plan, and at a point in the future no municipal employees be enrolled in the "City Pension." The resulting burden to manage such a plan will be left to the professionals within the state system. Likewise, the city holds a very large long-term liability for non-pension "other post-retirement benefits (OPEB)" through long-ago negotiated retiree health care insurance coverage. Through an aggressive negotiating position, we were successful in significantly reducing our future healthcare costs within the PD, and we anticipate that the city will be able to replicate that success as we continue to negotiate with other employee groups. These strides have been made while we continue to benefit from the move to a high-deductible health insurance plan which continues to build on the \$3 million savings from the much more expensive traditional plans.

Following up our data-driven crime reduction strategy initiated in 2012, the city has begun to realize the results of the hard work of our professional police force. The RPD is gaining national recognition as a leader in progressive community policing that relies on equal parts legitimacy/community trust, and the adoption of 21st Century Policing standards. We have recognized an almost 50% reduction in burglaries and a 20% reduction in thefts as a result of our information-based

strategy. The architect of our strategy, Chief James Baker, has left us after three years but his legacy will remain with our transformed department for decades to come.

Concurrently with our crime reduction strategy, we have pushed forward with our neighborhood stabilization/ revitalization plan and have begun to recognize the results of those efforts, especially within the city's northwest neighborhood. The city has closed on its first property, in collaboration with our partners, the Rutland Redevelopment Authority (RRA) and NeighborWorks of Western Vermont. A new community pocket park will be created, and we anticipate that as of this printing, we will have closed on at least three other properties as we transform our city and act as a model for similar communities in the state and region.

Finally, the City wishes to extend its thanks to the entire community as we have endured the first of many difficult construction seasons that we will experience. The residents have spoken in one voice that infrastructure improvements to our water and sewer systems, road network, and pedestrian facilities must be one of our prime objectives. The city has embraced a science-based systemic approach to addressing our infrastructure needs and we thank the public for its patience and perseverance as we made FY15 a very difficult year to navigate our streets due to construction. The plan was a long time in the making and we will be continuing with our efforts into the foreseeable future.

The community made great progress in the last year, and we anticipate that we as a community will commit ourselves building on those successes for years to come.

Christopher C. Louras
Mayor

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

The Rutland City Board of Aldermen has had an exciting year and is poised for productive months ahead. At a time when many city boards and town councils struggle to fill their ranks, I truly believe Rutland City is the envy of most of the state with our well-balanced, actively engaged group of aldermen. The current board includes several newly elected members, ready to address Rutland's challenges with fresh energy and enthusiasm, and more experienced members whose institutional knowledge is key to functioning effectively.

In the coming year, the Board of Aldermen will continue to address economic growth (such as establishing a business incentive fund using new taxes from local solar farms); public safety (including votes confirming a new fire chief and police chief and a new ordinance covering taxis); community development (such as voting to use available funds to build upon the work being done to revitalize the Northwest neighborhood); as well as any other issues key to making Rutland City the best place possible to live, work, and raise a family.

I cannot emphasize enough, however, that our eleven aldermen serving as the voice of the people of Rutland should always hear from the people of Rutland. So please feel encouraged to attend any aldermanic or committee meetings you are interested in. Also please feel encouraged to contact any of our aldermen to share your concerns and opinions on Rutland City—contact information for every alderman is available in the City Report and on the Rutland City website. As board president I want nothing more than a City Hall that is transparent to and in constant communication with the citizens of Rutland City.

Like almost every municipality in this country, Rutland City still has many areas in need of improvement and repair. The voters of Rutland have elected a dedicated group of aldermen to work on these issues, but we'll get there faster—we'll make Rutland a better place for our children and grandchildren to stay and set down roots of their own—with public collaboration. So please always feel welcome to share your thoughts with your aldermen. Idea by idea we'll build a better Rutland.

William Notte
President, Rutland City Board of Aldermen

City of Rutland, Vermont
Vermont's Hometown

Elected & Appointed Officials

Mayor (Elected; 2 Year Term Expires March 2015)

Christopher Louras mayorlouras@gmail.com Work #802-773-1800

Treasurer (Elected; 2 Year Term Expires March 2015)

- Wendy Wilton wendyw@rutlandcity.org Work #802-773-1800

Assessor (Elected; 2 Year Term Expires March 2015)

- Barry Keefe barryk@rutlandcity.org Work #802-773-1800

Board of Aldermen (Elected; 2 Year Term, exp. dates indicated)

- David Allaire alls51@aol.com 51 Church Street 802-775-2162 March 2016
- Matt Bloomer mbloomer@gmail.com 111 Crescent Street 802-772-0303 M
- Abby Brodowski abby.brodowski@gmail.com 124 Oak Street 802-558-0859
- Sharon Davis sharond@sover.net 99 Baxter Street 802-773-2383 / 770-1578
- Tom DePoy tomdepoy@aol.com 147 Stratton Road 802-786-3599 March 20
- Gary Donahue gary_donahue@comcast.net 164 Forest Street 802-773-5778
- Melinda Humphrey melindahumphrey@comcast.net 3 Irving Hts. 802-353-0
- Jon Kiernan jonkiernan01@gmail.com 67 Engrem Avenue 802-775-2745 M
- Edward Larson edin2010@msn.com 13 Kendall Avenue 802-775-3636 Mar
- William Notte willnotte@gmail.com 8 Orchard Drive 802-779-5369 March
- Christopher Siliski siliski4rutland@me.com 17 East Center St. 802-558-433

City Clerk (Appointed; 2 Year Term Expires March 2015)

- Henry Heck henryh@rutlandcity.org Rutland City Hall Work #802-773-180

Commissioner (Appointed; 2 Year Term Expires March 2015)

- Jeff Wennberg jeffw@rutlandcity.org Rutland City Hall Work #802-773-180

City Attorney (Appointed; 2 Year Term Expires March 2015)

- Charles Romeo charlesr@rutlandcity.org Rutland City Hall Work #802-773-1

Building Inspector (Appointed; 2 Year Term Exp. March 2015)

- Robert D. Barrett bobb@rutlandcity.org Rutland City Hall Work # 802-773-1

Health Officer (Appointed; 3 Year Term Expires 2014)

- Michael Brookman mikeb@rutlandcity.org Rutland City Hall Work # 802-77

Zoning Administrator (Appointed; 2 Year Term Exp.)

- Alan Shelvey Rutland City Hall Work #802-773-1800

Fire Chief / Emergency Mgmt. Director (Appointed; 5 Year Term Exp. 2016)

- Robert Schlachter schlacfire@aol.com 104 Center Street Work #802-773-181

Police Acting Chief (Appointed; 1 Year Term Expires December 2015)

- David Covell david.covellr@.state.vt.us 108 Wales Street Work #802-773-18

Rec. Superintendent (Appointed; 2 Year Term Exp. March 2015)

- Cindi Wight cindiw@rutlandrec.com 16 North Street Ext. Work #802-773-1

School Board (Elected; 3 Year Term, expiration dates indicated)

- Daniel Alcorn daclorn@norwich.edu 25 Temple Street 802-485-2760 March 1
- Hurley Cavacas hrcjr3@aol.com 68 Phillips Street 802-773-2337 March 201
- Dick Courcelle dsdi@comcast.net 38 Giorgetti Blvd. 802-775-2167 March 2
- Peter Fagan peterfagan.vt@gmail.com 17 Clinton Avenue 802-342-1214 M
- Robert Kurchena rlkdinv@aol.com 26 Marolin Acres 802-773-1232 March
- Peter Mello peter.mello@rswsu.org 3 Rachel Drive 802-773-6556 March 20
- Alison Notte alisonmnotte@gmail.com 8 Orchard Drive 802-770-4045 Mar
- Matthew Olewnik mattolewnik@gmail.com 54 Edgerton Street 802-855-140
- Erin Shimp erinshimpvt@gmail.com 114 Jackson Avenue 802-345-3913 M
- Kate Thomas Thomas.kate2@gmail.com 56 Edgerton Street 802-747-0479
- Chris Wideawake chriswideawake@comcast.net 92 Edgerton Str. 802-775-6

Ward Clerk of Elections (Elected; 2 Year Term Exp. March 2016)

- Ward 1: Janet O'Brien
- Ward 2: Richard Blongy
- Ward 3: Tony Romeo
- Ward 4: Steve Reynolds

1st Inspector of Elections (Elected; 2 Year Term Exp. March 2016)

- Ward 1: Shirley Davidson
- Ward 2: Beth Kiernan
- Ward 3:
- Ward 4: Jane Kendall

2nd Inspector of Elections (Elected; 2 Year Term Exp. March 2016)

- Ward 1: Mary Lamothe
- Ward 2: Joyce Blongy
- Ward 3: Denise Caggige
- Ward 4: Regina Sears

3rd Inspector of Elections (Elected; 2 Year Term Exp. March 2016)

- Ward 1: Nancy Caggige
- Ward 2: Donald Bosten
- Ward 3:
- Ward 4: Anna Cassarino Wilkinson

Representatives to Legislature (Elected; 2 Year Term Exp. Nov. 2016)

- Ward 1: Peter Fagan ltpeterfagan@aol.com 17 Clinton Avenue 802-773-74
- Ward 2: Larry "Cooper" Cupoli cupolivt@comcast.net 57 Piedmont Pond R
- Ward 3: Herb Russell hrussell@leg.state.vt.us 188 State Street 802-779-737
- Ward 4: Doug Gage skigrmtns@aol.com 41 Hazel Street 802-773-0616

Rutland County Senators (Elected; 2 Year Term Exp. Nov. 2016)

- Brian Collamore Pamela Drive Rutland Town
- Peg Flory mkf3229@yahoo.com 3011 US Route 7 Pittsford 802-483-6854

- Kevin Mullin kjmbjm@aol.com Ox Yoke Drive Rutland Town 802-775-7662

Justices of the Peace (Elected; 2 Year Term Exp. January 2015)

- Joseph Barbagallo 80 Edgerton Street 802-773-9089
- Robert Beauchamp 18 Green Knolls Lane 802-773-9281
- Christopher Bove 5 Court Street 802-773-5400
- Hurley Cavacas, Jr. 68 Phillips Street 802-773-2337
- Tom DePoy 145 Stratton Road 802-786-3599
- Tom Donahue 21 Laverne Drive 802-775-6018
- Barbara Foley 9 Avenue B 802-775-4626
- Sandy Gartner 1 Piedmont Drive 802-353-0001
- Bill Gillam, Jr. 34 Cleveland Avenue
- George Hooker 11 Royce Street 802-775-5462
- Carl Mazzariello 6 Tuttle Meadow Drive 802-775-4672
- Mary Mazzariello 6 Tuttle Meadow Drive 802-775-4672
- Jack Welch 8 East Center Street 802-773-3384
- Anna Cassarino Wilkinson 263 Lincoln Avenue 802-773-7313
- Chuck Wilton 165 Lincoln Avenue 802-747-8662

Police Commission (Appointed; 3 Year Term, exp. dates indicated)

- Dr. Luther Brown 56 Main Street 802-775-6854 (2015)
- Thomas Calcagni (Vice Chair) 33 Lafayette St. (business) 802-775-5478 (2015)
- Michelle Fairbrother 20 Laverne Drive 802-345-1645 (2015)
- Larry Jensen (chair) 85 Field Avenue (2016)
- Sean Sargeant 13 Sherwood Road (2016)

Development Review Board (Appointed)

- Stephanie Lorentz (chair) 26 Court Street 802-775-0878 (work#)
- Al Paul 293 North Main Street 802-775-5955
- Jim Pell 2 Woodland Drive 802-773-7355 / 802-236-0811 (appointed 4/2013)
- Steve Wilk 2 Elmwood Avenue 802-236-4004 (appointed 2/2013)
- Brendan Collins (alternate) 14 Giorgetti Blvd. 802-558-2283 (appointed 2/2013)
- Michael McClallen 44 Elm Street 802-558-8270 (appointed 3/2013)

Planning Commission (Appointed; 4 Year Term, exp. dates indicated)

- Dave Coppock dscoppock@gmail.com 21 Engrem Avenue (2016)
- Alvin Fiegel afiegel@nbarchitects.com 20 North St. 802-773-8647/775-3168
- Mike Roberts mikerob45@gmail.com 802-775-5565 (2016)
- Jerry Hansen 484B Town Line Road 802-770-8448 (2014)
- Susan Schreiberman susan@rutlandrpc.org 802-755-0871 (2018)

Rutland Housing Authority (Appointed; 5 Year Term, exp. dates indicated)

- Karl Anderson 73 Sunset Drive Rutland Town 802-773-4700 (2018)
- Kevin Markowski 66 Grove Street Rutland City 802-775-3221 (2011)
- Kevin Loso (Executive Director) 5 Tremont Street 802-775-2926
- James V. Richards Route 7 North Rutland Town 802-773-2843 (2010)

- Mary Moran 6 Church Street (business) 802-786-1998 (2011)
- Mary Mello 2 Mayfield Road 802-7734560 (2011)

Rutland Redevelopment Authority (Appointed; 3 Year Term, exp.dates indicated)

- David R. Cooper dcooper@kenlanlaw.com 802-773-3300 (2015)
- Israel Mac (Secretary) steeltrainvt@gmail.com 802-773-3842 (2016)
- Edward Clark eclark@nbarchitects.com 802-775-3168 (2016)
- Stephanie Peters smp@rsclaw.com 802-786-1000 (2015)
- Michael Gauthier chicogauthier@gmail.com 802-236-0688 (2017)
- Claus Bartenstein claus.bartenstein@esvllc.com 802-855-1136 (2017)
- Wendy Wilton (City Treasurer) wendyw@rutlandcity.org 802-773-1800 x 23
- William Notte (Alderman Rep.) willnotte@gmail.com 802-779-6369 EX-OF

Cemetery Commissioners (Appointed; 3 Year Term)

- Thomas Giffin 61 East Washington Street 773-3253
- Thomas Valente 1 Edgewood Drive 786-1017 valentetom@hotmail.com 4/
- (one vacant seat)

Pension Board (members from the Aldermen & School Commissioners)

- David Allaire
- Sharon Davis
- William Notte
- Gary Donahue
- Jon Kiernan
- Daniel Alcorn
- Hurley Cavacas
- Peter Fagan
- Matt Olewnik
- Chris Wideawake

Mayors of the City of Rutland

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| John A. Mead | 1893 |
| Levi G. Kingsley..... | 1894 |
| John A. Sheldon..... | 1895 |
| Thomas H. Browne..... | 1896 |
| Percival W. Clement..... | 1897-1898 |
| William W. Ripley..... | 1899 |
| John D. Spellman..... | 1900 |
| J. Burton Hollister..... | 1901 |
| David W. Temple..... | 1902-1903 |
| Jack S. Carder | 1904 |
| J. Forest Manning..... | 1905 |
| Charles E. Paige..... | 1906 |
| Rollin R. Richmond..... | 1907 |
| Henry O. Carpenter..... | 1908-1910 |
| Percival W. Clement..... | 1911-1912 |
| Charles L. Howe..... | 1912 |
| Henry C. Brislin..... | 1913-1914 |
| Bert L. Stafford..... | 1915-1916 |
| Henry C. Brislin..... | 1917-1918 |
| James C. Dunn..... | 1919-1926 |
| Arthur W. Perkins..... | 1927-1934 |
| Henry H. Branchaud..... | 1935-1938 |
| Henry B. Carpenter..... | 1939-1942 |
| Wayne N. Temple..... | 1943-1949 |
| Dan J. Healy..... | 1949-1957 |
| Francis F. Waterman..... | 1957-1959 |
| Dan J. Healy..... | 1959-1961 |
| John J. Daley..... | 1961-1965 |
| Harold J. Nichols..... | 1965-1971 |
| William H. Foley, Sr..... | 1971-1973 |
| Gilbert G. Godnick..... | 1973-1981 |
| John J. Daley..... | 1981-1987 |
| Jeffrey N. Wennberg..... | 1987-1999 |
| John P. Cassarino..... | 1999-2007 |
| Christopher C. Louras..... | 2007- |

City Assessor's Office

Barry J. Keefe, City Assessor

To the Citizens of the City of Rutland:

I am pleased to submit the annual report of the Assessor's Office for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

The final Grand List at April 1, 2015 totaled \$1,022,933,060 which reflects a net increase from April 1, 2014 of \$9,162,475. The increase in the real estate was attributable mainly to solar installations. The Business Personal Property increased \$6.5 Million as companies invest in technology. The Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) as of January 1, 2015 was 94.82% and the Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) improved for the second year in a row from 17.61% to 16.74%.

These statistical studies, conducted by this office in cooperation with the Division of Property Valuation and Review, have produced anticipated results given the economy. There are fewer sales being recorded, and valid sale prices are more in line with the listed value.

Marlies Washburn, my Administrative Assistant retired June 26 after twenty-four years with the City. I am going to miss her diligence and her attentiveness to the public. May she have a wonderful, well-deserved retirement.

**Report of the
Building & Zoning Department**

Robert D. Barrett, Building Inspector
Alan J. Shelvey, Zoning Administrator

Annual Report – July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Value

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|---------------|
| Certificates of Occupancy Issued: | 919 | |
| Building Permits Issued: | 153 | |
| New Commercial Construction | | \$ 887,500.00 |
| Commercial Renovations | | 5,927,747.00 |
| New Residential Construction | | 281,900.00 |
| Residential Renovations | | 1,293,814.00 |
| Building Permit Fees Collected: | | \$ 13,316.00 |
| Other Fees Collected: | | |
| 28 Sign Permits | | \$ 900.00 |
| 14 Development Review Board Hearings | | \$ 1,700.00 |

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY COMMISSION

Tom Giffin Cemetery Commissioner

Rutland City has the responsibility for the maintenance of the following city cemeteries: West Street Cemetery, Old Congregational Cemetery on North Main Street, House of Corrections' Cemetery located behind Northwest School and the Poor Farm Cemetery located at the transfer station off Gleason Road. The keys to the gates of West Street and Old Congregational cemeteries are available at city hall or from the cemetery commissioners upon request.

The Vermont Department of Corrections (DOC) work crews continue to provide mowing and some maintenance for Rutland's old burial grounds. This year Sanctuary House has also provided volunteers to help mow the city's cemeteries. The cost to the city was \$3,100. DOC provides the equipment, fuel, insurance and the workers.

The Rutland Middle School Enriched Studies Program students once again spent two days in the city's cemeteries doing general maintenance. This year the students epoxied several broken monuments in the West Street and Old Congregational Cemeteries. Thanks to Rutland Middle School Social Studies teachers Ted Lindgren and David Cornwell for another successful program. A special thank you goes to Rutland High School student, Phoebe Sargent for volunteering to help supervise one of the student work crews. The teachers and students are planning on returning to Rutland's cemeteries next year to continue to assist in restoration activities in these historic cemeteries. The commissioners, city/state officials, and other residents that stopped by to support these young people in their efforts were impressed with the willingness and sense of pride they showed in the work they accomplished for Rutland. The city should be proud of these students. If any individual or group is interested in volunteering at one of Rutland's cemeteries, please contact one of your cemetery commissioners.

The Ann Story Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution continues to place the flags on the veterans' graves before Memorial Day. Thanks to volunteers Dave Buley Jr., Jonathan Giffin, Henry Prouty, Cindi Wight and her daughter Emily for helping put out the flags this year. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help with placing flags, please contact the cemetery commissioners.

There are several proposed improvements for the West Street Cemetery. A new front fence, a sidewalk to replace the dirt path, and trees to line the street in front of the burial ground are being discussed. The possibility of a State of Vermont Historical Marker for this burial ground is also being researched.

The city's cemetery grounds continue to need attention from the city. In addition to general pruning, a large pine tree in the North Main Street Cemetery needs to be removed. A wind-broken pine top or limb will break every stone in their path. We are fortunate this has not happened.

The old mausoleum in the West Street Cemetery has structural issues and the north fence needs repair. Both items have been discussed for several years and need to be addressed. The city cemeteries have had problems for generations. This is an excerpt from the 1906 City Annual Report from the Rutland Cemetery Commissioners.

“During the past year many complaints have come to the commissioners from the public in general as well as from people who have relatives buried in the West Street Cemetery on account of cows and horses roaming around over the graves. Such a condition of neglect of a public burial place should not be permitted. We hope such an appropriation will be granted during the present year as will enable this commission to cut the bushes and grass in both old cemeteries and build an iron fence along the street line at least of the West Street Cemetery.”

Rutland's old burial grounds are still in the long and tedious process of being restored. The old marble stones tell much of the history of our city. Veterans from the colonial wars and many of the original settlers of Rutland are resting in these city's cemeteries. The commissioners encourage city residents or anyone interested in the history of Rutland, to help in the restoration efforts. If you or a group wishes to assist, please contact one of the cemetery commissioners. Donations can be sent to the Rutland Historical Society Attn: Cemetery Account, 96 Center Street, Rutland, Vermont 05701

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Giffin
Cemetery Commissioner

Office of the City Clerk

Henry A. Heck, City Clerk

To the Citizens of the City of Rutland:

I respectfully submit the following Annual Report for the Rutland City Clerk's office, for the year ending June 30th, 2015.

Fiscal Year 2014-2015. This past year was busy here in the Clerk's Office. First, I would like to thank my staff for their tireless commitment to serve the public. My sincere thanks to Susan Clark (Deputy Clerk), Sara Magro (Purchasing Agent) and Julie Tripodi (First Assistant) for providing prompt, courteous and professional service to all who requested assistance. The Clerk's Office continues to transition to the "electronic age" moving towards backing up all of our past, present and future records. I would like to thank Mayor Louras and the Rutland City Board of Aldermen for their continued support. All of us in the Clerk's Office look forward to serving the citizens of Rutland City in the upcoming year.

Reported Revenue from the Clerk's Office for Fiscal Year 2014-2015
Projected: \$185,000 Actual: \$186,839.00

Vital Records (copies & vault time):

All certified copies of Birth certificates, Deaths certificates, and Civil-Marriage licenses are available for \$10.00 per copy as set by the State of Vermont. Uncertified copies are available for \$2.00/copy.

Vault time is charged at \$2.00/hour.

Vital records recorded in Fiscal Year 2014-2015:

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Births..... | 423 |
| Deaths..... | 435 |
| Civil Marriages..... | 113 |

Land Records:

1,720 visitors used our vault. All land records are available for \$1.00/page for each copy. Certified land records are \$10.00/page and vault time is charged at \$2.00/hour. We had an additional 200 on-line subscribers utilizing our land records site.

Recording Fees:

11,107 pages of land records were received and recorded. The cost of recording land records is \$10.00/page, (excluding Property Transfer Tax Report (PTTR) which is \$10.00 per document) as set by the State of Vermont.

DMV Registration Renewals:

47 DMV renewal registrations were processed. There is a \$3.00 cash fee to process your renewal.

Business Licenses:

The following business licenses were issued. Business licenses are valid from May 1st until April 30th of each year:

| | |
|--|-----|
| Restaurant & Victual Establishments..... | 110 |
| Bowling Alley..... | 1 |
| Theatres..... | 3 |
| Hotels, Motels & Inns..... | 8 |
| Circuses, Carnivals, Shows & Fairs..... | 12 |
| 1st Class Liquor Club/Cabaret License..... | 18 |
| 1st Class Liquor Restaurant License..... | 24 |
| 2nd Class Liquor License..... | 33 |
| Outside Consumption Liquor Permits..... | 17 |
| Entertainment Club Permits..... | 15 |
| Peddlers/Solicitor/Transient Merchant..... | 26 |

Dog Licenses Issued:

1,158 dogs were registered. Of that, 1,051 were spayed/neutered. Dogs must be registered by April 1st of each year and a current rabies certificate is required. After April 1st, late charges apply.

License fees are as follows:

Spayed/neutered fee before April 1st is \$13.00; after April 1st, \$16.00
Un-spayed/un-neutered fee before April 1st is \$17.00; after April 1st, \$22.00.

For those of you who are unable to come down to the City Clerk’s Office to register your dog(s), mail us the postcard we send you along with a current rabies certificate and proper payment. Once we receive and process this information, we will mail your dog license and tag. We hope this will make it easier for those who are unable to come in to register their dog(s). The Clerk’s Office would also like to thank Animal Control

Officer Tim Jones with whom we work closely to ensure all dogs are registered and vaccinated according to State law.

Election: March 3, 2015 City Election:

It was a fairly calm year for elections in the Clerk's Office. We only had one election this year. It was a Mayoral election with Mayor Louras being elected for a fifth term. I would like to thank all the Election Officials as well as my staff who work long hours to ensure those who are registered to vote have that right. Your extremely long days are greatly appreciated here in my office.

Changing your voting address or registering to vote:

If you are registered to vote in Rutland City and have moved to a new address within the City you may change your voting address over the phone by calling our office at 773-1800 and press 5.

If you have moved to Rutland City from another town or state you can stop by our office up to 10 days before any election and register to vote. It only takes a few minutes to register.

We here in the Clerk's Office look forward to serving the citizens of Rutland City and will continue to improve the ever changing demands of our office. Please remember that our website (www.rutlandcity.org) contains valuable information on all City departments, Charter and Ordinances, Minutes of all Boards, Commissions and Committees as well as general information on the City of Rutland.

Respectfully Submitted,

Henry A. Heck
Rutland City Clerk

Report of the Development Review Board

Annual Report - July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Stephanie A. Lorentz, Chairperson

To the Honorable Board of Aldermen and Citizens of the City of Rutland:

The Development Review Board is pleased to submit the annual report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. Board members are Stephanie A. Lorentz, Chair, Al Paul, Jim Pell, Steve Wilk and Mike McClallen.

We held 14 public hearings during fiscal year 2015. Hearings are scheduled on the first^t and third Wednesdays of each month and are held in the evenings in Aldermanic Chambers. The hearings are warned in accordance with State law. The Board's responsibilities include hearing zoning appeals, variances, conditional uses, site plan reviews, design control district reviews and subdivisions.

The Board wishes to thank the residents of the City of Rutland for their active participation in the public hearing process; Alan Shelvey, Zoning Administrator; Carol Wagner, Clerk for the Development Review Board; and, the Mayor for their continued support of our efforts.

City of Rutland Fire Department
July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015
James Miles, Acting Chief Engineer

The City of Rutland Fire Department responded to 1804 calls.

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----|-----------------------|-----|
| Fire in Structures | 67 | Hazardous Conditions | 96 |
| Motor Vehicle Accidents | 99 | | |
| Vehicle Fires | 10 | Rescue/EMS Assistance | 62 |
| Weather Related | 37 | | |
| Brush/Grass Fires | 8 | Special Service | 912 |
| Carbon Monoxide | 42 | | |
| Rubbish Fires | 10 | Mutual Aid Request | 4 |
| Burning Complaints | 26 | | |
| Electrical Fires | 33 | False Alarm | 398 |

The department had three General Alarms including a structure fire at 13 Pine St. which spread to nearby homes, and two Grass Fires that required a General Alarm response due to the dry conditions, wind and man-power. The first grass fire was on the railroad tracks by Royce Mandigo Arena, and the second was Pine Hill Park. We ask that you use extra precautions when conditions are dry. All required Mutual Aid from surrounding departments. We are thankful for their assistance and look forward to working with them in the future.

Personnel

To date we have 28 Full Time Firefighters, eight part-time firefighters and ten call firefighters who respond to General Alarms.

After 40 years of service Deputy Chief Francis Robillard decided to retire. We wish to thank D.C. Robillard for his many years of service and wish him a long and happy retirement. With the Retirement of D.C. Robillard, there were vacancies within the ranks of the department. Lieutenant William Lovett was promoted to Deputy Chief and shift commander of the C Shift. Firefighter Daniel Gedney was promoted to Lieutenant and will serve on the B Shift. Part-time firefighter, Kyle Goodrich, was appointed to full-time and will serve on the A Shift.

Fire Chief Robert Schlachter after serving 13 years as fire chief also retired. Chief Schlachter over his time served brought over one million dollars in Federal Grants in to the department. We would like to thank him for his hard work and long hours preparing these grants, and we wish Chief Schlachter a long and happy retirement.

With the retirement of Chief Schlachter, Mayor Christopher Louras appointed me as Acting Chief. It gives me great pleasure to lead this department until a replacement is found.

Equipment

The department has three engines, two aerials; one bucket truck, two pickup trucks and two enclosed trailers. One trailer is for Haz-Mat response and the other for Technical Recue.

Training

Your fire department has had over 3,070 hours of training in the past year. Much of this training was funded through Federal Grants. We hope to continue training to improve our skills and personal development to better serve the people of Rutland.

Open Burning

There is NO open burning allowed in the city without a written permit from the Chief Engineer. Such permits are **only** issued for occasional bonfires at schools or colleges. Open burning permits will not be issued to individual property owners or tenants. **Any outside fires used for cooking must be fueled by propane or charcoal.** Also, any fire that creates a nuisance may be extinguished by the department. People who burn outside without a permit may be fined. Open Burning is defined as any outdoor fire other than a cooking fire.

City of Rutland ordinance on Open Burning

§2936. Burning in open places or near buildings: No person shall engage in any open burning except under a local permit from the Rutland City Fire Chief and in compliance with the laws and regulations of the State of Vermont.

Closing

It has been a pleasure serving the citizens of Rutland for the past 29 years. Being chosen to serve as Acting Chief was the high point of my career and I will do so proudly until a replacement is chosen. I would like to thank everyone who supported me and gave me assistance and support through my term. To the City Clerk's Office, Human Resources Department, Treasure/Payroll Office, City Attorney, Mayor Louras, Meg Grace and most importantly the members of the department and my family, A BIG thank you.

Fire Department Members

Acting Chief Engineer

James Miles

Officers

A Shift

C Shift

D.C. Bradley LaFaso

D.C. William Lovett

Lieut. Mark Meszaros

Lieut. Robert F. Miles

B Shift

A.C James Miles

Lieut. Dan Gedney

Firefighters

Brent Adams

Aron Adamsen

Michael Barrett

Lawrence DellVeneri

Seth Bride

Scott Mangan

Colin Fitzsimmons

Charles Regula

Brent Garrow

Kyle Robillard

Kyle Goodrich

Michael Robillard

Rodney Kenyon

Dave Werbinski

William Canfield

Michael Delehanty

John DiPalma

Nathan Elwert

Micah Haven

Victor Miglorie

Michael Roy

Part time Firefighter and Call Support Members

Part Time Firefighters

Arthur Howard

Mike Carlson

Dylan Flood

Tom Lacz Jr.

Brendon LaFaso

Thomas Maniery

Call Firefighters

Chris Adams

Richard Battles

John Haven

Justin Henderson

Gary Lambert, Chaplin

Dr. Richard Lovett

Adam McIntosh

Robert N. Miles

John Sabataseo

Robert West

Respectfully Submitted,

James Miles, Acting Chief Engineer

City of Rutland Fire Department

City of Rutland
FY 2015 Annual Report
Rutland City Police Department

To the Citizens of the City of Rutland,

As the Acting Chief of Police it is my privilege to submit the following annual report on behalf of the Rutland City Police Department (RCPD) for fiscal year 2015. The men and woman of the RCPD are dedicated to providing the highest quality of professional public safety services to those we serve. I am extremely proud of their collective efforts to enhance the overall quality of life that helps make Rutland City an enjoyable and safe place to live and visit.

This past year, we saw the departure of James Baker who had served as the Chief of Police for the Rutland City Police Department since 2012. Former Chief Baker's leadership was instrumental in the police department's partnership with the community and both public and private organizations to find creative solutions to quality of life and crime issues in Rutland City through the creation of Project VISION. We at the RCPD are extremely grateful to former Chief Baker for his service to our community and wish him all the best in his new position as the Director of Law Enforcement Operations and Support Directorate with the International Association of Chiefs of Police in Washington D.C. We continue our dedication to Project VISION; a true partnership collaborative where we believe that interconnected problems require integrated community-owned solutions. The work that goes on daily focuses on reducing substance abuse and crime, along with an effort to build great neighborhoods. Activities designed by each committee seek to meet 3-5 outcomes annually. We have seen changes and heard stories of some positive impacts on the quality of life in Rutland neighborhoods. We all seek to achieve this vision: "Rutland, one of the healthiest, safest and happiest communities in America." Our many efforts and those of our partners focus on relationship building, information sharing and leveraging available resources.

Currently, there are over 300 volunteers representing virtually every agency or organization dedicated to the welfare of the region, including schools, hospitals, faith based groups and neighborhood volunteers. The VISION Center established at Police Headquarters, houses eight embedded partners from other agencies, (domestic violence advocate, mental health crisis clinicians, assistant attorney general, social workers, Probation & Parole, State's Attorney's Rapid Intervention Program,

which is now the Pre-Trial Court Monitor Program, and college interns), working various schedules to enhance collaboration and problem-solving. Also, a Community Response Team in the VISION Center works on compliance issues and messaging for DMI (drug marketplace intervention) and high risk offenders under the supervision of Probation & Parole. RCPD Commander Scott Tucker, appointed as the first Executive Director of Project VISION, leads day-to-day operations. Project VISION's approach is based on transparency and education. Public safety, in our view, is a shared experience for lasting success and sustainability – it takes many hands or a village. It is about the quality of life on your street or in your neighborhood, and it is everyone's business. Police leadership is at the table to help support and inspire community efforts as we work on important outcomes for our community. We endeavor to tell our story!

The RCPD's strategy remains committed to an unbiased, data driven approach to address crime and quality of life issues in Rutland City. The department continues to work with Crime Research Group, who provides data analysis on our calls for service and the identification of repeat locations for calls for service. Members from the department as well as other public service and private partners attend bi-weekly RutStat meetings where this information is reviewed and collaborative solutions are formulated to address the root causes that are driving crime. In addition to this, areas and times where there are increases in calls for services are identified so that departmental resources can be effectively allocated in order to reduce crime.

Due to the combined efforts of the RCPD and our community partners, by the close of calendar year 2014 there was an 8.6 % decrease in the top 50 calls for services in comparison to calendar year 2013. Most notably were reductions in those calls for service that typically have the highest impact on the quality of life; with an 18.4% decrease in thefts, a 30.2 % decrease in burglaries and a 50.7 % decrease in vandalisms.

To continue to measure the potential effectiveness of our strategies in calendar year 2015, we commissioned Crime Research Group to conduct an independent comparison of our calls for service in the first six months of 2015 to the first six months of 2014. According to these findings, there was a 7.6% reduction in the top 50 calls for service and more notably a decrease in burglaries by 48.1% and a decrease in larceny incidents (including shoplifting) by nearly 20%. Although the above indicates that we are continuing in the right direction, we realize that we must remain vigilant and continue to be innovative with our strategies if we want to see these trends to continue.

This past fiscal year, we have continued to work with our federal and state partners to address the issue of opiate abuse. As a result of this collaboration, the U.S. Attorney's Office initiated forfeiture proceedings against five properties where drug activity was occurring, thereby addressing locations that are causing the most harm in the community. The RCPD remains committed to being on the forefront of best policing practices in the nation. As part of this commitment, we, along with 24 other police departments in the country, have agreed to participate in the President's Commission on 21st Century Policing Open Data Initiative. The initiative is designed to enhance community engagement and utilize data and technology to build community trust. As a result, the RCPD has agreed to and is in the process of publishing data sets on use of force by type, crime incidents and arrests, and community meetings attended by officers.

In closing, on behalf of the dedicated members of the Rutland City Police Department, I would like to thank everyone in the community for their continued support and also for your efforts to make Rutland City a great place to live. We look forward to serving you in the upcoming year.

Acting Police Chief David J. Covell

RUTLAND CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT, BIANNUAL ANALYSIS July 2015

| Part I Crime | FY13-14 |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Aggravated Assault | 47 |
| Arson | 0 |
| Auto Theft | 20 |
| Burglary | 166 |
| Homicide | 0 |
| Larceny/Theft from MV | 757 |
| Robbery | 14 |
| Sexual Assault | 6 |
| TOTAL: | 1010 |
| | |
| Part II Crime | FY13-14 |
| Simple Assault | 168 |
| Sex Offenses | 20 |
| Offense against Family/Children | 608 |
| Criminal Mischief | 1 |
| Prostitution | 1 |
| Drunkenness | 309 |
| Disorderly Conduct/Noise | 549 |
| Vagrancy | 21 |
| Curfew/Loitering | 5 |
| Drug Abuse/Violations | 107 |
| Liquor Law Offenses | 26 |
| Forgery/Counterfeiting | 20 |
| Fraud | 64 |
| Embezzlement | 6 |
| Weapons Offense | 6 |
| Stolen Property | 16 |
| All Other Offenses | 32 |
| TOTAL: | 1959 |
| | |
| DUI | 26 |
| Runaway Juvenile | 14 |
| Vandalism | 209 |

FY 2015 Annual Report
Department of Public Works
Jeffrey Wennberg, Commissioner of Public Works

To the Honorable Board of Aldermen and Citizens of the City of Rutland:

I hereby submit the annual report of the Department of Public Works for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

Please refer to the following division reports for information regarding the department's activities between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015.

The 2014 construction season was one of the most active and productive in memory. Nearly every neighborhood had something going on, anchored by the two major state projects and the Northwest Neighborhood Sewer Separation Project, Phase I (NNSSP). Resurfacing of Woodstock Avenue and portions of South Main Street, West Street, Merchants Row, State Street and Columbian Avenue tangled traffic and caused sleepless nights for neighbors, as much of the work was done at night. On South Main Street the installation of a new storm sewer progressed very slowly but was completed on schedule in October. The NNSSP started in early summer, suspended activity in the fall and resumed in the spring. This massive \$5.2 million storm sewer system covers over 50 acres in the Library Avenue, Park Avenue, Crescent Street, Pine Street, Harrison Avenue, Baxter Street and Cleveland Avenue area. It has eliminated storm-related sewer backups in basements and streets, eliminated raw sewage releases to East Creek from this area and rebuilt streets, sidewalks and other surface infrastructure. It will be completed in mid-August 2015 with some additional sidewalk work to follow. A neighborhood-wide housing rehabilitation project is also part of the City's efforts to restore this area as a highly desirable place to own property and live.

Kubricky Construction won the nearly \$12 million bid for the replacement of Dorr and Ripley Bridges and began work on Dorr Bridge in the fall. Work on the abutments and piers continued through the winter. As of this writing, the new Dorr Bridge is scheduled to be open on September 2015, with Ripley to be completed in 2016.

The winter of 2014-2015 was challenging at every level. First, the cost of rock salt for roads shot up 48% over the prior year. To help mitigate the increase the Streets Division began pretreating the salt with a liquid molasses/magnesium product that allowed for reduced use and would remain effective at lower temperatures. This was fortunate because February was the coldest month on record. Conventional rock salt stops

melting snow and ice at about 17 degrees Fahrenheit. The new coating made the salt effective to several degrees below zero, and performed very well. In an average winter we use 4,000 tons of salt. In 2013-2014 we used 5,186 tons. Last winter (2014-2015) would have demanded about the same as 2013-2014 based on the number and severity of storms, but instead consumption was 2,750 tons. The net dollar savings was \$155,184.

February and March tested the Water Distribution Division with numerous water leaks and service freeze ups. The division repaired 27 water leaks during the year and 87 service lines froze, mostly in a four week period. Near the end of March we faced a potentially crippling leak that evaded detection. We knew we were losing around 600,000 gallons a day but had great difficulty locating it. Finally after a week of searching, we discovered that a new water line installed for the Kia dealership in Rutland Town had failed and was sending water under the ice and snow to a wetland. Once located, the leak was quickly stopped and repaired.

The Water Treatment Plant continued to perform well, and continued to meet all regulatory standards for drinking water quality throughout the year.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant saw a major investment in two new 'digester covers'. These covers are massive steel structures that contain the biogas produced in the anaerobic digestion phase of the treatment process.

In September Jim Rotondo joined the department as City Engineer, filling the vacancy left when former City Engineer Evan Pilachowski left to take a job in Massachusetts. Jim comes from Connecticut but is well familiar with Rutland having been a long-time seasonal resident with a home on Lake Bomoseen.

Report of the Department of Public Works, Engineering Division

James A. Rotondo, P.E. City Engineer

Nathaniel G. Stansberry, P.E. Associate City Engineer

Peter T. Kelley, Engineering Technician

The Engineering Division provides engineering and technical support for each division within the Department of Public Works and also to other departments within City government. Some support activities performed during the year include the specification and bid acquisition of a new pedestrian bridge at the water filtration plant and the specification and acquisition of a pair of 'grit classifiers' at the wastewater treatment plant. Department staff also participated in the development of a Water

Distribution Dead End Elimination Program with the goal of improving water quality throughout the distribution network. Quality assurance was identified as a department priority and quality measures were integrated into specifications and bid documents wherever applicable.

The Engineering staff is involved with many day to day activities including the preparation of design plans, bids and specifications, issuance of water and sewer allocations, application for design and construction grants, review of proposed plans for all building permit applications and the creation of seasonal construction plans and long term infrastructure capital plans. At prescribed intervals, the department also performs inspections including landfill post-closure monitoring, CSO monitoring, annual city bridge and culvert inspections and various storm water permit inspection and compliance activities. Assistance is provided upon request to many private sector projects within the City. Services often include the dissemination of City utility information to design consultants & property owners wishing to develop or redevelop properties.

The Engineering Division assumes the role of Project Administrator for all active DPW construction projects occurring within the City. FY 2014-15 was a particularly active construction period, with some large scale projects getting underway and others winding down. The Routes 4 & 7 paving project along Main Street between West Street and Strongs Avenue was completed, dramatically improving this section of roadway and related infrastructure. The Forest Street culvert at Moon Brook was replaced with a much larger span precast concrete bridge. Several anaerobic digesters at the wastewater treatment plant underwent a major roof rehabilitation project.

Construction on the \$5.2 million Northwest Neighborhood Sewer Separation Project, continued and neared completion. Important benefits realized from this project include a significant reduction in Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO) to East Creek as storm water is removed from the sanitary sewers and a significant reduction of street and private property flooding in the 55 acres of the city involved in this project. The \$12,000,000 Ripley Bridge and Dorr Bridge replacement project was awarded and significant work on the Dorr Bridge portion of the project was accomplished. The anticipated completion date for Dorr Bridge is the fall of 2015. Ripley Bridge is scheduled to be completed the following year.

The Engineering Division works to monitor and improve water quality in the City's streams and brooks using a combination of internal resources and State and Federal grants. Engineering staff has worked closely with the Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District (RNRCD) to

distribute storm water educational materials as first steps in the City's participation in the six minimum measures as prescribed by VT DEC. Engineering staff in cooperation with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Federal Highway Administration and VTrans participated in a Pedestrian Assessment for a section of West Street (between Pine and Wales). This assessment led to an extensive report that identified physical deficiencies and opportunities for improving both pedestrian and traffic safety.

The Engineering Department was successful in obtaining several engineering design and construction grants during the year. Grants secured on behalf of the City include:

- \$300,000 VT AOT Transportation Alternatives Grant – To design and install a new sidewalk on Killington Avenue from Butterfly Avenue to Stratton Road.
- \$175,000 VT AOT Class II Roadway Grant – To rehabilitate Dorr Drive from River Street south to the City Line.
- \$5,000 Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) Grant - To design storm water management improvements including the creation of open space in the Clover Street neighborhood.
- \$5,000 Caring For Canopy Grant – To procure and install shade trees in the northwest neighborhood

Report of the Department of Public Works, Forestry Division

David S. Schneider, Forester and Arborist

Woodland Management

During FY14-15 the City Forester administered the Compartment 5 Brewer's Corner Bucklin' Trail timber sale, purchased by A. Johnson Lumber Company of Bristol, Vermont. This sale contained 87.4 thousand board feet of high quality sugar maple and yellow birch with an additional 40 cords of low quality hardwoods marked to improve residual stands. The sale netted \$53,288 in timber sale revenues.

We also harvested and processed approximately two acres of diseased red pine plantation from the Water Treatment facility site. The sale of the logs to Commonwealth Plywood Corporation located in Whitehall, New York netted an additional \$5,767 in timber sale revenues

Students from Stafford Technical Center's Forestry and Natural Resources program conducted a thinning of a red pine stand within Compartment six. The timber sale project assisted in the instruction of

timber harvesting with the sale of the logs and pulpwood used to defray instructional costs.

Urban and Community Forestry

Treatment of the severe thunderstorms in early July required three weeks of clean-up efforts and consumed approximately 80% of the annual budget allotment in post-storm contractor expenses. Twenty-two loads of chips (45 tons) were produced during clean-up efforts by the DPW. Twenty-four City, severely damaged trees required removal by the DPW and/or Vaillancourt Tree Service.

Three trees were planted in the downtown area to replace trees lost to vehicle accidents. Also, an additional tree was planted to commemorate long-time Librarian Paula Baker's service to the City at the Rutland Free Library.

The Street tree inventory was digitized into a Geographic Inventory System from the 100% field inventory. The current inventory of shade trees consists of over 4300 trees of 42 species. The GIS inventory will greatly assist in management of Rutland's shade tree population.

Eighty one trees were also pruned throughout the year.

Rutland Blooms planted 150 trees in 2015, with 99 trees planted throughout the Northwest Neighborhood in conjunction with a \$5,000 Caring for Canopy grant awarded by the State Forests, Parks, and Recreation's Urban and Community Forestry program. Seventeen trees were planted along South Main Street to replace losses due to construction of the Multi-use path.

Rutland City received its 24th Tree City, USA award. Arbor Day was again celebrated at the Northeast School with a tree planting ceremony conducted by students from Stafford Technical Center and presided over by Mayor Louras.

The Forestry Division assisted the Water Distribution Division on eleven water leaks and numerous frozen water service calls during one of the coldest winters of record. The Division also continues to work with the Forestry program at Stafford Technical Center, the Rutland Garden Club, and the Boys and Girls Club. The City Forester continues to serve on the State's Urban and Community Forestry Council.

Report of the Department of Public Works, Streets, Water Distribution and Wastewater Collection Divisions

David Sears, Project Manager

The Streets Division is responsible for street, sidewalk maintenance and winter street maintenance. The division also installs, repairs and services all the parking meters in Rutland's Downtown area.

The Street Division has made a significant effort to replace sidewalks within the City that are in serious need of repair. To that end the division replaced sidewalks including Madison Street, Tremont Street, Deer Street and Allen Street and installed a handicap sidewalk access on Strongs Avenue, and also on Washington Street from Court Street to Wales Street.

The division installed six new decorative lights on Washington Street for the Downtown Rutland Partnership. Two decorative lights and a bike rack were installed at the Rutland Free Library.

Streets also repaved or patched multiple ditches from water and sewer repairs and maintenance.

The division began a treated salt program prior to the winter season as the price for winter salt increased 48% from the previous year. Because of the new procedure we were able to show a reduction in our use of “white salt” over last year. The 2014-2015 winter season was rigorous and we managed to reduce our salt usage by 2400 tons from the 2013-2014 season.

Water Distribution

The Water Distribution Division is responsible for the installation and maintenance of all water mains in Rutland City and maintenance of the water system for Rutland Town by contract. The division is also responsible for the installation, service, repairs and flushing of approximately 650 fire hydrants in the City and the Town.

The division spent much of the early summer of 2014 assisting Kingsbury Construction with the water main relocations necessary to install the large diameter pipe for the storm water separation project in the northwest neighborhood.

In August the division began and completed a project on Jan Avenue which consisted of 230 feet of new pipe to replace a 1 ½ inch galvanized water main that had failed several times. A flushing hydrant was installed at the end of the main.

Also on Pearl Street the division removed and/or replaced four broken 6” valves to gain control points on a section of pipe that has had several issues over the last several years.

The division also repaired 27 water leaks or water main breaks throughout the year.

Because of the unusually tough winter we had 87 house services freeze. Many long hours were spent thawing services in February and March.

The division installed four new water service taps, and along with flushing hydrants twice a year the division installed, replaced or repaired six fire hydrants.

Wastewater Collection

The Wastewater Collection Division is responsible for the installation, maintenance and repair of all sanitary sewer mains, the storm collection system including all manholes and catch basins.

Beginning in June the division began the rehabilitation of several manholes and catch basins for the various paving projects happening around the City including Killington Avenue, State Street, Baxter Street and Summer Street. These projects involved adjusting structures and in some cases installing various lengths of pipe.

Phase 2 of the Piedmont Drive Storm Sewer upgrade was undertaken. This project was necessary to help mitigate some of the storm water issues in the watershed from the Woodstock Avenue area. Two hundred feet of 30 inch storm line was installed, including 2 catch basins.

Approximately 40 feet of sanitary sewer main was replaced on South Street by Meadow Street to eliminate a section of pipe that was installed in the early 1900's.

We cleaned several thousand feet of sanitary and storm mains along with the manholes and catch basins at the entrance to the mains. We also de-greased approximately 3000 feet of sanitary mains.

Report of the Department of Public Works, Water Treatment Division Scott Taggart, Water Treatment Manager

Thomas Garofano-Barone, Assistant Water Treatment Manager
The City of Rutland's Slow Sand Water Filtration Facility treated a total of 901,240,600 gallons of water during the last fiscal year. The chemicals used during the process were 3,300 gallons of fluoride, 3,400 gallons of zincorthophosphate, and 16,500 gallons of sodium hypochlorite. The sand in filter #1 was replaced this year. This was the last filter with the original (1995) sand in use. We are now on a cycle to change the sand in each filter every twelve years.

The Water Treatment Division has had some success combatting the Eurasian milfoil that has taken root in the reservoir. This has and will continue to be a major concern until we are able to rid the reservoir of this invasive weed for good.

Since the second quarter of 2012, the City has been in compliance with federal disinfection byproduct (haloacetic acid) regulations. We are

continuing to address the issues that affect our water quality in order to maintain this compliance.

We appreciate the help from the other DPW Divisions throughout the year.

Report of the Department Of Public Works, Wastewater Treatment Division

Robert Protivansky, Chief Operator

Fiscal Year 2015 has again seen a busy year with many challenges. This staff has been outstanding with their efforts to keep up with the endless mechanical issues we face on a daily basis. We are responsible for repairing, maintaining and upgrading fifteen buildings and the equipment within them. Equipment is replaced, buildings are maintained and pump stations rehabbed as time and money allow, but it is still a constant battle to keep everything in working order and to be able to keep the treatment process working effectively. A reminder to everyone: Do not flush things like rags, plastic or adult wipes down the drain. This causes pumps to plug. On a weekly basis, we have to pull pumps and untangle masses of debris out of them. This takes up to two hours per pump and we have 24 pumps at the pump stations- on top of the daily operation of the plant, lab testing, pump repairs and other maintenance projects.

Some of the major projects completed are listed below:

- Treated 1,616,590,000 gallons of wastewater and storm water.
- Processed, pressed and removed 7,021,827 gallons of Activated Digested Sludge from the Secondary Digester.
- Installation of heating controls in six buildings to maintain temperature of 48°F w/option of warming up a room that you are working in, in effort to save electricity and fuel oil.
- Reduced chemical usage in the effluent disinfection process by as much as 50%, reducing costs, while maintaining a high standard of the removal of E.coli to the receiving stream well within our permitted discharge permit.
- Replaced three rotted out wall heaters and electrical wire and conduit in the Press Room.
- Rewired the electrical from the CSO Building to the Valve Vault.
- Rehab of Northeast Drive Pump Station, to include discharge piping, pump rails and pump controls.

- Installed variable frequency drive controls on five motors for energy savings.
- Rebuilt two return activated sludge pumps and motors.
- Finished rehab of two digesters and put on line.
- Installed large gate in Chlorine Contact Tank.
- Removed and reinstalled new concrete floor in Dumpster Bay of Dewatering Building.

Rutland Recreation and Parks Department

I am honored to continue to serve the citizens of Rutland City as your Superintendent. As a staff we believe strongly in our mission statement, which is “We create opportunities for a more vibrant community through parks and recreation.” We take that to heart with the work in our parks and with our programs. A vibrant community is one where people are active, involved and have a higher quality of life. Our vision statement is to be “A premier department as seen through the eyes of our community, regionally and nationally.” We strive every day to meet that vision while continuing to be a part of the fabric of our community.

RECREATION

The Recreation Department has had its first full year in the Courcelle facility with the art, theatre and fitness programs running inside the improved spaces. We are working on re-building those programs after 2 ½ years without an appropriate facility. Two new art theatre programs this year included a December performance of Snowman in collaboration with Lakes Region Youth Orchestra at Castleton University and a set building workshop. Our art program started home school classes and a Saturday morning drop-in program called “Imagination Station”.

Our new program director, Nicole Densmore, who was hired in May of 2014 completed a full year running youth sports. The change to one person overseeing all youth sports with the exception of the indoor season was a successful transition. Nicole provided needed consistency throughout the sports seasons. The job also included running our sports starter program (3-5 year olds). This allows the youth sports director to connect early with parents for coaching and is a platform to teach good sportsmanship with youth and parents.

Our focus for marketing was to improve our web site and to work to get the web site out to the public. April Cioffi, who oversees marketing for the department, along with programming responsibilities, provided a strong site for the department and we were able to successfully push social media messages back to a web site with up-to-date information.

Jay Thomas, who oversees all programs at Giorgetti Park, moved his office in June 2015 to Giorgetti Arena. This change will improve the running of programs at Giorgetti, which include Flipside Skate Park, the ice programs and our indoor turf season. In addition, the building will be open more hours to allow Pine Hill Park users access to the restrooms.

Additional new programming included archery classes and an adult corn hole league. In June we purchased a cargo trailer, known as our “Go Play” trailer, for special events. This allows us to more easily support community events with fun, portable activities. The adult volleyball league transitioned to a private club renting space from the Knights of Columbus after many years as a Rutland Recreation program.

PARKS

Bob Peterson is our parks director and he oversees a full-time staff of five, one part-time year round custodian and several summer seasonal employees. One seasonal summer employee, Mickey Caliguiri, has been working in some seasonal capacity for the department for over 50 years! Training for our staff this year included the eight hour OSHA class, the Maintenance Management School for Tyler Dahlin (year one of two), a chainsaw class and Playground Safety Instructor’s course for Tyler and Kyle Bourgeois. In addition Jay Siliski, park foreman, held several safety classes for the division.

It has been a year for the historians as the pool at White’s Park had its final season ending in August of 2014. Due to massive water leaks and structural issues the city pool was permanently closed and did not open in June of 2015. Work continued through the fall, winter and spring to determine the future of the pool. A bond ballot is likely in March of 2016 to build a new outdoor pool at White’s Park. Weston & Sampson Aquatics provided expertise in community involvement and in determining a concept plan based on community input.

Another historical event happened in late May with the demolition of the building at Rotary Park that was built in 1930. The building had been vacant for a decade and the decision was made to remove it and expand the playing field. Belden Construction received the bid for the project and as of June 30, 2015 had removed the building and begun work on the field. Funds for the project were primarily from the Field Maintenance Fund (\$110,000); State Building Grant (\$20,000); reserves from a previous Rotary Grant (\$12,000); and the remaining amount covered from the Home Depot Fund (\$17,000). Otter Creek Engineering provided engineering and construction oversight expertise.

In 2010, Senator Leahy secured funding through the Federal Highway Administration at the U.S. Department of Transportation to create the

Center Street Marketplace where Center Street Alley now exists. The city contracted with the Regional Planning Commission in 2014 to help expedite the process with their extensive knowledge on working with complicated projects. Susan Schreiber from the RRCPC successfully negotiated leases and the project is set to break ground in the fall of 2015.

Other parks projects for fiscal year 2015 included replacing wood fencing at Ciofreddi and Giorgetti Park with boulders. This change improves the long term sustainability of maintaining fences. The boulders were removed from the Courcelle facility that had been placed by the military after 9/11. Justin Thomas Memorial Park closed for a couple of weeks for a full park trim and paint. Monsignor Thomas Connor Memorial Park (Meadow Street) had extensive tree work done to improve the visibility through the park. The maintenance portion of the Courcelle facility was improved with the addition of three storage containers and extensive shelving to efficiently store all the tools, parts and supplies used to maintain the parks. A new door was installed in the old firing range to allow for the storage of mowers. The final park project for the fiscal 2015 season was the installation of outdoor light poles at the Godnick Center. The poles had been removed from Depot Park and retrofitted with current LED lighting. McDuff Electric was our electrician for the project with our staff installing the poles.

The Pine Hill Partnership continued its involvement at Pine Hill Park in maintaining all trails. Numerous groups and individuals made improvements to many trails in the park through thousands of volunteer hours all led by the Pine Hill Partnership volunteer trail crew leaders.

STAFF

Steve (Dukie) Canney retired in March, 2015 after working over 30 years for the department. Heath Derby was hired to fill the position with a start date of July 1, 2015. Jamie Nichols filled our part-time year round administrative assistant position and Mike Loso filled our part-time year round custodial position.

FUTURE

The future includes a decision on a new outdoor pool with a potential bond vote in March of 2016. In addition, the engineering work for the ice arena was done in fall of 2013 with a estimated cost of 2.4 million to fully enclose, insulate, install air handling, improve locker rooms and complete all code deficiencies. A decision will need to be made on the

future of the building. I am pleased to report that there is not a question on where to house the offices and park operations as we are fully settled in the Courcelle facility for the long term.

Yours in community,

Cindi Wight
Superintendent

RUTLAND FREE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Annual Report 2014-15

The Rutland Free Library (RFL) is your community library. Our many donors, local grant contributors, local government partners, fundraising attendees, the Friends of the Library, and talented volunteers have made this a successful year.

Your Library Board of Trustees has been working diligently toward putting your investment in your community library to the best possible use and to respond to your needs. What follows is a summary of some of these successes.

RFL has made the long-term investment for funding a consistent materials budget (including ebooks) which enables our patrons to expect the same level of service year-to-year.

The library has also committed monies to consistently fund the technologies patrons rely on us to provide. A plan has been put in place to gradually replace our seven year old patron computers to ensure every resident in our service area will have access to a reliable computer and Internet resources. A new color copier is accessible for wireless printing as well as scanning. Our wireless connection continues to be a resource for our patrons who prefer to sit at our many hotwired desks or comfy seating areas and work on their own devices.

Additionally, we reached out to the community to increase the number of volunteers. New volunteers have had a positive impact on the library, allowing us to offer more services to the community. For example, volunteers now assist with computer updates, one-on-one tech assistance for tablets, expanded library participation in community events and more.

We have opened up a small meeting room for non-profit organizations, proctoring and educational uses.

In October 2013, we joined the Catamount Consortium, a system for similar public libraries to share their materials with one another. To date, thirteen libraries have joined the consortium. This new service allows patrons to seamlessly request about 250,000 more materials. Patrons are no longer bound by our walls.

Happily, RFL has not followed the Vermont Library trend of lower circulation. RFL's number of materials going out the door has increased this year.

Programming attendance has increased as well. One enticing program is our monthly Lego Challenges. The library received a grant for Lego pieces and we were able to create this interactive children's program. Even our tried-and-true programs our patrons have come to expect

continue to increase in attendance as well: Vermont Humanities Council First Wednesday Program, Babies & Toddlers Rock music program, and the Science Pub series, just to name a few.

We are proud of the continued and increased use of the Rutland Free Library as it tells us that you view your library as a valuable community resource.

Abby Noland, Director

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2014-2015

Michael Brochu, President
Joan Gamble, Vice President
Cathy Reynolds, Treasurer
Scott McCalla, Secretary
Heather Cooper
Larry Courcelle
Doris Farenkopf
Pat Hunter
Kay Jones
Betsy Reddy
Mary Wasserman
Liz DiMarco Weinmann

Rutland Free Library Association, Inc. FY 2014-15

INCOME

Tax Appropriations

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| <i>City of Rutland</i> | \$ 691,929 |
| <i>Town of Rutland</i> | \$ 86,628 |
| <i>Mendon</i> | \$ 22,634 |
| <i>Ira</i> | \$ 2,703 |
| <i>Tinmouth</i> | \$ 2,703 |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Lawrence Trust | \$ 2,612 |
| Nella Grimm Fox Trust | \$ 247,638 |
| Consolidated Endowments | \$ 40,041 |
| Fund Raising & Grants | \$ 54,438 |
| Fees, incl Non Resident cards | \$ 36,605 |
| Friends of the Library book sales | \$ 5,912 |
| Friends of the Library: other support | \$ 7,791 |

Total Operating Income **\$ 1,201,634**

EXPENSE

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Books & Periodicals | \$ 62,470 |
| Databases, e-books etc. | \$ 31,494 |
| Audio Visuals, Programs, Passes | \$ 33,755 |
| Supplies & Services | \$ 90,335 |
| Salaries & Wages | \$ 566,415 |
| Employee Benefits | \$ 251,821 |
| Building Maintenance | \$ 99,934 |
| Miscellaneous & inv fees | \$ 3,282 |

Total Operating Expenses **\$ 1,139,506**

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Bequest | \$ 32,951 |
| Unrealized Gain (Loss) | \$ (45,246) |
| Investment fees | \$ 1,738 |

NET Income **\$ 48,095**

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Reynolds, Treasurer

Rutland Historical Society

Pam Johnson, President

To the Honorable Mayor, Board of Aldermen and Citizens of Rutland:

The Rutland Historical Society continues its mission to preserve and share Rutland History through digitization, community outreach and sharing activities. The Society has furthered its mission goals through the following activities.

The Society continues to review and update its long term plan, particularly its financial health, to ensure that the Society continues to be a sustainable organization. The Society's funding is largely achieved through the annual grant from Rutland City and by memberships and donations from its dedicated members. To insure its financial health, it conducted a Society "Building" Fund Drive. A few donations marked "Building Fund" continued to trickle in over this past year. Overall, the Fund Drive was successful, raising much needed funds from 162 donors. This money will help the Society in its time of need with capital improvements and other one-time expenses. In the coming months the Society will be utilizing these donations towards cost savings improvements and/or repairs and maintenance.

Technology and Digitization continue to be the heart of the Society's future. The Society purchased two tablets for mobile use. Both tablets have been loaded with the Society's webpage and many RHS files. Major accomplishments in this area include the digitization of the West Rutland yearbooks, making them available for viewing alongside previously digitized Rutland High and MSJ yearbooks. Rutland High School Publications added to the website include: Rutland School Notes from 1889 to 1893; the Oread from 1912 to 1917; and the Red and White Magazine from 1922 to 1929. Proctor Town Reports from 1888 to 1965 have been uploaded to the website. The 1850 Journal of Thomas and Louisa McConnell along with some supporting letters and materials have been added. In the Image Gallery section there are three new photo collections: The Early Rutland Fair; Early Transportation, Roads and Bridges; and Popular Vacation Spots for Rutlanders. The scanning of any/all available historical photos and/or items is ongoing as artifacts become available.

The Society website www.rutlandhistory.com continues to be the vital link to and from the public and provides global access 24/7. The Website Committee is continuing the process of building a Rutland Library which will provide links to free digitized books that are out of print. The goal of this on-going project will be to eventually provide access to hundreds of books. The “bookshelf” now contains a total of 80 items. As is customary, the website continues to provide access to Quarterly Publications, Rutland Tidbits, digitized newspapers, and Historically Speaking episodes (through episode number 139). Archive.org remains the Society’s repository for moving images and large text files. “Life in Rutland County” is a new video produced by Peregrine Productions and the Johnson State College’s Vermont History and Government Class. Thanks to the producers of the video, the Historical Society has been able to include it on the Society website. The program runs 33 minutes and shares the stories/memories from 10 local residents who grew up in Rutland County. These engaging stories provide a unique perspective on Vermont History. A link to the Roosevelt program on TV’s History Detectives has also been added to the website along with a link to the Society’s Facebook page.

The Society’s live programs serve everyone. Programs held or support provided include: for school groups- the Yes Program and Rutland High School; for seniors- TRIAD program; for local organizations- Railroad Association Show, Chamber of Commerce Trade Show, and the Rutland Free Library; for area and state groups- Daughters of the American Revolution; and National Train Day; and for community events- the annual Red Cross Blood Drive, and the Loyalty Day Parade. In October the Society held its most successful annual “Columbus Weekend Sale” that brought many visitors to the Society. Proceeds from the sale will be used to purchase preservation materials.

Television Presence continues with seven new episodes of PEGTV’s *Historically Speaking* series – “Family & History” with Michael Messier (Ep. # 134); “2014 Rutland Train Show” with Paul Rondinone (Ep. # 135); “Gouger Hill” with Bill Powers (Ep. # 136); “An Awards Celebration: B. Burdge, C. Ranftle, & M. Dwyer” (Ep. # 137); “1931 Rutland Fair” with David Knipes (Ep. # 138); “Women in Rutland’s History” withCarolynn Ranftle (Ep. # 139).

Printed Quarterly Publications continue with the 2014-2015 years' issues: "Civil War POWs and Casualties" by Robert Ranftle; "David Sawyer's World: 1898 Rutland" A calendar; "F.A. Tucker Inc. General Contractors Rutland Vermont" by David Zsido; "One Last Coffee at The Midway Diner" by David Zsido along with Quarterly Newsletters. The weekly "Tidbits from Then and Now" which is published in Sam's Good News completed its sixteenth year of publication. Additionally, the Society has provided photos and/or information to other venues for their use, including the Rutland Magazine; the Rutland Reader: and the Rutland Railroad Historical Society publications.

The Library Partnership (which began in 2012) is continuing its mission of digitizing area high school yearbooks. The Partnership is planning to digitize the Mill River Union High yearbooks. In the fall Proctor High School students will begin scanning the Proctor Yearbooks.

The Society's Collections Management personnel have continued to re-organize, review and/or upgrade preservation procedures. Progress was made on the long-term plan of creating a "secure" room for preserving special artifacts through restricted access. The Society also accepted a number of new acquisitions: a large box of railroad (including Rutland Railroad) materials from Swanton; a nice print of the old wooden Proctor covered bridge which was the predecessor to the current marble bridge; many CVPS items from GMP after the company switchover was completed; nice photographs of both the Grand Theatre employees and the Bardwell Hotel cooks; another collection of Rutland Railroad artifacts from Alton, NH; three scrapbooks from former Rutland Mayor Henry Carpenter's family; and a nice collection of World War II records, photos, and nurse's uniform received from WWII veteran Patricia Welch.

As caretaker of the Nickwackett Firehouse, the Society performs and oversees the needed repairs and maintenance: repairs to the basement hatchway door; replacement of the furnace aqua stat; and roof damage repairs due to the hail storm. Rutland City arranged for repairs to the chimney. Fire, security, air conditioning, and ADA compliance inspections continue to be conducted on a regular basis. The city continues to plow the parking lot every winter and Society volunteers ensure the walks are cleared of snow. During the summer, the Parks

Department provides mowing services and a Society volunteer maintains the small flower garden in front of the building.

The Disaster Recovery Planning Committee has made significant progress in the completion of their project focusing on personal safety, building security, and asset protection and preservation. All volunteers were trained for emergencies and the IT (Information Technology) Disaster Recovery Plan was completed. New Exit lights and motion detector lights have been installed.

The Society is open to the public Monday evenings and Saturday afternoons. These sessions are hosted by volunteers. Formal and informal facility tours are given and special arrangements are made when necessary.

Requests for historical information come from emails, phone calls, letters, and visitors. Many of these requests require significant research and volunteer manpower. Annually the Society handles requests numbering in the hundreds.

In closing, the Society thanks the community for its support and asks everyone to join or continue their membership, to become a volunteer, and to donate historical materials relating to the original town of Rutland (Rutland City, Rutland Town, West Rutland, and Proctor).

Special thanks to all the volunteers, authors, directors, officers and the curator. These individuals share their talents and tirelessly give their free time to make the Rutland Historical Society the wonderful, successful organization it is.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Johnson

FY 2015 – RRA Annual Report

Formed by Charter in 1989 the Rutland Redevelopment Authority (RRA) has historically served as Rutland City’s community and economic development entity. Under the Charter the RRA was established to reduce the property tax burden on residential homeowners, redevelop dilapidated and blighted structures, revitalize the commercial and industrial sectors of the economy, and promote economic opportunity for all citizens.

Under an agreement for services with the City the RRA has been directed to specifically focus on the following five areas. 1) Grant Administration: The RRA will serve as the primary grant administrative agent for the City. 2) Blighted Property: The RRA will focus significant effort and resources to redevelop vacant and dilapidated structures. 3) Grand List and Job Development: The RRA will work to increase or improve the quality of the grand list and increase jobs. 4) Downtown Designation: The RRA will ensure that the City maintains its State granted designation. 5) Planning: The RRA will perform planning duties in coordination with other City entities and represent the City and its interests in related planning initiatives.

The RRA consist of two staff, an Executive Director and a Grant Administrator, and is overseen by a nine member Board of Commissioners.

An update on efforts related to each area follows:

Grant Administration: As illustrated in the chart below the RRA has been active in applying for new grants and administering existing grants for various City projects and initiatives. The RRA will continue to seek both State and Federal grant funding sources to offset and leverage local investment in economic and community development initiatives and infrastructure improvements.

| | | |
|---|--------------|---------------|
| FY 6/30/15 | | |
| <u>New/Anticipated Grants:</u> | | |
| Engineering Study for Evelyn Street | \$20,000.00 | File App 2016 |
| VTrans Bicycle & Pedestrian Program | \$69,760.00 | File App 2015 |
| VT Arts Council Projects – Murals | \$1,650.00 | File App 2015 |
| DTF – Strongs/Merchants Pedestrian Safety | \$100,000.00 | Awarded 2015 |
| Municipal Planning Grant | 8,000.00 | File App 2015 |
| | | |
| <u>Existing/Open Grants:</u> | | |

| | | |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Downtown Gateway Plan | \$20,000.0 0 | Completed June 2015 |
| Rutland Creek Path Segment 4/5 | \$265,500. 00 | In process |
| Neighborhood Revitalization Study | \$30,000.0 0 | Completion 12/31/15 |
| Hickory Street Community Center | \$151,650. 00 | Completion 12/31/15 |
| Bicycle Parking Grant | \$5,000.00 | In process |
| VTrans Bicycle & Pedestrian Program | \$1,161,00 0.00 | In process |
| DTF – West/Washington Streetlights VII | \$51,000.0 0 | In process |
| Center Street Marketplace | \$973,834. 00 | In process |
| Neighborhood & Housing Revitalization | \$1,250,00 0.00 | In process |
| | | |
| TOTAL | \$4,107,39 4.00 | |

Blighted Properties: Fiscal year 2015 was an active period for the remediation of blighted property in Rutland City with substantial progress being made on several fronts.

Leveraging previous planning work from a 2012 housing needs assessment and a 2014 neighborhood revitalization strategy the City was formally awarded a \$1.25M grant from the VT Community Development Program. This funding is to be used for acquisition of vacant properties located within a designated area of the Northwest neighborhood. As part of the formal grant award ceremony in July a vacant and blighted property at 37 Pine Street, previously possessed by the City at tax sale was demolished, symbolizing progress to come.

Following the award a sub-grant agreement with Neighborworks of Western Vermont (NWWVT) was adopted allowing this non-profit housing entity to partner with the RRA and the City to acquire strategic properties and either demolish them for future reuse or rehabilitate them for owner occupancy. In June of 2015 the first property acquisition was completed when 65-67 Baxter Street was purchased at short sale. Community engagement will occur to determine what the neighbors would like to see as the optimal re-use of the property following demolition and site clearance.

A policy created by the RRA providing municipal property tax stabilization to incentivize owner occupancy and private investment in vacant/blighted residential homes was adopted by the Board of Aldermen and a blighted property review committee was created to make a formal determination on eligible blighted structures.

Another project representing progress this past year was the long awaited completion of the Postal Carrier Annex façade repairs at 169-173 West Street. The new building façade was unveiled in November and thanks to significant investment by the USPS the building is now a great looking enhancement to the City's historic downtown.

Not directly related to blight, but certainly another very visible enhancement, are the new Welcome to Rutland City signs that were erected at the four main entrance-points to the City this past fall. The welcome sign initiative represents a renewed sense of pride in Rutland City and was facilitated by the RRA and funded by donations from the Rutland City Kiwanis Club, Rotary Club of Rutland South, Italian American Club, and Knights of Columbus.

Grand List and Job Development: Specific to economic development the RRA's role is to provide new or existing businesses with professional and confidential assistance related to site selection, financing, job creation incentives, workforce training, and all other factors related to their decision to invest, or to continue to re-invest, in Rutland City.

In recent years the RRA has developed, and the City has adopted, a number of innovative business incentives including tax stabilization and water/wastewater rate reduction discounts. To date a number of businesses have taken advantage of these opportunities to lower their up-front costs, including this past year the College of Saint Joseph, which was awarded a water/wastewater incentive to help offset significant costs related to their proposed future expansion and investment on campus.

In FY '15 the RRA moved the initiative of making Rutland City the most business friendly City in Vermont even further by developing a new Business Incentive and Assistance Program which will offer new or expanding businesses opportunities for loans, grants, workforce training support, relocation assistance, and even free or discounted workspace.

To better get the word out about the City's exciting new business programs and competitive advantages the RRA participated as an exhibitor at the VT Business Expo in May with more strategic marketing and outreach efforts slated for the coming year. The RRA is also continuing to capitalize on calculated marketing opportunities with print ads and other marketing initiatives. The RRA continues to update its website and Small Business Resource Guide as important tools to facilitating new business investment in the City.

The RRA continues to serve as the City's representative in facilitating and leveraging economic benefits derived from solar array development within the City. Analysis shows significant municipal tax revenue has already been derived from the existing solar development with several more project's still in the pipeline.

Downtown Designation: The State's downtown designation makes Rutland City eligible for additional state and federal funding opportunities. This past year the RRA was responsible for applying on behalf of the City for re-designation by the State's Downtown Board. The final re-designation application was approved in June and the City's downtown designation will remain in place for the next five year period.

Planning: The RRA has taken a lead role in facilitating several exciting planning initiatives within the City. Following a comprehensive Downtown Rutland Gateway Plan initiative, which developed strategies for improving the aesthetics, functionality, and future economic opportunities along the Strongs Avenue and West Street gateway corridors, the RRA was successful in finding significant funding through a Downtown Transportation Fund grant for a Strongs Avenue and Merchants Row streetscape improvement project which is planned to take place in 2016.

Other ongoing RRA projects and initiatives include facilitating the development of a future downtown hotel and conference center, continuing work on a plan for the redevelopment of the Evelyn Street Corridor, and planning for the future redevelopment of the former Berwick Site.

Dick Courcelle, President, Board of School Commissioners
Mary E. Moran, Superintendent of Education

TO THE CITIZENS OF RUTLAND CITY:

Rutland City Public Schools is a learning organization that provides an outstanding educational opportunity to 2200 students at seven schools, two alternative sites, and the Stafford Technical Center. Our superior faculty and staff members focus on the needs of each and every child on a daily basis. Our District Mission Statement concludes with this pledge/belief: “Every Student, Every Day.” What follows is a basic and brief report on the status of the system.

Northeast and Northwest Primary Schools each serve approximately 240 students in the Early Essential Education Program (EEE) through Second Grade. The Pierpoint Primary Learning Center, located at the former regional library, houses three EEE classrooms and is part of the Northwest/Pierpoint Primary School community. The Rutland Intermediate School, located on Library Avenue, serves approximately 600 students in Grades 3-6. The Rutland Middle School, also located on Library Avenue, serves 300 students in Grades 7 and 8. Rutland High School, on Stratton Road, serves 875 students. Approximately 250 students attend the full time program at the Stafford Technical Center, and over 400 adults take part in our Adult Education Program. Stafford programs continue to support educational and training opportunities for both the youth and adult populations of Rutland County.

The number of tuition students attending Rutland High School from Rutland Town, Mendon, Chittenden, Danby, Ira, Middletown Springs, Mt. Tabor, Pittsfield, Plymouth and Stockbridge remains strong. Continued progressive programming, including a large number of Advanced Placement and honors courses, an infusion of modern technology, the development of STEM and Global Studies Academies, the YES Plan and many additional offerings in the Fine Arts, have contributed to the consistent attractiveness of Rutland High School as the most popular school of choice for parents and students in the tuition-paying towns.

The Rutland High School Howe Center Campus serves 40 high school students in an off-campus alternative education and service-learning program designed to prevent students from dropping out of school. The RHS/RMS Allen Street Campus, located on Allen Street, serves approximately 40 students in grades 6-12 who have had difficulties in adapting to a traditional classroom and school environment. This is a model program, which combines academics, adventure-based learning, work and community service, and therapeutic services for students and their

families in a way that better meets their needs, both in school and in the community.

We also offer an extensive co-curricular program for students from grade 3 through grade 12. In addition to a comprehensive athletics program, there is a wide range of clubs and activities that support student learning and development and keep our children active and safe in the after-school hours of each day. The Rutland City Schools' Fine Arts program is one of the finest in the nation, and has been recognized as such on two recent occasions. We invite citizens to attend the many music and theatrical performances of our students both in the schools and at the Paramount Theater, and to attend the various visual art displays around the community and at the Chaffee Art Gallery. In addition, the nationally recognized Tapestry Program serves over 600 children in after-school and summer programming offering extensive enrichment, tutorial, counseling, cultural and recreational opportunities.

The health and well-being of our students is at the forefront of our thoughts. After all, a healthy student will achieve more academically than a student carrying a number of risk factors. The Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey contains information about the health and lifestyles of students around the state and within the Rutland City Public School district. We monitor the data from this state-generated survey as well as local data to organize our health and wellness resources in support of students and families in Rutland. We are extremely proud of our ongoing relationships with community health and wellness agencies including Rutland Mental Health, Rutland County Head Start, the Department of Child and Family Services, the Rutland Regional Medical Center, and Rutland's Police and Fire Departments.

Your school district continues to operate in a mode of continuous improvement with a focus on targeted professional development and student achievement. As a result, Rutland High School has been recognized nationally as a model Professional Learning Community (PLC). District-wide improvement is focused on six major initiatives: PLC development, Co-Teaching, data-based decision making, "brain based learning," Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) and integrated technology. These areas are where RCPS is spending its resources to allow our schools to evolve on a path of continuous improvement for our students and the community we serve. We are also pleased and proud to note that several of our Principals and Assistant Principals have been recognized by the Vermont Principals Association as Principals of the Year in the last two years.

Our use of instructional technology has expanded greatly. We are deploying 1200 Chromebooks (which are federally funded) in our

effort to integrate technology more fully throughout the district, and to provide 21st Century access to all students. We are using Smart Technology to improve teaching and learning, K-12. We use the Blackboard (formerly AlertNow) communication system for important school announcements and in school or community emergencies; this system has been very well received throughout the community. In addition, we use a student information system (SIS) called Infinite Campus, which allows us to coordinate all information relating to students and follow their progress over time. The Parent Portal of Infinite Campus allows detailed information about their children to be shared with parents. We urge parents to make use of this important tool.

We are required by federal law to inform our citizens that our schools did not make “adequate yearly progress (AYP)” and, along with all of Vermont’s schools, we are listed as “in need of improvement.” We mailed a letter to all families explaining these facts, and included a statement from Secretary of Education Rebecca Holcombe who explained the AYP system in detail.

Rutland City Public Schools strive to offer an outstanding learning experience at a reasonable per pupil cost to the city taxpayers. For this school year the district’s per-pupil cost is 5% below the state average for all districts. It is important to note that our district ranks 60th of the 62 school districts in Vermont in spending on school and district administration. In Rutland, we offer an outstanding educational opportunity for all of our children at a lower cost than the majority of the school districts in the state.

We look forward to continuing to work with you, our staff, and the students and families of Rutland City as we strive to provide the very best possible education for our community. “Every Student, Every Day!”

Should any reader wish to learn more about the Rutland City Public Schools and education in Vermont, please access the District web site: www.rutlandcitypublicschools.org

RUTLAND CITY BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
 6 Church Street
 Rutland, Vermont 05701

March 2015

PRESIDENT:

Dick Courcelle

CLERK:

Robert Kurchena

COMMISSIONERS

| NAME EMAIL | HOME ADDRESS TERM EXPIRES | NUMBERS |
|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Daniel P. Alcorn Dalcorn@norwich.edu | 49 Evergreen Ave. Term: 2016 | 485-2760 (330) 416-4774 |
| 2. Mr. Hurley Cavacas, Jr. hrcjr3@aol.com | 68 Phillips Street Term: 2016 | 773-2337 |
| 3. Mr. Dick Courcelle dsdi@comcast.net | 38 Giorgetti Blvd. Term: 2018 | 775-2167 |
| 4. Mr. Peter Fagan 1214 peterfagan.vt@gmail.com | 17 Clinton Ave. Term: 2017 | 342- 773-7446 |
| 5. Mr. Robert Kurchena rlkdinv@aol.com | 26 Marolin Acres Term: 2016 | 773-1232 |
| 6. Ms. Alison Notte alisonmnotte@gmail.com | 8 Orchard Drive Term: 2017 | 770-4045 |
| 7. Mr. Matthew Olewnik mattolewnik@gmail.com | 54 Edgerton Street Term: 2017 | 855-1403 |
| 8. Ms. Joanne Pencak jcpencak@gmail.com | 19 Laverne Drive Term: 2018 | 353-0615 |
| 9. Ms. Erin Shimp erinshimpvt@gmail.com | 114 Jackson Avenue Term: 2016 | 345-3913 |
| 10. Ms. Kate Thomas thomas.kate2@gmail.com | 56 Edgerton Street Term: 2017 | 747-0479 |
| 11. Mr. Christian Wideawake chriswideawake@comcast.net | 92 Edgerton Street Term: 2018 | 775-6406 |
| <i><u>Student Representatives</u></i> | | |
| 12. Ms. Lydia Gulick lydiagulick@live.com | 212 Meadowlake Drive Term: 2016 | 747-9973 |
| 13. Mr. Nova Wang Wang.nova@yahoo.com | 6 Moon Brook Drive Term: 2017 | 353-0630 |

BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

LIAISON TO:

ACTIVITIES/ATHLETIC COUNCIL

Mr. Cavacas

Mr. Fagan

Mr. Olewnik

Ms. Shimp

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Mr. Courcelle

Mr. Kurchena

STAFFORD TECHNICAL CENTER ADVISORY

Mr. Wideawake

BOARD COMMITTEES:

BUILDING

Mr. Cavacas, Chair

Mr. Alcorn

Ms. Notte

Ms. Shimp

PENSION

Mr. Fagan

Mr. Cavacas

Mr. Olewnik

Ms. Pencak

Mr. Wideawake

PERFORMANCE EXCELLENCE WORKGROUP

Mr. Courcelle

Mr. Cavacas

Mr. Fagan

Mr. Kurchena

Mr. Olewnik

Ms. Pencak

POLICY

Ms. Shimp, Chair

Mr. Alcorn

Ms. Thomas

STAFF RELATIONS

Mr. Kurchena, Chair

Ms. Notte

Ms. Shimp

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
6 Church Street
Rutland, Vermont 05701**

SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION
Mary E. Moran

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
Robert S. Bliss

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
Peter P. Amons

DIRECTOR OF SUPPORT SERVICES
Eloise S. McGarry

Per Pupil Costs and Enrollment
For the School Year Ended - June 30, 2015

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| TOTAL EXPENSES: (UNAUDITED) | \$47,745,435 District |
| Wide | \$ 6,732,587 |
| Elementary | \$ 8,931,511 |
| Secondary | \$12,046,484 |
| Support Services | \$ 9,009,133 |
| Adult Education | \$ 333,803 |
| Area Stafford Technical | \$ 4,543,467 |
| Other including State/Federal & District Support Grants | \$ 5,055,541 |
| Lunch Program | \$ 1,092,909 |

Enrollments and Average Daily Membership (ADM*):

| | Enrollment | ADM* |
|---------------------------|------------|---------|
| All Schools | 2466 | 2300.13 |
| Elementary | 1170 | 1072.61 |
| Secondary | 1296 | 1227.52 |
| Stafford Technical Center | 249 | *** |

* ADM includes resident students only.

*** The ADM enrollments at the STC are counted at the home high school of residency as secondary students.

RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS BUDGET

| | <u>7/1/14- 6/30/15</u> | <u>7/1/15-6/30/16</u> |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| District | 6,605,552.00 | 6,777,436.00 |
| Elementary | 9,144,901.00 | 9,204,382.00 |
| Support Services | 9,184,393.00 | 10,032,217.00 |
| High School | 9,573,546.00 | 9,649,387.00 |
| Middle School | 3,155,969.00 | 3,204,203.00 |
| Vocational | 4,584,091.00 | 4,731,966.00 |
| Adult | 422,715.00 | 426,781.00 |
| State and Federal Grants | 4,351,895.00 | 4,257,500.00 |
| Lunch | 1,200,000.00 | 1,225,000.00 |
| GRAND TOTAL BUDGET | \$48,223,062.00 | \$ 49,508,872.00 |

ANTICIPATED RECEIPTS

| | <u>7/1/14- 6/30/15</u> | <u>7/1/15-6/30/16</u> |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Balance | 1,200,000.00 | 700,000.00 |
| Tuition | 3,065,000.00 | 2,580,000.00 |
| Interest | 5,000.00 | 10,000.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 205,000.00 | 65,000.00 |
| State education Fund* | 28,620,361.00 | 30,583,625.00 |
| Transportation | 310,000.00 | 375,000.00 |
| Driver Education | 19,000.00 | 19,000.00 |
| Voc. Tuition and Grants | 4,584,091.00 | 4,460,772.00 |
| Athletic Receipts | 40,000.00 | 35,000.00 |
| Lunch | 1,200,000.00 | 1,225,000.00 |
| Federal and State | 4,351,895.00 | 4,528,694.00 |
| Special Education Reimbursement | 4,200,000.00 | 4,500,000.00 |
| Adult Education | 422,715.00 | 426,781.00 |
| GRAND TOTAL RECEIPTS | \$48,223,062.00 | \$49,508,872.00 |

*In FY 15 Rutland City Homestead Tax Payments to the State Education Fund net of prebates and rebates, are \$4,864,980.95. FY15 Rutland City Non-Residential Tax payment are \$7,828,335 for total payments into the Educational fund of \$12,693,315.95 toward the cost of educating all Vermont schoolchildren.

In accordance with Rutland City Board of Education Policies, a free appropriate public education for all children with disabilities is guaranteed. If your child is disabled, or you know of a child with a disability from birth through age 21 who is not currently being served, please contact the Support Services Office at 773-1917.

FY 2015 Annual Report

Office of the Treasurer

Wendy L. Wilton, Treasurer

wendydw@rutlandcity.org or 802-773-1800 x231

To The Honorable Board of Aldermen, Mayor and the Citizens of
Rutland City:

I am pleased to report that the financial condition of the City of Rutland is sound for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015. The City maintained its budgetary discipline and had adequate reserves to support the City's operation without borrowing in anticipation of taxes. The City has maintained its levels of unassigned fund balance in the General Fund which is a critical benchmark to assess the strength and stability of the City's finances. Treasurer's Report for FY 2015 as of 9/18/15 (Draft) can be found on the City's website under City Departments, then Treasurer. Interim quarterly financial statements (unaudited) and previous audited financial statements can also be found on the City website. The Board of Aldermen receives a Treasurer's Report monthly after reconciliation.

Unaudited (Draft) statements for June 30, 2015 show the fund balance of the General Fund is \$3.86 million with the unassigned fund balance at \$1.6 million with General Fund cash of \$2.0 million. While the General Fund is stable, the City's Transit Center Fund, which reports the activity associated with the operation of the parking facility owned by the state, is losing money and does not have cash. The Sewage Disposal Fund is also in a negative cash position but this is due to the Northwest Neighborhood Storm Sewer Separation project which will be completed in early FY 2016. As reimbursements are received by the City for the contractor's invoices through the bond we issued for that purpose this will improve that fund. All other City funds have cash at yearend.

The Treasurer's Office continued to place a high priority on delinquent tax and utility collection in FY 2015, and reduced the delinquent tax debt in 2015 over the same period in 2014 for both taxes and water & sewer. The Treasurer's office will continue to focus on collection efforts in FY 2016. Economic pressure has made delinquent tax collection in nearly every community of the state.

A full discussion of the City's financial performance including changes to assets, long term debt, pension obligations and budgetary compliance will be included as part of the annual audit for FY 2015, under Management Discussion and Analysis. The audit opinion has been unqualified since 2011, and the completed audit for FY 2014 was without findings having no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies reported. The FY 2015 audit will be completed on a timely basis to meet state and federal compliance requirements. Audited financial statements will be available on the city website (www.rutlandcity.org) or in hard copy through our office as soon as the audit is completed in early 2016. The City is now in the second year of a three year audit agreement with the current audit firm, Corrette and Associates, PC.

As of November 2014 all new City (municipal) employees will no longer participate in the City's pension plan but instead participate in the state-sponsored Vermont Municipal Employees Retirement System (VMERS).

During the last two years the City has negotiated the transition to VMERS and greater contributions from municipal employees in the current plan in an effort to increase funding in the City's pension plan. However, continued increased contributions and other possible solutions will be required to solve the unfunded liabilities associated with the City's pension plan, especially for the municipal employer.

As of January 1, 2015 the funded status was 72.82% for the pension as a whole, which is a slight improvement over the previous year, with a goal of reaching 80% funded. The School group has achieved 81.65% funded status, whereas the municipal group declined to 59.79%, despite increased contributions in FY 2015 as underfunding from previous periods has not yet been addressed. Investment earnings and pension contributions exceeded benefits paid due to another good year for investments. However, benefits paid to retirees exceeded employer and employee contributed amounts by about \$1.2 million, indicating the need to increase contributions or reduce benefits.

The unfunded liability of the two employers in the plan is \$16.2 million for the municipal employer and \$10.9 million for the School. If changes to funding the system are not made then City taxpayers will be

obligated to fund the shortfalls in the plan. Pension reports are posted on the City's webpage under Treasurer.

It has been my privilege to be your City Treasurer since March 2007. I thank the citizens of Rutland for their support of the Treasurer's Office. I thank the staff in the treasurer's office for a job well done with the thousands of transactions that are processed each month and accomplishing the City's fourth unqualified audit opinion as of FY 2014.

Wendy L. Wilton
City Treasurer
September 2014

| FY 2015 Tax rate approved by the Board of Aldermen on 7/16/2015 | | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------|
| | FY 2015 | FY 2016 | | |
| Total GF Appropriations | \$19,986,413.00 | \$19,983,646.00 | | |
| Estimated Revenues, other | -\$2,602,779.00 | -\$2,668,149.00 | | |
| Estimated Surplus or Deficit | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | | |
| Transfers in | -\$1,533,335.80 | -\$1,649,943.00 | | |
| Net Amount to be raised | \$15,850,298.20 | \$15,665,554.00 | | |
| Grand List | \$10,150,930.52 | \$10,229,330.60 | 411 dated 7/14/15 | |
| <i>Municipal Tax Rate Calculation</i> | | | | |
| City Government Purposes | 1.0040 | 0.9852 | \$10,077,905.00 | |
| County Tax | 0.0072 | 0.0072 | \$73,441.00 | |
| Streets** | 0.3418 | 0.3230 | \$3,303,795.00 | |
| Bonds & Interest | 0.0312 | 0.0310 | \$316,973.00 | |
| Pension | 0.0822 | 0.0716 | \$732,177.00 | |
| Library | 0.0682 | 0.0690 | \$705,768.00 | |
| Equipment Replacement Fund-Rec | 0.0037 | 0.0037 | \$38,000.00 | |
| Equipment Replacement Fund-PD | 0.0056 | 0.0056 | \$57,000.00 | |
| Fire Equipment Fund | 0.0039 | 0.0039 | \$40,000.00 | |
| DPW Equipment Fund | 0.0025 | 0.0024 | \$25,000.00 | |
| Social Agencies (voter approved) | 0.0246 | 0.0289 | \$295,495.00 | |
| Total Tax Rate before exemptions | 1.5749 | 1.5314 | \$15,665,554.00 | |
| Local Agreement Rate (est) | 0.0030 | 0.0032 | \$32,781.79 | |
| (Veteran & special exemptions) | | | | |
| Total Municipal Rate | 1.5779 | 1.5346 | \$15,698,335.79 | |
| <i>Education Tax Calculations:</i> | | | | |
| | FY 2015 | FY 2016 | | |
| Homestead Grand List | \$4,684,922.53 | \$4,540,613.07 | 411 dated 7/14/15 | |
| Homestead Rate | \$1.4476 | \$1.5683 | State | |
| Homestead Amount Raised | \$6,781,893.85 | \$7,121,043.48 | | |
| Non Residential Grand List | \$5,028,991.99 | \$5,191,293.97 | 411 dated 7/14/15 | |
| Non Residential Tax rate | \$1.5847 | \$1.6189 | State | |
| NR Amount Raised | \$7,969,443.61 | \$8,404,185.81 | | |
| Total Education Amount | \$14,751,337.46 | \$15,525,229.29 | 5.25% overall increase | |
| Total Amount to be raised: | \$30,601,635.66 | \$31,223,565.08 | | |
| \$150,000 homestead tax bill: | | | Change | % |
| homestead (education) | \$2,171.40 | \$2,352.45 | \$181.05 | 8.34% |
| municipal | \$2,366.79 | \$2,301.96 | -\$64.83 | -2.74% |
| Total tax | \$4,538.19 | \$4,654.41 | \$116.22 | 2.56% |