

**CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT**  
**Committee of the Whole Minutes**  
**Thursday, June 21, 2016**

Members Present: President Notte, Aldermen Humphrey, Etori, Allaire, Tommola, Bloomer, and Alderwoman Robertson.

President Notte called the meeting to order at 5:48 PM. Alderman Bloomer explained the purpose of his motion at the previous Board of Aldermen meeting that resulted in this Committee of the Whole meeting. The meeting's goals were 1) to solidify a list of topics and/or questions about refugee resettlement we hope to have answered, 2) identify the people or organizations that can answer these questions, and 3) Identify the best way and place to share those answers with the public.

This meeting was the second for the Committee of the Whole on the refugee re-settlement plan. There were numerous members of the public in attendance at this meeting. Some people offered additional questions they wished the aldermen to seek answers for; some questioned the need and purpose of the meeting; others spoke at length about refugee resettlement in general.

Judy Barone spoke several times questioning the purpose of the meeting and instructing the board to refocus our efforts towards a look at the legality of how the refugee resettlement process originated in Rutland. An open letter she later sent to the board is included with these minutes. Members of Rutland First questioned the need to search for answers to many of the questions on the prepared sheet that was made available at the start of the meeting. They stated they already had answers to many of these questions from their own previous research. They offered to supply these questions to the board. They have done so and their answer sheets are included with these minutes.

Eventually 23 additional questions added to the list of questions to be researched and several of the existing questions were expanded upon. After a long, free-ranging meeting during which the committee eventually lost a quorum, it was decided that the chair would follow up on these questions with organizations who were suggested by the mayor as good options for getting answers and with contacts the chair had previously made in information gathering efforts. Any additional information that came in from other sources would also be shared with the Board of Aldermen and the info-request email list people had signed up for at previous meetings. The question sheet that was supplied at the start of this meeting is included with these minutes. Also included is a sheet of answers to 30 of these questions that Alderman Bloomer culled from the larger list and sent to USCRI/VRRP.

These minutes contain no motions and are for informational purposes only.