

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Members present; President Notte, Aldermen Allaire, Humphrey, Robertson, Etori, Tommola, Donahue, Larson, Gides, DePoy, and Davis. Also present, Mayor Louras, Attorney Romeo and Clerk Heck. There were various Department Heads and Officials. There was also a very large contingent of Local firefighters and family members.

President Notte called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

President Notte outlined the process for proceeding with the FY 18 budget meeting and asked Alderman Allaire to start with his Public Safety Committee minutes.

FY 2018 Budget Committee Minutes

Alderman Allaire; Chair, Public Safety Committee, Municipal Budget

Rutland City Fire Department Budget-

Alderman Allaire read his report and noted there were two (2) individual meetings for the fire department. During the first meeting the committee discussed staff levels and reviewed various line items. A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Davis) to cut \$14,400 from line 100-7-22-00-430.003 and instead, to use the Repair & Maintenance Equipment Line. There was brief debate.

Motion passed.

Alderman Allaire continued with his report noting the committee moved into executive session to discuss the proposed staffing changes and associated budget. The committee upon coming out of executive session had unanswered questions and sought additional information and moved to hold another meeting.

On December 12, 2016 the Public Safety Committee met for a second time to discuss the FY 18 Fire Budget. Alderman Allaire briefed the large number of attendees on the process and made and passed the appropriate motions to move into executive session. Upon coming out of executive session the committee heard from several fire officials and sought information from Chief Jones. Alderman Allaire stated the Board has requested a change to the salary line and the Mayor has been sent correspondence about this request. A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Davis) to deny the Fire Budget as presented in the amount of \$3,556,096. There was lengthy debate from both inside and outside the rail. A roll call vote was requested. Upon the completion of debate, Clerk Heck called the roll.

Alderman Allaire	YES
Alderman Humphrey	YES
Alderwoman Robertson	YES
Alderman Etori	YES
Alderman Tommola	YES
Alderman Donahue	YES
Alderman Larson	YES
Alderman Gides	YES
Alderman DePoy	YES
Alderman Davis	YES

10 YES 0 NO Motion passed.

President Notte sought the Board's desire and reviewed a couple options. There was no action or direction from the Board. President Notte sought to continue with the Public Safety Report from Alderman Allaire and moved on to the Police Budget.

Rutland City Police Budget-

Alderman Allaire read his committee report from November 30, 2016. The report included a review of the evenings events and noted the committee spent a fair amount of time discussing staffing levels. The motion out of committee to the full Board was to approve the budget as presented at \$6,089,869 and Alderman Allaire so moved. Alderman Davis seconded for debate. Alderman Allaire then moved to amend his motion to cut two (2) salaried line positions and all associated lines. Alderman Allaire also noted that if Chief Kilcullen has fully staffed the department to 41, the funds necessary for those cut positions would come from the unexpended fund balance. Debate followed. After several Aldermen had spoken, Alderman Larson called the question. A roll call vote was requested for this vote. President Notte asked the Clerk to call the roll.

Alderman Allaire	YES	
Alderman Humphrey	YES	
Alderman Robertson		NO
Alderman Etori		NO
Alderman Tommola	YES	
Alderman Donahue	YES	
Alderman Larson	YES	
Alderman Gides		NO
Alderman DePoy	Not Present	
Alderman Davis	YES	

6 YES 3 NO and Alderman DePoy absent Motion passed.

Mayor Louras questioned, how the Chief, Chair of the Police Commission, Sean Sargeant and he could not speak on the issue. President Notte noted the question had been called. President Notte asked Alderman Allaire to repeat his motion. Alderman Allaire noted his motion was to amend the committee recommended motion and to cut two (2) salaried police position from 41 to 39, as well as all associated cost, but if Chief Kilcullen has fulfilled the staffing level to 41 by July 1, 2017, then those positions would be filled with all associated funds to come from the unassigned fund balance prior to the setting of the tax rate. A roll call vote was requested. President Notte asked the Clerk to call the roll.

Alderman Allaire	YES	
Alderman Humphrey		NO
Alderman Robertson		NO
Alderman Etori		NO
Alderman Tommola	YES	
Alderman Donahue	YES	
Alderman Larson	YES	
Alderman Gides		NO
Alderman DePoy	YES	
Alderman Davis	YES	

6 YES 4 NO Motion passed.

President Notte noted the decision and stated that there would be a pause while those cut numbers and adjusted COLA's were worked out. Mayor Louras then spoke against the vote, noting that Vermont open meeting laws had been violated based that the public never had a chance to speak on the issue and wanted it to be noted on the record. President Notte noted the comments by Mayor Louras and the President took a 15 minute break.

Upon reconvening President Notte received new Police Budget numbers from Treasurer Wilton. Treasurer Wilton noted with all associated numbers adjusted the FY 18 Police Budget was \$5,908,499 a savings of \$181,370. President Notte asked if there was any debate prior to the vote. A roll call vote was requested. Chief Kilcullen spoke about the staffing issues within the department and noted that if he was fully staffed by July he would be able to keep his 41 sworn officers. Mayor Louras then spoke on the issue. There was a fair amount of response to both the Chief's and Mayor's comments. President Notte asked the Clerk to call the roll.

Alderman Allaire	YES	
Alderman Humphrey		NO
Alderman Robertson		NO
Alderman Etori		NO
Alderman Tommola	YES	
Alderman Donahue	YES	
Alderman Larson	YES	
Alderman Gides		NO
Alderman DePoy	YES	
Alderman Davis	YES	

6 YES 4 NO Motion passed.

Alderman Allaire then followed up with the final two parts to his committee meeting and moved on to Parking meter Fund.

Parking Meter Fund-

Alderman Allaire asked the Board to approve the requested budget of \$154,695. The budget was seconded by Alderman Davis. **Motion passed.**

Transfer Out-

Alderman Allaire then asked the Board to approve the Transfer out budget of \$15,000. The request was seconded by Alderman Davis. **Motion passed.**

That concluded Alderman Allaire's Public Safety report. President Notte asked Alderman Donahue to report out his General Committee report.

Alderman Donahue; Chair, General Committee, Municipal Budget

Alderman Donahue read his committee report from December 7, 2016.

Community Development-

Alderman Donahue noted his committee voted to approve the Community Development Budget at \$180,000 and he so moved. Alderman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Legislative Budget-

Alderman Donahue noted his committee voted to approve the Legislative Budget at a 3% COLA not the 5% that was budgeted, and he so moved. Alderman Davis seconded. Treasurer Wilton provided the actual number at \$28,521. **Motion passed.**

Clerk Budget –

Alderman Donahue noted his committee approving the budget at the approved 3% COLA for all associated lines. Alderman Davis seconded. There was brief debate. Clerk Heck provided the adjusted 3% COLA information and stated that the Clerk's Budget after adjustments was \$415,267. **Motion passed.**

Executive Budget –

Alderman Donahue noted the committee tried to reduce the Mayor's salary to \$40,000. That motion was defeated in committee. Alderman Donahue then noted the committee approved as requested with the 3% COLA adjustments and so moved. Alderman Davis seconded. Treasurer Wilton provided the new COLA figures and noted the Executive Budget at \$126,095. **Motion passed.**

Human Resource-

Alderman Donahue noted his committee's recommendation to cut the Safety Officers position and he so moved. Alderman Davis seconded. While Treasurer Wilton worked on the bottom line total, Alderman Allaire questioned the procedure of voting on just the bottom line without voting first on the cut. There was some debate. Treasurer Wilton presented a total budget of \$114,213. Attorney Romeo was asked for his opinion on the procedure. Upon Attorney Romeo's opinion, President Notte asked the Board to vote on the salary line cut for the safety officer. Alderman Etori asked if the total as presented by the Treasurer included all associated cost. (FICA, Pension, Works Comp...ect) Treasurer Wilton stated it did not and recalculated the bottom line. Debate followed about other lines being cut from committee. President Notte called the question to cut the Safety Officer and all associated lines. **Motion passed.** President Notte then stated the Board would vote on the bottom line of the Human Resource budget at \$108,213. Alderman Donahue moved to approve the HR budget at \$108, 213. Alderman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Elections Budget-

Alderman Donahue moved to approve this budget from his committee at \$14,457. Alderman Allaire seconded. **Motion passed.**

Attorney's Budget-

Alderman Donahue read his notes on the Attorney's Budget, noting the committee voted to eliminate the request for an assistant attorney's position and he so moved. Alderman DePoy seconded. Attorney Romeo pleaded with the Board to reconsider his request and to pass his budget as proposed. Debate followed with members of the Board and the City Attorney speaking several times. Upon the completion of the debate, President Notte called for a vote on the motion. Not sure of the result, President Notte called for a show of hands. Six (6) YES and four (4) NO. **Motion passed.**

President Notte called on Alderman Donahue to continue with his report. After hearing from Attorney Romeo and the associated cuts, Alderman Donahue then moved to approve the Attorney's Budget at \$184,967. Alderman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

CAIR Committee –

Alderman Donahue read his committee report where the committee moved to cut the Professional Services Line from \$1,500 to \$500 and he so moved. Alderman Allaire seconded. **Motion passed.** Alderman Donahue then moved to approve the CAIR budget at \$1,000. Alderwoman Robertson seconded. **Motion passed.**

Assessor Budget –

Alderman Donahue read his committee report on the Assessor Budget. The committee moved to approve the budget minus the adjusted COLA and associated cost. The Treasurer gave an adjusted bottom line of \$131,520. President Notte noted the bottom line figure and sought any debate. Seeing none a vote was taken. **Motion passed.**

Building & Zoning Budget –

Alderman Donahue read his report from committee. Building Administrator, Tara Kelly provided COLA increases and associated cost for a new bottom line of \$446,802. Alderman Donahue so moved the new bottom line. Alderman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Government Buildings Budget -

Alderman Donahue read his report and so moved the requested budget of \$401,351. Alderman DePoy offered an amendment to cut \$16,000 for bias training. Motion was seconded (?). Debate followed. A roll call vote was called. President Notte asked the Clerk to call the roll.

Alderman Allaire	YES	
Alderman Humphrey		NO
Alderwoman Robertson		NO
Alderman Etori		NO
Alderman Tommola	YES	
Alderman Donahue	YES	
Alderman Larson	YES	
Alderman Gides		NO
Alderman DePoy	YES	
Alderman Davis		NO

5 YES 5 NO Tie, President Notte voted NO Motion failed.

Alderman Donahue continued. Two further cuts were offered and seconded. The computer & hardware line was reduced by \$3,000, (DePoy, Allaire) and the train station maintenance line was level funded, (Larson, Robertson). **Both Motions passed.** Treasurer Wilton noted an opportunity to cut the electricity line, after some discussion a motion was made and seconded (Etori, Allaire) to cut the electricity line by \$2,000. **Motion passed.** A new bottom line was presented at \$393,751. President Notte called for a vote. **Motion passed.**

Miscellaneous Budget-

Alderman Donahue reported on his last issue in committee. Alderman Donahue noted the committee discussed the proposed \$50,000 budgeted veterans homeless line. A motion was made and seconded (Donahue, Davis) to cut the Program Line-Homeless Vets \$25,000. Debate. Alderman Davis spoke at length about this budgeted line and offered an amendment to further reduce that program line by an additional \$25,000. Alderman Donahue seconded. Debate again was lengthy with several options offered for homeless vets. Upon the completion of debate, and prior to the vote a discussion was had to outline the order of the vote based on the opinion of the City Attorney. A roll call vote was requested. President Notte asked the Clerk to call the roll.

Alderman Allaire	YES	
Alderman Humphrey	YES	
Alderwoman Robertson		NO
Alderman Etori		NO
Alderman Tommola	YES	
Alderman Donahue	YES	
Alderman Larson	YES	
Alderman Gides		NO
Alderman DePoy	YES	
Alderman Davis	YES	

7 YES 3 NO Motion passed.

President Notte noted that the motion to amend passed, but the Board needed to vote on the original motion to reduce, which now was zero (0) dollars budgeted. There was a fair amount of confusion among the Board when Alderman Etori asked to make a motion to set the vet budget at \$10,000 and that motion was seconded by Alderman Gides. There was debate from Alderman DePoy on the Chairs' decision to allow the Etori motion. President Notte noted the concern and stated he was fine with the motion. Alderman Davis challenged the Chair on the ruling and was supported with a second by Alderman Donahue. President Notte sought guidance from Attorney Romeo. The Board took a short break while the attorney researched the request. Upon reconvening, President Notte outlined how a yes/no vote to the challenge would work. The Board heard again from Attorney Romeo on his opinion what a yes/no vote meant. Taking the Vote, President Notte stated he felt his ruling had been overturned and the motion to amend would not take place and asked Alderman Donahue to continue with the contingency portion of the miscellaneous budget.

Alderman Donahue noted his committee's discussion related to the contingency line and reducing it by \$25,000 and he so moved. Alderman DePoy seconded. **Motion passed.** President Notte sought the new bottom line total and was told the budget stood at \$360,538 with all cuts. Alderman Donahue so moved the new bottom line. Alderman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.** This concluded Alderman Donahue's report. President Notte then asked Alderman Etori to give his Finance Committee report.

Alderman Ettori; Chair, Finance Committee, Municipal Budget

Treasurer's Budget-

Alderman Ettori read his committee report from December 13, 2016. Alderman Ettori gave a brief overview of the Treasurer's budget and noted an approval from committee approving the Treasurer's Budget and he so moved. Alderman Davis seconded. Treasurer Wilton provided new COLA information and presented a new bottom line of \$634,232. **Motion passed.**

Transfers Out-

Alderman Ettori then spoke on two issues within this line and noted his committee approved the Employer Contributions Line at \$651,324 and he so moved. Alderman Allaire seconded. Alderman Larson abstained from voting as he is a retired city employee. Alderman Ettori tried to propose a cut to this line by half, but received no second to his motion. President Notte asked if there was any other debate, seeing none the vote was called. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Ettori then noted the Transfer-Out Line and stated the committee approved the \$150,000 budget after some discussion about the voter approved ballot question in March. Alderman Ettori so moved the \$150,000 budget. Alderman Davis seconded debate. Alderman Davis also questioned the vote from March and how it affected this line budget. Attorney Romeo noted the legislature needed to approve the vote prior to it taking effect. **Motion passed.**

This concluded Alderman Ettori's Finance Committee report.

President Notte then called on Alderman Larson to give his Public Works Committee report.

Alderman Larson; Chair, Public Works Committee, Municipal Budget

DPW Admin-

Alderman Larson noted his committee met twice to take up the Public Works Budget. Alderman Larson also stated that the DPW Admin budget was up a little from last year. With all associated COLA lines reduced to the 3% increase the new bottom line of \$1,077,404 was so moved and seconded (Larson, Allaire). There was no debate. **Motion passed.**

Streets Division-Including Winter Maintenance

Alderman Larson started his report and was confused by Commissioner Wennberg's new salary line information because it had increased from the budget meeting. Commissioner Wennberg noted that he had included all to date information on new hires instead of projections. Alderman Larson continued with his report noting several line items for proposed cuts. When a final number was presented, President Notte noted a motion for each individual cut would be needed. A motion was made and seconded (Larson, DePoy) to reduce the paving line from \$600,000 to \$500,000. **Motion passed.** Alderman Larson then moved to set the Pre-cast Concrete Line to \$70,000 a reduction from \$130,000 to \$60,000. Alderman Donahue seconded. **Motion passed.** Alderman Larson then moved to reduce the machinery line to \$30,000. Alderman Davis seconded. There was brief debate. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made and seconded (Larson, Ettori) to cut the budgeted \$140,000 Vehicle line to zero (0). Alderman Larson asked to amend the previous motion upon hearing from the Treasurer about leasing a 5 ton truck and moved to add \$30,000 to the Vehicle line. Alderman Allaire seconded. **Motion passed.** Alderman Larson then moved to approve the Streets Budget at \$2,335,926. **Motion passed**

DPW Traffic & Street Lights-

Alderman Larson read his report from committee on traffic & street lights, noting the committee moved to approve as presented. Alderman Larson so moved the recommendation from committee to approve the Traffic & Streets Budget at \$352,500. **Motion passed.**

DPW Vehicle Maintenance-

Alderman Larson noted the committee approved the budget as presented and moved to approve as recommended. Alderman Allaire seconded. Alderman Larson noted the new bottom line at \$548,404. Alderman Ettori moved to amend the motion and reduce the Electric Line by \$4,000. Alderman Humphrey seconded. There was brief debate. **Motion passed.** President Notte noted the new bottom line was now \$544,404. **Motion passed.**

Stormwater Budget-

Alderman Larson stated his last item from committee was the Stormwater Budget. A motion was made and seconded (Larson, Donahue) to approve as recommended from committee at \$95,438. **Motion passed.**

This concluded Alderman Larson's General Fund portion of Public Works report.

President Notte then asked Alderman DePoy to give his Recreation Committee report.

Alderman DePoy; Chair, Recreation Committee, Municipal Budget

Recreation Admin-

Alderman DePoy read his committee report from December 6, 2016 and reviewed all items to come before his committee. With associated lines adjusted for the 3% COLA, Superintendent Wight quoted a new bottom line of \$536,686. A motion was made and seconded (Robertson, Davis) to level fund the Historical Band Line and cut \$1,000. **Motion passed.** The new bottom line then was \$535,686. **Motion passed.**

Recreation Giorgetti Park-

Alderman DePoy read the recommendation from committee to approve a budget of \$145,809 and he so moved to the full board. Alderman Larson seconded. A motion was made and seconded (Tommola, Davis) to cut \$15,000 for the compressor rebuild from the budget. There was brief debate. **Motion passed.** The new bottom line presented was \$130,809. **Motion passed.**

Recreation Godnick Center-

Alderman DePoy read his committee report recommending a budget as presented at \$26,562 and he so moved. Alderman Allaire seconded. **Motion passed.**

Recreation White Park-

Alderman DePoy read his committees recommendation to approve a budget of \$30,131 and he so moved. Alderman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Recreation Maintenance-

Alderman DePoy read this report and moved the recommendation out of committee to approve the budget at \$986,253. The motion was seconded by Alderman Davis. Debate. A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, DePoy) to cut the Improvements non-building line of \$175,000 to zero (0). Debate followed. **Motion passed.** With that line cut and the COLA reduced to 3% and all associated lines corrected the new bottom line was \$804,606. **Motion passed.**

Recreation Programs-

Alderman DePoy noted the final recreation programs item was approved in committee as presented and he so moved the budget of \$263,370. Alderman Allaire seconded. **Motion passed.**

Rutland Free Library-

Alderman DePoy finished his report by reporting out on the Library Budget and noted that his committee approved the Library Budget as proposed and moved to do so at \$753,914. Alderwoman Robertson seconded. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Donahue) to cut the increase as presented of \$35,853. Debate followed. **Motion passed.** A new bottom line was presented at \$717,061. President Notte called the motion for vote. Unsure, President Notte called for a show of hands. **Motion passed** to fund the library budget at \$717,061.

This concluded Alderman DePoy's Recreation Committee Budget report.

President Notte stated that this concluded the General Fund portion of the budget process. President Notte then stated that the Board still had water and sewer budgets as well as setting the tax rate.

The Board moved to recess for 10 minutes.

Upon reconvening at 10:07 PM, a motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Larson) to extend the BOA meeting past 10:30 PM. **Motion passed.**

President Notte then asked Alderman Larson to present the Water & Sewer & Sewer Fund Budgets & all associated rates and fees.

Alderman Larson; Public Works Committee, WATER & SEWER BUDGET

Water Treatment Budget –

Alderman Larson read his committee report noting the committee approved the budget requested. Alderman Larson then stated with new figures obtained from Commissioner Wennberg he moved to approve the Water Treatment Budget at \$736,373 and so moved. Alderman Allaire seconded. There was brief discussion on the chemicals line, specifically fluoride. A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Donahue) to cut \$10,000 from the chemical line. **Motion failed.** With no other debate, President Notte called for a vote on the original motion. **Motion passed.**

Water Distribution Budget –

Alderman Larson read his report noting this budget was down over \$10,000 from last year. Commissioner Wennberg was asked to explain the slight increase that he has presented for a final number. Commissioner Wennberg noted again it was due to staffing hires and their final associated declarations. A motion was made and seconded (Larson, Allaire) to approve the Water Distribution Budget at \$561,907. **Motion passed.**

Water Meter Budget-

Alderman Larson read his report noting a budget of \$401,217. Again when the bottom line was presented it was slightly higher than the original. Alderman Larson noted the same reason as prior, new staff hiring. A motion was made and seconded (Larson, Davis) to approve the Water Meter Budget at \$401,300. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Larson; Public Works Committee, SEWER FUND

Wastewater Treatment-

Alderman Larson read his report noting the Wastewater Treatment fund was up over \$400,000. Alderman DePoy made an appeal to cut a State required fee, as he had done in prior years. A motion was made and seconded (Larson, Allaire) to approve the Wastewater Treatment budget at \$2,756,321. **Motion passed.**

Wastewater Collection Budget-

Alderman Larson read his report, noting associated COLA reductions. Alderman Larson also noted cuts from committee and moved to cut \$13,000 from line 610.033, pipes & fittings. Alderman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.** Alderman Larson then moved to cut \$12,000 from the concrete and precast line. Alderman Davis seconded. Alderman Larson noted both cuts were associated with the Center Street Alley project. **Motion passed.** Alderman Larson then presented a bottom line total for Wastewater Collection at \$751,476. Alderman Allaire seconded. **Motion passed.**

Pump Stations-

Alderman Larson noted several pumping stations and stated the bottom line for all totaled was, \$56,780 and so moved. Alderman Allaire seconded. **Motion passed.**

President Notte stated that this concluded the Water & Sewer FY 18 Budgets and stated that the board still needed to set water & sewer rates. Commissioner Wennberg noted that the board still needed to approve transfers out for both the water fund and sewer fund.

Transfer Out- Water & Sewer Budget

Commissioner Wennberg provided all of the information, noting five (5) different transfers totaling \$1,049,711. The request was so moved and seconded (Allaire, Davis) to approve the Transfer Out at \$1,049,711. **Motion passed.**

Transfers Out-Wastewater

Commissioner Wennberg again provided all of the information, noting five (5) different transfers totaling \$1,016,013. The request was so moved and seconded (Allaire, Davis) to approve the Transfer Out at \$1,016,013. **Motion passed.**

There was brief discussion on the financing for the Moon Brook litigation before the Board looked to set rates and fees.

There was some discussion between Alderman Larson and Commissioner Wennberg on what was being presented and who was presenting the numbers to the Board.

Alderman Larson asked for the Board to set the following;

City Water Rate to be set at	3.261
Sewer Treatment Rate	4.406
Sewer Maintenance Rate	1.344

Alderman Davis seconded. There was no debate. **Motion passed.**

President Notte noted that this concluded the setting of the water & sewer rates and asked if there was anything for the Board. Treasurer Wilton noted a calculation error with the HR budget and stated the correct number was \$109,713. The Board debated the Treasurer’s total. President Notte sought a motion to reconsider the HR Budget. Aldermen Allaire and DePoy so moved and seconded. **Motion passed.** President Notte than asked for a motion to set the HR Budget at \$109,500. The request was so moved and seconded. **Motion passed.** Treasurer Wilton then questioned the Building & Zoning bottom line. After rechecking the figures there was no action taken

A motion to adjourn was so moved and seconded (Allaire, Davis). **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A. Heck
Rutland City Clerk