

**CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT**  
**Board of Aldermen Minutes**  
**Tuesday, January 17, 2017**

Members present; President Notte, Aldermen Allaire, Humphrey, Robertson, Etori, Tommola, Donahue, Larson, DePoy and Davis. Also present, Attorney Romeo, and City Clerk Heck. Alderman Gides was absent.

**7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING**

President Notte called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (January 3, 2016)**

A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Donahue) to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. **Motion passed.**

**OUTSIDE THE RAIL**

No one spoke from outside the rail.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

***Expense Reimbursement Policy – Mileage Reimbursement***

President Notte introduced the item and sought the Boards' desire. A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Larson) to receive and place on file. There was brief debate. **Motion passed.**

**ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

President Notte asked the Board to add two items. The first, under Unfinished Business, Fire Department Budget and the second, under Reports and Letters from Department Heads, Bond Documents. The request was so moved and seconded (Davis, Robertson). **Motion passed.**

**REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS**

***Treasurer Wilton; Treasurer's Report, Period 6***

Treasurer Wilton gave a review on the City's finances half way through the fiscal period. Treasurer Wilton noted that the City was in good financial condition and she was happy with the direction the delinquencies were heading.

***Treasurer Wilton; Bond Documents***

Treasurer Wilton introduced the request stating that the voters had approved the watermain replacement project in March. Now that the planning had been approved the implementation phase could begin. Treasurer Wilton sought the Boards approval to have the Mayor, Clerk and herself sign the documents as well as the entire Board of Aldermen approving the Bond contract. A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Robertson) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Robertson) approving the aforementioned signature necessary for the bond document and to circulate for the Aldermen to sign. **Motion passed.**

***Assessor Keefe; Requesting Board President's Signature for Appeal Request***

President Notte introduced the request and sought Board action. A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Larson) to suspend the rules and take the request up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Davis) authorizing the Board President to sign the appeal letter as requested by Assessor Keefe. There was brief discussion. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Davis then requested the issue be referred to the Finance Committee for further discussion. Alderman Allaire seconded. **Motion passed.**

***Attorney Romeo; Purchase of Water Garage-62 Pierpoint Ave***

Attorney Romeo introduced the request and gave a brief history of the request to the Board. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Allaire) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Allaire) authorizing the mayor to sign the attached purchase and sales agreement for the purchase of 62 Pierpoint Avenue. **Motion passed.**

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

***Alderman Humphrey; Charter & Ordinance***

Alderman Humphrey read her committee report from January 3, 2017. The committee took up two issues with the first being Municipal Fire Alarm. There were several motions to come from committee on this issue. The first was a motion to accept the list provided by Assessor Keefe, (noting exemptions) to use to assess municipal fire alarm maintenance fees. Alderman Humphrey so moved and Alderman Etori seconded. **Motion passed.**

Next Alderman Humphrey asked for a motion requesting Treasurer Wilton draft a notification letter to all applicable customers indicating the plan to begin billing fees with a ninety (90) day notice. This motion was seconded by Alderman Etori. **Motion passed.**

The third motion to come out of committee was all fees collected shall be placed in the Fire Equipment Replacement Fund, and Alderman Humphrey so moved. Alderman Davis seconded. There was brief debate. Attorney Romeo noted that out of committee the motion was to amend section 4184 (e) adding the sentence, "any fees collected pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited into the Fire Equipment Replacement Fund" and this should be the motion placed before the full board. Alderman Allaire moved to amend the motion by Alderman Humphrey to include the language as presented by Attorney Romeo. Alderman Davis seconded. There was brief debate. **Motion passed to amend the original motion.** President Notte noted the amended motion passed and call for a vote on the original motion as amended. **Original motion passed.**

Alderman Humphrey continued with her report. A motion was made and seconded (Humphrey, Davis) to refer the issue of fire protection contracts, (Isovolta, GE, Tuttle and any other) to Public Safety for review and re-negotiation. **Motion passed.** Alderman Humphrey then noted that the issue of flex line users will remain in committee while Chief Jones reviews and updates that list for the committee.

The final issue discussed that evening dealt with creating a Red Light Avoidance Ordinance. Alderman Humphrey noted that Alderman Gides was absent due to a work related issue, but wanted to be present when this issue was discussed at the full board level. Alderman Humphrey moved to hold this discussion at their January 30<sup>th</sup> meeting. Seeing no objections, the Board moved on.

***Alderman Etori; Finance***

Alderman Etori read his committee report from January 7, 2017. The first issue discussed in committee was the request from Treasurer Wilton to convert NEMRC software on a server to a "cloud" based NEMRC server. The committee and Ernie Saunders, CEO of NEMRC discussed concerns and cost related information. The motion out of committee was to recommend to the full Board the conversion from our current MENRC server to the NEMRC Cloud based operation and Alderman Etori so moved. Alderman Davis seconded. Alderman Larson abstained from voting as

the issue pertained to pension related issues and Alderman Larson is a recipient of the City pension. **Motion passed.**

The second issue discussed in committee was the selection of a Pension Board attorney. Treasurer Wilton explained the results of the RFP and the desire to recommend the firm of Robinson & Cole, LLP. There was debate from the committee on what the expectation would be of the new-hire, their previous experience and the cost of compensation and how it would be paid. The recommendation out of committee (minus Alderman Larson for a conflict) was to approve the selection of Robinson & Cole, LLP as Pension Board Attorney's and Alderman Etori so moved. Alderman Allaire seconded. There was brief debate. Alderman Larson abstained, stating he is a city pension recipient. **Motion passed.**

### ***Alderman Larson; DPW***

Alderman Larson read his committee report from January 10, 2017. The committee met to discuss a request from Commissioner Wennberg to place wording on the March Annual Meeting Ballot, about changing voted approved bond funding for the installation of a water tank in the area of Campbell Road. The committee heard from Mark Youngstrom of Otter Creek Engineering, who presented them with a new design concept he found during the engineering and design phase of the project. The new design would eliminate the tank (a cost savings) and increase the length of replacement pipe, again a need for the city. A motion came out of committee approving a resolution which would be placed on the March 2017 Annual Meeting Day ballot, "Shall up to \$1,700,000 of proceeds of bonds authorized at the March 1, 2016 Annual Meeting of the City of Rutland be expended for the purpose of making water system reliability improvements in the form of water main extensions, replacements and/or a water storage tank?", and Alderman Larson so moved and stated the resolution should be adopted and circulated for signatures. Alderman DePoy seconded. No Debate. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Larson continued with his report noting that Alderman Tommola in committee moved to recommend to the full board the approval of the Declaration of Official Intent of the City of Rutland to reimburse certain expenditures from proceeds of indebtedness, with a signature of the City Clerk. The motion passed in committee and Alderman Larson so moved to the full Board. Alderman Allaire seconded. **Motion passed.**

### **REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES**

There were no Select Committee reports

### **REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES**

#### ***Alderman Etori; RRA Report***

Alderman Etori gave a brief report on the RRA noting the RRA Board discussed TIFT districts and their moving of \$5,000 from their budget to fund this program. Brennan Duffy, Executive Director of the RRA spoke on the issue and further elaborated on the benefits to the City for such a program.

### **PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION**

There were no Petitions, Letters, or Miscellaneous Communications to come before the Board.

### **BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS**

There were no items to come before the Board of Control Commissioners.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### ***Clerk Heck; Set Public Hearing***

Clerk Heck noted he was presented with a letter from Commissioner Wennberg noting the need for a public hearing if the Board approved his earlier request for placing a bond question on the ballot. As part of the requirement for the bond, a public hearing would need to be held. Clerk Heck asked the Board to set that meeting for Monday, March 6, 2017 at 6:45 PM prior to the Board of Aldermen regularly scheduled meeting. The request was so moved and second (Larson, Davis).

**Motion passed.**

***Fire Department Budget;*** added at the beginning of the meeting.

President Notte introduced the added item and asked if anyone had anything to say on the issue. Alderman Davis noted lots of discussion, but no written proposals. Alderman Davis asked to see a written proposal from both Mayor Louras and Chief Jones, to measure and debate how to achieve seven (7) firemen per call. Alderman Davis asked to receive those proposals by January 25, 2107. Alderman Allaire also noted that he would move to adjourn to a time certain at the end of the meeting. There was further discussion prior to Alderman Davis asking about a ruling on a motion for the proposals. Attorney Romeo clarified the previous motion made on the issue and stated that he felt the motion should be acted on. Alderman Davis so moved. Alderman DePoy seconded. **Motion passed.**

## **MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS**

There were no Miscellaneous Motions, Resolutions or New Business to come before the Board.

At 8:46PM, Alderman Allaire moved to adjourn to a time certain of Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at 5:30 PM. The motion was seconded by Alderman Davis. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A. Heck  
Rutland City Clerk