

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Members present; President Davis, Aldermen Reveal, Humphrey, Ryan, Etori, Tommola, Mattis, Gillam, Clifford, and Whitcomb. Also present, Mayor Allaire, Attorney Bloomer and Clerk Heck. There were various Department Heads and Officials. Alderman DePoy was absent

President Davis called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM, and stated that this was a continuance of Monday, January 16th meeting. President Davis noted the Board was present to set the FY21 Budget and highlighted the order that the Board would proceed. President Davis then noted the large group supporting the library and asked to start with their budget first.

FY 2021 Budget Committee Minutes

**Alderman DePoy is the Chair and presided over his committee meeting, but was absent for this meeting and asked his vice-chair, Alderwoman Humphrey to read out his report.

Alderman DePoy; Chair, Recreation Committee, Municipal Budget
Rutland Free Library-

Alderwoman Humphrey read the committee report noting a 1.5% increase in the FY21 request at \$766,518 and Alderwoman Humphrey so moved that request. Alderwoman Mattis seconded. **Motion passed.**

President Davis thanked all of those who came and stated that the Board would move on to its original outline and asked Alderman Etori for his report.

Alderman Etori; Chair, Finance Committee, Municipal Budget
Treasurer's Budget-

Alderman Etori read his committee report from November 13, 2019. The motion out of committee was to approve the Treasurer's Budget at \$635,610 and he so moved. Alderwoman Mattis seconded. Debate followed with Alderman Etori moving to cut \$5,000 from the part-time employee line. Alderman Reveal seconded. There was debate for and against the motion. **Motion passed to cut.** A new bottom line was presented at \$630,610 and Alderman Etori so moved. Alderwoman Ryan seconded. There was brief debate on all associated lines, IE FICA Medicare, etc. It was noted by Alderman Etori to leave those lines as they are. **Motion passed.**

Transfers-Out- PD, Fire, REC & DPW

Alderman Etori noted the annual transfers to these departments totaling \$295,000 and so moved this budget to the full Board. Alderwoman Mattis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Etori then noted the last item in his report was Employer Contributions and so moved the amount of \$841,784. Alderwoman Mattis seconded. Alderman Etori then asked to table this item until the end of the meeting for future discussion. Alderman Whitcomb seconded. There was brief debate. **Motion passed to table.**

Alderman Whitcomb Chair, Public Safety Committee, Municipal Budget
Rutland City Police Department Budget-

Alderman Whitcomb read his committee report noting various department lines and their proposed budgets. Alderman Whitcomb noted that his committee moved to approve the requested budget of \$6,626,410 and he so moved. Alderman Tommola seconded. There was debate on the Over-Time (OT) line with Alderman Tommola moving to cut \$50,000. Alderman Etori seconded. There was

lengthy debate. **Motion failed to cut OT.** The original motion was back on the floor approving the budget at \$6,626,410. **Motion passed.**

Parking Meter Fund-Alderman Whitcomb noted the committee approved the budget at \$188,161 and he so moved that number to the full Board. Alderman Ryan seconded. **Motion passed.**

Rutland City Fire Budget-

Alderman Whitcomb read his report on the fire budget and so moved his committee approved budget of \$3,672,540. Alderwoman Ryan seconded. Debate. Alderman Etori moved to cut \$20,000 from the building maintenance line. Alderwoman Humphrey seconded. Debate followed. **Motion failed to cut.** President Davis noted the original budgeted amount was back on the table. There was no further debate. **Motion passed, Fire Budget was approved as requested (\$3,672,540).**

There was debate on a transfer-out of \$15,000 for admin fees. There was no money listed in that line, so the Board was not able to approve. After discussion with the Boards, Board President and Treasurer Markowski a motion was made and seconded (Mattis, Whitcomb) suspending the rules and taking action on the transfer-out line. **Motion passed.** President Davis noted a motion needed to approve \$15,000 for transfers-out for Administration fees. This request was so moved and seconded (Mattis, Whitcomb). **Motion passed.**

President Davis thanked Alderman Whitcomb for his reports and noted the Board was on to Alderman DePoy and his Recreation Committee. President Davis also noted that Alderman DePoy was out of town and that Alderwoman Humphrey was going to present those budgets as she did for the library budget earlier.

Alderman DePoy; Chair, Recreation Committee, Municipal Budget

Recreation Admin-

Alderwoman Humphrey read the report from December 3, 2019. As noted in committee the proposed budget of \$573,571 was so moved. Alderwoman Ryan seconded. Mayor Allaire did confirm earlier questions from committee members on several benefit budgeted lines. There was no debate. **Motion passed.**

Recreation Giorgetti Park-

Alderwoman Humphrey read the recommendation from committee to approve the Giorgetti Budget at \$110,530 after cutting \$1,500 in the propane line in committee and she so moved. Alderman Mattis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Recreation Godnick Center-

Alderwoman Humphrey read the committee's report recommending a budget of \$15,470 and she so moved. Alderman Ryan seconded. **Motion passed.**

Recreation White Park-

Alderwoman Humphrey read the committee's recommendation to approve a budget of \$127,225 and she so moved. Alderman Mattis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Recreation Maintenance-

Alderwoman Humphrey read this report and moved the recommendation out of committee to approve the budget at \$831,155. The motion was seconded by Alderman Mattis. Alderman Etori moved to cut the part-time line by \$10,000, Alderman Whitcomb seconded. There was brief debate. **Motion failed.** The original budget of \$831,155 was back on the floor. With no further debate, **Motion passed.**

Recreation Programs-

Alderwoman Humphrey noted the recreation programs budget of \$280,387, was approved in committee as presented and she so moved. Alderwoman Mattis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Tommola; Chair, General Committee, Municipal Budget Community Development-

Alderman Tommola noted his committee voted to approve the Community Development Budget at \$194,688 and he so moved. Alderwoman Mattis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Legislative Budget-

Alderman Tommola noted this budget was \$29,956 coming out of committee and he so moved their recommendation. Alderwoman Mattis seconded. Alderman Etori moved to cut the COLA and associated FICA and Medicare lines of \$469. Alderman Tommola seconded. There was some debate. This item was voted and approved until President Davis noted she counted wrong and sought a re-vote. **Motion Failed.** President Davis then noted that the original budget as approved in committee was on the floor. There was no further debate. **Motion passed to approve at \$29,956.**

Clerk Budget –

Alderman Tommola noted the committee approved the Clerk's Budget at \$432,602 and he so moved. Alderwoman Mattis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Executive Budget –

Alderman Tommola moved the approved Executive Budget from committee at \$113,551 to the full Board. Alderwoman Mattis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Human Resource-

Alderman Tommola noted there was a slight increase and stated a budget of \$127,721. Alderman Tommola noted the committee approved the budget and he so moved. Alderwoman Mattis seconded. There was brief debate. **Motion passed.**

Elections Budget-

Alderman Tommola noted the increase and stated it was due to the number of elections in the FY 2021 and moved to approve this budget from his committee at \$31,365 and he so moved. Alderwoman Mattis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Attorney's Budget-

Alderman Tommola then discussed the Attorney's Budget and the debate from his committee. Alderman Tommola presented from committee an Attorney Budget of \$306,100 and he so moved. Alderwoman Mattis seconded. Debate. Alderman Etori moved to cut \$10,000 from the legal services line. Alderwoman Ryan seconded. Debate followed. **Motion Failed.** President Davis noted the original motion to approve at \$306,100 was on the floor. There was no further debate. **Motion passed.**

Assessor Budget –

Alderman Tommola noted his committee approved this budget at \$128,575 and he so moved this number to the full Board. Alderwoman Mattis seconded. Alderman Whitcomb moved to cut the Computer Repair line by \$1,000. Alderman Etori seconded. **Motion passed.** Alderman Etori moved to cut \$1,000 from the Office Supplies Line. Alderman Whitcomb seconded. There was debate. **Motion passed.** President Davis noted a new bottom line of \$126,575 and sought a new maker and seconder. Alderwomen Mattis and Ryan so moved and seconded. **Motion passed.**

Building & Zoning Budget –

Alderman Tommola noted his committee approved this budget at \$479,942 and he so moved that budget to the full Board. Alderwoman Mattis seconded. Alderman Etori moved to cut \$5,000 from the Temporary Employee Line. Alderman Whitcomb seconded. Debate followed. **Motion Failed.**

President Davis noted the original motion to approve at \$479,942 was on the floor. With no further debate, **Motion passed.**

Government Buildings Budget -

Alderman Tommola moved to approve the budget of \$334,055 for Government Buildings after his committee voted and approved removing \$5,000 from the bump-out maintenance line. Alderwoman Mattis seconded. President Davis noted the request and sought a motion to approve the decrease of \$5,000. Alderwoman Mattis and Alderman Gillam so moved and seconded. **Motion passed.** President Davis then noted the budget of \$334,055, which had been so moved and seconded. **Motion passed.**

General Fund Miscellaneous Budget-

Alderman Tommola noted a decrease for this year, and stated his committee approved a budget of \$357,552. Alderwoman Mattis seconded. **Motion passed.**

At 7:03 PM President Davis asked the Board to recess and have their dinner break. The Board recessed for about 30 minutes.

Alderman Clifford; Chair, Public Works Committee, Municipal Budget DPW Admin-

Alderman Clifford read his committee report from December 11, 2019. The DPW Admin line was presented at over \$1.1 Million dollars. During the committee process, several motions were made to cut budgeted lines. First action from the Board was to establish correct VEMERS and City Pension amounts. Commissioner Wennberg was present to report that those lines, VEMERS, \$18,757 and the City Pension, \$44,819 were the correct dollar amounts. President Davis asked for a motion to adjust those corrected figures. The request was so moved and seconded (Gillam, Mattis). **Motion passed.** Alderman Clifford continued with his report noting a motion in committee cutting the Admin Professional Services Line by \$2,500 and he so moved. Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Clifford noted a motion in committee to cut the Admin Training & Professional Development Line by \$4,000, which failed.

Alderman Clifford then noted a motion to cut the Admin Office Supplies Line by \$1,500 which passed and he so moved that motion. Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Clifford then noted a motion in committee to cut overtime line by 50%. That motion failed.

Alderman Clifford then presented the DPW Admin budget at \$1,123,123 before those cuts and he so moved. Alderman Gillam seconded. President Davis then sought a total with cuts made. Treasurer Markowski stated the new total of \$1,116,834.00. Alderman Tommola moved to cut Admin Training & Professional Development Line by \$3,000. Alderman Etori seconded. There was debate. **Motion failed.** President Davis noted the new Admin total was \$1,116,835. Alderman Tommola moved to cut the Admin OT line by \$7,000. Alderman Etori seconded. Debate. **Motion failed.** President Davis noted the total of \$1,116,835, it had been moved and seconded, (Clifford, Gillam). **Motion passed.**

Streets Division-Including Winter Maintenance

Alderman Clifford noted the staffing levels and the request for a new truck. Alderman Clifford noted his committee was presented with a budget of \$2,580,914. In committee Alderwoman Mattis moved to cut \$500 each from the Phone and pagers line and Alderman Clifford so moved. Alderwoman Mattis seconded. **Motion passed.** Alderman Tommola moved to cut \$2,500 from Safety Supplies. Alderwoman seconded. **Motion passed.** Alderman Clifford continued with his report, noting two other motions to cut that failed. Alderman Clifford then noted his committee moved to pass the Street Budget at \$2,580,914 and he so moved. Alderwoman Mattis seconded. Debate. Alderman Tommola asked to cut the truck at \$145,000. Alderman Etori seconded. Debate. **Motion failed.** Alderman Reveal moved to cut \$4,000 from the OT Special Events line. Alderman Tommola seconded. Debate.

Motion passed. President Davis then noted the Budget at \$2,576,914 with that cut. There was no more debate. **Motion passed.** Alderman Clifford continued with his report.

DPW Traffic & Street Lights-

Alderman Clifford presented a motion out of committee, approving the requested budget of \$378,253. Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion passed.**

DPW Vehicle Maintenance-

Alderman Clifford read his committee report noting that Alderman Tommola moved to cut the OT Line by \$2,500 and he so moved. Alderwoman Mattis seconded. Debate. **Motion passed.** Alderman Clifford continued noting a budget of \$605,775 was passed as presented and he so moved. Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion passed.**

Storm Water Budget-

Alderman Clifford noted his committee approved a budget as presented and so moved the request for \$70,906. Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion passed.**

WATER & SEWER

Water Fund- Water Treatment

Alderman Clifford noted DPW Commissioner Wennberg stated that neither the Water Fund nor the Sewer Fund Budgets would see an increase in rates. Alderman Clifford also noted a motion in committee to cut the OT line failed. Alderman Clifford noted that the Water Treatment Budget of \$706,313 passed in committee and he so moved. Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion passed.**

Water Fund- Distribution Budget –

Alderman Clifford read his report noting this budget was essentially unchanged from the prior year. Alderwoman Mattis moved to approve as presented in committee at \$584,585 and Alderman Clifford so moved. Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion passed.**

Water Meter Budget-

Alderman Clifford read his report giving a brief update from Commissioner Wennberg on FATHOM. The motion out of committee was to approve the budget at \$646,544 and he so moved. Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion passed.**

Sewer Wastewater Collection-

Alderman Clifford read, in committee Alderwoman Mattis moved to accept the Waste Water Collections Budget as proposed at \$716,701 and he so moved. Alderwoman Mattis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Sewer Pump Stations-

Alderman Clifford noted that this budget included all pump stations and noted his committee moved to approve \$58,273 as requested and he so moved. Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion passed.**

Sewer Wastewater Treatment-

Alderman Clifford read where Alderwoman Mattis, in committee moved to accept the Wastewater Treatment Budget at \$2,887,195 and he so moved. Alderwoman Mattis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Transfer Out- Water & Sewer Budgets

There was some discussion on these budgets, but no numbers were presented. The Board moved on to discuss the water & sewer rates.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the water & sewer rates as presented. There was brief debate as Commissioner Wennberg noted that the rates are the same as of March of 2018.

President Davis moved on to the Pension discussion. Alderman Etori moved to un-table this item from earlier. Alderwoman Mattis seconded. **Motion passed.** Alderman Etori discussed a flat budget and what

had been cut and what still needed to be cut from the pension to achieve that goal. Alderman Ettori moved to cut \$350,000 from this line. There was no second. **Motion failed.**

President Davis noted the Employer Contribution to the Pension was budgeted at \$841,784 and sought a motion to approve. The request was so moved and seconded (Mattis, Tommola). Debate. Alderman Ettori moved to cut this line by \$200,000. Alderwoman Ryan seconded. Debate followed. **Motion failed.**

President Davis stated the Employer Contribution budget was \$841,784 and called the question. **Motion passed.** A total of \$22,054,008 was presented as the total General Fund Budget. There was brief debate. There was brief discussion on approving the transfers. A roll call vote was requested on the total General Fund Budget. President Davis asked the Clerk to call the roll.

Alderman Reveal	YES	
Alderwoman Humphrey	YES	
Alderwoman Ryan	YES	
Alderman Ettori		NO
Alderman Tommola		NO
Alderwoman Mattis	YES	
Alderman Gillam Jr.	YES	
Alderman Clifford	YES	
Alderman DePoy	ABSENT	
Alderman Whitcomb	YES	

Seven (7) YES, two (2) NO **Motion passed.**

President Davis requested totals for the transfers-out. Treasurer Markowski provided both, noting the Water Fund Transfers-out total was \$1,342,286. That total was so moved and seconded (Mattis, Ettori) **Motion passed.**

Treasurer Markowski noted the Sewer Fund Transfers-out total at \$1,441,076. That total was so moved and seconded (Ettori, Mattis). **Motion passed.**

At 8:32 PM a motion was made and seconded (Ettori, Reveal) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A. Heck
Rutland City Clerk