

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, December 14, 2020
(UN-OFFICIAL)

FY 2022 Budget Committee Minutes

Members present; President Whitcomb, Aldermen Gorruso, Humphrey, Ryan, Ettori, Talbott, Mattis, Gillam, Clifford, DePoy and Davis. Also present, Mayor Allaire, Attorney Bloomer, City Clerk Heck and all Department Heads.

President Whitcomb called the adjourned meeting back to order at 5:30 PM and asked Mayor Allaire if he wanted to speak on the decrease in health care cost. Mayor Allaire noted the reduction and the memo that went out explaining each decrease.

President Whitcomb then asked Alderwoman Davis to report out on the Public Safety Committee budgets.

Alderwoman Davis Chair, Public Safety Committee, Municipal Budget
Rutland City Police Department Budget- 100-7-20

Alderwoman Davis read her committee report from November 30, 2020 noting her committee met to discuss the related FY 22 budget items referred to committee. Alderwoman Davis started with the Police budget and noted several increases due to health care and union contracts. Alderwoman Davis noted a motion out of committee to decrease the fulltime line of 39 positions to 38 positions with all related lines reduced the same. Alderwoman Ryan seconded. There was brief debate.

Alderman Gillam tried to comment, but his video connection froze. There was debate from the President and City Attorney on how to proceed. President Whitcomb called for a vote without Alderman Gillam present. Motion passed to eliminate one position from the Police Department, unanimously, **Motion passed. (Alderman Gillam did not vote on this motion)**

Alderwoman Davis continued with her report noting related cost saving related to the reduction in personal and associated health care reductions. Alderwoman Davis then noted a new Police budget of \$6,814,556.39 and noted it was decreased by \$94,969.81 and she so moved. Alderwoman Ryan seconded. There was no debate and Alderman Gillam was back on line. **Motion passed.**

Parking Meter Fund Account 620-7-21

Alderwoman Read her report and noted that the original budget out of committee was \$180,283.54. With the health insurance decrease Alderwoman moved to approve the new budget of \$179,293.68 and she so moved. Alderman DePoy seconded. There was no debate. **Motion passed.**

Rutland City Fire Budget-100-7-22

Alderwoman Davis read her report noting several lines that had increased, health care (HC) and salaries and also noted several lines that were decreased to try and off-set the increased lines, renovations to the kitchen and related maintenance. Alderwoman Davis noted the original budget out of committee of \$3,967,235 had been reduced to \$3,953,995.83 after the 2% reduction in health care costs and so moved that budget. Alderman Depoy seconded. **Motion passed.**

President Whitcomb thanked Alderwoman Davis and her committee and asked Alderman DePoy to present his Recreation committee report.

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

Alderman DePoy noted his Recreation Committee met to discuss the related FY 22 budgeted items and presented the library budget. Alderman DePoy noted associated items within the budget and noted the motion out of committee was to approve the Library Budget at \$766,518 and he so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderman DePoy then moved on to the Recreation Budget.

Alderman DePoy; Chair, Recreation Committee, Municipal Budget
Recreation Admin-

Alderman DePoy noted a decrease in the staffing level and noted that that position would not be filled for the FY 22. Alderman Depoy also noted the motion out of committee was to approve the budget of

\$524,419 and he so moved. Alderman DePoy then noted the decrease in health care (HC) of \$1953.00 and then moved the new total of \$522,476. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Recreation Giorgetti Park-

Alderman DePoy noted this budget was down \$11,294.00 from last year and reviewed some of those decreased lines. Alderman DePoy also noted that there were no related health care (HC) reductions and moved the motion out of committee approving the FY 22 budget at \$99,236.00. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Recreation Godnick Center-

Alderman DePoy noted a request for Godnick Center at \$15,390.00 out of committee and so moved that budget. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Recreation White Park-

Alderman DePoy read his report on White's Park noting the budget was down about two thousand dollars. The motion out of committee was to approve the requested budget of \$125,425.00. Alderman DePoy noted there were no health care (HC) reductions and so moved that request. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Recreation Maintenance-

Alderman Depoy read his report from the Maintenance Department. Alderman DePoy noted the department was short one retiree and that position will not be filled at this time. Alderman DePoy noted HC increases and noted the motion out of committee was to approve the requested amount. Alderman DePoy then noted with the 2% reduction to HC the new requested budget was \$826,493.00 and he so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Recreation Programs-

Alderman DePoy then noted programs as the last item in the recreation budget and reported that the motion out of committee was to approve the request of \$296,187.00 as there were no HC related reductions and he so moved that budget. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Recreation Community Center-CSJ

Alderman DePoy noted the short history of the Community Center and noted the request out of committee was to approve the \$148,000.00 as there were no related HC reductions and he so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderwoman Humphrey; Chair, General Committee, Municipal Budget

The General Committee met to discuss FY22 General Committee budgets. Alderwoman Humphrey opened the meeting with general discussion regarding increase in health insurance premiums as highlighted in the 11/24/2020 memo and materials provided by HR Director Jody Breault. Ms. Breault summarized the City's process with their broker and discussion with City employees, particularly unions. She also noted that the premium increase was not COVID related. The city had significant high cost claims this year, 18 in total. Employees received \$3.2M in claims benefit vs \$2.6M premium paid. BCBS rates/premiums are reflective of calendar year 2021 costs. Alderwoman Humphrey noted after the brief health care (HC) review the committee reviewed each budget.

100-7-10 Community Development

This represents the RRA contract that includes annual 4% increase. The motion out of committee was to approve the recommended \$202,475 budget and she so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

100-7-11 Legislative

Alderwoman Humphrey noted this was the BOA stipends with a 1.5% COLA. The motion out of committee was to approve the \$30,401 budget and she so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

100-7-12 Clerk

Alderwoman Humphrey noted the staff in the Clerk's Office includes 4 FT employees. Two (2) non-union at 1.5% COLA and 2 union with a .73 cent increase for salaries. The recommendation from committee was to approve the budget of \$457,423.92 and Alderwoman Humphrey noted with the 2% decrease in health care (HC) the bottom line was \$455,747.52 and she so moved. Alderman DePoy seconded. **Motion passed.**

100-7-13-00 Executive

Alderwoman Humphrey noted this was the Mayor's Budget that also included a 1.5% COLA. Alderwoman Humphrey noted the recommendation from committee was to approve the budget of

\$112,617.55 and with the 2% decrease in health cost (HC) the new bottom line is \$112,427.63 and she so moved. Alderman DePoy seconded. There was brief debate. **Motion passed.**

100-7-13-50 Human Resources

Alderwoman Humphrey noted additions to the bottom line, including salary a 1.56% increase and a cell phone was added out of necessity for COVID accessibility. Alderwoman Humphrey noted the approved budget out of committee was for \$135,064.31, but noted with the 2% decrease in HC the new bottom line was \$134,475.56 and she so moved. Alderman Clifford seconded. **Motion passed.**

100-7-14 Elections

Alderwoman Humphrey noted that this budget reflected a single election and moved to recommend the budget of \$10,410 out of committee. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

100-7-16 Attorney

Alderwoman Humphrey noted the salary increase of 1.56% and a \$9,000 savings in a new law subscription. The committee recommended to approve the \$305,598 budget and with the decrease to HC, Alderwoman Humphrey moved the new bottom line of \$305,054.56 to the full Board. Alderman Clifford seconded. **Motion passed.**

100-7-16-01 CAIR Committee

Alderwoman Humphrey noted this budget was level funded and moved to recommend the \$500 for approval. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

100-7-17-00 Assessor

Alderwoman Humphrey noted a 7.5% decrease in the salary line do to a new assessor being elected. Alderwoman Humphrey also noted other savings related to the new hiring of this position. The recommendation from committee was to approve a budget of \$121,737.86 and with the 2% decrease in HC cost, Alderwoman Humphrey moved a new budget of \$121,359.98 to the full Board. Alderman Talbott seconded. **Motion passed.**

100-7-18 Building & Zoning

Alderwoman Humphrey noted the four (4) full time employees: 2 non-union with 1.5% COLA and 2 were union with contractual increase. Alderwoman Humphrey noted the temp employee line had been removed at a saving of over \$18,000. The motion out of committee was to approve the budget at \$469,378.74 and with the decrease of 2% to the HC line, Alderwoman Humphrey moved a new bottom line of \$467,973.92 to the full Board. Alderman Talbott seconded. **Motion passed.**

100-7-19 Government Buildings

Alderwoman Humphrey noted a recommendation out of committee approving the budget at \$328,640 and moved that budget to the full Board. **Motion passed.**

100-7-80-00 General Fund Misc.

Alderwoman Humphrey noted the Mayor removed \$25k from contingency for budget relief, this is a 20% reduction to this budget. It was also noted the FY21 was \$125k budgeted with some removed at tax rate setting for COVID relief. The motion out of committee was to approve the budget of \$333,552.00 and Alderwoman Humphrey so move. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Etori; Chair, Finance Committee, Municipal Budget **Treasurer's Budget-100-7-15**

Alderman Etori noted a brief review of the six (6) employees within the Treasurer's Office and that Treasurer Markowski tried to keep cost down to off-set the increase in HC. The Motion out of committee was to approve the Treasurer's Budget of \$664,587.00 and Alderman Etori noted with the 2% decrease in HC the bottom line was \$661,485.74 and he so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Transfers-Out-100-7-99

Alderman Etori noted the motion out of committee was to approve this budget at \$295,000 and he so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Employer Contributions 100-7-97

Alderman Etori noted this was the employer pension contribution. The motion out of committee was to approve the budget of \$550,969 and he so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Transfers Out (Parking Fund) 100-7-99

Alderman Etori noted budget was approved in committee at \$15,000 and he so moved this budget to the full Board. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Clifford; Chair, Public Works Committee, Municipal Budget DPW Admin-100-7-30-10

Alderman Clifford reported on his Public Works Committee FY22 Budget meeting from December 9, 2020 noting that Commissioner Wennberg opened the meeting stating that the budget remained level funded except for contracted salary increases and health care (HC) cost. Alderman Clifford noted an approved budget out of committee of \$1,171,120.07 and then noted with the 2% decrease to HC, a new bottom line of \$1,167,620.28 and he so moved that total to the full Board. Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion passed.**

Streets Division-Including Winter Maintenance 100-7-30-20

Alderman Clifford reported out that this budget was discussed with the recommended changes by the Mayor at the start of the meeting, decrease the paving line. The committee voted to approve the Streets Budget at \$2,422,311.29. Alderman Clifford noted with the 2% decrease to the HC line the new bottom line for Streets Division, was \$2,417,574.24 and he so moved this total to the full Board. Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion passed.**

DPW Traffic & Street Lights-100-7-30-40

Commissioner Wennberg noted this budget was up slightly from the current year because the City was unable to hire an in house electrician and had to contract out those services. The motion out of committee was to approve the Traffic & Street Lights budget at \$389,500 and Alderman Clifford so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

DPW Vehicle Maintenance-100-7-30-50

Commissioner Wennberg noted this budget was level funded except for the contracted salaries and HC increases. Alderman Clifford reported the motion out of committee was to approve the proposed budget of \$606,546.21. Alderman Clifford then noted the 2% decrease in HC and presented a new bottom line of \$605,270.46 and he so moved. Alderman Depoy seconded. **Motion passed.**

At this point Alderman Clifford noted his committee adjourned to the next night to take up the rest of the Public Works FY22 budget.

At the beginning of this meeting Mayor Allaire spoke on a 2% decrease from Blue Cross Blue Shield that was just presented to the City that day. (As noted during this reporting as HC). When Mayor Allaire finished Alderman Clifford moved on to Wastewater Collection.

Wastewater Collection-610-7-31-00

Alderman Clifford noted the Mayor spoke on the health care reduction and Commissioner Wennberg noted a mainly level funded budget. Alderman Clifford noted a motion out of committee to approve this budget at \$727,869.24 and he so moved. Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion passed.**

At this point Clerk Heck asked President Whitcomb to pause the meeting. It was noted that one section of Alderman Clifford's earlier report was not reported out, Storm Water. Alderman Clifford then moved to report out this budget.

Storm Water Budget-100-7-30-60

Alderman Clifford noted Commissioner Wennberg spoke on budgeted lines that have been regularly underspent, but noted they should remain because of the Moon Brook Settlement Agreement. Alderman Clifford noted a motion out of committee approving the budget at \$70,894.00 and he so moved. Alderman DePoy seconded. **Motion passed.**

Wastewater Treatment-610-7-33-00

Alderman Clifford noted a new health care (HC) total from Mayor Allaire and Commissioner Wennberg spoke on salary and HC increases as well as savings in sludge disposal. Alderman Clifford noted his committee approved a budget of \$2,838,838.44 and he so moved. Alderman Gillam seconded. Alderman Gorruso needed clarification and asked several questions. **Motion passed.**

Pumping Stations-610-7-31-17

Alderman Clifford noted there was no real change to this budget and noted the recommendation from his committee was to approve the budget at \$61,570.00 and he so moved. **Motion passed.**

Water Treatment-600-7-32-00

Alderman Clifford noted the HC reduction presented by Mayor Allaire and reductions associated with the chemicals line. Alderman Clifford noted a motion out of committee approving the budget at 680,520.36 and he so moved. Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion passed.**

Water Meter-600-7-36-00

Alderman Clifford noted an adjusted HC line from Mayor Allaire as well as nearly an \$100,000 reduction to the budget thanks to the AMI Meter replacement project. The motion out of committee was to approve the budget at \$545,291.52 and he so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Water Distribution-600-7-34-00

Alderman Clifford reported a reduced HC line and no other significant changes to this budget. The motion out of committee was to approve the budget at \$603,187.40 and he so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Clifford finished his report with Commissioner Wennberg addressing rate study calculations and rate impact table. Alderman Clifford noted a letter from Jack Crowther on eliminating funding for fluoride in City water.

There was brief debate on the next item of transfers out. Treasurer Markowski provided that information listed below.

Transfers Out – Water Fund-600-7-99

Admin Treasurer's	\$198,446
Admin DPW	\$389,219
Admin Attorney	\$38,132
Vehicle Maintenance_	\$151,325

Total Transfers Out Water Fund **\$777,122**

Alderman DePoy so moved these transfers. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Transfers Out – Sewer Fund-610-7-99

Admin Treasurer's	\$198,446
Admin DPW	\$389,219
Admin Attorney	\$38,132
Vehicle Maintenance_	\$151,325
SAS & Meter	\$212,793

Total Transfers Out Sewer Fund **\$989,915**

Alderwoman Davis so moved these Transfers. Alderman Gillam Seconded. **Motion passed.**

Commissioner Wennberg than asked the Board if they would like to set the Water & Sewer Rates. There was debate. Alderman Gorruso moved to table the setting of Water & Sewer rates until December 12, 2020 at their regularly scheduled BOA meeting. Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion passed.**

There was debate on the total budget as approved. Treasurer Markowski noted the budget at \$22,202,608.67. Debate. Alderwoman Davis so moved that total. Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion passed.**

At 7:05 PM a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A. Heck
Rutland City Clerk