

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Thursday, December 15, 2022

FY 2024 Budget Committee Minutes

Members present; President Doenges; Aldermen Cupoli, Franco, Savage, Barbagallo, Talbott, Tadio, Whitcomb, Gillam, DePoy and Davis.

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

Mayor Allaire opened the meeting noting as he stated earlier in the committee meetings that there will be some adjustments to workers comp lines.

Alderman DePoy; Chair, Recreation Committee, Municipal Budget

Rutland Free Library-

Alderman DePoy read his committee meeting minutes from November 10, 2022. Alderman DePoy noted his committee moved to recommend to the full Board, approving the Rutland Library budget at 820,941.00 and he so moved. Alderman Whitcomb seconded. There was no debate. **Motion passed.**

Alderman DePoy; Chair, Recreation Committee, Municipal Budget

Alderman DePoy continued with the Recreation budget and moved on to each line

Recreation Admin- Alderman DePoy briefed the Board briefly on the committee discussion, noting a slight increase. Alderman DePoy stated that the committee moved to recommend the Recreation Admin Budget at \$608,192.00 and he so moved. Alderwoman Savage seconded. There was no debate. **Motion passed.**

Recreation Giorgetti Park-

Alderman DePoy noted the Giorgetti Park budget was down 2.6% from last year and the recommendation from committee was to approve at \$85,205.00 and he so moved. Alderwoman Tadio seconded. There was no debate. **Motion passed.**

Recreation Godnick Center-

Alderman DePoy noted a slight increase in fuel oil and so moved his committee's recommendation approving the Godnick Center budget at \$15,877 and he so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. No debate. **Motion passed.**

Recreation White Park-

Alderman DePoy noted an 3.1% increase due to chemicals and his committee recommends to the Board a budget at \$134,620.00 and he so moved. Alderwoman Savage seconded. No Debate. **Motion passed.**

Community Center-

Alderman DePoy noted the slight increase do to hard cost and noted the recommendation from his committee approving the Community Center Budget at \$189,125.00 and he so moved. Alderwoman Tadio seconded. No debate. **Motion passed.**

Recreation Maintenance-

Alderman DePoy noted a slight decrease in this line and moved the recommendation from his committee approving the Rec Maintenance Budget at \$795,798.00 and he so moved. Alderman Cupoli seconded. No debate. **Motion passed.**

Recreation Programs-

Alderman DePoy noted an increase in the salary line as a result of increase programs needing more staff. Alderman DePoy stated the recommendation out of committee was to approve the programs line at \$309,440 and he so moved. Alderwoman Tadio seconded. No debate. **Motion passed.**

Alderman DePoy then noted a total budget for the Recreation Department at \$2,138,257.00 and he so moved this total to the full Board. Alderwoman Tadio seconded. **Motion passed.**

President Doenges thanked Alderman DePoy and his committee and asked Alderman Whitcomb to present his Finance Committee report.

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

Alderman Whitcomb noted his committee met on November 29, 2022 to review the Treasurer's Budget and assorted transfers. Alderman Whitcomb noted the first item taken was to add the Pension Budget to the agenda/meeting. Alderman Whitcomb then noted after brief discussion the committee moved to approve the Treasurer's Budget at \$685,453.42 and he so moved. Alderwoman Savage seconded. No debate. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Whitcomb then noted the committee approving the Pension Payment as requested by Treasurer Markowski at \$1,003,983.30 and he so moved. Alderman Barbagallo seconded. No Debate. **Motion passed.**

Transfers-Out- PD, Fire, REC & DPW

Alderman Whitcomb noted the recommendation from committee approving the Transfers Out at \$295,000 and he so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. No debate. **Motion passed.**

This concluded Alderman Whitcomb's report. President Doenges thanked him and his committee and moved on to the General Committee report from Alderman Franco. Alderman Franco noted that he was ill for that meeting and phoned in, but Alderwoman Savage chaired the meeting and she was going to report out the committee recommendations.

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

Alderwoman Savage read her committee report from November 2, 2022. Alderwoman Savage noted the committee met to discuss the Departments falling under the General Committee FY24 budgets.

Alderwoman Savage noted Mayor Allaire was present to present the request for Community Development (RRA) in the Amount of \$218,996.96. Alderwoman Savage noted little debate and the committee recommends the RRA budget at \$218,996.96 and she so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. No debate. **Motion passed.**

Legislative Budget-

Alderwoman Savage noted a slight increase and stated the committee recommends the Legislative budget as presented in the amount of \$31,651.35 and she so moved. Alderman Barbagallo seconded. No debate. **Motion passed.**

Clerk Budget –

Alderwoman Savage noted small increase to hard lines, salaries, healthcare, FICA, ect. The recommendation from committee was to approve as presented in the amount of \$477,618.00 and she so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. No debate. **Motion passed.**

Executive Budget –

Alderwoman Savage noted small increase to hard lines, salaries, healthcare, FICA, ect. The recommendation from committee was to approve as presented in the amount of \$116,206.74 and she so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Human Resource-

Alderwoman Savage noted small increase to hard lines, salaries, healthcare, FICA, ect. The recommendation from committee was to approve as presented in the amount of \$119,096.37 and she so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. No debate. **Motion passed.**

Elections Budget-

Alderwoman Savage noted a decrease and presented the committee's recommendation as presented in the amount of \$12,175.00 and she so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. No debate. **Motion passed.**

Attorney's Budget-

Alderwoman Savage noted a decrease in the Attorney's budget noting the removal of the second attorney salary line. The motion from committee was to approve the Attorney's Budget as presented in the amount of \$293,711.53 and she so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. There was brief debate as to the \$500.00 CARE budget. The motion was amended to include the CARE budget, (Gillam, Davis) **Motion passed.** President Doenges then noted the total Attorney Budget, including CARE at \$293,711.53. **Motion passed.**

Assessor Budget –

Alderwoman Savage noted small increase to hard lines, salaries, healthcare, FICA ect. The recommendation from committee was to approve as presented in the amount of \$145,288.98 and she so moved. Alderman Talbott seconded. No debate. **Motion passed.**

Building & Zoning Budget –

Alderwoman Savage noted small increase to hard lines, salaries, healthcare, FICA ect. The recommendation from committee was to approve as presented in the amount of \$600,412.00 and she so moved. Alderman Talbott seconded. No debate. **Motion passed.**

Government Buildings Budget –

Alderwoman Savage noted the slight increase to this budget and Mayor Allaire stated in committee that it was do to I.T. items. The motion from committee was to recommend the Government Buildings Budget as presented in the amount of \$444,252.00 and she so moved. Alderman DePoy seconded. No debate. **Motion passed.**

General Fund Miscellaneous Budget-

Alderwoman Savage noted the General Fund Miscellaneous Budget and stated the recommendation from committee was to approve as presented in the amount of \$332,229.00 and she so moved. Alderman DePoy seconded. No debate. **Motion passed.**

This concluded Alderwoman Savages General Committee report.
President Doenges asked Alderwoman Davis to present the Public Safety Budget.

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

Alderwoman Davis noted her committee met November 28, 2022 to discuss the FY24 budget for the police department. Alderwoman Davis noted an increase of just over \$36,000 for the FY 24 budget. Alderwoman Davis reviewed those increases and outlined the police lines. Alderwoman Davis noted the recommendation from committee approving the police budget as presented in the amount of \$6,401,109.84 and she so moved. Alderman DePoy seconded. Debate. Mayor Allaire noted a decrease in the workers comp line and presented that total. Treasurer Markowski gave updated totals and noted the new police budget total of \$6,384,295.84. Alderwoman Davis so moved that total. Alderman DePoy seconded. Debate. Alderman DePoy noted a point of order and questioned the details of motions presented questioning if the new total needed to be voted on. Debate. President Doenges then noted the Police Budget as amended at \$6,384,295.84. Alderwoman Davis so moved that total. Alderman DePoy seconded. **Motion passed.**

Parking Meter Fund-

Alderwoman Davis gave a brief review of this line item as it was down from last year and noted the motion from committee was to approve as presented in the amount of \$131,630.44 and she so moved. Alderman Talbott seconded. Debate. Treasurer Markowski noted the transfer line of \$15,000. Debate. President Doenges called for a vote of the \$131,630.44. **Motion passed.** Then Alderwoman Davis moved to transfer out \$15,000 from that budget. Alderman DePoy seconded. **Motion passed.**

Rutland City Fire Budget-

Alderwoman Davis noted her committee also discussed that evening the Fire Budget and presented details of this request. The motion from committee was to recommend the Fire Budget as presented in the amount of \$4,189,043.51 and she so moved. Alderwoman Savage seconded. Debate. Mayor Allaire and Treasurer Markowski presented new workers comp figures. Mayor Allaire noted a decrease and stated the new workers comp figure at \$302,456.00 Alderwoman Davis moved to amend that request in the workers comp line. Treasurer Markowski presented the new total at \$4,080,159.51. Alderwoman Davis moved to approve that new total. Alderman Gillam seconded. Debate on motions presented. President Doenges restated that motion to approve the new total as amended of the Fire Budget at \$4,080,159.51. **Motion passed.**

Alderwoman thanked the firemen for all they do especially within the fire house. President Doenges then called to approve the Fire Budget at \$4,080,159.51. **Motion passed.**

There was brief discussion on talking a quick dinner break as pizza had arrived. President Doenges recessed the Board at 6:15 PM. The Board reconvened at 6:35 PM.

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

Alderman Gillam read his committee report from December 7, 2022 noting the committee met to discuss the FY 24 Budget for DPW and setting of water & sewer rates. Alderman Gillam reviewed associated lines noting hardcost increases resulting in a higher budget.

Alderman Gillam noted a motion from committee recommending to approve the DPW Admin line at \$1,122,392.00 and he so moved. Alderman DePoy seconded. Debate. Worker Comp question was asked, noting there was no adjustment to the line. Alderwoman Davis noted that this amount presented was \$6,211.00 less than the Mayor Allaire's original budget. A motion was requested, moved and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to amend the DPW Admin line. **Motion passed.** President Doenges then called for the original motion approving the DPW Admin Line at \$1,122,392.00. **Motion passed.**

Streets Division-Including Winter Maintenance

Alderman Gillam read the Streets Division line recommending to approve the amount at \$2,554,457.00 noting an increase of \$68,000 from last year. Alderwoman Davis noted that this amount was up \$37,819 from the Mayor's original presented budget. President Doenges sought input from Attorney Bloomer on increasing the budget. Mayor Allaire noted that this will happen throughout the DPW budget. Debate. The Board noted it would approve each increase as presented. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to increase the Mayor's original presented budget an additional \$37,819.00. Debate. **Motion passed.** The Board then heard about the decrease on Worker Comp by \$6,197.00. Clerk Heck sought information from the Board on the presentation of numbers as he was confused by motions presented. Commissioner Rotondo presented his explanation for the increases as corrections to the Mayor's budget. The Board & Attorney discussed how budget numbers should be presented moving forward. A motion was presented to amend (Davis, DePoy) the workers comp line, decreasing it by \$6,197.00. **Motion passed.** President Doenges then called the Streets Division line at \$2,548,259.80. **Motion passed.**

President Doenges sought a motion on how the Board will proceed moving forward with the DPW Budget as far as process, how the numbers will be presented. (DePoy, Talbott) **Motion passed.**

Alderman Gillam continued with his report.

DPW Traffic & Street Lights-

Alderman Gillam noted the recommendation from committee was to approve as presented the DPW Traffic & Street Lights budget at \$573,000 and he so moved. Alderwoman Tadio seconded. No debate. **Motion passed.**

DPW Vehicle Maintenance-

Alderman Gillam noted the recommendation from committee was to approve as presented the DPW Vehicle Maintenance budget at \$745,926 and he so moved. Alderman Talbott seconded. No debate. **Motion passed.** Alderman Gillam questioned the workers comp line. There seemed to be mixed information as Treasurer Markowski noted a slight decrease of \$1,744.30. A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Savage) to amend the workers comp line by \$1,744.30. **Motion passed.** President Doenges then noted the new total at \$744,181.70. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Talbott) approving the Vehicle Maintenance line at \$744,181.70. **Motion passed.**

Storm Water Budget-

Alderman Gillam noted the recommendation from committee was to approve the Storm Water Budget as presented in the amount of \$74,500.00 and he so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

WATER & SEWER

Water Fund- Water Treatment

Alderman Gillam noted the Water Treatment budget was up 2.28% and stated the recommendation from committee was to approve the budget at \$719,646.00. Alderman DePoy seconded. Debate. There was discussion on a reduction in propane. President Doenges noted the motion and called for a vote. **Motion passed.** The Board then sought a reduction to the propane line in the amount of \$15,200.00. Alderman Gillam so moved the request. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.** An amendment was offered to reduce the workers comp line by \$715.00. Alderwoman Davis so moved. Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion passed.** President Doenges then presented the new total for the water treatment budget at \$703,731.00. Alderwoman Davis so moved the total. Alderman DePoy seconded. **Motion passed.**

Water Fund- Distribution Budget –

Alderman Gillam noted the recommendation from committee to approve the distribution budget at \$689,587.00 and he so moved. Alderwoman Savage seconded. Debate. Treasurer Markowski noted there was an increase from the Mayor's original budget of \$76,438.00. A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Savage) approving the \$76,438.00 increase. No debate. **Motion passed.** Treasurer Markowski noted a reduction in the workers comp line of \$1,845.00. A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Davis) reducing the workers comp line by \$1,845.00 **Motion passed.** Treasurer Markowski noted the new Distribution Budget total of \$687,742.00, President Doenges sought a motion and the request was so moved and seconded, (DePoy, Savage). **Motion passed.**

Water Meter Budget-

Alderman Gillam presented the water meter budget from committee in the amount of \$392,011.00 and he so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. Debate. Treasurer Markowski noted an increase of \$70.00 from the original presented budget. A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Davis) approving the \$70.00 correction. **Motion passed.** Treasurer Markowski then noted a decrease in workers comp line of \$421.00. A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Savage) decreasing the workers comp line by \$421.00. **Motion passed.** The new total presented was \$391,590. The request was so moved and seconded (DePoy, Savage) **Motion passed.**

Water Debt Service & Payout-

Alderman Gillam reported a motion from committee approving the debt service & payout line in the amount of \$435,233.00 and he so moved. Alderman DePoy seconded. **Motion passed.**

Sewer Wastewater Collection-

Alderman Gillam noted a motion from committee approving the sewer wastewater collection budget at \$823,480.00 and he so moved. Alderman DePoy seconded. It was noted that this budget was as presented with no increase. Treasurer Markowski noted that the workers comp line had a reduction of \$3,550.76. This reduction was so moved and seconded (Gillam, Savage) **Motion passed.** Alderman Gillam also noted a reduction in the propane line by \$2,275.00 and he so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.** President Doenges then noted the total budget reduction and stated a new bottom line for Wastewater Collection at \$817,654.24. Alderman Gillam so moved that total. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Sewer Pump Stations-

Alderman Gillam noted the next line was a culmination of all pump stations. Alderman Gillam listed all pump stations, nine (9) in total, totaling \$68,270.00 and he so moved. Alderman DePoy seconded. **Motion passed.** There were no reductions or corrections to these lines.

Sewer Wastewater Treatment-

Alderman Gillam noted a 17% increase to the Wastewater Treatment Budget and presented the motion from his committee approving the budget at \$3,418,539.00 an increase of \$55,986.00 from the original budget presented by Mayor Allaire. Alderwoman Savage seconded. A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Savage) approving the increase of \$55,986.00. **Motion passed.** Treasurer Markowski noted a decrease to the workers comp line decrease of \$6,823.74. This number was so moved and seconded (Gillam, Davis). **Motion passed.** Treasurer Markowski presented the new total for Wastewater Treatment at \$3,411,715.26, Alderwoman Davis so moved the total. Alderman DePoy seconded. **Motion passed.**

Sewer Debt Service & Payout

Alderman Gillam noted a motion from committee approving the debt service & payout line in the amount of \$950,775 and he so moved. Alderman DePoy seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Gillam noted a motion from Alderman DePoy referring septage and sledge rates to the Public Works Committee and he so moved. Alderman DePoy seconded. **Motion passed.**

Water & Sewer Rates were then going to be presented by Commissioner Rotondo. First the Board took up transfers out.

Transfer Out- Water & Sewer Budgets

Assistant Treasurer Holmquist was present to present transfer out budgets for both the water & sewer lines.

Transfers-Out Water

Admin Treasurer	\$206,636.00
Admin DPW	\$374,131.00
Admin Attorney	\$ 36,652.00
Vehicle Maintenance	\$186,046.00

Transfers-Out Sewer

Admin Treasurer	\$206,636.00
Admin DPW	\$374,131.00
Admin Attorney	\$ 36,652.00
Vehicle Maintenance	\$186,046.00
FAS & Meter	\$198,764.00

All lines reported were so moved and seconded (Davis, Depoy) **Motion passed.**

This concluded the FY24 budget reporting. President Doenges sought totals for the Water & Sewer Budgets

Assistant Treasurer Holmquist noted the Water Budget at \$3,021,196.00 and the Sewer Budget at \$6,250,078.50. The Board moved & seconded each budget (Gillam, Davis) individually and each, **Motion passed.**

Alderman Gillam noted his committee briefly discussed setting rates and he sought a suspension of the rules to take this issue up that evening. Alderman DePoy seconded. **Motion passed.** President Doenges sought a 10 minutes recess prior to Commissioner Rotondo's presentation.

Commissioner Rotondo and Business Manager Gail Gorruso provided the Board with handouts and options for setting water & sewer rates. Commissioner Rotondo briefed the Board on his recommendation for setting rates. Commissioner Rotondo noted various scenarios and recommended scenario #1 which had a decrease in the Water Rate of 7.87% an increase of 16.36% for Sewer and a 1.37% increase for Sewer Maintenance. Commissioner Rotondo presented expenses for a 2 & 4 family in regards to usage and noted again scenario #1 was the best option.

Alderman Gillam asked if a motion could be placed for discussion. President Doenges approved. Alderman Gillam then moved to set the Water Rate at .02693 the Sewer Rate at .05417 and the Sewer Maintenance Rate at .01848. Alderwoman Davis seconded. Debate. There was a question on how the bond would affect the rates. With no further discussion, President Doenges called the question, **Motion passed.**

A final budget figure was presented at \$23,261,061.50 an increase of 2.35% over FY23, this figure was so moved and seconded (Davis, Barbagallo) Motion passed.

At 7:54 PM a motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A. Heck
Rutland City Clerk