

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Thursday, July 16, 2020
Setting of FY 2021 Tax Rate

Members present; President Whitcomb, Aldermen Gorruso, Humphrey, *Ryan, Etori, Talbott, Mattis, Gillam, Clifford *DePoy and Davis, Also present; Mayor Allaire, Attorney Bloomer and City Clerk Heck. Alderwoman Ryan left the phone/video conference call at 5:58 PM. Alderman DePoy joined the phone/video conference call at 5:56 PM.

5:30 PM CONTINUED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

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

President Whitcomb noted that he and the Clerk were able to take attendance and asked Treasurer Markowski to present her information that she had sent to the Board earlier. Treasurer Markowski discussed a desire to reduce the amount of funds in the unassigned fund balance and to return those funds to the tax payers. Treasurer Markowski also talked about funds that were to be rolled over such as (Bridge/Sidewalk) to possibly use those funds for tax payer relief. Treasurer Markowski noted that the State Education Rate was not available. During part of the review various questions were presented by the Board. A majority of the meeting dealt with Commissioner Wennberg and Mayor Allaire discussing cuts and the effects of those cuts. The Board discussed the recent numbers on the Grand List and noted some concern with the \$14 Million in requested tax appeals this year.

Treasurer Markowski noted last year that the Board had set aside \$133,516 for tax payer relief and asked the Board to relinquish that assignment. The request was so moved and seconded (Davis, Etori) **Motion passed.**

Treasurer Markowski continued with her report and sought approval from the Board to roll back into bridge and sidewalk accounts unexpended amounts, \$50,881 into bridge and \$28,753 back into sidewalk accounts. The request was so moved and seconded (Gorruso, Davis). Lengthy debate followed. Most of the debate revolved around taking the rollover of bridge and sidewalk funds and giving it back to the tax payers to help reduce the tax rate. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Etori) to amend the motion, leaving the \$28,753.85 to be rolled back into the sidewalk fund and to transfer the \$50,881 being roll backed into the bridge fund and return it to the General Fund for tax payer relief. Debate. It was noted that a roll call vote was requested. President Whitcomb asked the Clerk to call the roll.

Alderman Clifford	YES	
Alderman Gorruso	YES	
Alderman Talbott		NO
Alderman Etori		NO
Alderman DePoy	YES	
Alderwoman Davis	YES	
Alderwoman Mattis	YES	
Alderwoman Humphrey		NO
Alderman Gillam	YES	

Alderwoman Ryan had left the meeting.

Clerk Heck noted the vote, six (6) YES and three (3) NO. **Motion passed.**

Treasurer Markowski noted adjustments and stated that the new municipal rate of 1.7676. There was so debate as the last day to set the tax rate. There was brief debate on what happens if the school rate was not available by the 20th. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Etori) to set the municipal tax rate at 1.7676. Debate followed with concerns of setting this rate without the “whole picture”. Mayor Allaire noted that the Board could reconsider the question at its meeting on Monday. **Motion passed.**

At 6:35 PM a motion was made to adjourn and birthday wishes sent to Alderwoman Mattis. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A Heck
Rutland City Clerk

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