

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Thursday, December 14, 2023

FY 2025 Budget Committee Minutes

Members present; President Talbott; Aldermen Cupoli, Hooker, Savage, Barbagallo, Adams, Tadio, McCann, Gillam, McClure, and Davis. Also in attendance Mayor Doenges, Treasurer Markowski, Superintendent Peters, Chief Lovett, Chief Kilcullen, Commissioner Protivansky, Administrator Strniste, Assessor Langlois, Lynne Holmquist, Attorney LaChance, Ed Bove, and Clerk Kapusta.

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

Mayor Doenges opened the meeting with a brief statement.

Alderman Davis; Chair Public Safety Committee, Municipal Budget
Rutland City Fire Budget

Alderman Davis read the committee report for Public Safety that met on November 28, 2023, and discussed the Fire Budget and presented details of this request. The motion from the committee was to recommend the Fire Budget as presented in the amount of \$4,204,191.43 and she so moved. Alderman Adams seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Davis made a motion to refer to Charter and Ordinance alarm costs; as the cost has gone up about thirty percent (30%) to the City. Seconded by Alderman McCann. **Motion passed.**

Parking Meter Fund

Alderman Davis read the motion from the Public Safety Committee for the Parking Meter Fund to approve as presented in the amount of \$85,850.00 and she so moved. Alderman Cupoli seconded. Debate. Treasurer Markowski noted the transfer line of \$15,000. President Talbott called for a vote with the new amount of \$100,850.00. **Motion passed.**

President Talbott moved the Police Department budget to the end of the meeting noting the possible need for an executive session.

Alderman Davis; Chair Finance Committee, Municipal Budget
Treasurer's Budget

Alderman Davis read the committee report for the Finance Committee which met on November 16, 2023, to review the Treasurer's Budget and assorted transfers. Alderman Davis noted the committee moved to approve the Treasurer's Budget at \$690,445.89 and she so moved. Alderman Cupoli seconded. **Motion passed.**

Pension

Alderman Davis read the committee report approving the Pension Payment as requested by Treasurer Markowski at \$1,034,671.08 and she so moved. Alderman Cupoli seconded. **Motion passed.**

Transfers-Out- PD, Fire, REC & DPW

Alderman Davis read the recommendation from committee approving the Transfers Out at \$295,000 and she so moved. Alderman Barbagallo seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderwoman Tadio; Chair General Committee, Municipal Budget

Community Development

Alderwoman Tadio read her General Committee report from November 30, 2023. Alderwoman Tadio noted the committee met to discuss the Departments falling under the General Committee FY25 budgets. Alderwoman Tadio noted the request for Community Development (RRA) in the amount of \$265,000.00 and she so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. Debate. **Motion failed.** Alderwoman Tadio noted a new motion was to approve the Community Development (RRA) in the amount of \$240,000.00 and she so moved. Seconded by Alderman Gillam. **Motion passed.**

Legislative Budget

Alderwoman Tadio read the committee recommends the Legislative budget as presented in the amount of \$31,651.35 and she so moved. Alderwoman McClure seconded. **Motion passed.**

Clerk Budget

Alderwoman Tadio read the recommendation from committee was to approve as presented in the amount of \$506,847.00 and she so moved. Alderman Barbagallo seconded. **Motion passed.**

Executive Budget

Alderwoman Tadio read the recommendation from committee was to approve as presented in the amount of \$229,478.61 and she so moved. Alderman McCann seconded. There was a debate to re-consider the Mayor's assistant and remove from the budget. Alderwoman Davis called for a rollcall vote.

Alderwoman Hooker – Yes
Alderman Barbagallo – Yes
Alderwoman Savage – Yes
Alderman Cupoli – No
Alderman McCann – Yes
Alderwoman Tadio – Yes
Alderman Adams – Yes
Alderman Gillam – No
Alderwoman McClure – Yes
Alderwoman Davis – No

Motion passed with Seven (7) yes votes and three (3) no votes.

Human Resource

Alderwoman Tadio read the recommendation from committee was to approve as presented in the amount of \$114,221.65 and she so moved. Alderwoman McClure seconded. **Motion passed.**

Elections Budget

Alderwoman Tadio read the recommendation from committee was to approve as presented in the amount of \$31,200.00 and she so moved. Alderwoman McClure seconded. **Motion passed.**

Attorney's Budget

Alderwoman Tadio read the recommendation from committee was to approve the Attorney's Budget as presented in the amount of \$291,225.55 and she so moved. Alderwoman Savage seconded. **Motion passed.**

Assessor Budget

Alderwoman Tadio read the recommendation from committee was to approve as presented in the amount of \$185,645.00 and she so moved. Alderwoman McClure seconded. **Motion passed.**

Building & Zoning Budget

Alderwoman Tadio read the recommendation from committee was to approve as presented in the amount of \$719,828.66 and she so moved. Alderwoman McClure seconded. **Motion passed.**

Government Buildings Budget

Alderwoman Tadio read the recommendation from committee was to approve as presented in the amount of \$544,960.00 and she so moved. Alderwoman McClure seconded. **Motion passed.**

General Fund Miscellaneous Budget-

Alderwoman Tadio read the recommendation from committee to approve as presented in the amount of \$343,279.00 and she so moved. Alderwoman Savage seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Gillam; Chair, Recreation Committee, Municipal Budget

Recreation Admin

Alderman Gillam read the report for the Recreation committee and moved to recommend the Recreation Admin Budget at \$627,999.00 and he so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Rutland Free Library

Alderman Gillam read the committee moved to recommend to the full Board, approving the Rutland Library budget at 853,778.64 and he so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Recreation Giorgetti Park

Alderman Gillam read the recommendation from committee was to approve at \$104,411.00 and he so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Recreation Godnick Center

Alderman Gillam read the recommendation approving the Godnick Center budget at \$16,102.00 and he so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. No debate. **Motion passed.**

Recreation White Park

Alderman Gillam recommendation is to approve from committee the budget in the amount of \$149,025.00 and he so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Community Center

Alderman Gillam read from the committee report a line item decrease of \$5,000.00 for Building and Maintenance and he so moved. Seconded by Alderwoman Davis. **Motion passed.** Alderman Gillam read a line item decrease of \$500.00 for Building Supplies and he so moved. Seconded by Alderwoman Davis. **Motion passed.** Alderman Gillam read the final recommendation from committee was to approve the Community Center Budget at \$196,750.00 and he so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Recreation Maintenance

Alderman Gillam read from the report a line item decrease of \$1,000.00 to Building Supplies and he so moved. Seconded by Alderman Cupoli. **Motion passed.** Alderman Gillam read the final recommendation from committee was to approve the Recreation Maintenance budget for \$979,850.00 and he so moved. Seconded by Alderman Cupoli. **Motion passed.**

Recreation Programs

Alderman Gillam read the recommendation from committee was to approve the budget for the programs line at \$482,237.00 and he so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Gillam then read the total budget for the Recreation Department at \$2,556,374.00 and he so moved this total to the full Board. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Gillam read the recommendation from committee for Recreation and the Library was approved for \$3,410,152.64 and he so moved. Seconded by Alderwoman Davis. **Motion passed.**

President Talbott called for a recess at 6:35 PM.

President Talbott called the meeting back to order at 6:53 PM.

Alderman Gillam; Chair Public Works Committee, Municipal Budget

DPW Admin

Alderman Gillam read his committee report from December 6, 2023, noting the committee met to discuss the FY 25 Budget for DPW.

Alderman Gillam read a motion from committee recommending cutting \$70,000.00 from the Vehicles (Shared) line item and he so moved. Seconded by Alderwoman McClure. **Motion passed.** Alderman Gillam read a motion from committee recommending the total DPW Admin budget was approved for \$1,230,724.00 and he so moved. Seconded by Alderman Cupoli. **Motion passed.**

Streets Division

Alderman Gillam read the Streets Division line recommending approving the decrease of \$12,000 from Equipment Rental to \$3,000.00 and he so moved. Seconded by Alderwoman Davis. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Gillam then moved to remove the Paving Contracts line to zero and he so moved. Seconded by Alderman Barbagallo. **Motion passed.** Alderman Gillam noted that moving the \$400,000.00 from the Paving Contracts line is considered infrastructure funding, which qualifies to move the item to the 1% Option Tax, and he so moved. Seconded by Alderman Adams. **Motion passed.** Alderman Gillam then moved the Concrete and Precast line item to Zero and he so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded the motion. **Motion passed.** Alderman Gillam made a motion to move the Concrete and Precast line item of \$86,000.00 to the 1% Option Tax. Seconded by Alderman McCann. **Motion passed.** Alderman Gillam moved to decrease the Vehicles line to \$200,000 and he so moved. Seconded by Alderwoman Davis. **Motion failed.** A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Tadio) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** Alderman Gillam made a motion to reduce the Vehicles line to \$60,000.00. So moved by Alderwoman Davis. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Gillam read the recommendation from committee for the DPW Streets line at \$2,315,135.00 and he so moved. Seconded by Alderwoman Davis. **Motion passed.**

DPW Traffic & Street Lights

Alderman Gillam read the recommendation from committee to reduce Pavement Marking line item to zero and he so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Davis) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** Alderman Gillam then noted the Pavement Marking line item will be moved to the 1% Option Tax and he so moved. Seconded by Alderwoman Davis. **Motion passed.** Alderman Gillam noted the recommendation from committee was to approve the DPW Traffic & Street Lights budget at \$423,000 and he so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

DPW Vehicle Maintenance

Alderman Gillam read the recommendation from committee to approve the budget as presented at \$792,567.00 and he so moved. Seconded by Alderman Barbagallo. **Motion passed.**

Storm Water Budget

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

Alderman Gillam read the recommendation from committee for the total DPW budget at \$4,835,926.00 and he so moved. Seconded by Alderwoman Davis. **Motion passed.**

Alderwoman Davis stated that the Police Department Budget should be next to finish up the General Fund before moving on.

Alderwoman Davis; Chair Public Safety Committee, Municipal Budget

Rutland City Police Department Budget

Alderwoman Davis read her committee met November 28, 2023, to discuss the FY25 budget for the police department. Alderwoman Davis read there is a increase of salaries by \$1,031,120.17 for the FY25 budget. Alderwoman Davis noted the recommendation from committee approving the police budget as presented in the amount of \$7,389,483.88 and she so moved. Alderman Cupoli seconded. Debate was mostly around the increase of salaries. Treasurer Markowski noted the updated total, which includes the purchase of tasers at \$7,464,483.88. Alderwoman Davis moved the amended motion with that total. Alderwoman McClure seconded. **Motion passed.**

President Talbott asked Treasurer Markowski for the General Fund Budget which was noted at \$25,178,207.74. Alderwoman Davis asked what the increase is from last year's budget and Treasurer Markowski stated \$1,865,719.17. Alderwoman Davis asked the Board if there were any reconsiderations from what has been approved before voting on the total General Fund Budget.

Alderwoman McClure made a motion to reconsider the Recreation program costs which was approved at \$110,000.00. Seconded by Alderman Adams. Much debate followed. **Motion failed.**

Assessor Langlois offered to reduce her part-time position in the Assessor's budget salary line from twenty (20) hours to ten (10) hours which makes a new Assessor Budget of \$173,430.60. Alderwoman Davis moved that motion and Alderwoman Tadio seconded. **Motion passed.**

Treasurer Markowski noted in the General Fund Annual Audit line, she would like to reduce the amount by \$5,000 for a total of that line item at \$101,750.00. So moved by Alderwoman Tadio and Alderwoman Davis. **Motion passed.**

Mayor Doenges stated that he would forfeit his COLA for FY25, which will reduce executive salaries to \$184,050.00. So moved by Alderwoman Davis and seconded by Alderwoman McClure. **Motion passed.**

Attorney LaChance stated that she would forfeit her COLA for FY25, which will reduce salaries in the Attorney's budget to \$141,137.58 and the new total for the Attorney's budget is \$287,625.55. So moved by Alderwoman Tadio and seconded by Alderwoman Davis. **Motion passed.**

President Talbott gave the updated total for the Executive Office budget at \$224,978.61. So moved by Alderwoman Tadio and seconded by Alderwoman McClure. **Motion passed.**

President Talbott gave the updated total for the General Fund Miscellaneous line to \$343,279.00. So moved by Alderwoman Tadio and seconded by Alderwoman Davis. **Motion passed.**

Administrator Strniste would like to reduce two (2) items. The first is to Professional Services by reducing the line item to \$500.00. So moved by Alderwoman Tadio and seconded by Alderwoman McClure. **Motion passed.** Administrator Strniste's second item to reduce is the Machine and Equipment line item by \$2,000.00. So moved by Alderwoman Tadio and seconded by Alderman Adams. **Motion passed.** President Talbott gave the updated total for Building and Zoning budget at \$707,328.66. So moved by Alderwoman Davis and seconded by Alderwoman McClure. **Motion passed.**

Superintendent Peters stated she would forfeit her COLA for FY25 of \$3,957.62. So moved by Alderwoman Davis and seconded by Alderwoman McClure. **Motion passed.** The new salary line for Recreation Admin is \$382,862.37. So moved by Alderwoman Davis and seconded by Alderwoman McClure. **Motion passed.** President Talbott stated the new Recreation Admin total budget at \$624,041.37. So moved by Alderwoman Davis and seconded by Alderwoman McClure. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (McClure, Davis) to reduce the program cost line for Recreation by \$8,000.00, with a new total of \$102,000.00. **Motion passed.** President Talbott stated the new recreation total program costs budget at \$474,237.00. So moved by Alderman Adams and seconded by Alderwoman McClure. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Gillam; Chair Public Works Committee, Municipal Budget

Water Fund- Water Treatment

Alderman Gillam read the recommendation from committee was to approve the budget at \$770,766.00 and he so moved. Alderwoman Savage seconded. **Motion passed.**

Water Fund- Distribution Budget

Alderman Gillam read the recommendation from committee to approve the distribution budget at \$725,422.00 and he so moved. Alderwoman Tadio seconded. **Motion passed.**

Water Meter Budget

Alderman Gillam presented the Water Meter budget from committee in the amount of \$413,929.00 and he so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Gillam read the recommendation from committee for the Water Fund budget at \$1,910,117.00 and he so moved. Seconded by Alderwoman Davis. **Motion passed.**

Water Debt Service & Payout

Alderman Gillam reported a motion from committee approving the debt service & payout line in the amount of \$354,147.32, interest payments in the amount of \$80,761.14, for a total debt service at \$434,908.46 and he so moved. Alderman Cupoli seconded. **Motion passed.**

Transfers Out-Water Fund Budget

Alderman Gillam presented the transfers out for the Water Fund.

Transfers-Out Water Fund

Admin Treasurer	\$207,133.77
Admin DPW	\$410,200.31
Admin Attorney	\$ 35,953.19
Vehicle Maintenance	<u>\$198,141.75</u>
Total:	\$851,429.02

All lines reported were so moved and seconded (Gillam, McClure) **Motion passed.**

Alderman Gillam noted the Water Fund Budget at \$3,196,454.48 and he so moved. Seconded by Alderwoman Davis. **Motion passed.**

Wastewater Collection

Alderman Gillam read a motion from committee approving the Wastewater Collection budget at \$876,950.00 and he so moved. Alderman Adams seconded. **Motion passed.**

Pump Stations-River Street, Grove Street, Dorr Drive, Clement Road, Belden Road, Northeast Drive, Laverne Drive, Sherwood Road, and West Street

Alderman Gillam read the next line was a culmination of all pump stations. Alderman Gillam listed all pump stations, nine (9) in total, totaling \$75,700.00 and he so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded.

Motion passed.

Wastewater Treatment

Alderman Gillam read the CSO Monitoring line recommending approving the decrease to \$6,200.00 and he so moved. Seconded by Alderman Adams. **Motion passed.** Alderman Gillam then moved to line-item Machine and Equipment at \$60,000.00 and he so moved. Seconded by Alderwoman Davis. **Motion passed.** Alderman Gillam noted the total for the Wastewater Treatment Budget at \$3,512,921.00 and he so moved. Seconded by Alderman Adams. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Gillam noted the total Wastewater Fund at \$4,465,571.00 and he so moved. Seconded by Alderwoman Davis. **Motion passed.**

Wastewater Debt Service & Payout

Alderman Gillam read a motion from committee approving the debt service lines in the amount of \$760,178.56, interest payments lines in the amount of \$156,290.56, for a total of \$9,016,469.12 and he so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Transfers Out- Wastewater Budgets

Alderman Gillam presented the transfers out budgets for Wastewater lines.

Transfers-Out Wastewater

Admin Treasurer	\$207,133.77
Admin DPW	\$410,200.31
Admin Attorney	\$35,953.19
Vehicle Maintenance	\$198,141.75
Meters	\$200,803.00
Total:	\$1,052,232.02

All lines reported were so moved and seconded (Gillam, Hooker) **Motion passed.**

Alderman Gillam noted the total for the Wastewater Fund at \$6,434,272.14 and he so moved. Seconded by Alderman Adams. **Motion passed.**

President Talbott noted this concluded the FY25 budget reporting and water and wastewater (sewer) rates would be discussed at Monday's Board of Aldermen meeting on December 18, 2023.

The final budget figure is \$25,128,435.70.

At 8:52 PM a motion was made and seconded (Adams, McClure) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy L. Kapusta
Rutland City Clerk