

**Board of Aldermen Minutes**  
**City of Rutland**  
**Monday, March 2, 2026**

Members present: Acting Mayor Allaire, Aldermen Talbott, Davis, Cupoli, McClure, Donahue, Adams, Whitcomb, Clifford, Gillam. and Tadio. Also, present Treasurer Markowski, and City Clerk Kapusta.

**7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING**

Clerk Kapusta called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and started with the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Clerk Kapusta gave an announcement about the election tomorrow and how the winner of the Mayoral race would be announced.

Clerk Kapusta sought nominations for Board President. A motion was made and seconded (Clifford, Talbott) to nominate Tom Donahue to serve as Board President over tonight's meeting. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to close the nominations. Motion passed. Clerk Kapusta then called for the vote of Tom Donahue for Board President. Motion passed.

President Donahue took his seat and then took a moment to thank DPW, the Water Department, the Street Department, Wastewater Treatment, Wastewater Collections, and the Engineering Office for all their efforts to fix a water main break over the weekend. President Donahue also thanked the Rutland Police Department for traffic control.

**ADDITIONS, DELETIONS OR OTHER MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA**

President Donahue asked if there were any additions, deletions or other modifications to the agenda. Alderman Talbott's report was moved up the agenda after Communications from the Mayor. So moved by Alderwoman Davis and Alderman Talbott. Alderman Talbott added Chief Prouty's contract to the agenda. So moved by Alderwoman Davis and Alderman Adams. Motion passed.

**AMENDMENT AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S) (February 17, 2026)**

A motion was made and seconded (Clifford, Cupoli) approving the minutes of the previous meeting. President Donahue asked if there were any changes. There were no other changes or modifications. Motion passed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Zachary Pratt, North Street Extension spoke about three things: Write-ins, Budget, and housing.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

Interim Mayor Allaire asked that the Board un-table the nomination of Morgan Via for the Rutland City Planning Commission Board. A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Tadio) to un-table the nomination of Morgan Via for the Rutland City Planning Commission Board. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Davis) to circulate the ballot box. Motion passed.

President Donahue read the results of the vote and Morgan Via was confirmed by a vote of ten yes and zero no votes.

Acting Mayor Allaire asked to have Chief Prouty's contract referred to the Committee of the Whole and have the contract sent to Attorney Bloomer and ask that he also attend the committee meeting when scheduled. Alderman Gillam asked that the committee meeting be done before the next BOA meeting. So moved by Alderwoman Davis and seconded by Alderman Gillam. Motion passed.

## **CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT REQUESTS**

### ***Homeless Prevention Center: Spring Sprockets & Walk-It's at Pine Hill Park, Saturday, May 2, 2026, 10AM-2PM***

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Adams) to approve the Homeless Prevention Center's Spring Sprockets & Walk It's at Pine Hill Park on Saturday, May 2, 2026, from 10AM to 2PM. Motion passed.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

### ***Alderman Talbott: General Committee Meeting February 24, 2026***

Alderman Talbott read the General Committee report from February 24, 2026. The General Committee met to consider a proposed resolution regarding federal immigration enforcement activities. The draft resolution was based on language from the Mayor's recent executive statement and Vermont House Resolution H.R. 12.

The meeting included extensive public comment emphasizing the importance of speaking out on issues affecting residents' safety and sense of security. Several speakers referenced Rutland's prior Declaration of Inclusion and other statements affirming the City's welcoming character. All recognized the purely symbolic nature of the resolution.

A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Tadio) to recommend that the full Board of Aldermen adopt the resolution. Motion passed. Alderman Adams and Alderman Cupoli voted no.

## **REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS**

### ***Commissioner Protivansky: Tom Harte Street Division Foreman***

Commissioner Protivansky and Alderman Clifford congratulated Tom Harte on his retirement. A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Davis) to have the next President of the Board of Aldermen send Tom Harte a note on his retirement. Motion passed.

### ***Director Coyle: RFP Recommendations for Sourcing Candidates for City Attorney***

Director Coyle introduced the request and recommendation to accept the RFP from Gallagher and Flynn. A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, McClure) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Davis) to accept the RFP from Gallagher and Flynn. Motion passed.

Director Coyle said that there has been difficulty with recruiting a City Attorney as the position is appointed. Director Coyle asked for a motion to refer the issue to the Charter and Ordinance committee. So moved by Alderman Talbott and seconded by Alderwoman Tadio. Motion passed.

### ***Sean Adkins, RRA: LIFT Grant; Joanna Gould, Water Willow Collective LLC, 69 Allen Street Suite 3***

A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Talbott) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Talbott) approving a LIFT Grant to Joanna Gould, Water Willow Collective, Ltd for up to \$10,000 of the total eligible expenses associated with the renovation and construction at 69 Allen Street, Suite 3. Motion passed.

### ***Treasurer Markowski: Report of city debt schedule as of 12/31/2025 & Post Issuance Compliance***

Treasurer Markowski gave a report of long-term debt and bond post issuance compliance. Bond post issuance compliance involves ongoing monitoring of tax-exempt bonds to ensure compliance with IRS regulations. The Treasurer's office maintains the required records and completes the annual compliance reports. The required post issuance compliance reports have been completed and filed with the VMBB as of February 27, 2026. This was for information only.

***Treasurer Markowski: Municipal Internal Control Checklist, request BOA review & sign off***

Treasurer Markowski introduced the municipal checklist for internal control FY25-26. The checklist requires sign-off by the Chairman of the Board of Aldermen. A motion was made and seconded (Whitcomb, Talbott) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Whitcomb, Talbott) to authorize the Board Chair to sign the municipal checklist for internal controls. Motion passed.

**REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES**

***Alderman Clifford: Intermunicipal Committee Meeting from February 12, 2026***

Alderman Clifford read the Intermunicipal committee report from February 12, 2026. The topic of the meeting was to discuss a collaboration with Rutland Town regarding the 250-year celebration of our country. Judi Delpha of Fireworks over Rutland indicated that their goal was to raise \$30,000 for fireworks of which all but \$10,000 has been raised so far. Acting Mayor Allaire stated that Rutland City committed \$1,000 for the Fireworks from contingency and Rutland Town would do the same. There was discussion around events, music, and food for the event. This was for information only.

**REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES**

There were no Reports of Representatives.

**PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION**

There were no Petitions, Letters, or Miscellaneous Communication.

**BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS**

There were no items for the Board of Control Commissioners.

**BOARD OF CANNABIS COMMISSIONERS**

There were no items for the Board of Cannabis Commissioners.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Alderman Whitcomb made a motion to refer the review process for social services to the Finance Committee. So moved by Alderwoman Davis. Motion passed.

Alderman Clifford made a motion to officially accept the resignation of Mayor Doenges. So moved by Alderman Cupoli. Motion passed.

**MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS**

At 7:50 PM a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Adams) to adjourn. Motion passed.

Respectively submitted by,

Tracy L. Kapusta  
City Clerk