

Board of Aldermen Minutes
City of Rutland
Monday, May 4, 2026

Members present: President Allaire, Aldermen Davis, Cupoli, McClure, Franzoni, Talbott, Beauchamp, Gillam, and Tadio. Also, present Mayor Donahue, Treasurer Markowski, and City Clerk Kapusta.
Absent: Alderman Clifford

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

President Allaire called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and started with the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS OR OTHER MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

President Allaire asked if there were any additions, deletions or other modifications to the agenda. President Allaire added to the agenda Rick Brigham from Sullivan & Powers. Alderman Gillam and seconded by Alderwoman Davis. Motion passed.

AMENDMENT AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S) (April 20, 2026)

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Gomez President and CEO of Heritage Family Credit Union spoke about the upcoming 70th Anniversary of the Credit Union in Rutland and a meeting on May 14th at the Paramount to celebrate the event. Also, the Ron Hance Memorial Classic at the Rutland Country Club is coming back and will be held September 14th. Both events can be found on the Heritage Family Credit Union's website.

Tony Romeo and Tom Giffin gave an update on the WW II monument. The monument is being made and will be placed just North of the Vietnam Memorial. The total amount raised so far is \$21,000 and the goal is to raise \$55,000. The hope is that it will be ready to go by Veterans Day.

Rick Brigham from Sullivan and Powers gave some highlights from the audit ending on June 30, 2025.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Donahue asked the Board un-table the nomination of Regina Sears for Third Inspector for Ward 4. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Cupoli) to un-table the nomination of Regina Sears for Third Inspector for Ward 4. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Beauchamp) to circulate the ballot box. Motion passed.

Treasurer Markowski tallied the votes, and the results were given to President Allaire. President Allaire announced that Regina Sears was confirmed by a vote of 10 (ten) Yes votes and zero No votes.

Mayor Donahue requested the Board to table the nomination of Kevin Gustafson, Esq. for City Attorney. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to table the nomination of Kevin Gustafson, Esq. for City Attorney. Motion passed. Kevin Gustafson, Esq. was in attendance and gave a brief statement.

CONSIDERATAION OF SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT REQUESTS

There were no Special Event Permit Requests.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Chief Lovett: 2026 Draft Local Emergency Management Plan Municipal Adoption Form

Chief Lovett explained that basically the only changes are to contact information, some of the resources, and few things that were mandated by the State.

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) for approval of the Local Emergency Management Plan. Motion passed.

Engineer Gillen: Request to assign Capital Reserve Funding to Public Works

The current Capital Improvement Plan recommends assigning Public Works \$500,000 for FY 27. These funds will specifically support large-scale highway improvement projects in excess of \$50,000, such as sidewalk construction projects and major highway rehabilitation and/or reconstruction projects. The current balance in the Capital Reserve Fund is \$870,000, of which \$145,000 is encumbered. The next local option tax revenue installment, estimated at \$375,000 is expected to occur around the first week of May.

A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Adams) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Davis) to assign \$500,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund to the Department of Public Works for Paving and Sidewalk Projects for FY 2027. Motion passed.

Engineer Gillen: Authorization to sign Sewer Overflow Stormwater Reuse Grant Agreement

Excess funding became available within the State of Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VTDEC) to support the design and/or construction of pollution reduction projects. This funding will be used to support the Connor Park Combined Sewer Storage Tank and Meadow Street Sewer Separation Projects, which will be constructed during 2026. There is no City match required.

A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Tadio) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Tadio) to authorize the Public Works Commissioner to sign the 2024 Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant, in the amount of \$238,080, pending review by legal counsel. Motion passed.

Treasurer Markowski: Request for Board review of the financing documents for the lease agreement with Tax-Exempt leasing for PD vehicles; including approval of the resolution related to the financing

Treasurer Markowski presented the resolution and financing documents for the PD 2026 Toyota Camry and 2026 Ford F150 Truck. The financing documents were reviewed by Attorney Bloomer. The resolution requires Board approval and sign-off by the Board President. This will also serve as authorization for Mayor Donahue to sign the documents on behalf of the City.

A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Gillam) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Davis) having seen and reviewed the Resolution related to the financing of two vehicles for the Police Department through a Master Lease Purchase Agreement and Schedule No. 01 with Tax Exempt Leasing Corp. for \$95,468.15, and other ancillary documents, I hereby move the adoption and approval of the Resolution as presented at this meeting. Motion passed.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

There were no Reports of Standing Committees.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

Alderman Adams: Intermunicipal Meeting from April 23, 2026

Alderman Adams read the Intermunicipal committee report from April 23, 2026. The American Legion in Rutland will ask the Baseball team if they would host a breakfast. Downtown Rutland Partnership will provide a list of food trucks and vendors to the Rutland Town Recreation Department for the event at Northwood Park. Overtime for Recreation and the Police Department will be addressed by Mayor Donahue. The hours for the event should be from 5PM to 9PM. Brett Meyer offered his DJ services and would charge \$400 for four hours. Nikki Adams will provide music as well and perform from 6PM to 8PM on the green at Northwood Park. A bounce house and games will also be looked into. There was discussion about advertising the event in the local newspaper, local media, and social media. It was also determined that if there is bad weather the night of the event it would be cancelled. It was suggested by Mike Rowe, Rutland Town Recreation Director, that this event could be an annual event and that both the Town and City could address it in their respective budgets. The next meeting will take place on May 14th at 5:30 PM. This report 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

There was no Unfinished Business.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Gillam made a referral of the Loretta Home funding to the Community & Economic Development Committee. Seconded by Alderwoman Davis. Motion passed.

Alderman Adams made a referral to the Charter and Ordinance Committee regarding the reference of the word Fireman in Charter, to be changed to firefighter. Seconded by Alderwoman Tadio. Motion passed.

Alderman Adams made a referral to the Charter and Ordinance Committee for discussion about Firefighters writing and speaking fluently in English language and not belonging to any other fire or hose company. Seconded by Alderwoman McClure. Motion passed.

Alderman Adams made a referral to the Charter and Ordinance Committee for a discussion about language in Charter about Firefighters residing within a five-mile radius. Seconded by Alderwoman Davis. There was discussion on the motion among the Board and Human Resources Director Coyle. Motion passed.

President Allaire read the motions for executive session. Motion to find that premature general public knowledge regarding the negotiation of a contract and the analysis of a legal matter by counsel to the City would clearly place the City at a substantial disadvantage because the discussion will divulge the City's position on the contract provisions to be negotiated, and will include confidential attorney-client

communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the City. So moved by Alderwoman Davis and seconded by Alderman Talbott. Motion passed.

Motion to enter into executive session with the inclusion of Mayor Donahue, Police Commission Chair Pat Brougham, Chief Prouty, Treasurer Markowski, Clerk Kapusta and Attorney Bloomer to discuss the negotiation of a contract as allowed under Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A), to discuss the analysis of a legal matter by counsel to the City, as allowed under Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(F), and related to the evaluation of a public officer or employee, as allowed under Title 1, Section 313(a)(3). So moved by Alderman Gillam and seconded by Alderwoman Davis. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded to amend the motion to include the Human Resources Director Coyle. So moved by Alderman Talbott and seconded by Alderwoman McClure. Motion passed.

At 7:43 PM the Board went into executive session.

At 8:04 PM a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Talbott) to come out of executive session. Motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded (McClure, Cupoli) to authorize Chief Prouty to sign the Agreement and General Release, in substantially in the form presented at this meeting. Motion passed.

At 8:05 PM a motion was made and seconded (McClure, Talbott) to adjourn. Motion passed.

Respectively submitted by,

Tracy L. Kapusta
City Clerk