Board of Aldermen Minutes
City of Rutland
Monday, May 18, 2026

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

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 removed from the agenda under Communications from the Mayor, Rutland City Planning Commission – Number of Board Members. So moved by Alderman Talbott and seconded by Alderman Clifford. Motion passed.

AMENDMENT AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S) (May 4, 2026)

A motion was made and seconded (Cupoli, Adams) 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

Norm Cohen, 8 Barleyfield and Barbara Noyes-Pulling are looking to implement the Declaration of Inclusion as a living document and request a referral for the discussion to committee.

Alderwoman Tadio made a referral to the General Committee for discussion of making the Declaration of Inclusion a living document. Seconded by Alderman Talbott. Motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Donahue asked the Board un-table the nomination of Kevin Gustafson, Esq. for City Attorney. A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Clifford) to un-table the nomination of Kevin Gustafson, Esq. for City Attorney. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Clifford) to circulate the ballot box. Motion passed.

Votes were given to Treasurer Markowski to tally.

Mayor Donahue asked the Board to table the nomination of Susan Starr-Adams for a three-year term on the Rutland City Planning Commission. A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Tadio) to table the nomination of Susan Starr-Adams for a three-year term on the Rutland City Planning Commission. Motion passed.

President Allaire announced that Kevin Gustafson, Esq. was confirmed by a vote of eight (8) Yes votes and one (1) No vote.

Kevin Gustafson, Esq. took his seat inside the rail.

<u>CONSIDERATAION OF SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT REQUESTS</u>

Special Event Permit**: **Rutland Downtown Partnership, Spring into Summer Street Party, Center Street and Merchants Row, Saturday, June 6, 2026, from 10AM-4PM

A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Tadio) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Adams) to approve the Rutland Downtown Partnership, Spring into Summer Street Party on Saturday, June 6, 2026, from 10AM to 4PM. Motion passed.

Special Event Permit: Bike/Walk for Cystic Fibrosis, Pine Hill Park, Saturday, October 3, 2026, from 8:30AM-1:30PM

A motion was made and seconded (Franzoni, Adams) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Franzoni, Tadio) to approve the Bike/Walk for Cystic Fibrosis on Saturday, October 3, 2026, from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Motion passed.

<u>REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS</u>

Superintendent Cioffi: Updated Concession Agreement with Community Care Network

Superintendent Cioffi presented the updated Concession Agreement with Community Care Network. The agreement has both the Vermont Outdoor Adventure Program under Community Care Network as well as the RSVP Bone Builders program utilizing space within the Courcelle Building. There are no changes to the footprint of the agreement just to the programs utilizing it.

A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Tadio) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Tadio) to adopt the updated Concession Agreement with Community Care Network and request the Mayor to sign. Motion passed.

Barbara Spaulding, RRA: BIAP and Lift Programs Funding

Barabara Spaulding, RRA presented the request. The Board of Aldermen approved funding, on July 6, 2015, for the Business Incentive Assistance Program Fund (BIAP) from Zamias and the Stafford Hill Lease Agreement, for one year. Years 2-5 would be funded from solar revenues. The Aldermen re-evaluated the program on June 20, 2022, and it was unanimously supported to continue to fund the BIAP Fund with the solar revenues through June 2025. In 2025, the funding was not included in the FY26 Budget. The RRA is requesting a referral for discussion of funding the BIAP and LIFT Programs to the Community & Economic Development Committee.

A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Franzoni) to refer the discussion of funding the BIAP and LIFT Programs to the Community & Economic Development Committee. Motion passed.

Barbara Spaulding, RRA: BIAP Grant for Amazing Glaze Pottery, LLC

Barbara Spaulding, RRA presented a request for a BIAP Grant for Amazing Pottery, LLC. The applicant, Brooke Hemenway, is requesting a $2,790 BIAP grant and referral to HFCU for a BIAP Loan to assist in opening a pottery store/studio at 25 Center Street. The application meets the criteria with the request being 15% of total investment of $18,600.

A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Tadio) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Tadio) to approve a $2,790 BIAP Grant and referral to HFCU for BIAP Loan to Amazing Glaze Pottery, LLC. Motion passed.

Barbara Spaulding, RRA: 2026 VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Grants for Rutland Creek Path

Barbara Spaulding, RRA introduced the request. The City will be applying for two grants through 2026 VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian program for Rutland Creek Path Segment 5 and Phases 1 and 2. Susan Schreibman provided the Board with an update on where the project currently stands.

A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Franzoni) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Franzoni) to support the applications and circulate for signatures the resolution to apply for VTrans funding. Motion passed.

Barbara Spaulding, RRA: NBRC Resolution to Amend Authorizing Official
Barbara Spaulding, RRA introduced the request. The City received an NBRC grant #AD-25SPC-72 in the amount of $3,000,000 and a resolution signed by the Aldermen is needed to change the Authorizing Official to Mayor Donahue. The resolution allows the Mayor to accept and expend grant funds from the NBRC and sign all documents related to the grant agreement.

A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Tadio) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Talbott) approving Mayor Donahue as the authorizing official and to circulate the resolution for signatures on the NBRC Grant. Motion passed.

Chief Prouty: Request to Transfer Cruiser Fee Revenue to the Police Department Equipment Replacement Fund
Chief Prouty introduced the request to transfer Cruiser Fee Revenue to the Police Department Equipment Replacement Fund.

A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Gillam) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Tadio) to approve the transfer of $15,918.75 from the General Fund account to the Police Department Equipment Replacement Fund. Motion passed.

Commissioner Protivansky: VTrans Rail Crossing Project Contract
Commissioner Protivansky requested the VTrans Rail Crossing Project Contract be referred to the Public Works Committee.

A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Adams) to refer the VTrans Crossing Project Contract to the Public Works Committee. Motion passed.

Alderman Clifford stated that he would schedule that meeting for June 3rd.

Treasurer Markowski: Financial Reports for the City and RRA as of April 30, 2026
Treasurer Markowski provided a summary of the April 30, 2026, Treasurer's Reports and stated her office is starting to prepare for year end, which is June 30th.

<u>REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES</u>
There were no Reports of Standing Committees.

<u>REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES</u>
Alderman Clifford: Intermunicipal Meeting from May 14, 2026
Alderman Clifford read the Intermunicipal committee report from May 14, 2026. American Legion will not be participating in the 250th Celebration, due to lack of staffing. The Rutland Town pool will be open from 4PM to 8PM for no charge on July 3rd and there will be live music as well. Events will be held in the back of the park, such as a bounce house, interactive games and other activities. Food Trucks will be lined up on the roadway. Staff for this celebration will be supplied by both Rutland City and Rutland Town employees. Five officers will be needed along with a bike patrol to monitor the area with trails. Marketing materials to promote the event have been put together. A possible gaming competition between Select Board Members and Board of Aldermen is being discussed. The committee discussed the importance of members of both Boards attending the event to show cooperation between the Town and City. The next meeting will take place in early June. 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
President Allaire read the motions for executive session. Motion to find that premature general public knowledge regarding the negotiation of a contract 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. So moved by Alderman Talbott and seconded by Alderman Adams. Motion passed.

Motion to enter into executive session with the inclusion of Mayor, DPW Commissioner, Treasurer, and City Clerk, to discuss the negotiation of a contract as allowed under Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A). So moved by Alderman Talbott and seconded by Alderman Adams. Alderman Adams asked to include the City Attorney. Motion passed.

At 7:46 PM the Board went into executive session.

At 7:59 PM a motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Tadio) to come out of executive session. Motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Tadio) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Adams) to authorize the Mayor to sign a contract with Casella for sludge removal at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and set the following rates for sludge and septage received; Sludge 19 cents per gallon and Septage 16 cents per gallon. Motion passed.

At 7:59 PM a motion was made and seconded (Cupoli, Adams) to adjourn. Motion passed.

Respectively submitted by,

Tracy L. Kapusta
City Clerk