Minutes of the Roxbury Selectmen meeting Feb. 19, 2018

In attendance: Selectmen Gerry Davis and Jim Rousmaniere; Treasurer David Jewett, Representative Dick Ames, resident Shane Ellis.

The meeting opened at 7 p.m.

The meeting consisted mainly of a discussion with House Member Ames whose legislative district includes Roxbury. He had been invited to discuss possible legislative remedies to the problems and financial tensions associated with cost-sharing in regional/co-operative school districts, particularly the Monadnock School District.

Rep. Ames reported that a legislatively-approved remedy that addresses only one school district is possible and also quite appealing. “You’ve got a powerful voice if you all talk together,” he said.

He added that one possible remedy could involve creating a single tax district that encompasses all towns within a district; he added that such a solution would reasonably need to redirect the distribution of state school aid away from the individual towns of a district and toward the district in toto.

Rep. Ames also said that some of the tensions associated with multi-town school districts could be reduced if the provision of more state school aid were increased – a matter that he has been working on.

He suggested that the selectmen look into a committee in Concord that’s working on education funding; the committee was authorized by House Bill 356 in 2017.


Following that session the selectmen met with Shane Ellis who provided data and contracts regarding comparative levels of compensation for snow-plowing. He reported that the compensation rates paid by Roxbury town government are substantially higher than those paid by the state government. The selectmen agreed to examine the material that he submitted and then get back to him.

Mr. Ellis and the selectmen also discussed the matter of building permits that have no fixed term; hence, some building permits apparently can remain open indefinitely so long as some work is continually being done. One consequence is annual charges for inspection by the town’s contracted assessing agency. Mr. Ellis reported that his home has been visited by the assessor repeatedly even though a permitted work project on his home was completed long ago. The selectmen, who had previously discussed the matter of building permits that seem never to expire, agreed to examine the situation.

The selectmen discussed various matters related to the preparation of the Town Report in advance of the March 13 Annual Town Meeting and the filing of financial information on the Department of Revenue Administration portal.
Selectman Davis prepared the manifest of bills to be paid; the manifest was signed by the selectmen. The minutes of the prior meeting were signed by the selectmen. There being no further business, the selectmen’s meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.