Minutes of the Roxbury Selectmen meeting Feb. 5, 2018

In attendance: Selectmen Gerry Davis, Tim O’Brien and Jim Rousmaniere; Treasurer David Jewett

The meeting opened at 7 p.m.

Having established that the town of Roxbury has not maintained Woodward Pond Road for at least 15 years, the selectmen voted unanimously to change the classification of the road from Class V to Class VI.

Selectman O’Brien described a recent modem upgrade that has resulted in improved Internet access. However, he reported that there remain complications regarding the state’s software for the processing of automobile registrations. Work on that matter continues.

Selectman O’Brien reported that the MS-61 form has been uploaded. He added that town department heads are filing their reports to be included in the annual Town Report.

It was noted that an advertisement in The Sentinel in the edition of Sunday, Feb. 4, was published announcing the scheduling of a public hearing for the town budget on Monday, Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. in Town Hall.

It was reported that the latest edition of The Roxbury Report newsletter had been distributed to residents.

The selectmen and Treasurer Jewett discussed the outcome of the Monadnock School District deliberative session on Feb. 3 during which an effort to amend a petitioned warrant article was unsuccessful. The article, which calls for changing the district’s cost-apportionment formula, will be subject to school district voting on March 13. The current formula is based 75% on each town’s enrollment of students in Monadnock Schools and 25% on property valuations in each town; the proposed formula is based 50% on enrollment and 50% on property values. The selectmen discussed their belief that the proposed formula is unfair in that it results in an effective cost to the town per student of more than $20,000 (up from about $16,000), whereas the effective cost per student in another town in the district – Troy – would fall from about $8,000 to about $6,000. The selectmen agreed to begin researching the logistics and finances associated with leaving the school district.

The selectmen reaffirmed their intention to propose a revision to the terms for a property tax credit to veterans; the proposal would expand the definition of qualifying veteran from one who has served in the armed forces during designated eras of combat to one who has served in the armed forces at least 90 days and was honorably discharged – in essence, all veterans. The matter will be voted on at Town Meeting on March 13, 2018.

Selectman Davis prepared the manifest of bills to be paid; the manifest was signed by the selectmen. There being no further business, the selectmen’s meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.