Minutes of the Roxbury Selectmen meeting March 26, 2018

In attendance: Selectmen Tim O’Brien, Mark Funk and Jim Rousmaniere; other town officials for swearing-in.

The meeting opened at 7 p.m. The minutes from the meeting of March 12 were noted for being brief, partly reflecting the fact that illness had cut short that meeting.

The following office-holders were sworn in: Selectman Mark Funk; Tax Collector Robin Buffum; Town Clerk Robin Buffum; Fire Chief Tim Mason; Supervisor of Checklist Alice Funk; Auditor Alice Funk; Trustee of Trust Funds Virginia Shepardson. Robin Buffum was sworn in as a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment following her appointment to that position by the Selectmen. Marcy White was sworn in as Moderator following her appointment by the Selectmen, succeeding Mark Funk who was elected Selectman on Town Meeting day.

It was agreed that Selectman Rousmaniere will inquire into training for town moderators, possibly by the N.H. Municipal Association.

Josh Hicks called to report that the hosting service for the town web site has undergone a change, one effect of which is to require a re-loading of data on new software that comes with a new design. He reported that he will proceed with the transition.

The selectmen discussed the rental policy for use of Town Hall by members of the public. It was agreed that the insurance component should remain a part of the policy but that the $50 rental fee requirement should be suspended immediately by the Selectmen with the understanding that that step will be proposed for formal action by the voters at the 2019 Town Meeting.

The Selectmen discussed steps that are being taken to analyze compensation and other financial aspects of winter and summer maintenance. Contacts with the following comparable New Hampshire communities have been made: Sharon, Surry, Carroll and Rollingsford. Copies of contracts used by Sharon Selectmen were raised as possible models for arrangements in Roxbury, which, like Sharon, does not own any road-maintenance equipment.

The Selectmen discussed a Notice of Intent to Excavate by RS Audley, Inc. in connection with the state Department of Transportation’s redesign of Route 9; the payee on the accompanying $100 permit filing check is incorrectly named as the State of New Hampshire, not the Town of Roxbury. Selectman Rousmaniere will look into the matter.

The Selectmen discussed the fact that the State Department of Transportation has not satisfactorily responded to inquiries by the Town as to whether the state should reimburse the Town for the Town’s snow plowing of Branch Road, which is a state road. Selectman Rousmaniere will press the inquiry.

Selectman Funk was briefed on recent efforts to develop an emergency-response plan to possible disaster scenarios associated with the City of Keene’s upgrading of Babbidge Dam. Selectman Funk offered to discuss the matter with Roxbury Emergency Management Director Chip Drogue.
The Selectmen discussed a new effort principally involving the towns of Fitzwilliam and Troy to draft and propose revisions to the existing cost-apportionment formula of the six-town Monadnock School District. The selectmen discussed a simultaneous effort to explore a legislative remedy to the cost-sharing tensions within the district, even as another investigation is being mounted in Roxbury regarding possible departure from the district.

The Selectmen discussed a recent packet of information that had been sent by the Society for the Protection of NH Forests regarding the status of Wheeler Brook Road in the Society-owned Taves Forest. It was agreed that the Selectmen will work up a draft of a response to that correspondence.

Selectman O’Brien prepared the manifest of bills to be paid; the manifest was signed by the selectmen. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.