Minutes of the Roxbury Selectmen meeting May 21, 2018

In attendance: Selectmen Mark Funk, Tim O’Brien and Jim Rousmaniere; Welfare Director Josh Hicks; Road Agent Ken Buffum

The meeting opened at 7 p.m. The minutes from the meeting of May 14 were approved.

Welfare Director Hicks reported that, following his recent suggestion that residents send in unused gift cards for distribution to needy residents, he received a gift of $156 cash from Nye Hill. He reported that he will use the cash to purchase gift cards for such items as gasoline and groceries to be distributed when appropriate. He explained, “It’s not just welfare. It’s neighbors helping neighbors.” The folks at Nye Hill set a fine example.

Selectman Rousmaniere reported that he will formally file the MS-636 budget document with the state Department of Revenue Administration.

There was word that the transfer station in Marlborough will conduct a hazardous waste collection day on Saturday May 26. A notice will be placed on the Town web site.

The selectmen discussed the continuing work of a citizens committee that is focusing on changing the cost-sharing formula in the Monadnock School District of which Roxbury is one of six member towns. It was generally agreed that a cost-allocation calculator that is used by the committee is hard if not impossible to operate.

The selectmen discussed with Road Agent Buffum several particulars concerning roads and road maintenance in town. The discussion partly helped inform a pending plan to put out the work for bid. A request for proposals for winter and summer maintenance will be drafted.

The selectmen and Buffum also discussed road and road-related projects for 2018. It was agreed that Buffum will apply 1,000 tons of gravel to appropriate spots on Middletown Road. It was also agreed that Buffum will replace two culverts beneath Middletown Road this year; he will coordinate the work with the schedule of truck movements that are related to the city of Keene’s safety-related upgrade of Babbidge Dam. It was understood that the replacements will be 15-inch diameter in size, slightly larger than the existing cross pipes (which is consistent with other culvert replacements that have been made in town.) On a related topic, the selectmen and Buffum discussed a large culvert replacement job on Middletown Road that is estimated to cost as much as $25,000; it was noted that the emergency management director had said that he would explore grant funding support from the state Homeland Security office; it is understood that that particular project is not in the cards for 2018.

The selectmen and Buffum also discussed a pothole situation on the Davis Road. The discussion touched on the role of heavy vehicles, including whether heavy-vehicle use of the road conforms to zoning regulations in town. Funk reported that he will check with former selectman Chip Drogue on the matter. It was agreed that Buffum will measure the size of the potential repair job and report back to the selectmen on the possible cost.

The manifest was filled out and signed. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.