

Minutes of the Roxbury Selectmen meeting Dec. 18, 2017

In attendance: Selectmen Gerry Davis, Tim O'Brien and Jim Rousmaniere; Treasurer David Jewett; Zoning Board Chairman Jessica Payton.

The meeting opened at 7 p.m.

Treasurer David Jewett conducted a review of the town's finances in anticipation of the selectmen's drafting of a budget for the coming year. The town's finances to date are in good order, with revenues exceeding expectations and expenses running under budget. The presentation was aided considerably by the use of the large screen in the main hall.

Zoning Board Chairman Payton discussed a document that had been submitted by Granite Gorge that relates to activities on its property. She explained that she had expected that the document would describe new types of activities that Granite Gorge would like the Zoning Board to consider as allowable on its property, but instead she found a rough schedule of expected events that already are subject to the terms of the town's special events policy. She said that she would communicate her thoughts to Granite Gorge.

Selectman O'Brien reported on discussions that he had had with Fairpoint Communications regarding the quality of Internet service to Town Hall. He reported that Fairpoint, which recently was sold to Illinois-based Consolidated Communications, is expected next year to make a technology upgrade that would substantially improve bandwidth to town offices. The town could also contract with Spectrum, the cable company that serves part of Roxbury, to provide enhanced Internet service.

There was a brief discussion regarding a request by Spectrum, the cable company, for what were described as E-911 road maps in Roxbury. The request came in response to an expression of interest by the selectmen to revise the cable company's franchise agreement, which is now up for renewal. After conferring with Police Chief Rob O'Connor, Selectman Rousmaniere said that he will contact the state Department of Safety regarding the availability of such maps.

There was discussion regarding a study of culverts beneath town roads in Roxbury. A preliminary report had been filed by Southwest Region Planning Commission staff some months ago, yet a final report has not been provided. Selectman Rousmaniere said that he will contact the Commission regarding the matter.

The selectmen discussed recent efforts in some quarters to alter the Monadnock school district's cost-sharing formula in ways that could substantially harm taxpayers in Roxbury.

Selectman Davis prepared the manifest of bills to be paid; the manifest was signed by the selectmen. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.