

Minutes of the Roxbury Selectmen meeting Jan. 29, 2018

In attendance: Selectmen Gerry Davis, Tim O'Brien and Jim Rousmaniere; Treasurer David Jewett, Road Agent Ken Buffum, Welfare Officer Josh Hicks, Police Chief Rob O'Connor, Fire Chief Tim Mason

The meeting opened at 7 p.m.

Using the newly installed flat screen in the main hall to good effect, Treasurer Jewett and the selectmen conducted a budget-building session that included review and discussion of trust funds, the balance sheet, unrestricted fund balances, tax commitment documents and the operating budget for 2018.

Each of the department heads participated. The general sense is that town finances are in good shape. It was noted that a public budget hearing must be held prior to Friday, Feb 16.

Among fresh topics discussed were (a) the fact that a sizeable number of open building permits in town has led to significant costs associated with annual property assessor charges and (b) upkeep of cemeteries in town could substantially benefit from the drafting of an upkeep plan.

Spending on roads was discussed in some depth, particularly the matter of culvert replacement. Road Agent Buffum said that he will seek out preliminary cost estimates for the replacement of a large culvert on Middletown Road; meanwhile, research into possible grant-funding for the project will be undertaken; it was noted that the Southwest Region Planning Commission had intended to provide a final copy of a culvert inventory by now, but the office has been laid low by the flu. It was noted that a long-term plan for road maintenance, including culvert replacement, is not in hand.

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 9:45 p.m.