

## Minutes of the Roxbury Selectmen meeting Jan. 2, 2018

In attendance: Selectmen Gerry Davis, Tim O'Brien and Jim Rousmaniere; Treasurer David Jewett, Police Chief Rob O'Connor and Emergency Management Director Chip Drogue.

The meeting opened at 7 p.m.

Selectman O'Brien reported on recent complications regarding the ability of computers in the tax collector's office to accommodate new software being used by the state government. A principal source of the difficulty is inadequate broadband connectivity—a problem that it is hoped will be remedied when Fairpoint Communications delivers on a commitment to deliver on a promise to upgrade the Internet connection.

There was general discussion regarding the cost apportionment formula for the multi-town Monadnock School District that has been in the news. A petitioned warrant article to change the current system in ways that would disadvantage small towns in the district is considered likely. Treasurer Jewett suggested that a complete reform of the way regional and cooperative school districts are funded is worth a look. It was agreed that the topic is ripe for discussion and that it would be good to look at the methods and formulas by which public schools are funded in other states.

The selectmen agreed to the following schedule of events leading up to the March 13 town meeting:

- **Jan. 22:** Department heads discuss their plans for 2018
- **Jan. 29:** Selectmen fashion a budget for 2018
- **No later than Feb. 16:** public hearing on the budget (To be advertised one week in advance.)

Police Chief O'Connor asked whether the selectmen had heard of anyone in town who might be experiencing unusual difficulties as a result of the cold temperatures such as frozen pipes. There was general discussion of the matter.

There was brief discussion about a contemplated proposal to change the definition of "veteran" for property tax-credit purposes – a matter that would require voter approval at Town Meeting. The thought is to expand the definition to include all military veterans who served at least 90 days and who were honorably discharged versus the current and traditional official definition of veterans who had served in times of combat.

Emergency Management Director Drogue said that he would be willing to write a grant application for culvert replacement in town. It was agreed that any such welcomed initiative ought to wait until the selectmen have received a final version of a culvert study that was carried out by the Southwest Region Planning Commission in 2017. Any such grant application (to cover 50 percent of any qualifying culvert work in town) would reference the town's recently updated Hazard Mitigation Plan. He also suggested that the selectmen consider an offer by the city of Keene to provide sirens related to any eventual emergencies that involve the city's reservoir dams in town.

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 9:10 p.m.