

Minutes from the Roxbury Selectmen's meeting March 28, 2016

In attendance: Selectmen Gerry Davis, Jim Rousmaniere and Tim O'Brien; town attorney Tom Hanna; Fred Baybutt of Granite Gorge

The meeting opened at 7 p.m.

Minutes from the meeting of March 21 were approved as written.

The selectmen processed annual property inventory receipts and arranged to mail back receipts requested by property owners.

At 7:30 p.m. in the main hall the Selectmen called order a public hearing on proposed changes to the town's licensing of utility poles/conduits/rights-of-way in town as proposed by Upton & Hatfield, a law firm that has been engaged by a number of New Hampshire towns, including Roxbury, to address the general subject of town taxation of such utility assets. It was noted that the hearing had been properly noticed in advance and that, further, certified letters regarding the hearing been sent to Eversource and Fairpoint . It was noted that Eversource had filed a written comment regarding the proposal while explaining that it would not send a representative to attend the hearing; that comment was made part of the hearing record. No other parties (other than the three selectmen and town attorney Hanna) attended or filed comments. At 7:40 p.m., seeing no indication that anyone else would attend the hearing, the selectmen closed the hearing.

Attorney Hanna reported that he will get back to the selectmen soon with final comments on proposed revisions to the town's permit policy for public events on private property in town.

The selectmen discussed the subject of possible insurance waivers for volunteers who take part in official town-improvement projects such as a scheduled cemeteries clean-up April 30 and a contemplated painting of the exterior of town hall. Selectman Rousmaniere explained that John Uhle of Primex, the town's insurer, had explained in a telephone conversation that no such waiver is necessary and that the selectmen would do well to assure that skill levels of such volunteers are equal to the demands of any specific task for which they volunteered.

The Selectmen took receipt of a check for \$804.90 from Primex towards repair costs associated with the tree falling on the town hall roof last summer; this check was then bundled with a Primex check for \$1,000 that had been received the week before, and both checks were placed in Treasurer Jewett's file for deposit. The checks came on top of a Primex check for \$5,760.32 received in late 2015, bringing the total insurance payments associated with the incident to \$7,565.22 toward total billed services of \$8,565.22 (\$500 to Phil's Tree Service and \$8,065.22 to Bergeron Construction). (The \$1,000 differential represented the town's insurance deductible.) Phil's Tree Service has already been paid. It was agreed that the Bergeron's bill will be place on the manifest next week.

It was noted that the minutes to the annual town meeting had been completed by Town Clerk Robin Buffum and mailed to the Department of Revenue Administration.

The Selectmen took receipt of letters from Associates, the town's appraiser, regarding three taxpayer requests for abatements. It was agreed that Avitar's recommendations would be reviewed at the next selectmen's meeting.

Selectman O'Brien reported that he had found a 2014 inventory of police department assets while endeavoring to develop an up-to-date inventory of all town assets. The inventory does not include valuations – a matter that will be addressed.

Fred Baybutt of Granite Gorge provided updated information regarding a previously scheduled snowmobile hill climb event for April 7. He mentioned several possible future events for May 15, May 21 and June 18. There was discussion regarding the number of vehicles that were parked on the south side of the bridge over Otter Brook at a recent event at Granite Gorge – a number that exceeded the total stipulated in the current site plan for the facility. Baybutt explained that Granite Gorge wants to increase the number of vehicles that can be permitted on the south side of the bridge and said that he either has already or plans to bring up that matter with the town planning board.

Selectman O'Brien reported that he had discussed with officials in the town of Sullivan the prospect of sharing services, with an initial specific reference to the position of administrative assistant. He reported that the time requirements of the Sullivan administrative assistant position would work against any informal or formal association with Roxbury. He reported that he will explore the possibility of working with a staffing service to fill the Roxbury administrative assistant position.

The Selectmen agreed to issue a building permit to a contractor who has been privately engaged to install solar panels on the roof of a Roxbury property-owner's home. It was noted, however, that the permit was being issued only at the request of the contractor that that, at this time, installation of solar panels on the roof of an existing building – as opposed to, say, the construction of a stand-alone solar array – does not require a building permit in town.

It was reported that a local citizen is planning to organize a celebration at town hall on May 7. The selectmen agreed that the nature of the event was such that it would be subject to the town hall rental policy that was adopted by town voters at the March annual meeting. It was agreed that Selectman Rousmaniere would alert the individual to the insurance requirements.

There was discussion regarding the use of the town web site to carry requests for bids; it was agreed that the selectmen would work out a date and time to discuss the matter with site administrator Josh Hicks.

The manifest was prepared by Selectman Davis and signed by the two other selectmen.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

(Minutes approved by the Selectmen)