

Minutes of the Roxbury Selectmen meeting Nov. 6, 2017

In attendance: Selectmen Gerry Davis, Tim O'Brien and Jim Rousmaniere; School Board representative Nick Mosher; Treasurer Dave Jewett, Ed Goodrich.

The meeting opened at 7 p.m.; the minutes of the Oct. 23 meeting were approved. (There were no minutes from Oct. 30 since power to Town Hall had been out that day and consequently no selectmen's meeting was held.)

Nick Mosher briefed the selectmen on a proposal before the Monadnock School Board that, if approved by the board, would place on the 2018 district warrant an article that would alter the cost-sharing funding formula among member towns. The proposal would scrap the current funding formula, which is based 75 percent on a member town's student enrollment and 25 percent on that town's equalized property valuation – reversing an action three years ago when the old formula (based 50 percent on student enrollment and 50 percent on equalized property valuation) was terminated.

Under the proposed change, **Roxbury's** billed share of school costs would climb to \$409,794 from the current \$324,628, reflecting a rise of \$85,121 or 26 percent, leaving Roxbury to pay the equivalent of \$20,400 for each of the 20 students it sends to Monadnock schools. At the extreme other end of the proposed cost sharing arrangement, the town of **Troy's** billed share of school costs would fall to \$1,637,420 from the current \$2,207,299, reflecting a reduction of \$569,879 or 25.8 percent, to pay the equivalent of \$5,600 for each of the 280-plus students it sends to Monadnock schools.

Mosher said that the school board could decide as early as Nov. 7 whether to approve the proposed article for inclusion on the school district warrant, which would face its first test before school district voters at the deliberative session that will take place either in late January or early February. The selectmen agreed that the proposed warrant article is unfair and would be deeply harmful to Roxbury taxpayers. They agreed to speak out against the proposed change.

In other business, the selectmen reviewed and agreed to a preliminary tax rate; the final rate will be set later this month and also be reflected in property tax bills that will be sent out soon.

The selectmen were alerted by Ed Goodrich, a land surveyor, that he would like to see Town Meeting reports for three years in the late 1930s as part of research into a particular vote. The referenced years' town reports are not at town hall; Goodrich was advised that the sought-after town reports likely reside in the town records that are maintained in a climate-controlled archive owned by Keene and kept at 350 Marlboro Street in Keene. The selectmen later agreed that fees for access to such archived records will be as follows: \$50 for town residents and \$100 for out-of-town residents.

The selectmen reviewed a letter from a property owner in the Hardy Hill section that satisfactorily addressed concerns regarding drainage that had been brought to the property owner's attention.

Selectman Rousmaniere reported on research into how the state calculates its highway block grant funds for individual cities and towns. The research was prompted in part by receipt of an unexpected supplement in block grant funds this year.

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.

Minutes approved by selectmen