

**ROXBURY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING**

**February 2, 2009
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

Barbara Henry, First Selectman, called the meeting to order at 7:26 PM.

Present: Barbara Henry, First Selectman; Robert Lowe, Selectman; Members of the Public

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Robert Lowe to approve the minutes of the Special Meetings held December 18, 2008 and January 20, 2009, and Regular Meeting held January 5, 2009 as presented. The motion was seconded by Barbara Henry and carried.

TAX REFUNDS

Motion by Barbara Henry to add tax refund of Michael O'Donnell in the amount of \$133.74 to the agenda. Seconded by Robert Lowe and carried.

Motion by Robert Lowe to approve the following tax refunds:

Paul Swanson - \$15.62 – excess payment

Michael O'Donnell - \$133.74

The motion was seconded by Barbara Henry and carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Barbara Henry reported that there were no communications from the public this month.

COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS APPOINTMENTS

Barbara Henry reported that she received a letter of resignation from Recreation Commission member Ron Faanes. She accepted his resignation and sent a letter to thank him for his time on the Recreation Commission.

NW Regional Housing Authority Member

Motion by Barbara Henry to table the appointment of NW Regional Housing Authority Member. The motion was seconded by Robert Lowe and carried.

LLA, 4 yr term 01/01/2009 – 12/31/2012

Motion by Barbara Henry to appoint Ron Faanes to LLA, 4 yr term 01/01/2009 – 12/31/2012. Seconded by Robert Lowe and carried.

Recreation Commission – vacancy expiring 06/30/2011

Barbara Henry explained that this position is now open.

Barbara Henry noted that Tom Schade, IWC member, has expressed his desire to step down from the Commission. They are looking for someone to fill this position.

BUSINESS

Budget Schedule

Barbara Henry reported that budgets were due in February 2nd. She explained that they will be having workshops over the month of February. She noted that due to this tough economy, she would like to ask departments to leave five percent in this year's budget if possible, rather than spend entire amounts budgeted.

Motion by Robert Lowe to send memo to departments asking them to make an effort to leave five percent in this year's budget. The motion was seconded by Barbara Henry and carried.

ZEO/IWEO Update

Barbara Henry reported that she has received four applications in response to the ad for the position of ZEO/IWEO. She noted the possibility of contracting this position will need to be part of the budget discussions. A decision will need to be made before March 1st.

Robert Lowe suggested that the interview processes should begin. Barbara Henry agreed to discuss this with the Zoning Chair. She noted that the Zoning Commission is rewriting the job description for this position.

Judds Bridge Update - School Bus Stop

Barbara Henry discussed the reinstatement of the school bus route through Roxbury, now that the bridge construction is completed and the bridge re-opened. She reported that she has written a letter to the Transportation Committee strongly expressing her opinion regarding the need for the route to be resumed through Roxbury for safety reasons. Additionally, she noted that the Region will save money on the bus. Robert Lowe agreed that the route through Roxbury is safer due to the guard rails they have placed in the problem areas as well as the pull offs for passing traffic.

Transfer Station - Guard Shack and Haulers

Barbara Henry reported that the guard shack was sold to Chuck Miller for \$100. He will be picking it up shortly.

Barbara Henry noted that she hopes they now have an understanding with RRR with regard to the Transfer Station and recycling as a result of the Special Meeting.

Mileage Rate 50.5 vs 58.5 effective January 1

Barbara Henry reported that the Federal mileage reimbursement rate has been reduced to 50.5. She suggested that the Town follow suit now that gas prices have leveled off.

Motion by Barbara Henry to rescind the mileage rate of 58.5 and reduce to 50.5 retroactively effective January 1, 2009. The motion was seconded by Robert Lowe and carried.

Squire Road Update

Barbara Henry reported that Mark Lowe has about four hours of work left to do installing rip rap. He has not been able to do this due to the weather. She noted that she has asked Doug DiVesta to view the site and report back so we can close this project.

Probate Court Update

Barbara Henry reported that State Representative Arthur O'Neill has introduced the proposal to merge the Roxbury Probate Court into the Southbury Probate Court into Legislation.

Region 12 distribution \$50,045.93

Barbara Henry reported that the Town has received the surplus check for \$50,045.93.

Booth Free School Lease

Barbara Henry explained that she did not want to see the Booth Free School lease lapse again. She suggested that the Selectmen and the Lease Committee have one more meeting to review the lease then sign it as soon as possible. She noted that if the proposed referendum the BOE is working on for bonding for repairs for the elementary schools passes in April then they can add an addendum regarding the repairs. Robert Lowe agreed that there was no need to have another extension on the old lease and that they should not go another year without the new lease signed.

Change in Senior Center Hours/Days Open

Barbara Henry explained that in an effort to conserve energy, the Senior Center be closed on Mondays. Both the Senior Center Coordinator would work Tuesday through Friday and the Municipal Agent Tuesday through Thursday. The hours the Center is open on those days would remain the same.

Motion by Robert Lowe to close the Senior Center on Mondays beginning February 16, 2009. The motion was seconded by Barbara Henry and carried.

PW Pick-up Truck - \$11,899 vs. \$30,000

Barbara Henry reported that the money approved for the purchase of the PW pick-up truck was not used. The Town purchased a used 2006 Chevy Silverado for \$11,899 rather than using the entire \$30,000 approved on a new truck. It will be lettered and a radio put in.

Sand & Salt Budget

Barbara Henry reported that they are doing well with the sand and salt budget; however, the next storm will cause them to go over budget. She noted that many towns have stopped giving out sand to residents for personal use, but Roxbury will continue to do so as long as they can. She explained that she has received comments that people should use the sand more effectively. Robert Lowe noted that perhaps the Town should make some suggestions to the residents regarding the use of sand.

Town Pension Plan

Barbara Henry reported that due to the economy they have seen a 30% loss in the value of the plan. She noted that they are hopeful that this will be regained in time.

CRRA Settlement

Barbara Henry reported a \$35 million dollar CRRA settlement. She noted that the Town received a check for \$121. She commented that much of the settlement money went to attorney's fees.

Hodge Resident Relief Fund

Lloyd Green Will:

Barbara Henry reported that the Hodge Resident Relief Fund has been named in the Will of Lloyd Green who passed December 30th. She noted that Mr. Green generously left the Fund \$30,000.

RTC - \$1,000:

The RTC held a raffle and collected \$1,000 for the Hodge Resident Relief Fund. They had three winners of Northeast Utilities gift certificates. First place winner, Andy Engle, donated his gift certificate back to the fund.

Additionally, Barbara Henry noted that St. Patrick's Church gave a substantial amount of gift cards over the Christmas Holiday. She commended all the residents on their extreme generosity this season.

Town Historical Society Barn – Future Use/Electric Charges

Barbara Henry noted that the only written request they have received for the use of the Barn is from the Friends of the Senior Center. She confirmed that the electric

charges for the Barn will be a separate line item in the Town's budget. Robert Lowe reminded the Board that the Town may need the use of a portion of the Barn for storage. Barbara Henry explained that they will need to consult the Fire Marshal regarding its possible uses.

Fire Marshal's Report – December

Barbara Henry reviewed with the Board the 12 calls that the Fire Department responded to in December.

Policy for Filming Guide

Motion by Barbara Henry to table the discussion regarding the Policy for Filming Guide. Seconded by Robert Lowe and carried.

Other Business

Appraisal authorization

Barbara Henry advised that she has received a quote from the appraiser of \$900 to do the appraisals of the three vacant properties that the Board discussed in a previous month's executive session.

Motion by Robert Lowe to authorize appraisals on the three vacant properties discussed in a previous month's executive session for the fee of \$900. The motion was seconded by Barbara Henry and carried.

Motion by Barbara Henry to add to the agenda discussion regarding the Federal Stimulus Package. The motion was seconded by Robert Lowe and carried.

Barbara Henry commented that Roxbury has submitted a request for the repairs to Booth Free School from the Federal Stimulus Package. She noted that the Region has not submitted such a request as other regions have done.

Motion by Barbara Henry to add to the agenda discussion regarding FOI. The motion was seconded by Robert Lowe and carried.

Barbara Henry thanked Senator Rob Kane for testifying on behalf of small towns with regard to changing the requirement to post their minutes on their websites.

Motion by Robert Lowe to adjourn at 8:00 pm. The motion was seconded by Barbara Henry and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tai Kern

Tai Kern,
Secretary

These minutes are not considered official until approved at the next Regular Meeting of the Roxbury Board of Selectmen.