

**ROXBURY BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SPECIAL MEETING  
April 2, 2008  
MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Barbara Henry, First Selectman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Present: Barbara Henry, First Selectman; Robert Lowe and Russell Dirienzo, Selectmen; Members of the Public

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Regular Meeting held March 3, 2008 & Special Budget Workshop Meeting on March 24, 2008 were reviewed.

Motion by Robert Lowe to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held March 3, 2008 and Special Budget Workshop Meeting held March 24, 2008 as presented. The motion was seconded by Russell Dirienzo and carried.

Barbara Henry noted that approval of the March 20, 2008 Special Meeting would be on next month's agenda

**TAX REFUNDS**

Motion by Russell Dirienzo to approve the following tax refunds:

- Alfred Laskowski - \$6.16 – excess payment
- LandAmerica - \$2,098 – excess payment
- Volvo Finance NA Inc.- \$165.16 – excess payment
- Cab East LLC, - \$86.32 – excess payment

The motion was seconded by Robert Lowe and carried unanimously.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Dennis McDonald spoke in reference to the Revaluation contract. He questioned what action the Board would be taking to improve the oversight of contracts. Barbara Henry confirmed that he was referring specifically to the dates the informal hearings were not held. She acknowledged that the hearings that were to be held by December 15 were not held until January 7. She noted that this delay did not have an impact on the filing of the Grand List and the reason for the delay was because all the information was not ready by December 15. Robert Lowe explained that when dealing with individuals involving contract delays that come up are discussed, the publics' concerns are expressed, and they must work together in what is in the best interest of the town. Russell Dirienzo agreed that the contract was not violated. He noted that an extension was requested for a good reason and the Board works together in what is in the best interest of the town.

Robert Lowe explained that the Board would continue to work with those they enter into contracts with and when these problems come up they will do their best to resolve issues in the best interest of the town.

Dennis McDonald also voiced his concern regarding the increase with home break-ins. He questioned what the town is doing about this and suggested the addition of constables. Robert Lowe noted that the issue with constables is that once they are trained they leave for more money elsewhere. Barbara Henry noted that they have increased Mike's hours to 33 hours per week. Dennis McDonald noted that Bridgewater Constable, Tom Daniels, is available for use in Roxbury. Dennis Keane of Town Line Road and Bridgewater Resident Trooper explained that he employs Tom Daniels who works 36 hours per week for the town of Bridgewater and that his scheduling would be undermined by employing him in another town. Additionally, he explained that constables cannot conduct criminal investigations. Frans Dielemans, Roxbury Resident State Trooper, explained that when an officer wants a lateral transfer or to work in another town he must go through physical, psychological and agility testing which are a cost to the town. If they are not certified, the town must pay for their certification training and time. It would be his recommendation that a second state trooper was hired who would be able to do criminal investigations. Barbara Henry noted that their contract states that they do have 24/7 coverage by a state trooper. Frans Dielmans explained that many of the houses that are being broken into belong to weekend residents. The homes are set back from the roadways and the crimes are sometimes not reported for weeks. They are actively checking pawn shops, working with surrounding towns and other law enforcement, and talking with the people in the effort to obtain information on who is doing this. He noted that a great asset is the people of the town who report suspicious activity and write down license plates. Dennis Keane noted that in his opinion they should employ one full time police officer in addition to the resident trooper which would provide the town with someone with the ability and training to conduct investigations. He suggested that a retired trooper might best fill this position because they may not require benefits.

## **COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS APPOINTMENTS**

### **NW Regional Housing Authority Member**

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

### **ZBA, Alt. – 5 year term – 01/01/2008 – 12/31/2009**

Motion by Russell Dirienzo to table the appointment of ZBA, Alt. – 5 year term – 01/01/2008 – 12/31/2009. The motion was seconded by Robert Lowe and carried.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Bonnie Davies – Senior Project Request**

Bonnie Davies presented plans and a planting list for a healing garden at the Senior Center which would include a walkway of blue stone. She also expressed her desire to obtain an additional teak bench. The proposed work would begin the end of April. \$236 in funding was obtained from the Shepaug Senior Project Foundation. She is hoping to get donations toward the stone which is expected to cost approximately \$600.

She has obtained masons who are willing to donate their time for the installation. Barbara Henry offered to work with her regarding additional funding.

Motion by Russell Dirienzo to support Bonnie Davies – Senior Project Request and for her to work with Barbara Henry for additional funding. The motion was seconded by Robert Lowe and carried.

### **School refund – put towards repairs for Booth or buy down budget**

Barbara Henry presented the Board with the finalized budget and noted that they received the STEAP grant for \$445,000 to be used for Judds Bridge. The Board of Finance meets April 15.

Barbara Henry explained that Region 12 has refunded the town a total of \$138,663. She asked the Board whether they would like to buy down the budget with this money or use it for repairs on Booth Free School. Russell Dirienzo felt that putting this money toward repairs would be double dipping the taxpayers and that Region 12 should be responsible for the repairs. The Board agreed to buy down the budget with the money.

The Board discussed the mold issue at Booth. They questioned why Region 12 would give back so much money when there is so much to be done in the schools. Robert Lowe expressed he was troubled that they are not budgeting better. Russell Dirienzo noted that the roof repair was approved a year ago but nothing has been done. He explained that he had been at the school and reported to the Superintendent the strong smell of mold to which he responded that the test done last year came back negative. Once Dave Baron became involved it was once again tested and mold was found. He feels the Superintendent's memo regarding this issue downplayed the problem and suggested that the Health Department be notified. Russell Dirienzo commented that they were aware of the problem but instead of fixing it, they put leases above the children's health. The consolidated school issue has allowed the schools to fall apart. Barbara Henry noted that she cannot now support either project due to the economic times. The Board of Selectmen agreed that a letter should be sent to the Board of Education expressing that it is time to face reality, stop procrastinating and fix schools which should be submitted along with a list of what should be fixed.

### **Revaluation**

Barbara Henry noted that the only calls she received regarding the Board of Assessment appeals were positive. The Board was complimented on how professional and attentive they were. They have completed their hearings. 52 property owners appealed 72 properties and 31 appeals resulted in adjustments. The finalized Grand List is in the amount of \$736 million as compared to last years Grand List in the amount of \$510 million and it is expected that the mill rate will decline.

### **PW Union Contract Approval**

Barbara Henry distributed the contracted and explained that she just received it. The Board agreed that they would like some time to review.

Motion by Russell Dirienzo to table the PW Union Contract Approval. The motion was seconded by Robert Lowe and carried.

**Renters Program – from Assessor to Municipal Agent for Elderly**

Barbara Henry asked the Board to formally ratify the issue to move this program from the Assessor’s Office to the jurisdiction for Municipal Agent for the Elderly as previously discussed.

Motion by Russell Dirienzo to move the Renters Program from the Assessor to the Municipal Agent for Elderly. The motion was seconded by Robert Lowe and carried.

**Elderly Transportation Grant**

Barbara Henry explained that this is for the HART bus. She noted that this is a grant that the town does not have to pay anything out in order to receive. The HART people work directly with the state for this program but the town would be the beneficiary. She explained that she has not received the paperwork yet.

Motion by Russell Dirienzo table the Elderly Transportation Grant. The motion was seconded by Robert Lowe and carried.

**Affirmative Action Policy Statement**

Motion by Russell Dirienzo to readopt the Affirmative Action Policy Statement. The motion was seconded by Robert Lowe and carried.

**Fair Housing Policy Statement**

Motion by Russell Dirienzo to readopt the Fair Housing Policy Statement. The motion was seconded by Robert Lowe and carried.

**Fair Housing Resolution**

Motion by Russell Dirienzo to readopt the Fair Housing Resolution. The motion was seconded by Robert Lowe and carried.

**Title VI Equal Opportunity Statement**

Motion by Russell Dirienzo to readopt the Title VI Equal Opportunity Statement. The motion was seconded by Robert Lowe and carried.

**ADA Grievance**

Motion by Russell Dirienzo to readopt the ADA Grievance. The motion was seconded by Robert Lowe and carried.

**Judds Bridge Update & Info Meeting**

Barbara Henry explained the status of the DEP permit. The additional survey in order to verify the FEMA mapping has been conducted. The FEMA mapping indicated that the bridge was over the 100 year flood, but the survey indicated otherwise. This was discussed with the DEP. They need to demonstrate that there will be no changes to the structure. This may preclude the pedestrian rail from being done in the project.

**Wellers Scour**

Barbara Henry explained that this has been put back into the budget, but noted that they will need to determine if this is something that is necessary to do.

### **Squire Road Update & 8-24 Referral**

Barbara Henry read the Planning Commission response where they noted they felt it was appropriate to proceed. Russell Dirienzo reported that this was approved at the Wetlands meeting where a Public Hearing was held.

### **Transfer Station/CRRA/E-Recycling**

Barbara Henry noted that the town's Earth Day is Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. WeRecycle! will come in and collect electronics for recycling on April 26<sup>th</sup>. This is where electronics are collected and disposed of properly. In the future this will be paid for by the manufacturers. The Town will continue to collect e-recycle for six months.

### **Senior Center Board of Directors**

The structure of the Board of Directors for the Senior Center has been clearly defined which will consist of five members who will be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. To have this come to fruition an ordinance would be required. Barbara Henry asked the Board if they were in favor of having an ordinance drawn up to be approved at the next meeting. Final approval would be at the Town's Annual Meeting in May.

Motion by Robert Lowe to draft an ordinance with regard to the Senior Center Board of Directors to be reviewed for approval at the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Robert Lowe and carried.

### **Fire Marshal's Report – March**

Barbara Henry reviewed the Fire Marshal's Report noting the 12 calls in March.

Motion by Robert Lowe to adjourn at 8:55 PM. The motion was seconded by Russell Dirienzo and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tai Kern,  
Secretary

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