

**ROXBURY BOARD OF FINANCE  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 14, 2009  
MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Gary Lord, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM.

Present: Gary Lord, James Conway, Wayne Piskura, Hugh Rawson and Toby Goldfarb, Board of Finance Members; Barbara Henry, First Selectman.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting Held March 17, 2009**

Toby Goldfarb noted that he did not recall the comment noted on page 2 paragraph 1; “and that the Town could do a better job of maintaining the school”. The Board agreed and advised that it should be removed from the minutes.

Toby Goldfarb made a motion to accept the minutes of the 03/17/09 Regular Meeting as amended. The motion was seconded by Wayne Piskura and carried. Hugh Rawson abstained.

**Special Meeting Held April 7, 2009**

Wayne Piskura made a motion to accept the minutes of the 4/7/09 Special Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by James Conway and carried unanimously.

**BUSINESS**

**Continued Budget Discussion - Fiscal Year 2009-2010**

The Board reviewed the proposed budget for the Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

**Highway & Public Works:**

The Board discussed the remaining issues to be resolved on Squire Road. Toby Goldfarb suggested that they might want to consider chip sealing as part of the road contracts in the future. Gary Lord noted that the BOF would like to be involved in reviewing the contract for Minor Bridge Road before it is executed.

Barbara Henry reported that she is scheduled to meet with Public Works regarding the decision concerning which roads are to be chip sealed this year. Gary Lord noted that he is not in favor of chip sealing Squire Road this year.

Barbara Henry reported that they went over the current budget on salt this year. She explained that the magic salt is more expensive; however, it is less corrosive than straight salt. She noted that a sand salt mixture is used on dirt roads.

Barbara Henry clarified that Sanitation Services are for the Port-o-Johns for Town Parks. Additionally, Ground Maintenance consists of lawn mowing for parks and grounds of town buildings. She also explained that the 1998 Dodge Minivan belongs to the Senior Center and that it was donated along with a monetary amount for maintenance of the vehicle.

The Board discussed whether there should be a new line item within the Reserve for Capital Fund for Road Repair & Maintenance. While specific roads and/or bridges will not be specified, these funds will be designated for Improvements to roads and/or bridges. It was noted that they may not want to remove the Road Repair & Maintenance line from the Annual Operating Budget. This new line under Capital Improvements would be in addition to the Operating Budget line item. The Board agreed that they should consult the accountant to confirm that Road and/or Bridge Improvements meet the definition of Capital Improvements. This discussion will continue at the next meeting once the accountant has had an opportunity to provide his opinion. As Barbara Henry was to call the accountant on another matter, she will clarify this issue, too.

Protection:

Barbara Henry confirmed that the Town Constable is scheduled for 33 hours per week. She noted that the Uniform Budget includes dry-cleaning. She explained that Private Duty is billed out by the Town. Gary Lord noted his concerns that they do not reach the 35 hour per week threshold which triggers eligibility for employee benefits.

Barbara Henry explained that the State will not allow the sharing of a Resident State Trooper between towns. It was noted that the Town cannot have a Constable without Resident State Trooper oversight. Barbara Henry said that she spoke at the State Capital regarding the proposal to increase the towns' contribution toward Resident State Troopers from 70% to 85% and ultimately to 100%. She explained several ways that the Resident State Trooper program benefits the State itself.

Barbara Henry noted that she is waiting for funds to be released in the Stimulus Package for Emergency Services. She would like to obtain some of these funds for the Fire Department.

The Board discussed the expense of unmetered services for the use of the speed signs. Barbara Henry agreed to research solar panels. The purchase of meters for the devices was also discussed.

Barbara Henry noted that they may be able to obtain funds from Homeland Security for the E-911 System, Code Red or WARN.

Health & Welfare:

The Newtown Heath District rate increase was noted and attributed partly to the Town's population increase. It was agreed that the increase in the budget for Welfare Financial Aid was needed.

Barbara Henry reported that Commercial Haulers are no longer allowed to dump on Saturdays at the Transfer Station. Gary Lord suggested consideration of a charge of \$100 per load to the commercial haulers instead of an annual permit fee. It could be an incentive to use larger trucks with fewer visits. Barbara Henry noted that the permit fee is currently \$5,000 plus an additional \$25 fee per customer is charged to commercial haulers.

Benefits:

The Board reviewed union and non-union health benefits. Stand-by, longevity, sick and vacation pay were also reviewed for union employees. Barbara Henry explained that FICA and Medicare amounts include projected overtime. The Pension Plan includes Public Works employees and full time town employees.

Land Acquisition Fund:

Gary Lord made a motion to convene in executive session at 9:35 p.m. The motion was seconded Toby Goldfarb and carried unanimously.

Gary Lord made a motion to exit executive session at 9:50 p.m. The motion was seconded by Wayne Piskura and carried unanimously.

Capital Improvements:

Gary Lord noted that the only Capital Improvements funded from the proposed 2009-2010 budget are the Fire Truck and the Ambulance. Barbara Henry explained that all other capital projects will be funded by grants or LoCIP. The Board agreed that the balance of LoCIP funds should be applied to the South Street project, except for \$20,000 which will be retained for future projects. .

Barbara Henry explained that the proposed budget assumes 15% less State revenue to be provided than the Governor's numbers. She noted that the Appropriations Committee has reported \$352,190 for Roxbury; however, they are not near budget completion. The Board discussed the current and projected economy. The School Board's Budget increase was discussed. Gary Lord noted that Roxbury's General Fund balance has been rated as generous in proportion.

Gary Lord noted that any significant cuts could only come from the Land Acquisition Fund. Toby Goldfarb suggested that the Selectmen review the Land Acquisition Fund. James Conway noted that in the past the public was not agreeable to cuts in the Land Acquisition Fund.

Barbara Henry noted that the Selectmen felt it was necessary to cut lifeguards for the pond from the budget; however, the pond is still open. Children must not be left unattended at the pond.

Gary Lord made a motion to transfer the following excess funds totaling \$24,188 to Reserve for Capital Fund-Undesignated:

- Guard Shack - \$4,598
- Public Works Gate - \$2,494
- Chevy Pick-up - \$16,496
- WARN System - \$600

The motion was seconded by James Conway.

Wayne Piskura discussed whether this transfer was permissible since it is in excess of \$20,000. The Board agreed that permission from the Town's Legislative Body was not necessary since they are returning money rather than making an additional appropriation.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Wayne Piskura made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 p.m. The motion was seconded by Toby Goldfarb 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 Finance.*