

**TOWN OF ROXBURY  
MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 6, 2012**

The polls opened at 10:00a.m.

School and Town Moderator Lucinda Sullivan called the School portion of the meeting to order at 10:06 p.m.

Lucinda welcomed everyone and reminded the voters of Roberts Rules. Lucinda read from a book on town meetings by Frank Bryant and Susan Clark. Lucinda also mentioned the unique events that happened in Roxbury during 2011: March flooding, a bad mud season, April flooding and Tropical Storm Irene in August.

- Art. 1. To elect a School District Moderator (Australian Ballot) – no action taken.
- Art. 2. To elect a School Director for a term of 3 years (Australian Ballot) – no action taken.
- Art. 3. To hear and act upon reports of the Town School District. Karen Hedding moved, Fran French seconded. David Larcombe, School Board Chair, did a presentation on enrollment for the past six years. There was a discussion on the budget and amount of taxes that will need to be raised. The budget was decreased by 4.2% but taxes will go up. David mentioned that Jon Guiffre is in charge of the long term maintenance of the school building and Asa Twombly is working on food service. The voters gave permission for the School Principal, Judith Newman, to speak. Many voters asked questions regarding declining enrollment, teacher contracts, home schooled children, multi-age classrooms. David was thanked for his presentation.

Article 3 is before the voters. The motion passed with all ayes.

Lucinda would like to suspend the rules and have Roxbury's Representative, Maxine Grad speak. At 11:07 a.m. Maxine spoke about the redistricting. If the proposed new districts pass the Legislature, Roxbury will no longer be represented by Maxine and Anne Donahue. Roxbury will be in a district with Randolph, Braintree, Brookfield and Granville. Maxine spoke about foreclosures in Vermont are on the increase, getting service members access to courts, protection of the elderly and vulnerable adults, keeping sixteen and seventeen year olds in the family court system and racial disparities. Maxine presented the Town of Roxbury a VERMONT STRONG license plate.

At 11:17 a.m. the meeting resumed.

- Art. 4. Shall the voters of the Roxbury town School District approve the expenditure of \$1,580,534.00 necessary for the support of its school and secondary students for the year beginning July 1, 2012? (Australian Ballot) Art Dickinson moved, Fran French seconded. No discussion.
- Art. 5. Shall the voters of the Roxbury authorize the Roxbury Town School District to borrow money, in anticipation of revenue, not to exceed anticipated revenue for the 2012-2013 school year? (According to VSA Title 16, Section 562) (Australian Ballot) Fran French moved, Art Dickinson seconded. No discussion.
- Art. 6. Shall the voters of the Roxbury Town School District authorize the transfer of twenty percent (20%) of any surplus funds from the 2011-2012 budget to the maintenance reserve fund? (Australian Ballot) Art Dickinson moved, Karen Hedding seconded. John Aberth asked how much money was in the Reserve Fund. Dave Larcombe said approximately \$150,000.00. John asked why put money in the fund. The reply was that things come up unexpectedly and it is easier to keep the article in the warning every year.
- Art. 7. Shall the voters of the Roxbury Town School District authorize the transfer of forty percent (40%) of any surplus funds from the 2011-2012 budget to a reserve fund for tax reduction in the 2012-2015 budget? (Australian Ballot) Sally Archer moved, Donna French seconded. No discussion.
- Art. 8. Shall the voters of Roxbury ask the Roxbury School Board to arrange for a Roxbury community study of class size (the number of students per grade) to inform the voters of Roxbury about the impact of class size on learning opportunities for students in Roxbury? Art Dickinson moved, Craig Sullivan seconded. Dave Larcombe spoke about having a study done. Many questions were asked by the voters regarding school consolidation, class sizes, what other small towns have done, what would happen to our community and values. Jon Guiffre told the voters that there was no hidden agenda; the Board wanted the community involved to figure out what is best for the children. Judy Lusk called the question, the voters approved calling the question. The article was before the voters. The article passed with two nos and many ayes.

Art. 9. To transact any other business proper to be brought before said meeting. Fran French moved, Wendy Cashman seconded. Jon Guiffre spoke about the maintenance on the building. Chris Dorer thanked the staff, Board and administration. Mike Feiner mentioned that he appreciates a small school. The article was before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.

The School portion of the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

The Town portion of the meeting was called to order at 11:55 a.m.

Art. 1. To elect all officers by Australian Ballot – no action taken.

Art. 2. To hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers. Karen Hedding moved, Wendy Cashman seconded. Shawn Neun, Chair of the Selectboard discussed Tropical Storm Irene. Shawn thanked Dave McShane, Steve Twombly and the community for all the work they did. Dave McShane, Road Commissioner, said there is \$1,798,000.00 in damages to town roads. The State of Vermont is pushing FEMA to reimburse 90% of damages. Typically FEMA pays 75% and the State and Towns pay 25%. The Town has spent \$1,545,692.37; so far, the Town has borrowed \$1,545,000.00 from People's Bank through a line-of-credit. The interest rate for the line-of-credit is 1.65%, the Board expects to pay \$26,000 in interest. There is a possibility that FEMA may cover 90% of damages, the State 10% so all Roxbury would have to pay is 3 cents on the Grand List which is \$24,800.00 plus the interest on the line-of-credit. There is work that still needs to be done on the roads. Sally Archer and Sue Nevins thanked the Board for all the work they did. Many questions were asked regarding Tropical Storm Irene. Sue D'Amico requested a standing ovation for the road crew for all the work they did after Irene. Gerry D'Amico asked about the ATV Club using roads. Shawn informed the voters that the community will be involved in the request for ATV use. Steve Twombly, Selectman, explained the rules for adopting an ordinance (for ATV use on roads). A buy-out process for one home that was severely damaged during Tropical Storm Irene was discussed. If the Town does a buy-out on the home, the house must be demolished and be used as green space. FEMA would pay 75% and the State is proposing pay 25%. The Town would own the property. If the State does not pay the 25%, the Board would have to decide if they are willing to use taxpayer money to pay the 25%. The question is before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.

Art. 3. Will the voters approve the collection of taxes on real estate in two (2) equal installments payable to the Collector of Current Taxes on the fourth Saturday of August 2012 and the fourth Saturday of February 2013, with interest of one percent (1%) per month, or fraction thereof, on the unpaid taxes after each installment due date? Karen Hedding moved, Wendy Cashman seconded. Gerry D'Amico asked about having multiple installments in the future. There is a new bill being proposed that would have the State collecting the education taxes but the delinquent taxes would stay with the towns. Privacy of prebates was discussed. It was mentioned that the State should start sending the prebate checks back to the taxpayers. The article was before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.

At 12:15 p.m., lunch break began.

At 1:00 p.m. Representative Anne Donahue spoke to the voters about electronic cigarettes, autism, land fill/mandatory recycling, construction/contractors, legalizing marijuana and the vaccination bill.

At 1:15 p.m. the meeting resumed.

Art. 4. Will the voters approve the sum of \$416,113.00 for the operation and maintenance of Town roads? Randy Whitney moved, Sally Archer seconded. Dave McShane informed the voters that the increase in budget was due to insurance and wages. The Board hopes the budget will be enough to cover expenses, fuel prices are rising. Tim Martin asked why the FEMA expenses are not in the highway budget. It was mentioned that a line-of-credit would normally go under the general government budget. The article was before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.

Art. 5. Will the voters approve the sum of \$220,720.00 for the operation of the Town Administrative functions? This does not include any funds that may be approved in any other article. Wendy Cashman moved, Donna French seconded. Shawn Neun told the voters that the increase in the budget was because of the interest payment & debt reduction. Jill George asked about the town office maintenance. It was mentioned that the Town received insurance funds from the flood in March to replace the furnace and also received insurance funds from Tropical Storm Irene in

August. The furnace and electrical panel have been moved out of the basement. The article was before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 6. Shall the Roxbury voters approve using any 2010/2011 surplus funds to pay the interest on the line-of-credit and reduce storm related damage costs. Sue D'Amico moved, Sally Archer seconded. There was no surplus in the highway budget last year, the surplus was in the general government budget. The article was before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.
- Art. 7. Will the voters approve the sum of \$2,000.00 for the Community Hall Capital Improvement Fund? Sue D'Amico moved, Claire Chomentowski seconded. Carlos Montero, Vice-President, spoke on behalf of the Community Hall Restoration Project committee. He told the voters what work has been done on the building. Carlos said that the building is being prepped for insulation. Carlos thanked Mike George; Mike has donated his time working on the new bathroom and kitchen. To keep the cost low, volunteers are needed. Tim Martin moved to amend the article to \$4,000.00. Randy Whitney seconded. The amendment was before the voters: Will the voters approve the sum of \$4,000.00 for the Community Hall Capital Improvement Fund? The amendment passed with all ayes. The article is now before the voters. Will the voters approve the sum of \$4,000.00 for the Community Hall Capital Improvement Fund? The amended article passed with all ayes.
- Art. 8. Will the voters approve the borrowing of funds not to exceed \$75,000.00 for a five year period for the purchase of a fire department tanker truck? Don Randall moved, Wendy Cashman seconded. Tim Martin, Fire Chief, spoke on behalf of the Fire Department. Tim said that last year the voters asked the Fire Department to move forward. The cost of a new truck is \$170,000.00. Don Randall mentioned that the Selectboard needs voter approval to borrow money for a new fire truck. The Fire Department has a CD (fundraising money) that would be used towards the purchase of a truck. Randy Whitney thanked the Fire Department for all the work they did during Tropical Storm Irene. Many questions were asked of the Fire Department regarding the purchase of a new truck. The article was before the voters. The article passed with 1 no and many ayes.
- Art. 9. Will the voters approve the sum of \$10,000.00 for the Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department Truck Capital Account? Gerry D'Amico moved, Donna French seconded. The article passed with all ayes.
- Art. 10. Will the voters approve the sum of \$14,895.00 for the Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department? Gerry D'Amico moved, Wendy Cashman seconded. Tim Martin would like to amend the article to \$18,395, Carlos Montero seconded. The increase in the budget is to purchase personal protective equipment and to pay for medical exams for the fire fighters which is required by law. It was mentioned that grants are hard to get now for new equipment. The amendment is before the voters: Will the voters approve the sum of \$18,395.00 for the Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department? The amendment passed with all ayes. The amended article is now before the voters: Will the voters approve the sum of \$18,395.00 for the Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department? There was discussion about the equipment fund. The article passed with all ayes.
- Art. 11. Will the voters approve the sum of \$12,000.00 for the Roxbury Free Library, to be administered by the Trustees? Duane Natvig moved, Sally Archer seconded. Jane Pincus, Library Trustee, told the voters that a new Library Director was hired. His name is Ryan Zajac. Jane thanked the community for being generous. Jane also thanked Joan Leary and the volunteers for the work they have done. The article is before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.
- Art. 12. In light of the United States Supreme Court's Citizens United decision that equates money with speech and gives corporations rights constitutionally intended for natural persons, shall the Town of Roxbury vote on March 6, 2012, to urge that Vermont Congressional Delegation and the U.S. Congress to propose a U.S. Constitutional Amendment for the States' consideration which provides that money is not speech, and that corporations are not persons under the U.S. Constitution, that the General Assembly of the State of Vermont pass a similar resolution, and that the town send its resolution to Vermont State and Federal representatives within thirty days of passage of this measure? Alan Waterman moved, Duane Natvig seconded. Duane and Claire Chomentowski spoke in support of the article. Alan Waterman spoke about the electoral process. Jon Guiffre also voiced his support of the article. The article was before the voters. The article passed with a very strong voice vote.

- Art. 13. Shall the Town Voters authorize expenditure of \$500.00 for the Central Vermont Community Action Council, Inc.: helping people build better lives for themselves, their families and communities through weatherization, business development, food shelves, Head Start, emergency heating, housing counseling, job training, financial education & more. Claire Chomentowski moved, Wendy Cashman seconded. The article passed with two nos and many ayes.
- Art. 14. Shall the town voters authorize expenditures for Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice in the amount of \$750.00, a full service Visiting Nurse Association providing high quality, medically-necessary home health and hospice care to all Central Vermonters regardless of ability to pay; health promotion & long term care services? Duane Natvig moved, Alan Waterman seconded. Randy Whitney talked about the overhead cost and mentioned that the money may not go where you think it should go. Sue D'Amico supported the CVHH&H. Claire Chomentowski mentioned that the food shelf clients receive money from CVHH&H. Jill George agreed with Randy Whitney. It was mentioned that individuals can donate money, that it may be a better way than to have taxpayers approve the donation. Carlos Montero mentioned that the Legislature reduced funds to organizations. The article was before the voters. The article passed with one no and many ayes.
- Art. 15. Shall the town voters authorize expenditures for Family Center of Washington County in the amount of \$200.00, fostering positive growth and development of young children and their families by offering safe, nurturing programs and services for children, families and service providers? Alan Waterman moved, Duane Natvig seconded. The article was before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.
- Art. 16. Shall the town voters authorize expenditures for Sexual Assault Crisis Team of Washington County in the amount of \$100.00, advocacy for female and male victims of sexual violence, their family members, spouses, and friends; includes emotional, legal, and medical support, shelter, training and 24-hour Hotline? Sally Archer moved, Duane Natvig seconded. The article was before the voters. The article passed with all ayes
- Art. 17. Shall the town voters authorize expenditures for Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired in the amount of \$500.00, since 1926, enabling Vermonters with vision problems, whether blindness or impairment, to achieve and maintain independence? Claire Chomentowski moved, Wendy Cashman seconded. The article was before the voters. The article passed with many ayes and one no.
- Art. 18. Shall the town voters authorize expenditures for Good Beginnings of Central Vermont in the amount of \$50.00, since 1991 volunteer mothers of all ages have been offering ongoing support, education, and advocacy through free home visits to all birth and adoptive families in Central Vermont? Wendy Cashman moved, Carol Randall seconded. The article was before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.
- Art. 19. Shall the town voters authorize expenditures for People's Health and Wellness Clinic in the amount of \$200.00, providing primary health care and wellness education to the uninsured and underinsured community members of Central Vermont who cannot otherwise afford these services? Sue Nevins moved, Duane Natvig seconded. The article was before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.
- Art. 20. Shall the town voters authorize expenditures for Washington County Youth Service Bureau/Boys & Girls Club in the amount of \$250.00, Cityscape after-school program; counseling; drug/alcohol treatment; help for runaway/homeless youth; support for teen parents; teen center; reentry program for young offenders; 24-hour crisis intervention; and more? Alan Waterman moved, Wendy Cashman seconded. The article was before the voters. The article passed with many ayes and one no.
- Art. 21. Shall the town voters authorize expenditures for RSVP (Retired Senior and Volunteer Program) in the amount of \$100.00, helping meet community needs by placing RSVP volunteers in services provided by area community non-profit organizations, and supporting those organizations in the field of volunteer management? Donna French moved, Wendy Cashman seconded. The article was before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.
- Art. 22. Shall the town voters authorize expenditures for Central Vermont Council on Aging in the amount of \$700.00, working to keep elders aging successfully and living independently in their homes and communities as long as possible? Sally Archer moved, Claire Chomentowski seconded. The article was before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 23. Shall the town voters authorize expenditures for Circle (formerly Battered Women's Services and Shelter) in the amount of \$100.00: a community-based organization dedicated to ending domestic abuse? Sally Archer moved, Alan Waterman seconded. The article was before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.
- Art. 24. To transact any other proper business to be brought before said meeting. Sue D'Amico moved, Sally Archer seconded. Sue D'Amico from the Energy Committee mentioned that they had received \$4,000.00 toward restoring the Senior Center/Community Hall. The Energy Committee needs more volunteers. Claire Chomentowski mentioned the Town's Leash Law. There needs to be better enforcement of the law. An incident in the Flats (lower Roxbury) – a dog seriously hurt two other dogs. Sue D'Amico mentioned that dogs are running loose. There was discussion about getting the word out to the residents about the Leash Law. Alan Waterman mentioned rational choices over charitable organization. Sally Archer mentioned the Grand List report was not in the Town Report and will be available at the Town Office. A special thank you to Robin Twombly and the volunteers for the lunch. It was mentioned that the School Board's presentation was great. Claire Chomentowski thanked Lucinda Sullivan for her good work as Moderator. Article 24 was before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Tammy Legacy, Town Clerk



West Hill Culvert October 2012