

**DRAFT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
OF MARCH 3, 2026**

Moderator Jackie Frazier called the meeting to order at 10:24 a.m.

Jackie read a poem to those in attendance. She mentioned the Town Hall has no heat and no internet.

She explained the rules of the meeting. The Town follows Roberts Rules of Order.

If there are no objections, Jackie would allow Representative Jay Hooper to speak. There were no objections.

Representative Hooper mentioned this was his fifth term of office. A decade is a lot of time for a lot of smart people doing nothing. Roxbury was dealt one of the worst hands regarding our school, Act 46, closing the school and now there is talk about consolidating schools. Jay mentioned he attended the Pre-Town Meeting in Roxbury and there were many community members there. Supervisory Unions vs School Districts was mentioned. He mentioned H495 which is to create a jurisdictional path. Local control not defined at the State House. Roxbury should share their experiences with the State; Roxbury needs better representation in the State House. Some questions were asked by the voters.

Art. 1. To elect the following officers of the Town. (Australian Ballot)
Town Moderator for a term of one year
Town Clerk for a term of one year
Town Treasurer for a term of one year
Selectperson for a term of three years
Selectperson for a term of two years
Lister for a term of three years
Lister for one year, remainder of a three-year term
Auditor for a term of three years
Auditor for two years, remainder of a three-year term
Auditor for one year, remainder of a three-year term
Library Trustee for a term of three years (elect 3)
Collector of Delinquent Taxes for a term of one year
Cemetery Commissioner for a term of three years
First Constable for a term of one year
Second Constable for a term of one year

Art. 2. To hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers. Heidi Albright moved the question and Edgar Mesquita seconded. Jeremy spoke about what is in the Selectboard Report. The Board has been focused on two things that were intertwined – Tax Rate and RVS. There will be a slight increase on taxes due to highway having a \$100,000 to go into a reserve fund for the town garage and \$100,000 for RVS. Jon Guiffre talked about the road budget and wondered if the budget is for 3 full time road crew. Jeremy said it is for 3 but they are not looking for anyone. The budget is for 3 full time road crew.

The article is before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.

Art. 3. Will the voters approve the collection of taxes on real estate in four (4) equal installments on August 14, 2026, November 13, 2026, February 12, 2027 and May 21, 2027, with interest of one-half percent (0.5%) per month, or fraction thereof, on the unpaid taxes after each installment due date? Ed Carney moved the question and Heidi Albright seconded. No discussion. The article passed with all ayes.

Art. 4. Will the voters approve the sum of \$736,733.00 for the operation and maintenance of Town roads? This does not include any funds that may be approved in any other article. Jon Guiffre moved the question and Caroline Edlund seconded. Jon Guiffre wanted to amend the article for an additional \$25,000 to make sure we keep the two we have and to get a 3rd road crew member immediately. Jon Guiffre moved to increase to \$25,000 to ensure the hiring of a third full time road crew twelve months and to ensure retention for current two members. Ben Pincus wasn't sure about the amendment and Don

Randall thinks the roads are excellent. Caroline Edlund thinks her road is better than before. Tim Martin, Road Commissioner, spoke about the road crew. The Board had been worried they would get burned out but they do take time off during the week. Lots of culverts have been put in. They had been looking for a 3rd guy, per diem, and no one came forward that qualified. Juniper Ryan mentioned she has seen a decline on her road. Ryan Johns was concerned about the two-road crew, what if one gets sick, no work can get done. Seems risky to just have two, safety net is with three. Arthur Smith agreed with Ryan Johns. Tracy Hill is in great shape, hard time finding people. Steve Twombly gave a history of Roxbury, double the population from 50 years ago, double the roads. Steve agrees with Jon Guiffre, it is 2 cents on tax rate and is a wise amendment. Heidi Albright tagged onto what Steve Twombly said. We should be paying all our employees really well; we budgeted for 3 people for highway. Jon Guiffre stated the Selectboard does what they seem fit but with this amendment the Selectboard would honor that – a 12-month full time position. What happens if one is sick? Roads wouldn't be plowed. Safety, livelihood, property values, it is a small price to pay was mentioned. Jerry D'Amico called the question. Caroline Edlund seconded. Question being called passed.

The amendment is before the voters. Will the voters approve the sum of \$761,733.00 for the operation and maintenance of Town roads? This does not include any funds that may be approved in any other article. The amendment passed with many ayes.

The article is before the voters. Will the voters approve the sum of \$761,733.00 for the operation and maintenance of Town roads? This does not include any funds that may be approved in any other article. The article passed with many ayes and 1 no.

- Art. 5. Will the voters approve the sum of \$411,502.00 for the operation of the Town Administrative functions? This does not include any funds that may be approved in any other article. Ed Carney moved the article, Nick Laskovski seconded. Steve Twombly asked about funds for maintenance for RVS. There is \$75,000 in the current budget. Jeremy stated there will be some carried forward. There have been significant expenses with testings, building inspections which needed to be addressed. Looking for tenants, underground storage tank needs to be taken out and there is lead in the water pipes. The Board will not be reckless with the funds. Dillon Edlund mentioned it was \$75,000 last year and \$100,000 this year. Nick Laskovski, Town's Energy Coordinator, talked about solar panels on the roof, getting heat pump upgrades and expensive oil bills. The Fire Department has solar panels and they reduced the Town's bills during the year. They were a good investment. Nate Donahue, Selectman, mentioned the \$75,000 was an anticipated partial funding and the GMP bill is approximately \$1,200 a month. Ben Pincus asked about Tammy's pay. Tammy mentioned a new Town Clerk in Tunbridge makes \$33.00 an hour and the Town Clerk in Berlin make \$42.00 an hour. Tammy stated she has been here since 1998 and makes \$26.35 an hour. Tom Frazier mentioned repairs to the Town Hall.

The article is before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 6. Will the voters approve the adoption of a 1% Local Option Room Tax for the purposes of funding, voter determined, capital improvements in the Town of Roxbury? Edgar Mesquita moved the question and Andre Souigny seconded. Jeremy spoke about the article. It would be a 1% tax on rooms and could generate \$1,500 to \$2,000 in income to the Town. Andre Souigny asked about the room tax. It would come from renting through Arbnb, B&B and VRBOs. Ryan Zajac wondered where the revenue generated would go. Jeremy stated into the General Fund. Jerry D'Amico is opposed to the article. He stated 30 years ago there was an inventory tax on businesses which generated income but was voted out and now this tax of 1% for \$1,500 which is penalizing a few. Jon Guiffre is opposed – it may be beneficial for larger towns but penalizes a few. It adds a burden to those that have it and brings business to the Town. John Aberth has an Arbnb; it would bring less people to Town. Hannah Bryant has been renting since 2008; she has an Arbnb. This is their income. There are a lot of competition with hotels and other Arbnb. This is a side business that allows them to stay here. Tom Frazier supports the article; Arbnb takes housing out of the market. 1% won't hurt anyone. John Aberth said he is not

taking housing off the market, they can rent short term or longer term. Andre Souigny thinks the discussion is off target with the article. Pam Peterson is new to the community. She uses Arbnb and Vrbos and thinks it is wrong to tax people. Jillian Abraham does not agree with taxing Arbnbs; taxing second homeowners. Laura Hamilton mentioned she owns a second home and that allows them to stay there. Jon Guiffre doesn't think housing is impacted by short term rentals in Roxbury. Elizabeth Carney mentioned recent work with a grant it, it clearly is looking for ways to get people to come and stay in Town. Don't discourage people from coming to Town. Nate Donahue said the Selectboard looked into the other options for taxes but thought this would have the least impact on people; there are very little ways of getting income. Karen Tassinari talked about taxing purchases on Amazon. Steve Twombly called the question. There were lots of seconds to call the question. Calling the question passes with many ayes and one no. The article is before the voters.

Will the voters approve the adoption of a 1% Local Option Room Tax for the purposes of funding, voter determined, capital improvements in the Town of Roxbury? The nos have it with a couple of ayes. The article failed.

Art. 7. Shall the voters authorize the Roxbury Selectboard, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1061, to lease all or portions of the Roxbury Village School property upon such terms and conditions as the Selectboard deems to be in the best interests of the Town? Heidi Albright moved the question, Nick Laskovski seconded. Steve Twombly was concerned with the direction to lease the building. We need to look at energy efficient improvements; other Town's schools that closed made it into a municipal building. Steve proposes we look at making it a municipal building. Nick Laskovski agreed with Mr. Twombly. Leave it open to make sure the Town can be a tenant, don't exclude leasing to ourselves. Andre Souigny talked about leasing the building. Jeremy Reed said this was a recommendation from our attorney to allow the Selectboard to lease some or all of the building. It doesn't exclude other ideas. It is keeping with the non-binding vote from last year. Tom Frazier stated he has been involved trying to resolve RVS. It is too big for Town Offices. It would be a great facility for childcare. We've spent money on the other buildings. It would be giving up the fabric of the community. May turn out that we won't lease it but there is interest to rent space and maybe make money. Also mentioned was the Town Office and Community Hall share the same septic. The school has a septic and water system which are used by other properties in Town. Give some time to get it rented. Ben Pincus said he'd liked to call the question since it is a legal question. There is a Task Force working with Selectboard. The question was called. Don Randall seconded. All ayes to call the question. The article is before the voters.

Shall the voters authorize the Roxbury Selectboard, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1061, to lease all or portions of the Roxbury Village School property upon such terms and conditions as the Selectboard deems to be in the best interests of the Town? The article passed with all ayes.

At 11:52 p.m. the meeting broke for lunch. Carl Ellis mentioned prices go up but the Library's Raffle Tickets stay the same. Lunch ended at 12:36 p.m.

Art. 8. Will the voters of the Town of Roxbury, rename the Municipal Building Repair Reserve Fund to the Municipal Building Repair & Maintenance Reserve Fund for future use in repairing and maintaining Town owned building? Andy Apgar moved the question, Don Randall seconded. Ben Pincus asked why this article. Jeremy clarified the usage of repairing fund. The article passed with all ayes.

Art. 9 Will the voters approve the sum of \$34,450.00 for the Roxbury Free Library, to be administered by the Trustees, with any excess to be directed to the Town's general fund at the conclusion of the fiscal year? Ed Carney moved the question, Hannah Zajac seconded. Ryan Zajac, Librarian, mentioned the budget. The article is before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.

Art. 10. Will the voters approve the sum of \$800.00 for the Roxbury Free Library Computer Capital Reserve Fund? Andy Apgar moved the question, Hannah Zajac seconded. No discussion. The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 11. Will the voters approve the sum of \$17,055.00 for the Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department's operating expenses, with any excess to be directed to the Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department's equipment fund at the conclusion of the fiscal year? Caroline Edlund moved the question, Don Randall seconded. Tom Frazier asked about what the income was for the Fire Department and also if the income from the July 4 went to Fire Department, shouldn't the income be listed. Tim Martin thought the income for July 4th went to Neighbors Helping Neighbors. Tom Frazier thinks the income should be listen when it is raised on behalf of the Town. Tom wants it listed in the Town Report. The article is before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.
- Art. 12. Will the voters approve the sum of \$15,000.00 for the Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department Truck Capital Account? Judy Lusk moved the question, Ryan Zajac seconded. Nick Laskovski asked how much was in the account. Balance is \$180,000. The article is before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.
- Art. 13. Will the voters approve the sum of \$1,500.00 to provide entertainment for the Roxbury 4th of July Celebration, with any excess to be directed to the Town's general fund at the conclusion of the fiscal year? Judy Lusk moved the question, Hannah Zajac seconded. Andre Souigny asked about activities and selling things at the 4th of July. He thought using space and charging for things weren't allowed. Last year people were selling their stuff, where did that money go? Are we opening the 4th of July up for sales? Jeremy stated the Board hadn't discussed selling stuff at July 4th but will address it this year. Arthur Smith suggested taking \$500 from this and giving it to the Food Shelf. Arthur amended the article to reduce \$500 and hopes it would be used to increase the Food Shelf. Dillon Edlund seconded the amendment. Charles suggested keeping it and just giving more to the Food Shelf. Nate Donahue spoke on it. It is about the only thing Roxbury does all year. Judy Lusk wondered why \$1,500 on an event with no transparency. Jeremy stated the Board will address it at a meeting. Judy asked where the proceeds went from the BBQ? The amendment is before the voters. Will the voters approve the sum of \$1,000.00 to provide entertainment for the Roxbury 4th of July Celebration, with any excess to be directed to the Town's general fund at the conclusion of the fiscal year? Many nos, the amendment failed. The original article is before the voters.

Will the voters approve the sum of \$1,500.00 to provide entertainment for the Roxbury 4th of July Celebration, with any excess to be directed to the Town's general fund at the conclusion of the fiscal year? The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 14. Will the voters appropriate \$4,629.00 to be raised by taxes to the following organizations as shown?

Roxbury Food Shelf	\$1,000.00
Central Vermont Council on Aging	\$900.00
CV Adult Basic Education	\$600.00
Family Center of Washington County	\$200.00
The Greater Northfield Senior Citizens, Inc	\$500.00
Vt Assoc. for the Blind and Visually Impaired	\$500.00
Green Mountain Transit	\$429.00
Circle (f.k.a. Battered Women's Services)	\$250.00
Mosaic (f.k.a. Sexual Assault Crisis)	\$250.00

Ed Carney moved the article, Ryan Zajac seconded. Ed Carney amended the article to increase the Food Shelf to \$1,500. There is an increase in participation at the Food Shelf. Last year it was \$1,500. There were questions about individual organizations. Roots chose not to ask for any funds, they are doing ok. Andre Souigny talked about Green Mountain Transit. Laura Hamilton said Green Mountain Transit helps her mom but there are restrictions. Carl Ellis asked about increasing to \$2,000. There is an amendment to the amendment to increase to \$2,000. Ed Carney seconded. Don Randall asked Claire Chomentowski what is needed. Claire thanked every one for their support. She talked about past experiences getting food from local stores. Neighbors Helping Neighbors may help out. Pam Peterson wondered

how many use the Food Shelf on a monthly basis and how much goes to waste. Claire said some weeks there may be a surplus, it doesn't go to waste. There are 12 families a week, open on Wednesday from noon to 1:30 p.m. The voters voted on the amendment. Will the voters appropriate \$5,629.00 to be raised by taxes to the following organizations as shown? The article passed with many ayes one no. The article is before the voters. The article the voters: Will the voters appropriate \$5,629.00 to be raised by taxes to the following organizations as shown? The article passed with all ayes.

Roxbury Food Shelf	\$2,000.00
Central Vermont Council on Aging	\$900.00
CV Adult Basic Education	\$600.00
Family Center of Washington County	\$200.00
The Greater Northfield Senior Citizens, Inc	\$500.00
Vt Assoc. for the Blind and Visually Impaired	\$500.00
Green Mountain Transit	\$429.00
Circle (f.k.a. Battered Women's Services)	\$250.00
Mosaic (f.k.a. Sexual Assault Crisis)	\$250.00

- Art. 15. Will the voters appropriate \$1,250.00 to Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice? Hannah Zajac moved the article and Kristen Getler seconded. No discussion. Article passed with all ayes.
- Art. 16. Will the voters appropriate \$350.00 to Community Harvest of Central Vermont? Heidi Albright moved the question, Heather Holter seconded. No discussion. The article passed with all ayes.
- Art. 17. Will the voters appropriate \$200.00 to Good Beginnings of Central Vermont? Andre Souigny moved the question, Hannah Zajac seconded. No discussion. Article passed with all ayes.
- Art. 18. To transact any other proper business to be brought before said meeting. Andre Souigny talked about volunteering for What's Next Roxbury's now Roxbury Connected. Meetings are happening, they are working on projects. Heidi Albright is part of What's Next Roxbury's Task Force, Reimage RVS building, meeting twice a month since April. Childcare programs could possibly raise lots of funds for the building, they are looking into tenants. Hannah Bryant and some children talked about raising funds for a bus for the Ski & Ride Program. They are selling seeds and people can donate funds. It was mentioned there are scholarship funds available to help families. Ben Pincus wanted to recognize Tammy Legacy and Britney Pombar for all they do and how little they are paid. Juniper Johns talked some about Local Option Tax on Amazon packages. Nate Donahue said they needed to do more research on a Local Option Tax on Amazon. It would be an additional tax on top of the tax. Judy Lusk asked if you can go back in the meeting and amend an article. The answer was it is too late to amend article. Tammy Legacy praised Karen Tassinari for the solo work she did on the Town Report. She suggested forming a committee to help with future Town Reports. Heidi Albright thanked Ryan Zajac for the fourteen years as Library Director. Ryan thanked the community. Kristen Getler suggested budgeting for a babysitter at Town Meeting. Boo Smith stated the photos are beautiful in the Town Report. Jackie Frazier thanked the Selectboard, Tammy and Britney.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

Tammy Legacy
Town Clerk