

Minutes Alford Select Board

November 8, 2021

Present: Select Board Charles Ketchen, Peggy Rae Henden-Wilson, TJ Horrigan, Jayne Smith

VIA Zoom: Peter Puciloski, Lauren Sartor-Hobgood, Carrie Petrick

Meeting called to order at 5:32pm

Minutes of September 27 and October 4 and October 25, 2021. Approved

BOH update: COVID cases are continuing to rise in Berkshire County. Spreading events tend to be at indoor events. Hospital admissions remain low.

The USDA grant has been approved and will be deposited into the general fund.

Smith reported the VNA is no longer providing services and she is wondering if those funds can be reallocated to the Public Health Collaborative. Sartori-Hobgood stated the change of use would have to be voted on at a Town Meeting; however, the Finance Committee could transfer the funds from Emergency Reserve.

Smith reported the Town of Alford has had an agreement with the Berkshire Public Health Alliance for the past 10 years. She noted the BPHA typically applies for grants using the Town of Alford name and does not inform the Town nor does the Town get any direct benefit from the grants. Smith is proposing the Town send the BPHA a letter to specifically notify the Town if they are using Alford on a grant or to withdraw from the BPHA.

Henden-Wilson made a motion to withdraw from the Berkshire Public Health Alliance. Motion seconded by Puciloski. Motion passed unanimously.

Smith received a letter from the SBRSD School Committee asking if the member towns would like to have the Covid-19 vaccine be on the list of required vaccines to attend school.

Henden-Wilson made a motion to recommend the school committee add the Covid-19 vaccine to the list of required vaccines to attend school. Motion seconded by Puciloski. The motion passed by a vote of 2-1.

Highway update: Horrigan reported his first 2 salt deliveries were delivered in 48 hours after ordering. Horrigan asked the Board for guidance on plowing of Whites Hill Road. In years past the Town has turned around in the driveway of Barri Belnap, which is located in New York State. Steve Haas has now installed a turnaround in Alford as per the agreement he had with the Town. Horrigan would like a decision by the Select Board on how far up Whites Hill to plow.

Puciloski made the motion to plow Whites Hill Road to the newly install turnaround. Henden-Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

ARPA Grant Funds: Sartori-Hobgood reported the Town of Alford is in line to receive \$146,000.00 in funds over the next several years. She did state the funds are restrictive and if the Town does not have a way to spend the funds, they can be returned. She did comment all the work the BOH does in relation to COVID-19 will be cover by the grant. The funds can be used for premium pay for employees and some funds were used in October for this. Sartori-Hobgood will continue to follow uses for water and sewer, habitat protection and ground water protection. Since the funds need to be used on public use, they do not pertain to Alford at this time. She did not know if there may be some funds available for Broadband expansion.

MVP Grant Opportunity: Carrie Petrick addressed the Select Board. She stated the MVP grants are a two-step process. First is the planning grant, which would be between \$25,000-\$50,000. An assessment of the Town would be done. This assessment will address what effect climate change will have on dirt roads, ground water, brooks and streams. They would prioritize the deficiencies and submit the list to the Town for review. The planning grant would not require any financial match just a time match. The Action Grants would require a 25% financial match. Petrick will email the RFR to the Town.

Old Business: EDM- No new information.

 KP Law- No Response regarding Zoning By-law review.

 BNRC Sign permit- Not need per Planning Board.

New Business: Tree Warden Appointment. Henden-Wilson made a motion to appoint Monty Green as Tree Warden starting December 1, 2021. To be reappointed annually on July 1st. The salary will be \$3500 per year prorated for the first year. Motion seconded by Puciloski. Motion passed unanimously.

Other topics: Ketchen has contact information for the Grant Writer the Town Of Monterey uses. He will get in touch with him and report to the Board.

Henden-Wilson is going to research to see if the ARPA funds can be used for records consolidation.

Meeting adjourned 6:45 pm

Respectfully submitted
Roxanne Germain

