

Minutes Alford Select Board

April 11, 2022

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

VIA Zoom: Peter Puciloski, Jayne Smith, Jeff Blaugrund.

Other present via zoom: Joan Rogers, Michael Wilcox, Tim Ortwein, Jay Ortwein

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm

Minutes of March 14 and 21 approved with spelling corrections

BOH update: Smith reported there are no new COVID cases in Alford. There has been a slight uptick in COVID and Flu cases in Southern Berkshire. The Public Health Collaborative is planning Flu clinics for the fall. There will be a car seat installation clinic this spring.

There will be a drug take back program in April 30th at the police stations in Great Barrington, Egremont and Sheffield. The Harm Reduction van will be in Alford on the last Monday of the month.

Smith presented an IMA from the Southern Berkshire Health Collaborative for approval by the Select Board. A motion by Henden-Wilson to accept the agreement as written. Puciloski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Henden-Wilson asked Smith about the "bird flu". Smith suggested not letting chicken roam outside. The sickness is coming from migrating geese and waterfowl.

Horrigan asked if Smith could get the Highway department AED and CPR certified.

Ketchen made a motion to give Smith a \$750 COVID retention stipend. Puciloski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Highway: Horrigan reported he got an estimate from Braxton Shafiroff for \$1065 to fix the Seekonk Marsh Brook Trail. Henden-Wilson suggested making a line item on the Annual Town Meeting warrant for Trail Maintenance for transparency to the residents of Alford. Henden-Wilson made a motion to include a line on the FY 2023 ATM warrant for \$4500 for Seekonk Marsh Brook Trail. Puciloski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Henden-Wilson made a motion the transfer \$1065 out of Emergency Reserve to pay for the repair of the Seekonk Marsh Brook Trail in FY2022. Puciloski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Cultural Council: Sharon Schafler has requested to represent Alford on the Alford/Egremont Cultural Council. A motion was made by Henden-Wilson to appoint Schafler to the Alford/Egremont Cultural Council. Seconded by Puciloski. The motion passed unanimously.

Jay Ortwein (10 Rowe Road) addressed the Select Board regarding the water running from the town road onto his property and making ruts in his yard. Horrigan agreed to meet with Mr. Ortwein to see what can be done.

School Committee Report: Blaugrund reported there are currently 633 students enrolled in the SBRSD. The Select Board had several questions regarding the FY2023 budget and how future budgets will be funded with the declining enrollment. Blaugrund asked the Select Board to draft a letter to the Superintendent and cc Blaugrund. When asked about the consolidation of the two districts he stated he was not opposed to the concept, however, he feels the current process is moving too quickly.

Blaugrund reported in the past year SBRSD has received \$1,000,000 in grants for Early College. The Robotics program has been expanded to include third grade and up. There has been an investment in technology for the math readiness program and “Real Time Data” program for teachers to catch students up for losses during COVID.

Henden-Wilson asked if Blaugrund would be running for re-election in November and he stated he would not.

Other Topics:

Creation of a General By-Law document for Alford

Research using Doc-u-sign. What can and can not be done on a municipal level.

Increasing the Stipend/Expense for School Committee Rep.

Meeting adjourned 6:45 pm

Respectfully submitted

Roxanne Germain