

Minutes Alford Select Board

March 13, 2023

Present: Select Board: Charles Ketchen, Peter Puciloski, Peggy Rae Henden-Wilson, Joan Rogers

Zoom: Jayne Smith

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

Minutes of February 27, 2023 approved as written

BOH Update: No Changes with Covid infections. Ms. Smith has been in contact with Alford resident, Lee Gallagher, and she is happy to the Alford representative to the Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative. Ms. Henden-Wilson made a motion to accept Lee Gallagher as the Alford representative to the SBPHC. Motion seconded by Mr. Puciloski. Motion passed unanimously.

Highway update: No Report

SBA- Mr. Puciloski had a meeting with Mark Pruhenski from Great Barrington. Great Barrington is fine with the assessment given them from the SBA and see not need to look at an alternative method of allocation. Ms. Henden-Wilson suggested we offer a lower amount to the SBA. Mr. Puciloski stated his impression from the SBA is if Alford does not pay the allocated amount, we can find another provider. Ms. Rogers is not comfortable putting such a number on the Town Meeting warrant without a budget from the SBA. She asked if a letter could be sent to the SBA requesting the budget details in case someone at Town Meeting has a question.

Special Town Meeting: The meeting has been postponed by the Moderator due to the Weather Emergency in place for March 14th. Ms. Henden-Wilson was upset the Moderator had postponed the meeting before getting confirmation from the Town Clerk on the new date he had set.

Library Services: Mr. Puciloski met with Mark Pruhenski regarding the agreement Alford has with Great Barrington for using their Library. Mr. Pruhenski indicated the assessment for FY 2024 would go from \$1900 to \$10,000. Since Great Barrington is a public library, we are under no obligation to pay for library services since the Great Barrington Library receives public funds.

The Town of West Stockbridge is happy to have Alford residents use their library for no fee. If the Town of Alford wants to donate to the "Friends of the West Stockbridge Library" it would be appreciated. Ms. Henden-Wilson suggested we talk to Alise Drury, Alford's Librarian to see how the two libraries can work together.

Other Topics: Thea Basis, COA Director, had a couple of question regarding her role as COA after she took the State Ethics course. She wanted to know if she could be paid as a vendor to teach exercise classes to Alford Residents. She cannot be paid as a vendor but her annual salary can be increased. She also asked if it is a conflict of interest for her to be paid by a family in another town to do wellness checks on their father. There would be no conflict

Town Clerk- Ms. Henden- Wilson has decided not to request to opt out of early voting and vote by mail for the Town Elections.

Ms. Henden-Wilson shared a draft by Adam Costa, Town Counsel, regarding guidelines for public meeting participation by citizens. Mr. Puciloski suggested we ask Mr. Costa to make the draft a final and then post it on the Town Website.

Image Data still has not given a start date. Ms. Henden-Wilson received information about the Boston Public Library doing digitalization for free. She is going to look into that and report back.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:41 pm

Respectfully submitted
Roxanne Germain