

Minutes Alford Select Board

February 27, 2023

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

Zoom: Jayne Smith, Joan Rogers, Alice Halsted

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

Minutes of February 13, 2023 approved as written

BOH Update: There will be a meeting with State and the Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative (SBPHC) on March 17. Ms. Smith was hoping to have someone other than her represent Alford since she also works for the Collaborative. Smith reported Alford would be getting more money from the latest Opioid Settlement with Walgreens and CVS. She reminded the Board that an appropriation would need to be done at Town Meeting to expend the funds.

The sharps container at the Transfer Station is operational and she will be putting information on the website.

Highway update: Horrigan reported his Machinery budget is low and would like to transfer \$3000 from the Highway account to cover the cost of a repair to the Backhoe in case the warranty does not pay for the repair. Puciloski made a motion to transfer \$3000 from Highway to Machinery Maintenance for the Backhoe repair. Henden-Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Horrigan asked what the protocol is for curb cut in relation to getting a building permit. He is having an issue with a building lot on Whites Hill Road. Horrigan will contact Matt Kollmer to get the curb cut permit on Permiteyes for a sign off.

Horrigan has requested vacation March 20-24.

SBA- Puciloski attended a meeting with the SBA and the other towns using their services. Puciloski reports the SBA is not very forthcoming with their proposed FY2024 budget. Puciloski suggested each town have a representative on the SBA board, as the SBA will be asking for an annual appropriation. Smith suggested Puciloski reach out to Heather Barbieri at Fairview Hospital as she is very familiar with the SBA and she may be a good resource of information.

Joan Rogers suggested a blended EQV and population proposal. Puciloski will contact Mark Pruhenski in Great Barrington. Puciloski noted bottom line if we do not pay our share we will need to find another ambulance provider.

AHDC- Alice Halsted asked the Board to appoint Jim Hall to fill the vacancy on the Commission vacated by Ruth Littlechild. Puciloski made a motion to appoint Jim Hall to fill the expired term of Ruth Littlechild. Henden-Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Alford Link- Puciloski reported Alford Link has signed a 10-year contract with Westfield Gas and Electric (Whip City Fiber) for a rate of \$26 per subscriber. There will be no increases until the renewal.

Town Clerk- Ms. Henden- Wilson reported the Town Clerks Association has had meeting with the MA Legislature regarding extending the remote meetings. Henden-Wilson is in favor of going back to in

person meetings. At the next Town Clerks meeting they will be discussing Early voting, Vote by mail and Election Security.

No date has been set yet to begin the digitalization.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted

Roxanne Germain