

Minutes Alford Select Board

February 13, 2023

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

Zoom: Jayne Smith, Michael Wilcox

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

Minutes of January 23, 2023 approved as written

BOH Update: Berkshire County remains low in COVID infections. Smith reported the Opioid settlement funds will need to be appropriated at the Annual Town Meeting before they can be spent. Smith is working on the verbiage for the article. The State will be conducting a meeting on March 17 at the Southern Berkshire Health Collaborative to see where the gaps in coverage are in our area. Smith will be there on behalf of the Collaborative so she would like to see an additional person attend from Alford. She was thinking about reaching out to COA, Thea Basis. Henden-Wilson asked about the protocol for the Annual Town Meeting. Smith thinks using the Fire Station like last year would be appropriate.

Highway update: Horrigan asked when the Holiday lights could be taken down. Puciloski made a motion for the Holiday lights to be taken down at the convenience of the Highway Department. Henden-Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Transfer Station: The "Buy Recycle" policy needs to be renewed. The Town of Alford gets credits for having this policy in place.

West Road Bridge- Horrigan and Adam Costa had a Zoom meeting with the abutters of the Bridge. All of the abutters will need to sign a waiver for the land to be taken. If they do not sign by February 15th the bridge articles that were voted on at the October Special Town Meeting will have to be voted on again. There is only a 120 day window after the vote to secure the property. Two of the abutters are currently not willing to sign the agreement. If there is no agreement the Town will have to take the land by eminent domain.

Henden-Wilson asked when the new speed signs will be installed. Horrigan noted the signs have been ordered and will be installed in the spring.

Early College- Ms. Lindy Marcel, the Early College coordinator from SBRSD came to inform the Town about the Early College program. This is an agreement with Simon's Rock College where all students at SBRSD will have exposure to college classes at Mt. Everett provided by Simon's Rock professors. The goal is to have 90% of the current senior class take at least one college class before graduating.

Ms. Rogers asked if there is a plan for CTVE coursed at Mt. Everett. Ms. Marcel stated they are working on CTVE but nothing is in place yet.

SBA- Jim Santos, President of SBA, and Joe Krejci, Treasurer of SBA, came to address the appropriation letter sent in January. They gave a short presentation on the history of the Ambulance Squad and what the financial needs are for FY2024. The assessment for the 6 towns currently using the Ambulance was based on an EQV (Property value). The share for Alford would be \$27,275. Henden-Wilson asked if there is another method of assessment that could or should be used since the Town of Alford has a low population and high property value as compared to some of the other towns.

Short-Term Rental- Date for Special Town Meeting will be March 14th at 6pm. Rate for local room occupancy excise in Article # 3. Henden-Wilson made the motion to set the local room occupancy excise tax at 6%. Puciloski seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Adam Costa will attend the Special Town Meeting via Zoom

Other Topics: Mr. Wilcox informed the Board he will not be running for Moderator this year.
Town Clerk- Ms. Henden- Wilson has nomination papers available in her office for the May Election. Ms. Henden-Wilson would like to have the Select Board vote to opt out of absentee and early voting for the May election at the next meeting.
The state has a new Ethic training program that will be introduced in the coming months. All town employees and board members are required to participate.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:39 pm

Respectfully submitted
Roxanne Germain