

## Minutes Alford Select Board

April 10 2023

Joint Meeting: Select Board, Finance Committee and Alford Link

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

Finance Committee – Joan Rogers, Mort Josel, Tim Ortwein, Carl Stewart

Alford Link – Peter Puciloski, Tim Ortwein, Adrian Drury

Via Zoom – TJ Horrigan

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

Minutes of March 27, 2023 Select Board Meeting approved unanimously.

Highway update: Mr. Horrigan presented a contract from Crowley & Associates for the appraisal work on the West Road Bridge project. The contract signed the contract contingent on the passage of the work at the ATM.

Alford Link: Mr. Ortwein made a motion to transfer \$25,000 from Retained Earning to AL stabilization fund at the Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Drury seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Finance Committee: Minutes from March 22, 2023 approved unanimously.

Ms. Rogers reported at the Finance Committee meeting on March 22 her board approved the Alford Link budget as presented. Her committee approved a salary increase for Town employee of 5%. The Finance Committee requested additional information from the Town Clerk since her salary increase request was greater than 5%. This additional information was received on April 7<sup>th</sup> and the finance committee did not have time to meet and review the information before this meeting. The Finance Committee will meet on April 14 to review the additional information from the Town Clerk.

The Select Board and the Finance Committee had a discussion regarding the Great Barrington Library's request for \$10,000. Mr. Puciloski stated the Great Barrington Library could not charge the Town of Alford for use of the Library since they receive State funds.

Ms. Henden-Wilson asked about the Library Services item on the warrant. Ms. Rogers explained the increase take into account the money usually appropriated for the Alford Children's Library and the amount previously sent to Great Barrington. This gives flexibility to support local libraries Alford residents may patronize.

The Finance Committee and the Select Board discussed Articles 1-9 as proposed. There were no concerns or objections. Articles 10-12 are new this year there were no concerns or objections.

Mr. Puciloski made a motion to approve the Annual Town Meeting draft as written. Noting Article 11 wording may change after Town Counsel reviews the wording for the West Road Bridge. Salary item 86 for the Town Clerk may change after the Finance committee meets on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Motion Seconded by Ms. Henden-Wilson. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Topics: Ms. Henden-Wilson spoke to George McGurn from the Egremont Select Board. He is seeking funds from Alford to research sharing Fire Department Services. Ms. Henden-Wilson spoke to Steve Berkel and Joe Morandi from the Alford Fire Department and they are not interested at this time combining with the Towns of Egremont and Mt. Washington.

Ms. Henden-Wilson asked if the Alford Garden Club could use 5 Alford Center Road to receive mail. This request was approved.

Ms. Henden-Wilson is still waiting for additional information from the Planning Board to submit the Short Term Rental By-Law to the Attorney General's Office.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:45 pm

Respectfully submitted  
Roxanne Germain