

Minutes Alford Select Board

January 10, 2022

Present: Select Board Charles Ketchen, Jayne Smith

VIA Zoom: Peggy Rae Henden-Wilson, Peter Puciloski (joined at 6pm)

Others present: Lauren Sartori-Hobgood, Joan Rogers

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm

Minutes of December 27, 2021 approved as written

BOH update: Smith reported the Covid positive numbers are still rising post-Holiday season. The Booster Clinics have been well attended. The Southern Berkshire Health Collaborative is sponsoring rapid testing drive through clinics twice a week. Smith has posted all the new CDC guidance on the Town website. Smith has the ability to purchase rapid test kits in bulk for Alford. Smith stated there are benefits and pitfall to the rapid test kits. Where will they be stored, how will they be distributed etc.

Motion by Henden-Wilson to purchase up to 500 test kits. Ketchen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The test kits will be paid for using the APRA funds.

Smith will be submitting paperwork to the Town Clerk to be a "Special Town Employee" she will need this when she starts with Tri-Town Health Department for the conflict of interest law.

Motion by Henden-Wilson to consider Smith a "Special Town Employee", seconded by Ketchen. Motion passed unanimously.

Smith was asked about the letter the SBRSD sent to State Politicians. Smith is waiting to get more information from the school regarding this letter mandating vaccinations. Smith feels the mandate should come from the State not local Boards of Health.

Highway: No report.

APRA Funds: Lauren Sartori- Hobgood. Sartori-Hobgood reported to the board the final rule for use of the ARPA funds was passed last week. The funds are good until December 2024 and projects need to be completed by December 2026. She would recommend not spending all the money so quickly. She reports there are 4 areas which qualify 1) Lost revenue-Alford has none. 2) Public Health needs- Jayne Smith's time and Covid test kit purchasing. 3) Premium pay for essential workers- incentives for worker retention such as the Fire Department, Highway Department and support staff. 4) Investment is water, sewer and broadband infrastructure. Currently there are no infrastructure needs that will fit the criteria for the ARPA funds.

Spending Motions:

Henden-Wilson made a motion to use \$9496.00 in ARPA funds for the Southern Berkshire Ambulance for a new ambulance as long as the other member towns contribute their expected share. Seconded by Ketchen. Motion passed unanimously.

Henden-Wilson made a motion to provide the Fire Department with a retention incentive of 25% of Fiscal Year 2021 annual stipend. Seconded by Puciloski. Motion passed unanimously.

Puciloski made a motion to offer \$750 incentive for unvaccinated employees get be fully vaccinated. Seconded by Ketchen. Motion passed unanimously.

Henden-Wilson asked if digitalizing Town records would be covered Sartori-Hogood did not know but she would inquire.

Old Business: EDM report- Ketchen would like to have a joint meeting with the Finance Committee to discuss the report. Rogers will meet with her board and report back.

Egremont Transportation: Questions for the COA in Egremont would be what services you will provide and what will the cost to Alford be. Germain and Henden-Wilson will attend the meeting on January 20th with the Transportation Committee.

Other Topics: Henden-Wilson made the recommendation the positions that would require a cell phone would be the Highway Superintendent and the Board of Health Agent. There was not discussion regarding this recommendation.

Meeting adjourned 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted
Roxanne Germain

