

Minutes Alford Select Board

February 22, 2021

Present: Via Zoom Charles Ketchen, Peter Puciloski, Peggy Rae Henden-Wilson, Jayne Smith, TJ Horrigan, Joan Rogers, Tim Ortwein, Peter Schoeffer, Alice Halstead, Tricia Bevan, Juli Scott, Shirley Meuller, Bill Hathaway, SBVA

Meeting called to order at 5:00pm

Minutes of February 8, 2021 Approved

BOH update: Smith reported there would be several second dose clinics this week. She is not sure how many first dose vaccinations will be available. The Covid infection trend is going down in Berkshire County. Juli Scott inquired as to the planning for the informational meeting in April for the AHDC expansion. Smith said she would work with them for that meeting if it were to be in person. Smith reported the Berkshire Health Alliance would like all Berkshire County towns to have them apply for Grants as one block. Smith is not sure if that is the best idea for Alford as we might not get our fair share of grants if all the money goes to the Alliance. The Select Board gave Smith permission to use her best judgment in dealing with the Alliance.

NO Highway update.

SBVA: Bill Hathaway made a presentation to the Board for FY2022. Hathaway informed the board the assessments this year would be on an EQV evaluation not on an average usage as were done last year. Using this method Alford's assessment went from \$2600 in FY2021 to \$27,000 for FY2022. He explained part of the assessment included \$15,000 for each town to fund a new ambulance. There were many questions by the Finance committee members as to why they have changed to assessment model each year they are asking for donations, would the other towns be agreeable to this new calculation method, had the SBVA given any thought to phasing in such a large assessment increase over several years. Ultimately, the Select Board made the decision to think about the request and discuss the amount of the donation later.

Town Clerk update: Nomination papers have been mailed. At this time, absentee ballots will expire on 3-31-2021. Annual Town Meeting will be set for May 11, 2021 and the Annual election will be on May 18, 2021. Henden- Wilson will need to have the ballot box refurbished, as the gears are getting difficult to crank.

Shared Streets Grant: Scott and Bevan reviewed the Grant application with the Select Board. The question was asked what type of grant this is and would the Town be responsible for any funds for the installation. Scott said it was not a reimbursable grant, if Alford is approved MassDOT send funds directly to the Town once the grant is approved. Henden-Wilson asked where people would park to access this trail. She requested parking signs be installed in the parking area adjacent to the cemetery to make sure there is adequate parking for people to do business at the Town offices. . The AHDC does not want signs in the parking lot.

Meuller commented AHDC needs to have members appointed at the next meeting. She also will need help getting a warrant article composed to change Alford By-law to reflect the State By-law.

Zoning By-Law review: Mueller is wondering the status of the Zoning By-Laws sent to Joel Bard. Puciloski will call Town Counsel and get an update.

Old Business: Civic Plus contract for new website design. Henden-Wilson made the motion to accept the contract with Civic Plus. Puciloski seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Transportation contract with Town of Great Barrington: Town of Alford currently has no agreement with any other town for transportation. The Town of Egremont most likely will not have a plan in place until the fall of 2021. Henden-Wilson made the motion to sign a contract with the Town of Great Barrington for \$3852 until June 30, 2021. Seconded by Puciloski. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 7:20pm

Respectfully submitted
Roxanne Germain