

Minutes Alford Select Board and Finance Committee

March 22, 2021

Present: Via Zoom Charles Ketchen, Peter Puciloski, Peggy Rae Henden-Wilson, Jayne Smith ,TJ Horrigan, Joan Rogers, Tim Ortwein, Peter Schoeffer , Mort Josel

Guest: Michael Wilcox, Lucy Prashkar

Meeting called to order at 5:04pm

Minutes of March 8, 2021 Approved

BOH update: Smith reported there has been a slight bump in infections recently. None in Alford but in Berkshire County. People still need to be reminded to wear masks and had washing protocol. The State is opening up to new age groups. The State is allowing Boards of Health to reserve a few spots at each clinic to serve people who have a hard time navigating the on line system. Smith would like to increase her hours for FY2022 from 8 hours per month to 15 in case the COVID grant money has been exhausted.

Highway update- Spring Cleanup is underway. Green River Road Culver grant: The wetland delineation report is complete. Next step will be data collection so the Engineering can begin in July.

SBRSD Rep: NO Report

Regional District Planning Board: Prashkar would like an explanation from the SBRSD School committee regarding the letter they sent on February 18 to the RDPB. She is concerned the message this letter sends to Berkshire Hills Regional School District. The RDPB will be drafting an article for the Annual Town Meeting warrant asking each of the 8 towns for funds so the committee can continue working on the consolidation process. She stated the amount will be in the \$8000 range down from the \$15,000 as first thought.

Alford Link: Jay Weintraub, Jim Hall and Joe Nicolosi have submitted resignation to the Alford Link Board.

Tim Ortwein and Jim Hall conducted interviews and would recommend Adrian Drury, Bruce Schreiber and Paul Kaplan. Puciloski made the motion to nominate Drury, Schreiber and Kaplan to the board. Motion was seconded by Henden-Wilson. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget Review: The Select Board and the Finance Committee did a preliminary review of the FY2022 budget. The Finance committee will be on April 5th for a more comprehensive review. The Alford Link has submitted a budget for FY2022.

Town Clerk update: Annual Town Election will be on May 18th from 2 to 6 PM. Gov. Baker signed a law for providing absentee ballots for elections through June 30, 2021. Further provisions of the law require Select Board approval. Ketchen made the motion to "Eliminate a municipal caucus currently to be held before July 31, 2021 and provide for the nomination of candidates instead by submission of nomination papers bear the signatures of 10 registered voters". Seconded by Puciloski. Motion passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 6:15 pm

The Select Board and Finance Committee entered Executive session to discuss salaries and raises for FY2022

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted
Roxanne Germain