

Minutes Alford Select Board

September 13, 2021

Present: Select Board Charles Ketchen, Peggy Rae Henden-Wilson, TJ Horrigan, Tammy Blackwell
Via Zoom: Peter Puciloski, Jayne Smith

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm
Minutes of August 23, 2021

Classification Hearing: The Classification hearing was resumed from September 7, 2021. Tammy Blackwell, Assessors Clerk, reports the total evaluation in Alford is \$300,136,431.00 and the excess levy capacity is \$342,489.74. Blackwell also reports the Town of Alford does not have the levy capacity for a split tax rate.

Puciloski made the motion to establish a uniform tax rate. Henden-Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

BOH update: Smith reported the numbers from the weekly dashboard developed by the South County Public Health nurses. South County rates have been on the increase in the past week.

Pfizer is close to approving vaccine for 11-15 year olds. Smith presented a draft mask mandate for Alford. The Select Board suggested some revisions. Smith will make the changes and resubmit for approval. Smith suggests any group that wishes to use Town Hall for a meeting if there are going to be more than 10 people in attendance they contact the Health Agent for approval.

Smith is working on grant funds for water quality testing for Alford Brook.

Highway update: Horrigan reported Mass DOT wants to replace the bridge on West Road at Scribner Brook. DOT will need to get an easement since the bridge will be on land that currently has an APR restriction. Mass DOT and Town Counsel are working on this and will keep Horrigan apprised of the development.

Salt Bids: Horrigan informed the Board that Morton Salt has the County bid for salt again this year. Morton Salt does not have a great record for making deliveries in a timely manner. Horrigan asked the Board if he could use Eastern Salt. Puciloski said the Town would have to put it out to bid to comply with public bidding law if Horrigan did not want to use Morton Salt.

The message board has arrived for the transfer station.

Horrigan inquired about placing an ad to hire a "third" man once Monty Green retires. The Select Board will meet in Executive session on Monday, September 20 at 5:30pm to further this discussion.

East Road paving: the West Stockbridge Highway Superintendent contacted Horrigan to inform him West Stockbridge would be paving their side of East Road. LB Corp is willing to pave the Alford side at the same rate per ton. Puciloski stated as long as the portion to be paved does not go over \$10,000 the contract could be extended.

New Business: Special Town Meeting- No date has been set. The Planning Board is still waiting for Town Counsel to reply with the Zoning By-Law revision.

Puciloski added the Town needs to consider what to do about short-term rentals in Alford. There is currently no provision for this in the current Town By-Law one would need to be established. A joint meeting with the Planning Board is suggested.

Puciloski also suggests the need for a general By-Law for hunting on private property, as there is currently no provision for this either. Henden-Wilson understands the need for a general by-law for hunting; however, she suggested hunters need written permission for hunting on private property.

Town Clerk update: Henden-Wilson has received a new map for the Precincts in Alford. The Select Board will have to vote to approve this map at the next meeting.

Henden-Wilson updated the Select Board her posted hours will be Sunday's from 12-3pm and Friday's from 3-5pm

Meeting adjourned 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted
Roxanne Germain

