

Minutes Alford Select Board

April 24 2023

Present: Select Board – Charles Ketchen, Peter Puciloski, Peggy Rae Henden-Wilson, TJ Horrigan, Jayne Smith, Joan Rogers

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

Minutes of April 10, 2023 approved unanimously.

BOH update: Ms. Smith reported the recommendations for the Covid vaccines have change. The Bivalent booster is now the vaccine of choice. Ms. Smith was asked about the SAPHE2.0 program guidelines issued by the State. Ms. Smith stated the SAPHE 2.0 is a set of minimum standards for BOH agents and staff to follow. The Town of Alford is meeting or exceeding these standards. Ms. Smith asked if the Town would like to continue with water samples of the Green River and Alford Brook again this year. The Select Board asked her to proceed with the water testing for this spring and summer.

Highway update: Mr. Horrigan reported the brush and trees are almost cleaned up from the March storm. He asked if the 2 dying birch trees in the Osborne Cemetery could be removed. Mr. Horrigan was asked to contact the Cemetery Commission and the Tree Warden to see if the cost to remove the trees could be split between the 2 budgets. Mr. Horrigan reported there is tree along the Marsh Brook Trail that is dead. Mr. Horrigan will contact the Conservation Commission and the abutter, Alice Halsted for permission. Ms. Henden-Wilson made a motion to remove the Tree along the Marsh Brook Trail and use the Marsh Brook Trail expense account to pay for the removal. Mr. Puciloski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Aaron Coons starts CDL School on May 8th.

Mr. Horrigan will be on vacation from May 16th to May 23rd.

Alford Artist Collective: Julie Scott and Debbie Harper addressed the Select Board for permission to hold their event on September 3, 2023. They would like permission to put up lawn signs and a banner in the center of town 2 weeks in advance. They will not need the use of Town Hall. Permission was granted.

Other Topics:

ADA accessibility- Jim Hall reported he had a site visit with 3 architects/engineers today. It was suggested a survey and TOPO work be performed as part of the RFP for the project. Mr. Hall also contacted the Attorney General's office on clarification on the procurement law. Mr. Hall has revised the RFP for the for the Select Board to review before sending out.

Mr. Puciloski made a motion to increase the dollar amount in Article 10 on the Annual Town Meeting warrant from \$9,500 to \$20,000. Ms. Henden-Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Community Shred Event: The decision to postpone the event until June of July.

Finance Committee: Ms. Rogers reported the Finance Committee voted to increase the Town Clerk Salary more than the 5% other town employee are getting due to the increase in state mandated requirements. Ms. Rogers presented charts and wages comparisons from towns similar to Alford.

Mr. Ketchen asked that Ms. Henden-Wilson recuse herself from the discussion and vote since she is also the Town Clerk.

Ms. Henden-Wilson left the meeting at 7:11pm.

Mr. Puciloski and Mr. Ketchen had a brief discussion with Ms. Rogers regarding the Town Clerk Salary.

Mr. Puciloski made a motion to increase the Town Clerk Salary to \$14,000 for FY2024. Mr. Ketchen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Puciloski made a motion to adopt the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant as amended.

Mr. Ketchen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:17 pm

Respectfully submitted

Roxanne Germain