

## Minutes Alford Select Board –Approved

June 12, 2023

Present: Select Board – Charles Ketchen, Peggy Rae Henden-Wilson, Peter Puciloski (arrived 6:10), Jayne Smith, TJ Horrigan

Nomination of a temporary Chairperson. Me. Henden-Wilson nominated Charles Ketchen as temporary Chairperson. Mr. Ketchen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting called to order at 6:04 pm

Minutes of May 22, 2023 approved

BOH: Ms. Smith reported ticks and tick borne illness are on the rise. Ms. Smith will update the town website with new information.

Highway Dept. Mr. Horrigan reported Aaron Coons has completed his CDL schooling and will take the exam later this week.

Mr. Horrigan reported the decorative trees in town are showing signs of distress. He would like to have the trees fertilized. He is waiting for an estimate for that work.

Mr. Horrigan alerted the Select Board that the contract with Roger's Trucking is going to expire on June 30, 2023. He would like to extend the contract for 3 years. The new contract calls for a 10% increase in each of the 3 years. Ms. Henden-Wilson made a motion to extend the contract with Roger's Trucking for 3 years. Mr. Puciloski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Town Clerk: Ms. Henden-Wilson would like to sever the contract with E-Biz due to lack of communication. Mr. Puciloski will draft a letter for the cancellation.

Constable appointment- Peter Schoeffer was not at the meeting and was not appointed

Special Town Meeting Date: This Special Town Meeting will be to discuss Municipal Aggregation of Power for the Town of Alford. Mr. Puciloski made a motion to set July 25, 2023 at 6pm as the date for the STM. Ms. Henden-Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

ADA access to Town Offices- Jim Hall suggested the town send a letter to the bidders of the RFP to extend the award date to July 14, 2023. Ms. Germain explained to Mr. Hall where the extra funds for the contract will come from. Mr. Hall will contact WCA to ask them to itemize his proposal so it will align with the funds voted on at the Annual Town Meeting.

Library Services- Bill Shein addressed to Select Board and expressed his concern with discontinuing services through the Great Barrington Library. It was explained to Mr. Shein the Town of Great Barrington increased the assessment from \$1900 per year to \$10,000 per year. The Town of Alford now has an agreement with the Town of West Stockbridge to use their library. Mr. Shein inquired about getting the Alford Library certified. He stated he would be willing to help with that process. Mr. Shein stated if the Town of Alford was not a certified library or had an agreement with another certified library residents would not be allowed to access the state library system.

Community Café- Ruth Seidler would like to reserve the Town Hall for the second Saturday of the month.

Other Topics: Bruce Schrieber addressed the Select Board about the speeding on East Road. He offered to be on a traffic control committee. Mr. Horrigan addressed his concerns. Mr. Horrigan noted MassDOT sets the speed limits on all the roads in Alford. The town would have to have to undergo several engineering and speed studies and submit the results to MassDOT. All of the studies would have to be paid for by the Town and since there are not many accidents and no fatalities recently it is very unlikely the state would change any of the speed limits. All of the roads in Alford are public ways and the Town cannot control the volume of traffic.

Nomination of Select Board Chairperson. Ms. Henden-Wilson nominated Peter Puciloski, Mr. Puciloski declined the nomination. Mr. Puciloski nominated Charles Ketchen. Ms. Henden-Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:55 pm

Respectfully submitted

Roxanne Germain