

Minutes Alford Select Board -Approved

October 16, 2023

Present: Select Board – Charles Ketchen, Peggy Rae Henden-Wilson, Peter Puciloski, TJ Horrigan
Via Zoom: Jayne Smith, Adam Costa, and Mark Cappadona from Colonial Power.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

Minutes of September 25, 2023 approved as written

Public Hearing: Municipal Aggregation Mr. Ketchen read the notice for the Public Hearing as advertised. Mr. Puciloski made a motion to accept the Municipal Aggregation as written. Ms. Henden-Wilson seconded the motion. Discussion: Residents wanted to know how long before this will go into effect. Mr. Cappadona noted it would be 24 to 36 months to get State approval. The motion passed unanimously. Public Hearing was closed at 6:20pm.

BOH Report: Ms. Smith asked the Board if they would like the CHP van to come to Alford to administer COVID vaccines. The Board would like Ms. Smith to arrange for the CHP van to come to Alford. The State is offering free COVID test kits and Ms. Smith will place an order for Alford. Ms. Smith reported that the Green River never had an exceedance of E-Coli this summer.

Highway Report: Mr. Horrigan submitted a driveway permit for a new building lot on Crooked Hill Road. Mr. Puciloski made a motion to approve the driveway permit. Ms. Henden-Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Horrigan reported the Berkshire County purchasing group approved a bid from Apalachee Salt at \$75.50 per ton. Mr. Horrigan is still waiting for the results for the State bid on salt.

Easements and License West Road Bridge: Mr. Costa advised the Select Board to change the easement offer at 300 West Road, Scribner Brook Farm, to a license. This is due to a permitting issue with the State. Mr. Puciloski made a motion to vote to accept a "Right of Entry" offer to Henry Flint by the way of license. Ms. Henden-Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Eminent domain for 301 and 307 West Road: Mr. Puciloski made the following motion:

I hereby move that the Select Board acquire by eminent domain, for the necessary health and welfare of the Inhabitants of the Town of Alford for municipal purposes, more specifically for various road and road-related improvements and repairs, as authorized by Article 11 and 12 of the Town of Alford Annual Town Meeting of May 9, 2023, and that is further authorize the Board's Chari, Charles Ketchen, to execute and enter into any and all documents necessary to effectuate the acquisition of the following property:

a temporary easement, located at 301 West Road, Alford, Massachusetts, depicted as "Parcel TE-1" on a plan of land entitled "Easement Plan, West Road Over Scribner Brook, Alford, MA" prepared by CHA Consulting, Inc. dated August 31, 2023, revised through October 13, 2023, and to be recorded with the Berkshire South County Registry of Deeds together with the Order of Taking; and

a permanent easement located at 307 West Road, Alford, Massachusetts, depicted as "Parcel PUE-2" on a plan of land entitled "Easement Plan, West Road Over Scribner Brook, Alford, MA" prepared by CHA Consulting, Inc. dated August 31, 2023, revised through October 13, 2023, and to be recorded with the Berkshire South County Registry of Deeds together with the Order of Taking;

and that, still further, the Board award damages for said eminent domain takings in the total amount of \$2,540.00 to the affected record owners of said land, the amount per record owner being specified in the aforementioned Order of Taking. Ms. Henden-Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ARPA Funds: Ms. Henden-Wilson made a motion to spend up to \$70,000 of ARPA funds to buy a cardboard compactor and any related expenses associated with the installation. Mr. Puciloski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

130 Green River Road Public Hearing continuation: An email was received from Davis Malm representing Ms. Harper and Mr. McClelland to withdraw the application without prejudice.

Other Topics: The property owners of 274 East Road, Cloud Kingdom, are advertising a “Peoples Gym”. Mr. Puciloski stated this is not a “by right” use of the property. He has asked the Building Inspector to attend the next Select Board meeting to define a path forward.

Ms. Henden-Wilson reported she attended the Legislative Breakfast in Becket last week. The topic of the Regional School Districts were discussed as well as Town Clerk compensation from the State for State mandated office hours.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:06 pm

Respectfully submitted
Roxanne Germain