

## Minutes Alford Select Board – Approved

January 22, 2024

Present: Select Board – Charles Ketchen, Peggy Rae Henden-Wilson, Peter Puciloski

Meeting called to order at 6:01 pm

Minutes of January 8, 2024 Approved with spelling changes

**BOH Report:** Ms Smith reported Covid tests are available at the Town Offices. The Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative will be hosting another vaccine clinic this winter. There are also open hours at the offices in Lee and a public health nurse is available for housebound residents.

**Highway Report:** Mr. Horrigan presented a contract from EDM regarding a lighting proposal for the ADA walkway. Mr. Horrigan presented cost estimates for the ADA walkway concrete vs stamped concrete. Mr. Horrigan stated no decision needs to be taken tonight but he wanted the board to be aware of the difference in cost of the two types of concrete. Mr. Horrigan stated the steps to the front door are not part of the ADA walkway.

Jim Hall offered to work with EDM and Mr. Horrigan on the lighting design.

Ms. Henden-Wilson made a motion to appoint Mr. Hall to assist the Mr. Horrigan and EDM on the lighting design. Mr. Ketchen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Horrigan reported the new F600 Truck has been delivered to the body company for the plow and light fitting.

Mr. Horrigan asked the Select Board for permission to take a town truck home during storms. Ms. Henden-Wilson made a motion to allow Mr. Horrigan to take a town truck home on an as needed basis during a storm. Mr. Ketchen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Horrigan reported there would be pre-planning meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup> for the West Road Bridge.

### **Public Hearing: Option to opt out of vote by mail for local election on May 21, 2024.**

Mr. Ketchen opened the public hearing at 6:20pm. According to Section 25B(a)(1) of the Votes Act: Early voting by mail is now required for all local elections and preliminaries, unless the town ops-out. In order to opt-out of early vote by mail for a local election, the Select Board must hold a public hearing and public roll call vote to NOT allow early vote by mail no later than 45 days before the date of the election. Town Clerk, Peggy Rae Henden-Wilson, explained the difference between early voting by mail and absentee voting. Ms. Henden-Wilson answered question from residents regarding the changes. Mr. Ketchen recommended this meeting be continued until February 12<sup>th</sup> when the full Select Board will be present to vote.

**Conservation Commission:** Henry Flint and Howard Wilson requested permission to allow the Conservation Commission Agent, Shannon Poulin, more hours per month to be trained by Mark Stinson from MAssDEP. The Select Board advised Mr. Flint and Mr. Wilson to increase the expense account funds for FY2025 to cover any additional training for the new agent. There was a discussion regarding permit application fees. It was decided all Conservation application permits would be \$250. This fee does not include the state filing fee for Wetlands Notice of Intent; this fee is paid directly to the State by the applicant.

**250<sup>th</sup> Celebration of Incorporation:** Beth Schaffer presented samples of signs the Celebration committee is proposing for the islands in Alford. The Select Board will take the designs under advisement until all Board member are able to review the designs.

**Other Topics-** Mr. Ortwein notified the Select Board that MA DOER approved the certificate of appropriateness for the Municipal Aggregation. This will be forwarded to Department of Energy.

Adjourned at 7:11 pm

Respectfully submitted  
Roxanne Germain