

Minutes Alford Select Board – Approved

February 26, 2024

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

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

Minutes of February 12, 2024 with changes

**Highway Report:** Mr. Horrigan reported he is still waiting for Foresight to send him the Title Research for the ADA walkway. Jim Hall from the AHDC submitted a report with their recommendation for lighting and walkway construction materials. Mr. Horrigan stated he will have a meeting on Friday with EDM and Foresight to discuss the AHDC recommendations.

Mr. Horrigan reported he and Steve Berkel, Alford Fire Chief, went to a pre-construction meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup>. The survey and layout will begin as soon as weather permits. The project is expected to be completed by June 2027 with cost of 3.265 million using Federal Funds. During construction one lane will be open to traffic. The contractor, J.L.Raymakers, will give the Town a 48 hour notice if the road needs to be closed to all traffic.

**ARPA Funds Allocation:** The Town Accountant reported there is balance of \$49,000 in ARPA funds that has not been allocated. Mr. Ketchen made a motion to allocate \$45,000 to Alford link for NIC and Modem upgrades. Mr. Puciloski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**250<sup>th</sup> Celebration of Incorporation:** There was a discussion regarding wording on the proposed signs. The Select Board suggested removing “250+” and using the date “1773”. The question was asked who is going to pay for the signs and posts and Alice Halstead replied the Alford Historic District Commission would be paying for the signs and the posts. A motion was made by Ms. Henden-Wilson to allow the 8 signs on Town property being donated by the AHDC. Mr. Puciloski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Town Clerk:** Ms. Henden-Wilson asked that Tim Ortwein be appointed as an Auxiliary Police Officer for elections. Due to the State requirement to have a police officer present for all elections. Mr. Puciloski made a motion to appoint Tim Ortwein as an Auxiliary Police Officer for elections. Ms. Henden-Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Henden-Wilson reported that Jane Kaufman from the Berkshire Eagle is writing an article about small towns in the Berkshires and had questions about any changes in demographics on home sales in Alford. Mr. Ketchen suggested Ms. Kaufman attend a future Board meeting.

Police Mutual Aid with Great Barrington: Paul Storti, Great Barrington Police Chief, reached out to the Ms. Henden-Wilson regarding election policing, noted that Alford and Great Barrington do not currently have a Mutual Aid Agreement. Mr. Puciloski said he would reach out to Mark Pruhenski, Great Barrington Town Manager, to explore the process.

**Other Topics:** Larry Gadd, Planning Board Chair, inquired about the Short-Term Rental registration. There is currently no registration process in place. Ms. Henden-Wilson made a motion to have Town Counsel develop a registration form and process. Mr. Puciloski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourned at 6:40 pm

Respectfully submitted  
Roxanne Germain