MINUTES:  Alford Finance Committee Meeting:  9/17/18

Meeting Called to order at: 7:00 pm

Present:  Joan Rogers, Mort Josel, Peter Schoeffer, John Littlechild, Charlie Ketchen, Peter Pucilloski, Peggy Henden-Wilson, Roxanne Germain, Christine Regan SBRSD

Joint Meeting of Finance Committee & Select Board with Chris Regan, Business Administrator SBRSD

Agenda:  Review Proposed Changes to Assessment Formula for SBRSD Member Towns

Chris distributed materials illustrating both historical financial assessments for towns and assessments calculated based on several alternative formulas

Chris explained:
- current SBRSD formulas and its dependence on State formulas
- proposed changes attempt to dampen year/year changes by use of moving average of enrollment
- proposed changes also attempt to achieve average cost per student that are more even across all 5 towns in SBRSD

Discussion followed about how complexity of the formulas and attendees felt simpler was better, preferring current enrollment rather than moving average of enrollment

Attendees also expressed concern that budget costs keep rising while attendance is declining

Question raised about closing the Egremont School and considering closure of other satellite schools as a way to lower expenses. Alford closed its school many years ago when cost no longer made sense.

Conclusion:  Alford Boards asked Chris for an analysis of Town Assessments using actual enrollment numbers only instead of moving averages and other adjustments

Meeting adjourned:  8:15 pm