

Town of Embden

Minutes of the Board of Selectpersons

January 16, 2012

7:00 PM Meeting held at the Embden Town Office

In attendance was: Ruth Blake, Terriann & Julien Lamontagne, Wayne McLaughlin, Elizabeth Pratt, Charles Taylor, and Bonnie Baker.

- 1 Charles Taylor called the meeting to order at 19:07.
- 2 The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3 **Consent Agenda:**
 - 3.1 Approved the minutes of the Board of Selectpersons dated January 2, 2012. Accepted as amended.(3-0)
 - 3.2 Reviewed Warrant #2 totaling \$18,855.71. Approved with the addition of MSAD74. (3-0)
- 4 **Appointments & Resignations:** None
- 5 **Department Officials Reports:**
 - 5.1 **E-911** – No Report.
 - 5.1.1 E. Pratt said E. Ketchum told her that since the ground was frozen, she was not doing much.
 - 5.1.2 C. Taylor read e-mail regarding four new roads.
 - 5.2 **Winter Roads Contractor** – No Report.
 - 5.3 **Animal Control** – B. Baker submitted report from ACO. BOS reviewed. Motion was made by E. Pratt (2nd – W. McLaughlin) to accept the ACO report dated 12/18/2011 as written. (3-0)
 - 5.4 **Board of Assessors** –
 - 5.4.1 T. Lamontagne said there was nothing new.
 - 5.4.2 C. Taylor stated it would be in the town meeting warrant to go to a 2-pay tax bill, July and November. He asked whether it would be doable. He stated he had spoken with Stacy from New Portland, and they had put in to change the fiscal year. He said the article had been voted down due to lack of information. Discussion continued.
 - 5.4.3 C. Taylor stated that the BOS had had a work session, and did not feel that the Assessors' wages should change as dramatically as E. Thebarga had proposed in the budget. He stated that the BOS did not feel that the Assessors could put in for a raise. He asked what the Assessors were paid now. B. Baker stated that the 1st Assessor made \$3,300, and the other two were paid \$2,000. E. Pratt said that this economy was very tight. She added that she did not feel people could afford increases. She recommended holding off for a year to see if the economy improved. W. McLaughlin said that he agreed with E. Pratt. C. Taylor stated that E. Thebarga did a fair amount of work on the phone, but the 2nd and 3rd Assessors do a lot more work than he does. He asked the BOS whether the budget for the Assessors should be decreased to \$13,500.
 - 5.5 **Planning Board** – No Report.
 - 5.6 **Plumbing Inspector** – No Report.
 - 5.7 **Board of Appeals** – No Report.
 - 5.8 **Code Enforcement Officer** – No Report.
 - 5.9 **Health Officer** – No Report.
 - 5.10 **Road Commissioner** – No Report.
 - 5.11 **M.S.A.D. #74** – No Report.
 - 5.12 **Recreational Director** – No Report.
 - 5.12.1 E. Pratt stated she had gone back and looked at the papers that W. Witham gave to the BOS when she applied for the job, and what she put on the paper was not what happened. C. Taylor said they had what was being proposed this year. B. Baker stated the amount in the draft warrant was incorrect. She said it had been set at \$10K at the budget meeting. Discussion continued.
 - 5.12.2 E. Pratt stated that when the Ski & Snowboard Club had been started, W. Witham had said that there was money in the school budget that had not been spent. She stated that W. Witham was supposed to talk with the school to see if she could use that money.
 - 5.12.3 She stated the garden club being proposed had been run last year, but nothing was done. Discussion continued.
 - 5.12.4 E. Pratt said, "All these things are not Rec., they are sports, & they should be done through the school."
 - 5.12.5 C. Taylor stated that the BOS had asked the Rec. Director to submit a budget, and she gave them one. E. Pratt replied that she did not want her name on that article as recommended. She stated she did not recommend it. Discussion continued.
 - 5.13 **Town Clerk/Treasurer** –
 - 5.13.1 W. McLaughlin stated that he felt checks do not need to be signed for. He said, "I think it's ridiculous." He made a motion (2nd – E. Pratt) that checks no longer need to be signed for to be released. E. Pratt added, "Until WE talk to the auditor." (3-0)

5.13.2 B. Baker said that she would attend the Republican Caucus on February 4th, as Registrar..

5.14 **Tax Collector:** R. Blake submitted a written report to the BOS. She stated that of \$2,434,428., there was \$169,080.60 outstanding for 2011 taxes. She added that B. Baker had taken in approximately \$47K the week R. Blake was on vacation. Discussion continued.

5.15 Community Center –

5.15.1 W. McLaughlin said there had been a supper the other night, bone building, yoga and walking. He added that the Thrift Store had been re-opened in its new room. He stated that there was open gym on Sunday afternoons, as well as the TOPS program.

5.15.2 C. Taylor stated that it did sound as if the ECC needed a Rec. Director to coordinate with the Embden Community Club, in order to utilize the building. E. Pratt said that W. Witham had some programs that she wanted to run coming right up. C. Taylor stated that it would have to be a well-rounded individual to do both the swim program and rec. program, but they could hire out the swim program.

5.15.3 C. Taylor asked if there was anything else. E. Pratt responded that they needed new windows, and would like to have a pellet boiler.

5.15.4 She stated that the group was having a baked ziti supper, with Pat Libby providing entertainment, on February 11th. W. McLaughlin added that Doug Mattieu would be coming on January 28th.

5.15.5 C. Taylor asked whether this would be an appointed committee this year. W. McLaughlin said that no, the group had been talking about getting a lease from the town and purchasing their own liability insurance. He added that Ernie was drawing up a lease from now until March 2013. Discussion continued.

5.16 Emergency Management Directors – No Report.

5.16.1 C. Taylor stated the BOS were going to have only one director this year.

6 Board of Selectpersons Concerns:

6.1 C. Taylor read the proposed article for snow removal. W. McLaughlin stated he was afraid if the Community Center was left in the contract, then it would not be maintained properly. E. Pratt asked whether the contractor had to have \$70,000 in the bank to get a bond. C. Taylor said he had thought about withholding 10% of the contract bid, per the town of Sebago's contract. He asked whether they knew of someone who was interested in the contract but could not get a bond. E. Pratt said she had given a contract to Eric Creamer, and spoken to Joe Creamer about it. She said J. Creamer had told her someone would have to be crazy to do that. W. McLaughlin said if S. White could get a bond, then someone else should be able to do it as well.

6.2 C. Taylor asked if it was ok to put out to bid for the winter roads contract, fire protection, and mowing/weed whacking. B. Baker asked about the wording for the fire protection bid. He stated the advertisement should read, "Town of Embden seeking/accepting bids for fire protection." He said he had spoken with a Selectman for Anson, who told him that the price had been raised due to Census data. W. McLaughlin said he would speak to Jimmy about the mowing/weed whacking before that was put out to bid.

6.3 C. Taylor stated that if someone in the audience at town meeting wanted to give everyone a 3% raise, then there was enough money built into the budget to do that.

7 Old Business:

7.1 **Town of Embden Policies:** E. Pratt stated the BOS should e-mail and review the policies before voting on them. The issue was tabled until the next meeting.

8 New Business:

8.1 **Review & Sign Public Hearing Notice:** BOS reviewed and signed. B. Baker stated it would appear in the newspaper on January 20th and 29th.

9 Correspondence:

9.1 C. Taylor read the response from Paul Hillenski. C. Taylor stated he had told B. Baker not to put up the flags due to conditions (ie ice). He added that he had offered to help W. McLaughlin install a light on the building. W. McLaughlin replied that he already had the light, and would do it when he had the time. Discussion continued.

10 Community Relations, Announcements, and Open Public Forum:

10.1 **Open Public Forum:** None.

11 **Executive Session (Non-Public)(ME§405):** E. Pratt made a motion to move to executive session pursuant to ME§405 on a personnel matter. (3-0) BOS entered executive session at 21:10. E. Pratt made a motion (2nd – W. McLaughlin) to come out of executive session (3-0). BOS came out of executive session at 21:32

12 Next Meeting Announcement & Adjournment

12.1 Next Regular Selectperson's Meeting – Monday, February 6, 2012.

12.2 C. Taylor stated there would be a BOS Work Session Thursday, January 26th from 17:00-18:30.

12.3 He said the Public Hearing on the proposed Shore Land Zoning Ordinance change, the easement, and the Jed Spears deeded land, would be Monday, February 6th at 18:00, before the Selectpersons Meeting.

12.4 Motion to adjourn made by W. McLaughlin (2nd- E. Pratt). Adjourned 21:35 (3-0).