

Town of Embden

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen

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May 2, 2011

7:00 PM Meeting held at the Embden Town Office

In attendance was: Joseph Albuit, Jeffrey Ireland, Eleanor Ketchum, Terriann Lamontagne, Leo Mayo, Alton McClamma, Wayne McLaughlin, Frank Nile, Elizabeth Pratt, Charles & Tracy Taylor, John Vartanian, Michael & Wendy Witham, and Bonnie Baker.

- 1 Charles Taylor called the meeting to order at 19:00.
- 2 The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3 **Consent Agenda:**
 - 3.1 Approved the minutes of the Board of Selectmen dated April 18, 2011. Accepted as written. (3-0)
 - 3.2 Reviewed Warrant #9 totaling \$22,495.23. Approved (3-0).
- 4 **Appointments & Resignations:** C. Taylor stated that the Selectmen had held interviews, however only one applicant was present.
 - 4.1 **Planning Board Alternate:** W. McLaughlin made a motion (2nd – E. Pratt) to appoint Alton McClamma as an alternate to the Planning Board. (3-0)
 - 4.2 **Appeals Board Member:** Tabled until the next meeting.
 - 4.3 **Assistant Animal Control Officer:** Tabled until the next meeting.
 - 4.4 **Emergency Management Co-Director:** Tabled until the next meeting.
- 5 **Department Officials Reports:**
 - 5.1 **E-911 –**
 - 5.1.1 E. Ketchum stated she would be ordering signs before long. She said that someone had taken down the Spring Hill sign, post & all. She stated that if they were going to just take the sign down, she wasn't sure if she wanted to put another one up. C. Taylor replied that she knew her job.
 - 5.1.2 E. Ketchum asked whether she should order a whole batch of Katie's Crotch signs. C. Taylor asked what limit she wanted to set. E. Ketchum replied that she would order 3 more signs, in addition to 1 that she already had.
 - 5.2 **Winter Roads Contractor -** No Report.
 - 5.3 **Animal Control –** No Report.
 - 5.4 **Board of Assessors –**
 - 5.4.1 T. Lamontagne stated that she had gone to Brewer to learn about assessing cell towers. She said that the wind turbine portion of the class was interesting, but Embden didn't want those here. C. Taylor asked whether she was recommending the town pass an ordinance to prohibit wind turbines. She replied commercial ones yes.
 - 5.5 **Planning Board –** L. Mayo stated that as of last Friday DEP had accepted the town ordinances; however they had made the statement that there would be significant changes to the water and bird mapping. He stated that she had recommended waiting until those changes took effect, but it was up to the Selectmen. C. Taylor replied that it sounded like a wise opinion to wait. W. McLaughlin agreed.
 - 5.6 **Plumbing Inspector –** L. Mayo said that he had gone to the Getchell Road for a violation that was pretty much straightened out.
 - 5.7 **Board of Appeals –** No Report.
 - 5.8 **Code Enforcement Officer –** No Report. C. Taylor stated R. Dunphy had given a note for his absence.
 - 5.9 **Health Officer –** No Report. See above.
 - 5.10 **Road Commissioner –**
 - 5.10.1 M. Witham stated that he had gotten the street sweeper today and done the Wentworth & Barron roads. He added that he hoped to finish up tomorrow & Wednesday.
 - 5.10.2 He said that his father had started grading the Slipp Road last week, and had put some recycled pavement by Peggy Luce's to keep people from driving on her lawn.
 - 5.10.3 C. Taylor asked who his deputy was. M. Witham stated it was Eric Creamer.
 - 5.10.4 C. Taylor asked about the 2 washouts that R. Dunphy had mentioned. M. Witham stated that Eric had fixed the one on the West Shore Road, as well as done some patrolling.
 - 5.10.5 M. Witham said that an engineer unit had done some work for the Water District on the West Shore Road, and requested a culvert. He added that it had been done for people before, and he felt if you do it for one you should be willing to do it for all. He said he had added some fill to hold it for the winter.
 - 5.10.6 He stated he had put up the 'Dangerous Intersection' signs, & still had the 'Stop Ahead' signs to put up on the Wentworth Road.
 - 5.10.7 He asked about the discussion on the East Shore Road held at the last meeting. C. Taylor read the email. He stated that there was a section approximately 50' long by Brainard's house that could use an under drain. E. Pratt stated that all in all they seemed to think it was a good job. M. Witham asked whether they had charged the town to go look at it. C. Taylor said he didn't think so. B. Baker stated she had not received a bill.

5.11 M.S.A.D. #74 – B. Baker stated that there would be an election on May 10th, and the office would be closed for everything except voting.

5.12 Recreational Director –

5.12.1 W. Witham stated that there was 1 Embden team, plus they shared a baseball team with the other towns. She added that she would give the Community Center a schedule.

5.12.2 She said that she would like to do track this summer. She said that it would require getting an ID number and paying a fee, and asked how to go about doing that. She stated that the fees would be less than \$200. She asked whether the Selectmen had to approve a fee that was to be charged for the program. C. Taylor said no.

5.12.3 W. Witham said that she wanted to do a generic survey.

5.12.4 She stated that there were two WS1s for the swim program, so it would be a Red Cross program. She asked whether the town was willing to be responsible with her as the contact. She said that Dan Foss was trying to take some lifeguard training classes so that he could train the kids working for the program to be lifeguards. She said the swim program would be held July 11-22, Mondays through Thursdays only.

5.12.5 E. Pratt asked whether the town was paying for the port-a-potty at the school. W. Witham said the Rec. Dept. had in the past, and asked whether the Community Club might be willing to split the cost once baseball was over. W. McLaughlin replied, “I would think yes.”

5.12.6 W. Witham said she had British Soccer coming August 1-5. She added that it wouldn’t cost the town anything. She said that the program would be held at the Carrabec High School for 5 year olds right through 8th grade, in 3 different groups by age.

5.13 Town Clerk/Treasurer –

5.13.1 B. Baker submitted the Expense-Revenue report. She said that she needed to add the budget amounts and CFs, and hoped to do so for next month.

5.13.2 B. Baker stated that she would be at the Government Accounting II class on Friday, and assumed coverage would not be necessary.

5.13.3 B. Baker stated that R. Blake wanted to take the Cash Management class in Brewer on May 18th. She added that she was interested in this class as well, but would understand if the Selectmen did not want her to take it at this time. E. Pratt clarified that this would mean both R. Blake & B. Baker being out on the same day. C. Taylor stated that it had been done before, and the office was just closed for the day. He made a motion (2nd – W. McLaughlin) to allow both B. Baker & R. Blake to attend the Cash Management Class, and close the office for the day, with the closure being posted a week in advance. (3-0)

5.13.4 B. Baker asked E. Pratt whether she was interested in attending the Elected Officials Workshop in Augusta on July 7th. E. Pratt said yes. C. Taylor made a motion (2nd – W. McLaughlin) to send E. Pratt to the Elected Officials Workshop on July 7th, with the town paying for the class. (2-1)

5.14 Tax Collector: No Report. C. Taylor stated R. Blake had called to say she wouldn’t be here.

5.15 Withdrawal from MSAD#74 Fact Finding Group –

5.15.1 W. McLaughlin stated the group had a meeting with Madison & Ken Coville. He stated he didn’t know how much information had come out of it. He said his group was “upset” that Ken Coville was there.

5.15.2 C. Taylor asked whether they were still working. W. McLaughlin said yes. C. Taylor asked whether the petition was to be tabled until then. W. McLaughlin replied yes.

5.15.3 W. McLaughlin said that the group had learned that not much would be done because the town’s valuation was so high and the population was so low. He added that that was state law. E. Pratt asked what the town was paying per year. C. Taylor read the numbers. Discussion continued.

5.16 Community Center -

5.16.1 W. McLaughlin stated the group was doing pretty good.

5.16.2 He stated that the thrift store had opened today and done pretty well.

5.16.3 He said that the show Saturday had about 150 people.

5.16.4 He stated that the group was working on getting the library ready.

5.16.5 He said that the group would be holding a sewing class. E. Pratt added that 4 brand new sewing machines and fabric was being donated by the Fabric Garden.

5.16.6 F. Nile asked whether anyone had checked into the insurance for having alcohol in the building. C. Taylor replied that Ken Lexier was looking into it. Discussion continued.

6 Old Business:

6.1 Petition for Withdrawal from RSU/MSAD#74: Issue tabled. C. Taylor stated this would not be pursued until the Selectmen had more facts.

6.2 Town of Embden Policies:

6.2.1 C. Taylor stated this would appear in the agenda until they were all done.

6.2.2 C. Taylor read from the proposed policy. B. Baker asked whether this policy had to be approved every year or if it would be in effect until it had been amended or revoked. C. Taylor stated until it was changed. E. Pratt made a motion (2nd – C. Taylor) to accept the Office Personnel Substitute Policy as read. (2-0)

7 New Business:

7.1 Tax Acquired Property: C. Taylor stated that he had left a message for Don Berry to get fair market value for the properties as per the town meeting article.

- 7.2 Town Website:** C. Taylor stated that he had registered for a domain name for the town, *emdden.maine.gov*. He said that Shawn Cyrway had agreed to help get that going so that the Selectmen's minutes etc. can be available online, as well as links for the Community Center. He added that S. Cyrway would donate his time, but had requested that the town purchase the software.
- 8 Correspondence:** C. Taylor stated that this section had been added as a place to discuss the little things that come in the mail.
- 8.1** C. Taylor announced that the annual meeting & dinner for Crisis & Counseling was coming up.
- 8.2** C. Taylor read from the pamphlet for the APWA 20th Annual Highway Conference, to be held Friday May 20th at the Skowhegan Fairgrounds. Cost is \$7 for lunch if not pre-registered.
- 9 Community Relations, Announcements, and Open Public Forum:**
- 9.1 Open Public Forum :**
- 9.1.1 Moose Alley ATV Riders:** J. Albut stated the club wanted to know if the town would consider granting them access from the middle of the Solon-Emdden Bridge to the multi-use trail at Alder Brook. He said they currently were using the railroad tracks, but wanted an alternative with Guilford Rail starting up. He said they had the blessing of the Solon selectmen. E. Pratt asked how far it was. J. Ireland replied that it was 0.4 miles. J. Albut said that they did need DOT approval. He said they had been in touch with them, & were told that the first step was to present the idea to the town before going through the application process. He submitted a copy of the letter from the town of Solon. C. Taylor stated that he wanted to hear MDOT's take on the destruction of the road's shoulder, and who would be responsible for repair. J. Albut replied that the club had been granted access to the Bert Berry Road approximately 3 years ago and had not had any issues. J. Ireland stated that they would be traveling on the paved road, not the shoulder, so there would be minimal damage. He added that the proposed route passes no driveways & would be daytime use only. He stated that the town always reserves the right to rescind its permission. E. Pratt asked whether use of the rail bed was going to be taken away. J. Albut said he didn't know, but that the original plan was to extend the rail bed to the quarry. F. Nile said he felt they were "getting way ahead" of themselves. E. Pratt said once the trail was taken away fine, but until then they should use their own trail. J. Albut replied that he thought this would be proactive rather than possibly losing an entire season, because once getting town approval it could still take 3-4 months to get approval from DOT. C. Taylor read from MMA Townsman article. W. McLaughlin asked whether this would cause a problem with the trucks. J. Albut said no, because the 4-wheelers would be turning off before there. He added that the bridge was structurally sound, and that was the beginning of the multi-use trail. Discussion continued. C. Taylor stated he would draft something for the next meeting, where they would make any changes and sign it that night.
- 9.1.2** B. Baker stated that she had gotten the information on the food cupboard. She said that the Madison Food Cupboard was open Tuesdays 09:00-12:00, and the Solon Food Cupboard was open Thursdays 09:00-15:00. She added that the co-director in Madison had said that they would not serve Emdden for less than \$1,000, stating that was considered a fee, not a donation. F. Nile stated someone had complained to him about the Solon Food Cupboard. C. Taylor said that one of the Selectmen should go visit.
- 9.1.3** J. Vartanian stated he wanted to know why the processed hot top went to Michael Witham's pit. E. Pratt responded that the crusher was located at the railroad site, so it was closer and easier to put it in his pit. She added that M. Witham had told her that they needed 2 acres to dump the hot top, and his pit was the biggest area. Discussion continued.
- 9.1.4** J. Vartanian asked how much was saved by not getting bonded or using an engineer on the East Shore Road project. E. Pratt replied that the cheapest engineers would cost \$7,000-12,000. She added that she would have the information on the cost of bonding for the next meeting. C. Taylor asked whether they had heard the recommendation of the DOT person (Peter Coughlan) that next time there should be specs. J. Vartanian stated he wanted to know at the next meeting the amount that was saved by M. Witham not being bonded. F. Nile argued that M. Witham had tried to say he didn't have to be bonded, but MMA says differently. He asked whether M. Witham would be bonded this time.
- 9.1.5** L. Mayo asked whether the tailings from the crusher belonged to the town. F. Nile said that he didn't think that the town had any tailings. He explained that these were the larger pieces that would not go through the screen. J. Vartanian asked how many yards there were.
- 9.1.6** F. Nile stated he had gone to a meeting with R. Dunphy & L. Mayo on the Balsam Drive issue. He asked whether the Selectmen had a way to get a hold of the DEP personnel so they could receive any emails too. Discussion continued.
- 9.1.7** T. Lamontagne stated that she had cleaned around the flagpole so that it was all ready for lighting. C. Taylor said he had talked to Paul at Hillside Electric.
- 10 Executive Session (Non-Public) (ME §405):** None.
- 11 Next Meeting Announcement & Adjournment**
- 11.1** Next Regular Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, May 16, 2011
- 11.2** Motion to adjourn made by C. Taylor (2nd-E. Pratt). Adjourned 21:11 (3-0).

Minutes submitted by:
Bonnie A. Baker