

Town of Embden

Minutes of the Board of Selectpersons

May 16, 2011

7:00 PM Meeting held at the Embden Town Office

In attendance was: Joseph Albuit, Brandi Barnett, Robert Dunphy, Eleanor Ketchum, Scott Leahy, Leo Mayo, John Mullin, Elizabeth Pratt, Charles Taylor, Michael & Wendy Witham, and Bonnie Baker.

- 1 Charles Taylor called the meeting to order at 19:04.
- 2 The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3 **Consent Agenda:**
 - 3.1 Approved the minutes of the Board of Selectpersons dated May 2, 2011. Accepted as written. (2-0)
 - 3.2 Reviewed Warrant #10 totaling \$146,476.63. Approved (2-0).
- 4 **Appointments & Resignations:**
 - 4.1 **Appeals Board Member:** Tabled until the next meeting.
 - 4.2 **Assistant Animal Control Officer:** C. Taylor made a motion (2nd – E. Pratt) to appoint Brandi Barnett as the Deputy Animal Control Officer. (2-0)
 - 4.3 **Emergency Management Co-Director:** E. Pratt made a motion (2nd – C. Taylor) to appoint John Mullin as an Emergency Management Co-Director. (2-0)
- 5 **Department Officials Reports:**
 - 5.1 **E-911** – E. Ketchum stated that she had been working on the roads. She added that there was one shortening, one getting longer, one new road, and 7 different addresses. She stated that there was a road where they had been working that had an awfully blind drive, and asked what the Selectmen thought about a sign. C. Taylor asked her to get a hold of M. Witham.
 - 5.2 **Winter Roads Contractor** - No Report.
 - 5.3 **Animal Control** –
 - 5.3.1 B. Baker submitted report for ACO. C. Taylor made a motion (2nd – E. Pratt) to accept as written. (2-0)
 - 5.3.2 B. Barnett stated that they were having issues with wild animals. She said that someone had moved a pile of brush & set it on fire, and now they had a bunch of baby bunnies. She said that the wildlife rehabilitator in Vassalboro was pretty full, and would not take wildlife once someone had “laid hands” on them.
 - 5.3.3 She stated that as far as she knew, the horse problem had been taken care of.
 - 5.4 **Board of Assessors** – R. Dunphy stated that the meeting for tomorrow night had been canceled due to a death in the family.
 - 5.5 **Planning Board** –
 - 5.5.1 L. Mayo stated that there had been one denial, which the Selectpersons had a copy of; everything else passed. C. Taylor asked whether they expected an appeal on the denial. L. Mayo stated he wouldn’t think so.
 - 5.5.2 C. Taylor asked whether there were any new subdivisions. L. Mayo said no.
 - 5.5.3 C. Taylor asked whether there was any word on Balsam Drive LLC. L. Mayo replied no.
 - 5.5.4 C. Taylor said that he needed the wording for the article on Jed Spears. He added that it had never appeared in town meeting. L. Mayo said that there were 2 more on the East Shore Road.
 - 5.5.5 C. Taylor stated that the Selectpersons were waiting on the Planning Board for maps. L. Mayo replied that DEP had told him that by 2013 they were going to redo them. C. Taylor asked whether L. Mayo was saying that they should go ahead. R. Dunphy replied that to be consistent they shouldn’t. E. Pratt asked him to clarify that his recommendation was to not hold a Special Town Meeting. R. Dunphy replied that he was recommending whatever Mr. Mayo says, that he supported him, & that Mr. Mayo was the one in charge. E. Pratt added that she felt the town needed to “stay tough” and “protect the lake.” R. Dunphy said that he didn’t think the changes had anything to do with the lake, they had to do with the rivers and streams. L. Mayo stated that if the Selectpersons wanted to go ahead then he could get the map ready from Sackett & Brake. C. Taylor said that his “gut feeling says do it.” E. Pratt replied, “So do it.” C. Taylor asked whether they needed to get everything ready, ie Jed Spears, or whether they were going to wait until March. L. Mayo asked whether that was an affirmative to get with Sackett & Brake. Selectpersons said yes.
 - 5.6 **Plumbing Inspector** –
 - 5.6.1 L. Mayo said there were some applications in. He added that most systems were flooded right now.
 - 5.6.2 M. Witham stated that he had a design on the East Shore Road that requires 2 tanks. He asked whether it was possible to put 1 tank and the leach field in for the garage, and put in the other one in 1 year when the landowner got ready to build the house. L. Mayo said that that was ok as long as the permit didn’t expire.
 - 5.7 **Board of Appeals** – No Report.
 - 5.8 **Code Enforcement Officer** –
 - 5.8.1 R. Dunphy stated he had talked to the owner of one of the 2 trailers on the Getchell Road. He said they were “supposedly fixing the camp.” Discussion continued.
 - 5.8.2 He said he had spoken to Aubrey Danforth & told him that it would be an automatic after-the-fact permit.
 - 5.8.3 He stated he had spoken with the gentleman on the Barron Road, who had promised to clean up the lot.

- 5.8.4 C. Taylor asked about the Hilton property on the West Shore Road. L. Mayo stated it was an eyesore, but not a hazard because it was all fallen in. C. Taylor stated she had tried to get the fire department to burn it. J. Mullin replied that there was too much debris. E. Pratt asked if the person had written out and signed the complaint, because if not then the Selectpersons could not accept it. C. Taylor replied that he had gone by it and it was an eyesore. He said that he was complaining.

5.9 **Health Officer** – R. Dunphy stated that he would use the Health Officer status in the above cases if needed.

5.10 **Road Commissioner** –

- 5.10.1 M. Witham stated the street sweeping was done.
- 5.10.2 He said that Maine-ly Trees was getting ready to do a culvert on the East Shore Road and had offered to do the work if the town would supply the culvert. He added that they were “quite capable” to do the work. C. Taylor replied that M. Witham would supervise the work.
- 5.10.3 M. Witham stated that Dan Nile had unplugged the culvert on Fahi that there were issues with last year. He stressed that this was not a beaver problem at this time.
- 5.10.4 He said that they had graded the East Shore, West Shore, and Dunbar Hill roads.
- 5.10.5 He stated that the town had a calcium spreader that had not been used for at least 5 years. He said he didn’t know whether the Selectpersons might be interested in selling it in the upcoming auction. He added that he had always used Jack Kaplan to do the calcium spreading, who could complete the whole town in 8 hours. He stated he didn’t know whether Mr. Kaplan would be willing to do the work this year for state wage. E. Pratt replied, “I say sell it.” C. Taylor said that he couldn’t remember what the town had originally paid for the equipment, and would prefer to wait until the fall. M. Witham stated he had thought about putting it on the land across from the sand shed, but was concerned that the Honda engine might be stolen.
- 5.10.6 He said that he had an employee pick up trash along the Wentworth Road. S. Leahy recommended talking to the Somerset County jail for next year, to possibly get inmates to do the work for free.
- 5.10.7 C. Taylor asked whether the posters were down yet. M. Witham stated that they were down on the 15th, with the exception of one on the Barron Road which he still needed to get.
- 5.10.8 M. Witham stated that he had been meaning to get to the Hancock Pond Road.

5.11 **M.S.A.D. #74** – C. Taylor stated that 44 people had voted in Embden at the Budget Validation Referendum. B. Baker read off the results of the election:

Solon	25 Yes	5 No	
Embden	22 Yes	22 No	
Anson	42 Yes	26 No	
<u>New Portland</u>	<u>26 Yes</u>	<u>4 No</u>	
Results	115 Yes	57 No	(172 people voted throughout the District)

5.12 **Recreational Director** –

- 5.12.1 W. Witham submitted papers for the Selectpersons to review. She requested their input before things went out.
- 5.12.2 W. Witham said she would like to come up with a generic application with a sponsor box for those that needed it.
- 5.12.3 She said she planned to put out a list of upcoming events in the District & Madison schools, and would okay this through the appropriate Rec. Departments.
- 5.12.4 She stated she would be doing the USAME Track for ages 14 and younger. She said it had been a \$75 fee to become a member, and Embden was in the Skowhegan-Waterville area. She added that the High School would let them use the track. She stated the registration fee would be \$15 per child, and Dan Foss had suggested a \$2 fee per meet to cover the insurance costs. She added that she would like to collect some from the out of town kids to help absorb some of the costs. She said Embden would be participating in the Mighty Milers program.
- 5.12.5 C. Taylor stated he did not have any “desire to micromanage.”
- 5.12.6 W. Witham asked whether the money coming in for programs such as the soccer camp could be designated for scholarships in the warrant for the Special Town meeting. C. Taylor replied that it was a carry forward account, so the funds could be earmarked for that purpose. W. Witham stated, “My intent would be to gain money from other towns and use it for our kids, without costing the taxpayers anything.” E. Pratt said she thought it was a wonderful idea. Discussion continued.
- 5.12.7 W. Witham stated that there were 2 baseball teams going on.

5.13 **Town Clerk/Treasurer** –

- 5.13.1 B. Baker submitted Treasurers Report.
- 5.13.2 B. Baker submitted the Check Balancing Report. She stated that she now needed both April and May signed. C. Taylor asked her to explain the notation on the May report. B. Baker explained that R. Blake had refused to turn in her money on Friday, April 29th, so B. Baker had closed out her own cash drawer and deposited the money that afternoon. She stated that when the statement came in she realized this had created an issue, because ½ of the days deposit (her drawer) had posted to the account in the month of April, while R. Blake’s ½ of the deposit had not posted to the bank until the following week, in May, therefore she was unable to completely balance the months bank statement to the TRIO system.
- 5.13.3 B. Baker stated that both she & R. Blake would be gone Wednesday for training, & the office would be closed.
- 5.13.4 She stated that someone in town had made an anonymous donation to the Madison Food Cupboard so that residents could now use either the Solon or Madison Food Cupboards.
- 5.13.5 B. Baker asked whether Scott Leahy would be doing the mowing at the Town Office. C. Taylor said yes.

- 5.14 Tax Collector:** R. Blake submitted a report. She stated that there was currently \$93K due for taxes, and she would start making phone calls. She added that \$11K had been prepaid towards 2011 so far
- 5.15 Withdrawal from MSAD#74 Fact Finding Group** – C. Taylor stated that they had received no further information from W. McLaughlin other than the fact that Madison was very interested in Embden.
- 5.16 Community Center -**
- 5.16.1** S. Leahy submitted an updated rental agreement & a code of conduct that they had received from K. Lexier. He stated they were still working on an alcohol policy. R. Dunphy asked whether the Board for the Community Center created its own policies, but they were then approved by the Selectpersons. C. Taylor said yes. E Pratt stated that she and W. McLaughlin did not vote on any policies brought before the ECC. S. Leahy added that that was because they had to vote on the same policies during the Selectpersons meetings, so they did not even sit in on the policy committee for the EEC. S, Leahy read the proposed policies. **C. Taylor made a motion (2nd– E. Pratt) to accept the policy on Code of Conduct pertaining to the usage of ALL town buildings. (2-0)** R. Dunphy recommended the policy be available but not posted due to the graphic language. Selectpersons agreed to keep a copy in the file cabinet at the town office. C. Taylor made a motion (2nd – E. Pratt) to accept the rental agreement submitted by S. Leahy. (2-0)
- 5.16.2** C. Taylor stated K. Lexier’s opinion was that there was no advantage to the Embden Community Center Club being a separate entity.
- 5.16.3** E. Pratt stated that in regard to Mr. Nile’s request for usage of the building for a UBM party, the Club had voted unanimously (17 people) to not allow for this to happen. She added that they felt that this “was not in the best interest of the Community Center.”
- 5.16.4** C. Taylor asked R. Blake if she was keeping records on a spreadsheet. She stated that she was, but was having trouble opening documents on her computer. Discussion continued. C. Taylor stated that he was “not of the opinion” to spend money to update the Microsoft office program. He made a motion (2nd – E. Pratt) to purchase 1 copy if one had not been found for R. Blake by the next Selectpersons meeting.
- 6 Old Business:**
- 6.1 Petition for Withdrawal from RSU/MSAD#74:** Issue tabled.
- 6.2 Town of Embden Policies:** See 5.16.1
- 6.3 Tax Acquired Property:** Tabled until 6/6.
- 6.4 Town Website:** C. Taylor stated that he had priced a couple of programs and registered for a domain name. R. Dunphy recommended he speak to Mike Smith, from Somerset County. He said that the town would have to pay to have him come and set up the program, but he does many of them. He recommended going with a person who does this professionally.
- 6.5 Moose Alley ATV Club Request:** C. Taylor read the proposed letter. J. Albuit said he though the Selectpersons were contemplating granting the access. He added that Solon had given them permission to travel the roads. He said that he though the Selectpersons were going to draft a letter saying that they gave permission IF they lost the use of the Guilford rail & DOT okayed it. He said their club had asked Guilford for permission in the past, but they would not grant it in writing. C. Taylor asked him to make the necessary changes and send it back to him. He asked E. Pratt if that was okay with her. She said yes.
- 6.6 Estimate for Town Office Flagpole Lighting:** C. Taylor read the quote for \$550 submitted by Hillside Electric. E. Pratt made a motion (2nd – C. Taylor) to accept the bid. (2-0)
- 7 New Business: None**
- 8 Correspondence:**
- 8.1** C. Taylor read a correspondence from Pidacks regarding the moving of their equipment to the Guilford quarry.
- 8.2** C. Taylor read a letter from MSAD#74 about summer food service. He gave to E. Pratt for the ECC.
- 9 Community Relations, Announcements, and Open Public Forum:**
- 9.1 Open Public Forum :**
- 9.1.1** E. Pratt stated she had gone and checked the Solon Food Cupboard. She said it was very cluttered. She stated that she had called Gloria Young and Chrystelle Mullin, who were horrified about the complaints. She said Linda French runs the food cupboard, and had told her that the town was welcome to have anyone inspect it because they received government commodities and therefore had to pass strict guidelines. E. Pratt stated she had found no validity to the complaints, and felt they were just malicious gossip because people wanted to go to Madison.
- 9.1.2** E. Pratt stated she called Keyes Insurance about bonding & was told that the cost was 1-2% of the total cost of the project. She stated that the paperwork takes 8-10 hours to complete, & the only reason for having it was that if a project was put out to bid & the person didn’t complete it, the bond company would pay for it.
- 9.1.3** E. Pratt said she called DOT on the Embden Pond Road & told them that a school bus’ air bag had deployed due to the condition of the road and it was now a safety issue. She said that the road would be ditched & patched this summer, and was on the list for next summer.
- 9.1.4** L. Mayo asked whether she had found out about the crusher dust. He said the tailings were being given away to anyone that hauled them off, & M. Witham had hauled them off.
- 10 Executive Session (Non-Public) (ME §405):** None.
- 11 Next Meeting Announcement & Adjournment**
- 11.1** Next Regular Selectmen’s Meeting – Monday, June 6, 2011
- 11.2** Motion to adjourn made by E. Pratt (2nd-C. Taylor). Adjourned 21:47 (2-0).