

Town of Embden

Minutes of the Board of Selectpersons

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August 15, 2011

7:00 PM Meeting held at the Embden Town Office

In attendance was: Eleanor Ketchum, Paul McGrath, Wayne McLaughlin, Elizabeth Pratt, Charles Taylor,
Michael 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 Selectpersons submitted by A.Morrill, dated August 1, 2011. Accepted as amended.(3-0)
 - 3.2 Reviewed Warrant #16 totaling \$152,274.74. Approved without the \$110 fee for the PO Box rental (3-0).
 - 3.2.1 E. Pratt stated she recommended not paying the PO Box rental fee until they could find out whether mail could be delivered to the Town Office. She made a motion (2nd – W. McLaughlin) that a Selectperson go tell the Postmaster to begin delivering mail to the Town Office. (3-0) C. Taylor said that the mail would be delivered on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Fridays, and the outgoing mail would be picked up at those times.
 - 3.2.2 C. Taylor asked why there were 2 bills for Waste Management. B. Baker replied that normally the Town was billed every 2 weeks, however the way the warrant dates fell this time, the last bill had arrived too late to appear on the last warrant.
- 4 **Appointments & Resignations: None**
- 5 **Department Officials Reports:**
 - 5.1 **E-911** –E. Ketchum said there was “nothing much” going on. She stated the Katie’s Crotch Road sign was put up Saturday, and was still there this afternoon. C. Taylor asked whether she had heard from John Duff about a trail camera. E. Ketchum replied that she didn’t think that was the answer. She added that there was nothing around to hide the camera. She stated that she felt it should be put in the warrant for Town Meeting to change the name of the road. C. Taylor said he could speak with New Portland about it appearing in their warrant as well. E. Ketchum answered that even if New Portland didn’t change the name, it would only add the cost of approximately \$25 for a post and sign at the Town Line.
 - 5.2 **Winter Roads Contractor** - No Report.
 - 5.3 **Animal Control** – No Report.
 - 5.4 **Board of Assessors** – B. Baker submitted abatements from the Assessors. Selectpersons reviewed and signed.
 - 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** –
 - 5.10.1 M. Witham submitted a bill from R. Giguere. He stated R. Giguere had gone back up the Wentworth Road. C. Taylor asked whether the road had been fixed. W. McLaughlin replied that he was “not impressed.” M. Witham stated that he was, “Willing to look into other options, but this year, he was the only option.” E. Ketchum asked whether he had been paid twice to do the Wentworth Road. C. Taylor replied that he wasn’t sure, and read from the bill. He added that maybe R. Giguere needed to be told to “slow down.” M. Witham said he, “Told him to take his time.” C. Taylor said R. Giguere had done 19 roads in town. He made a motion (2nd – W. McLaughlin) to add to the warrant. (3-0)
 - 5.10.2 M. Witham said that the rock rake was in need of teeth again, and the squeeze mechanism to lift and lower was all gone. He asked for a check for H P Fairfield for parts. E. Pratt made a

motion (2nd – W. McLaughlin) to give the Road Commissioner a blank check to pick up rock rake teeth and parts at H P Fairfield. (3-0)

5.10.3 M. Witham stated they had done ditching on the Creamer Road at the Embden Pond Road end. He said he had spoken with Fine Line Paving about paving the end of the road. He added that he thought it would eliminate a lot of issues and help with plowing. He said Fine Line was supposed to get back to him this week.

5.10.4 He said they had done ditching on the Boat Landing Road.

5.10.5 He stated Joe was in the process of getting a chipper. M. Witham said he had told Joe that he would pay the same as Eagle Rental charges.

5.10.6 He said that he had put the ‘Stop Ahead’ signs on the Wentworth Road.

5.10.7 C. Taylor asked whether they were going to try to do the Fahi Pond Road this year. M. Witham said he didn’t know, it depended on the amount left in his budget. He said it would be 2.2 miles from the North Anson line to the channel. Discussion continued.

5.10.8 C. Taylor asked whether M. Witham would address the issue by Brainard Tripp’s house. M. Witham said yes.

5.11 M.S.A.D. #74 – No Report.

5.12 Recreational Director – No Report.

5.13 Town Clerk/Treasurer –

5.13.1 B. Baker submitted Expense-Revenue Report.

5.13.2 B. Baker submitted a Check Reconciliation report for the Selectpersons to review.

5.13.3 She stated that the State was putting on free Vitals update classes around the State. She said that she would like to attend the class in Waterville on Wednesday, August 24th. She said the only other class that was close was in Fairfield on September 21st. She said she thought August might be better because September could run into the commitment. W. McLaughlin stated he thought she should attend whichever one she wanted.

5.13.4 E. Pratt asked whether there was any way to tell whether the electricity usage had changed in the Community Center with the new gym lights.

5.13.5 W. McLaughlin asked about the interest for the county tax bill. C. Taylor read an email from Larry Post. He said the County would forgive the interest for the month of October this year. He added that next year, either the TAN would need to reflect a higher amount or else the commitment date would have to be changed.

5.14 Tax Collector: No Report.

5.15 Withdrawal from MSAD#74 Fact Finding Group – W. McLaughlin stated they had gone to Cornville, who was interested in Embden joining with them and Goodwill-Hinkley. E. Pratt said Goodwill-Hinkley would provide the school buses. W. McLaughlin stated they would need to find out about special needs students.

5.16 Community Center –

5.16.1 W. McLaughlin said there would be a spaghetti supper Saturday night.

5.16.2 He stated they still had the estimate from W. Atwood for the repairs on the Community Center. He added that Jeff Goodwin had taken measurements, but had not yet submitted an estimate.

5.16.3 E. Pratt stated the building was used this past weekend for a wedding reception.

5.16.4 She said the thrift shop was doing well.

5.16.5 W. McLaughlin stated that everything that MSAD74 was paying the Community Club to store, had been given to the Community Center in lieu of payment.

5.16.6 He said that the gentleman that rented the building Saturday had brought and donated 3 round, folding tables, as well as 2 with removable legs. E. Pratt stated that had been one of the complaints at the dinner was the lack of round tables. Discussion continued.

5.17 Emergency Management Directors – No Report.

6 Old Business:

6.1 Town of Embden Policies: None.

6.2 Open & Award Sealed Bids for Tax Acquired Property:

6.2.1 Property #1: No bids received. E. Pratt made a motion to re-post Property #1 at the Town Office, and keep the minimum bid amount set at \$300. C. Taylor stated he would start talking to the abutters.

6.2.2 Property #2: C. Taylor stated there had been one bid received, however the former owner was present. W. McLaughlin said he wanted to hear from Mr. McGrath. P. McGrath stated he was

here to ask the Board to allow him to pay the past due amount in full tonight. He stated he was not aware he was so far behind. He said he thought he had already paid 2009. He said he was waiting on his bank to come up with the cancelled check(s). He stated his payments in 2007-8 had been credited to the wrong account. He submitted a letter from Edwin Thebarga. C. Taylor said he would like to give P. McGrath the opportunity to pay the past-due amount and retain his property. Discussion continued. Board of Selectpersons opened the bid on property # 2, received on 8/2 and read aloud. W. McLaughlin made a motion (2nd – E. Pratt) to reject the bid and return the deposit. (3-0) W. McLaughlin made a motion (2nd – E. Pratt) to accept \$800 from P. McGrath and do whatever necessary to get ownership of the property to revert back to him. (3-0) P. McGrath stated if there was any excess payment to apply it toward his 2011 taxes.

6.3 Embden Dam: B. Baker submitted the documentation from E. Thebarga on the dam. C. Taylor read from document. C. Taylor stated E. Thebarga could give a full report at the next meeting.

7 New Business:

7.1 Insurance Review: C. Taylor stated that Robert Thomas had met with him last Thursday and evaluated the town-owned buildings.

7.1.1 He said there were just a couple things mentioned with the Community Center: 1.) the back wall; 2.) the boiler needed to be “run up,” it expired in August; (W. McLaughlin said the person was coming Wednesday.) and finally, 3.) The fire extinguishers are up date however need a visual inspection each month.

7.1.2 He stated the inspector had not said anything about the Town House or Town Office.

7.1.3 He said that R. Thomas had an issue with the path to the beach (i.e. trees hanging due to the tornado and the bridge).

7.1.4 C. Taylor stated he showed him the bridge, and R. Thomas said it was the “absolute worst dam ever.”

8 Correspondence:

8.1 C. Taylor stated they had received minutes from the Planning Board. He read a letter from DEP dated 7/25/2011. E. Pratt stated that was, “Strike 2.” C. Taylor stated he thought there needed to be meetings with the various boards in town. Discussion continued. E. Pratt made a motion (2nd – W. McLaughlin) to attend the September 8th Planning Board meeting at 7:00pm, and have the BOS attendance placed on that agenda. (3-0)

8.2 Board of Selectpersons reviewed Background Check requests.

8.3 C. Taylor read a letter from Ron Trepanier. He stated he would email and state that they had received his letter, but the Assessors are elected.

8.4 He read the EMHS Access to Healthcare.

8.5 C. Taylor read the KVCOG General Assembly Nominations. He stated he would take care of it.

8.6 He read a letter from the Family Violence Project regarding donation usage. Selectpersons reviewed and signed.

8.7 C. Taylor submitted the MMA Property Casualty Pool paperwork showing all town coverage and costs. Discussion continued.

9 Community Relations, Announcements, and Open Public Forum:

9.1 Open Public Forum : None

10 Executive Session (Non-Public) (ME §405): None.

11 Next Meeting Announcement & Adjournment

11.1 Next Regular Selectmen’s Meeting – Monday, September 5, 2011.

11.2 Motion to adjourn made by W. McLaughlin (2nd-C. Taylor). Adjourned 21:04 (3-0).

*Minutes submitted by:
Bonnie A. Baker*