

# Town of Embden

## Minutes of the Board of Selectpersons

November 7, 2011

### 7:00 PM Meeting held at the Embden Town Office

**In attendance was:** Ruth Blake, Carol Dolan, Robert Dunphy, Kenneth Ingalls, Scott Leahy, Leo Mayo, Wayne McLaughlin, Nancy McLean, Elizabeth Pratt, Mitchell Quint, Charles Taylor, Brainard Tripp, Larry Witham, Michael Witham, Raymond Young, and Bonnie Baker.

- 1 Charles Taylor called the meeting to order at 18:59.
- 2 The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3 **Consent Agenda:**
  - 3.1 Approved the minutes of the Board of Selectpersons dated October 17, 2011. Accepted as written.(3-0)
  - 3.2 Reviewed Warrant #21 totaling \$617,136.00. (3-0)
- 4 **Appointments & Resignations:**
  - 4.1 **Community Center Committee:** C. Taylor read the list of proposed appointees (Ruth Blake, Joe Creamer, Scott Leahy, Larry Witham, Raymond Young). W. McLaughlin stated he had a lot of reservations. E. Pratt agreed. She made a motion (2<sup>nd</sup> – W. McLaughlin) to table the appointments until the next Selectpersons meeting. (3-0)
- 5 **Department Officials Reports:**
  - 5.1 **E-911** – No Report.
  - 5.2 **Winter Roads Contractor** – No Report.
  - 5.3 **Animal Control** – B. Baker submitted written report from the ACO. BOS reviewed. Accepted 3-0.
  - 5.4 **Board of Assessors** – B. Baker stated they were preparing to send out the 200 sample batch.
  - 5.5 **Planning Board** – L. Mayo stated that there was not much going on. He said there were 5 applications on the next agenda. R. Dunphy added that there were 2 additions, a road, and a mobile home.
  - 5.6 **Plumbing Inspector** – L. Mayo stated there were a couple new systems going in.
  - 5.7 **Board of Appeals** – S. Leahy said he had nothing to report.
  - 5.8 **Code Enforcement Officer** – E. Pratt said she had received a call on the Roosevelt property. R. Dunphy replied that this was something that had been, “hanging around.” He said that it couldn’t be done under the 30% rule, so he had told K. Lexier to do it under building without a permit. He said he kept getting pictures each month. He stated the consent agreement had been “too ambiguous.” R. Dunphy stated one of the Selectpersons needed to draft a letter with how they wanted to proceed. C. Taylor said he would call and effectuate the process. He asked when the stop work order had been issued. R. Dunphy replied, “I couldn’t tell you.” L. Mayo stated it was 2 years ago.
  - 5.9 **Health Officer** – R. Dunphy had nothing to report.
  - 5.10 **Road Commissioner** –
    - 5.10.1 M. Witham stated he had the shoulders of the Fahi Pond Road done last week.
    - 5.10.2 He said they had gotten the dock out, but had bent one pipe on the dock while removing it, and would replace that. He said the dock sections were all stacked up. He stated he thought IF&W was in charge of removing the buoys. W. McLaughlin said he had been asked about the float in the cove. M. Witham stated he would check.
    - 5.10.3 M. Witham said the only sign he had left was a ‘Dangerous Intersection’, so he would have to order a ‘Stop Ahead’ sign for the Wentworth Road. C. Dolan said there was a sign post across from the end of the road. C. Taylor asked M. Witham to contact DOT about putting something there.
    - 5.10.4 M. Witham stated he had a tree on the West Shore Road he would remove tonight, along with a couple on the Bert Berry Road. He said last year he rented a chipper, and would do another section of the Bert Berry Road this year. He stated he would rent the chipper from Joe Creamer to save travel to Waterville.
  - 5.11 **M.S.A.D. #74** – No Report.
  - 5.12 **Recreational Director** – M. Witham stated she would attend the next BOS meeting.

**5.13 Town Clerk/Treasurer –**

- 5.13.1 B. Baker stated the polls would be open tomorrow from 08:00-20:00.
- 5.13.2 She reminded the BOS that the office would be closed Friday for Veterans Day.
- 5.13.3 She stated the Treasurer’s Report was almost done, and she would have it for the next meeting.
- 5.13.4 C. Taylor asked for an Expense summary for the next meeting.

**5.14 Tax Collector:** R. Blake stated \$2,128,070.93 had been collected so far, and \$310,219.67 was still owed.

**5.15 Withdrawal from MSAD#74 Fact Finding Group –** No Report.

**5.16 Community Center –**

- 5.16.1 W. McLaughlin stated the wall had been fixed.
- 5.16.2 He said the group had a meeting scheduled for tomorrow night.
- 5.16.3 He stated the thrift store was doing really well.
- 5.16.4 He said that on the 19<sup>th</sup> there would be a craft fair and Pat Libby.
- 5.16.5 He said the Mardens Lady was scheduled for December 2<sup>nd</sup>, and they were pre-selling tickets.
- 5.16.6 R. Blake said they had turned \$1,000 to the town. She added that the last event hadn’t gone over as planned, so that had held them up. W. McLaughlin asked how much had been brought in so far. R. Blake stated \$18,419. She said the thrift store had brought in \$3,134 so far.
- 5.16.7 W. McLaughlin added that the thrift store would be opening another room of Christmas stuff starting tomorrow.
- 5.16.8 He said that the Sewing Class had done a quilt which would be raffled off.
- 5.16.9 He said Bone Building was going on.
- 5.16.10 He added TOPS (Taking off Pounds Sensibly) meetings were Mondays from 17:00-18:00.
- 5.16.11 He stated the Walking Group had started back up this morning.
- 5.16.12 C. Dolan asked whether the suppers were usually held on the second Saturday of each month.
- 5.16.13 C. Taylor asked if R. Blake had a treasurer’s report for the group, or if she was just waiting until the end of the year.
- 5.16.14 E. Pratt said she had called the auditor to ask about the money that had rolled into surplus December 31, 2010, and he told her he hadn’t decided yet. She added that they would probably get that money back.

**5.17 Emergency Management Directors –**

- 5.17.1 R. Dunphy stated there were a couple of 300 trainings that he needed to do.
- 5.17.2 C. Taylor asked how the process was going of getting the Community Center declared an emergency shelter. W. McLaughlin asked whether it had to be voted on as a town meeting article. R. Dunphy replied, “Yes, probably. Possibly.” He said that if the town were not going to keep it as a shelter then they probably would not be given a generator. He added that they wanted a long-term commitment. R. Young asked what equipment was involved if that became a shelter. R. Dunphy said it depended on what you want. He added that the town would not have to store the equipment; it would be brought there during an emergency. He said there was “technically” no cost other than the running of the generator. M. Witham asked whether the town was still part of North Anson’s emergency shelter. R. Dunphy replied, “You are until they do that.”

**6 Board of Selectpersons Concerns:**

- 6.1 E. Pratt asked whether a lot of people had been out of power during the last storm. She stated her power had been out for 14 hours.
- 6.2 C. Taylor stated they had received the deed from the school. He added that it was dated 09/22/2011.
- 6.3 E. Pratt asked whether the light for the flagpole would be fixed. B. Baker said he had stopped and was supposed to e-mail C. Taylor. W. McLaughlin stated he felt the town had “fooled around with him long enough.” R. Young recommended taking the flag down at night and putting it back up in the morning. B. Baker stated she was not driving to the office every night to take the flag down. R. Young replied that it only needed to be done on the days the office was open.

**7 Old Business:**

**7.1 Town of Embden Policies:** None

**8 New Business:**

**8.1 Winter Maintenance for Town Buildings (i.e. Shoveling/Plowing/Sanding):**

- 8.1.1 C. Taylor mad a motion (2<sup>nd</sup> – E. Pratt) that Eric Baker continue to shovel the town office at the same stipend (\$50/month) as last year. (3-0)

**8.1.2** W. McLaughlin asked about the Community Center. He stated he thought it should be put out to bid. C. Taylor replied that the group knew who it trusted. He added that they needed to know what area would be plowed. W. McLaughlin stated it would not be done for the price it was last year. M. Witham said that he would still donate his time when needed to push the banks back. Discussion continued.

**8.2 Bat Exclusion & Remediation (Town House):** C. Taylor read from the report by Modern Pest Services. He stated if it was a major health issue, he didn't want anyone using the building. He recommended closing up the building for the winter and putting it on the warrant in March. He stated he would get some other quotes. L. Witham stated it had been cleaned out about 9 years ago. He said the building should be repaired. C. Dolan said that a company from San Antonio, Texas with a local affiliation had done it in 1994. She said it had also been done in 1998 or 99. She said she thought it had been cleaned out but the holes were not chinked. Discussion continued.

**9 Correspondence:** C. Taylor submitted correspondence for the BOS to review.

**10 Community Relations, Announcements, and Open Public Forum:**

**10.1 Open Public Forum:** C. Dolan stated the Historical Society only wanted \$1,000 for 2012. C. Taylor asked M. Witham to include cemetery maintenance in his budget for next year. E. Pratt asked how many cemeteries there were in town. C. Dolan replied that there were 19 public and 3 private. N. McLean offered to get the BOS a listing of the cemeteries.

**11 Next Meeting Announcement & Adjournment**

**11.1** Next Regular Selectperson's Meeting – Monday, November 21, 2011.

**11.2** C. Taylor stated the BOS needed to start having brainstorming" meetings to work on the articles for town meeting. He said he thought they needed a lot of sessions, at least every other week. He asked the BOS to look at their calendars and e-mail their availabilities to him. He said he would have B. Baker post it once a time was set. R. Blake asked whether those meetings were public. Discussion continued.

**11.3** Motion to adjourn made by E. Pratt (2<sup>nd</sup>- W. McLaughlin). Adjourned 20:20 (3-0).

*Minutes submitted by:  
Bonnie A. Baker*