

# Town of Embden



## Minutes of the Board of Selectpersons

September 2, 2013

19:00 PM Meeting held at the Embden Town Office

**In attendance was:** Wayne McLaughlin, Elizabeth Pratt, Charles Taylor, Michael Witham, and Bonnie Baker.

1. Charles Taylor called the meeting to order at 19:06.
2. **Consent Agenda:**
  - 2.1. Approved the minutes of the Board of Selectpersons dated August 19, 2013 as written. (3-0).
  - 2.2. Reviewed Warrant #17 totaling \$64,933.47. (3-0)
    - 2.2.1. C. Taylor made a motion (2<sup>nd</sup> – W. McLaughlin) to increase the mileage reimbursement amounts from the state rate of (currently \$ 0.44) to the federal rate (currently \$0.555) retroactive to January 1, 2013. BOS discussed. (3-0)
3. **Appointments & Resignations:**
  - 3.1.1. **RSU #74 School Board Director:** No applicants. Tabled until next meeting.
4. **Department Officials Reports:**
  - 4.1. **E-911** – No Report.
  - 4.2. **Winter Roads Contractor** –No Report.
    - 4.2.1. C. Taylor stated they needed to contact the Winter Roads Contractor about the ECctr, where buses were exchanging students there now.
  - 4.3. **Animal Control** – No Report.
  - 4.4. **Board of Assessors** – No Report.
  - 4.5. **Planning Board** –No Report.
  - 4.6. **Plumbing Inspector** – No Report.
  - 4.7. **Board of Appeals** – No Report.
  - 4.8. **Code Enforcement Officer** – No Report.
  - 4.9. **Health Officer** – No report.
  - 4.10. **Road Commissioner** –
    - 4.10.1. M. Witham stated he had done a lot of work on the Hancock Pond Road.
    - 4.10.2. He said he received one written concern which had been taken care of before he received the paperwork.
    - 4.10.3. He stated they had 3 ½ pallets of calcium remaining.
    - 4.10.4. He asked about purchasing another ‘Welcome to Embden’ sign for the North New Portland town line. He stated he was ok with the money coming out of the summer road budget.
    - 4.10.5. M. Witham said that L. Jordan had given permission to establish ditching on his property, and the water could now run down through the woods.
    - 4.10.6. He stated he would pick up two culverts from Jordan Lumber tomorrow.
    - 4.10.7. He stated one of his trucks had broken a spring on the Hancock Pond Road.
    - 4.10.8. He said he had gotten gravel from both J. Vital and Merrill, and also gotten some from G. Dunphy when he brought the stumps to his pit. He added that the gravelling was now done; and tomorrow they would be putting in the culverts, pulling out some alder trees, and ditching.
    - 4.10.9. He stated that it didn’t take long for the costs to add up; however there are quite a lot of tax dollars on Hancock Pond.
    - 4.10.10. He said there was a section of the Moulton Road (by E. Berry, where the fire department can draw water) that always seemed to get wash boarded. He said he could have his father grade it this week. He added that they were going to try to build the road up a couple of feet.
    - 4.10.11. He stated he would talk to RH Roofing or Maine-ly Trees, because there were limbs on the Bert Berry Road that needed to be trimmed and a bucket truck was needed to reach up high.

- 4.10.12.** He said he had spoken with E. Creamer about renting a chipper to clean up by some of the stop signs leading to the Cross Town Road.
- 4.10.13.** M. Witham stated that some ditching needed to be done on the Dunbar Hill Road headed toward 4-corners.
- 4.10.14.** C. Taylor stated there was a tree near M. Cross's house that had been hanging for a couple of months.
- 4.10.15.** M. Witham said they needed to put a stop sign at the end of the Cleveland Road, even though there had never been one there before.
- 4.10.16.** C. Taylor said it would be a good idea to brush around by the town line signs.
- 4.10.17.** He asked if they planned to do any paving. M. Witham replied he planned to pave some of Dunbar Hill Road.
- 4.11. R.S.U. #74 – No Report.**
- 4.12. Recreational Director – No Report.**
- 4.13. Town Clerk/Treasurer –**
- 4.13.1.** B. Baker stated she and R. Blake would like to attend the MMA Convention this year. Discussion continued. C. Taylor made a motion (2<sup>nd</sup> – W. McLaughlin) to close the office on October 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> for training.
- 4.13.2.** E. Pratt asked how they could get R. Blake to be able to do hunting and fishing licenses. B. Baker replied that she had a hard time with the idea of giving R. Blake access to her account in MOSES to do hunting/fishing licenses when R. Blake has refused to use that same system for registrations. She pointed out that the system currently was available to do the boat, ATV and snow mobile registrations; but R. Blake had been adamant against using the system, saying that it was not a good system and she didn't like it.
- 4.13.3.** C. Taylor stated he had reviewed and signed the two Check Reconciliation reports.
- 4.13.4.** B. Baker stated she would check and see if they could re-pay the TAN, while keeping the line of credit open, in order to save money on interest.
- 4.14. Registrar of Voters:**
- 4.14.1.** B. Baker stated she had nothing to report at this time.
- 4.15. Tax Collector – No Report.**
- 4.16. Community Center –**
- 4.16.1.** W. McLaughlin stated that Nate had come up and met with the electrician. C. Taylor stated they were waiting for a quote for the AC units. He added that they would put the issue on the March town meeting.
- 4.16.2.** W. McLaughlin stated they had a group working at the New Portland fair. He added that S. LeHay was thinking of getting a sign that said ECC.
- 4.16.3.** He said that the next supper would be chicken cordon bleu on the 14<sup>th</sup>.
- 4.16.4.** He stated that New Realm would be performing on September 21<sup>st</sup>.
- 4.16.5.** He said he hoped R. Young would not be camping so that they could get the cameras installed at the ECCtr.
- 4.16.6.** E. Pratt stated that they were now short people.
- 4.16.7.** W. McLaughlin stated that S. LeHay would get Dave Winslow up to install some outdoor lights at the ECCtr.
- 4.16.8.** W. McLaughlin asked about the high-speed internet. B. Baker stated they would be coming Thursday between 1-5pm, but would call first. W. McLaughlin stated that he would be around.
- 4.17. Emergency Management Directors – No report.**
- 4.17.1.** W. McLaughlin asked why only one of the EMDirectors ever came to the BOS meetings. C. Taylor promised to contact J. Mullin.
- 4.18. Dam Committee –**
- 4.18.1.** C. Taylor stated they had the DEP permit, but the earliest that they would have approval from the ACoE would be Thursday of this week.
- 4.18.2.** He stated, "I don't know much, other than there was a fiasco last week."
- 4.18.3.** E. Pratt stated that S. Govoni should have been slapped severely. She explained that a woman had complained that he screamed at her, and she had been afraid that he was going to throw her in the lake. She added that S. Govoni had maligned Mr. Huggins and was generally out of control. She stated, "You don't do that to people! That's no way to treat your taxpayers." She said that they had been working after the SWO had been put on. She said they were working at 3pm when the complainant got there, and the SWO was put on at 8am. C. Taylor replied, "I would have liked to have heard it. I mean, I believe her, but it is 'he said, she said' at this point."
- 4.18.4.** E. Pratt stated she talked to the engineer the next day and DEP had removed the SWO.
- 4.18.5.** C. Taylor stated the town was waiting for the ACoE because a complaint had been made.
- 4.18.6.** E. Pratt said, "If a SWO is good for the people in town, then it is also good for us." C. Taylor replied, "Someone took a pretty big risk, and almost jeopardized the entire project."
- 4.18.7.** E. Pratt stated she had another person stop and say that if the dam goes in, they would sue because they felt that no one's house should be underwater. W. McLaughlin replied that he used to read meters, and some of the

people that had been at the meeting complaining that their camps were underwater, this is not the first time they have been underwater. E. Pratt stated that they had to go by the information they have. She added, "If they are going to sue, who are they going to sue, and that's something K. Lexier will have to decide." C. Taylor said, "It's serious, not a laughing matter for sure." E. Pratt said, "It's like they have got a burr under their saddle. Their place has flooded for years and now they have a soapbox to stand on." W. McLaughlin added, "But they can't see the other side, of what happens if the dam goes out completely and no one can get their boats in or out."

**4.18.8.** She stated that they must have 5cfs running at all times. C. Taylor stated that the spillway was a v-notch design, but that stream bed has dried up before.

**5. Board of Selectpersons Concerns:**

**5.1.** E. Pratt stated that although David Ela had given the town Mullins Cove, according to the guidelines R. Dunphy had given them, she was unsure if that was a public beach or not. She added that she had been there and it is a mess. W. McLaughlin said he didn't know if the town had ever voted to make it a public beach. He asked what would happen if the town closed it to public use. E. Pratt replied, "Then if someone goes out there it is at their own risk." W. McLaughlin added that they should only allow use of the other beach for the swim program. C. Taylor stated that they would work on that for next summer, so they did not have anyone suing the town.

**5.2.** C. Taylor stated they had received two concerns, the 1<sup>st</sup> had already been addressed, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> was for the CEO. B. Baker stated that R. Dunphy had not had a chance to address the concern before his illness, but his deputy, T. Lamontagne, would look into it this week. She added that almost everyone had been patient and understanding.

**5.3.** W. McLaughlin made a motion (2<sup>nd</sup> – C. Taylor) that the town hires someone to build a frame for the old map that C. Dolan had found at the Town House. (3-0)

**5.4.** W. McLaughlin stated he had looked at the Town House, and it looked good.

**5.5.** E. Pratt asked about a pickup box for fluorescent lights. W. McLaughlin replied that there was supposed to be a box at the office. C. Taylor stated that the town had signed up. B. Baker said that she had ordered a box, but it had not shown up yet.

**6. New Business:**

**6.1. Spirit of American Award Recipient** – E. Pratt stated W. McLaughlin had been awarded the Spirit of America award in recognition for his time at the Community Center. She stated this award was a big deal, and there would be a banquet held on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. C. Taylor added that it was "more or less a thank you for the work you do."

**7. Old Business:**

**7.1. Embden Spillway Replacement Project** – C. Taylor stated that H. Hinman had contacted him wanting a printout of all legal fees for the dam for 2010-2012. B. Baker asked if he wanted a printout of the amounts that he had gifted to the town also.

**8. Correspondence:** BOS reviewed correspondence.

**8.1.** C. Taylor stated the town had been asked to participate in a hazardous waste collection day to be held in Skowhegan on October 5<sup>th</sup>. He said there was an \$1,100 set-up fee which would be split between the participating municipalities. He asked if the BOS wanted to participate. Discussion continued. E. Pratt said no. C. Taylor stated they would not be participating.

**8.2.** C. Taylor stated the town had received a dividend check for the insurance.

**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 Selectperson's Meeting – Monday, September 16, 2013.

*Please note: This meeting was later postponed to Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>.*

**11.2.** Motion to adjourn made by E. Pratt (2<sup>nd</sup>- W. McLaughlin). (3-0) Adjourned 20:26.

Minutes submitted by:  
Bonnie A. Baker