

Town of Embden



Minutes of the Board of Selectpersons

November 18, 2013

19:00 PM Meeting held at the Embden Town Office

In attendance was: Scott Martin (Nitram), Wayne McLaughlin, Elizabeth Pratt, Charles Taylor, and Bonnie Baker.

1. Charles Taylor called the meeting to order at 19:04.
2. **Consent Agenda:**
 - 2.1. Approved the minutes of the Board of Selectpersons dated November 4, 2013 as corrected (3-0).
 - 2.1.1. Removed specifics of H. Hinman's illness from minutes
 - 2.2. Reviewed Warrant #22 totaling \$223,785.54. (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. E. Pratt said that her son had driven from Jackman on Friday, and Embden roads were the only ones with grit.
 - 4.2.2. C. Taylor stated that R. Dunphy had suggested setting up the turn around on the Cleveland Road.
 - 4.2.3. E. Pratt said that they had been told that the turn around on the Concord Corner Road was not level.
 - 4.3. **Animal Control** – No Report.
 - 4.4. **Board of Assessors** –
 - 4.4.1. T. Lamontagne stated she would like to review with the BOS how the Abatement process works. She emphasized, "Any taxpayer that comes thru the door and says [their] taxes are too high can apply for an abatement." She added that their taxes did not have to be paid in order for them to be eligible to apply, and they could get an application from the Assessors or the Town Clerk. She explained that the process works differently in different towns, but in Embden if an abatement request is denied then the taxpayer's next step would be to the County Commissioners, not the BOS, because Embden does not have a Board of Assessment Review. She stated, "I wish all town officials could get on board with that, and stop pointing these things to the BOS, because if I was a Selectman, that is one thing I would NOT want to deal with." Discussion continued.
 - 4.4.2. T. Lamontagne stated, "Another thing that has crossed my desk is the FOAA. Yes they can ask us to produce documents in a reasonable amount of time. It does not mean they can hammer us with questions. The lawyer has suggested that we urge them to appeal to the County Commissioners." C.Taylor replied, "If that is what the lawyer says." E. Pratt said, "That is what we pay the lawyer for. I say we follow his advice." W. McLaughlin stated, "It is taking away from everything else that needs to be done back there." C. Taylor recommending adding money to next year's budget for issues such as these. Discussion continued.
 - 4.4.3. C. Taylor stated, "[T. Lamontagne], don't get discouraged." E. Pratt added, "We are going to back you 110%, but we also need to have the lawyer involved."
 - 4.4.4. T. Lamontagne stated that there may be a change to the rural land schedule for next year.
 - 4.4.5. C. Taylor said he had e-mailed M. Sackett to get a written quote for the Anson-Embden town line.
 - 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** – No Report.
- 4.11. R.S.U. #74** – No Report.
- 4.12. Recreational Director** – No Report.
- 4.12.1. C. Taylor stated he had spoken with D. Barron, who planned to finish the painting on Sunday and set up the ice skating rink so the rain and snow would fill it.
- 4.13. Town Clerk/Treasurer** –
- 4.13.1. B. Baker submitted a Treasurer’s Report.
- 4.13.2. She submitted a Treasurer’s Report of Liened Taxes. C. Taylor made a motion (2nd – W. McLaughlin) to remove the \$91.26 of uncollectable 2009 taxes by any legal means. (3-0)
- 4.13.3. She submitted an Expense Report, along with a TRIO printout to be cross-checked by the BOS.
- 4.13.4. She submitted a Revenue Report.
- 4.13.5. B. Baker stated when the BOS got ready to do their articles for ATM, she would love to be able to shift the location of a couple of the articles one way or the other to put them more in line with TRIO. She said she was not talking about the content of the articles, only their location within the warrant
- 4.13.6. She asked for 11/27 off. W. McLaughlin made a motion (2nd – C. Taylor) to approve. (3-0)
- 4.14. Registrar of Voters:**
- 4.14.1. B. Baker stated she had nothing to report.
- 4.15. Tax Collector** – BOS reviewed written report.
- 4.15.1. C. Taylor stated, “Ruth is exceptional with the public, and Bonnie is the same way.”
- 4.16. Community Center** –
- 4.16.1. W. McLaughlin asked if they had any luck with Cliff on the gym floor. C. Taylor stated he would call W. Atwood.
- 4.16.2. He said he would contact Nate (BCF) and ask him to contact W. McLaughlin regarding the heat. W. McLaughlin said they still needed to replace some of the thermostats.
- 4.16.3. He stated they were all set on plowing and shoveling this winter. He said E. Creamer would plow, and J. Goodwin will shovel.
- 4.16.4. E. Pratt said they had a nice dinner, and had run out of some stuff. W. McLaughlin stated they had taken in approx. \$800.
- 4.16.5. W. McLaughlin said there would be a craft fair November 23rd.
- 4.16.6. E. Pratt said Sharon Buck would perform on December 7th.
- 4.16.7. W. McLaughlin stated there would be no supper in December.
- 4.16.8. He stated the ECC was still looking for someone to teach a computer class.
- 4.16.9. C. Taylor stated he had faxed the agreement for the sprinkler system.
- 4.17. Emergency Management Directors** – No Report.
- 5. Board of Selectpersons Concerns:**
- 5.1. C. Taylor asked if they want him to call Frederick to talk about withdrawing from RSU74. BOS said yes.
- 6. New Business:** None.
- 7. Old Business:**
- 7.1. Computer Server:**
- 7.1.1. BOS reviewed and signed agreement on server.
- 8. Correspondence:** BOS reviewed correspondence.
- 9. Community Relations, Announcements, and Open Public Forum:**
- 9.1. Open Public Forum:** None
- 10. Executive Session (Non-Public) (ME §405):**
- 10.1. E. Pratt made a motion (2nd – C. Taylor) to enter executive session pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. §841 for a confidential matter. (3-0) Entered ES 21:03. E. Pratt made a motion (2nd – C. Taylor) to come out of executive session. (3-0) Resumed meeting 21:18. C. Taylor made a motion to grant an abatement for 2012 and 2013 in full for applicant. (3-0)
- 11. Next Meeting Announcement & Adjournment**
- 11.1. Next Regular Selectperson’s Meeting – Monday, December 2, 2013.
- 11.2. Motion to adjourn made by C. Taylor (2nd- W. McLaughlin). (3-0) Adjourned 21:19.

*Minutes submitted by:
Bonnie A. Baker*