

Town of Embden



Minutes of the Board of Selectpersons

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December 15, 2014

19:00 PM Meeting held at the Embden Town Office

Board Members In attendance.	Wayne McLaughlin, Elizabeth Pratt, Charles Taylor
Board Members Absent.	None
Other Officials Present.	Pamela Graf, Terriann Lamontagne, Eric Morrill, Raymond Young
Members of the Public Present.	Scott LeHay
Secretary.	Bonnie Baker

1. Charles Taylor called the meeting to order at 19:03.
2. **Consent Agenda.**
 - 2.1. Approved the minutes of the Board of Selectpersons dated December 1, 2014 as written (3-0).
 - 2.2. Reviewed Warrant #2014-024 totaling \$151,179.89. (3-0).
3. **Appointments & Resignations:**
 - 3.1. Planning Board Member & Alternates – Tabled until next meeting.
 - 3.2. School Board Director – Tabled until next meeting.
4. **Department Officials Reports.**
 - 4.1. **E-911 – No Report.**
 - 4.1.1. R. Young suggested hanging the Katie Crotch Road sign from the TDS wire that runs over the road.
 - 4.2. **Winter Roads Contractor –**
 - 4.2.1. B. Baker complained that water was running across the Wentworth Road where they had recently cut and freezing. She said that it was a hazard. Eric Morrill agreed. C. Taylor promised to call.
 - 4.2.2. E. Morrill announced that he had a couple of issues.
 - 4.2.3. He advised that the resident at the end of the Murphy Road had put up a fence and also had heavy equipment parked in the way, which left no room to put the snow when they plowed. He added that it was a pain to even get up over the hill, much less have to back down because they could not reach the turn around. C. Taylor suggested he take pictures of the situation.
 - 4.2.4. E. Morrill said there was a tree on the Bert Berry Road just past the Murphy Road and the S-turns.
 - 4.2.5. He explained that the turn around that had been built on the Getchell Road was not big enough for a plow truck to turn around, only a pickup.

- 4.2.6. He asked where the plow trucks were supposed to turn around on the Cleveland Road, because the turnaround was not big enough.
- 4.2.7. He declared that the last complaint that was received was from someone who thought the sound of the plow and wing was too loud. C. Taylor added that the gentleman had complained that the sound of the crews dropping the plow was scaring his 3-year old. R. Young pointed out that it had been the same turnaround for 30-40 years. Discussion continued.
- 4.2.8. C. Taylor expressed that they were told signs saying 'No Parking' on the Fahi Pond Road were unenforceable.
- 4.2.9. He asserted that Mullens Cove was on the contract and needed to be plowed. E. Morrill responded that he would have to check the contract.
- 4.2.10. C. Taylor specified that the BOS had put out an RFP for the 2015-7 plow contract. He added that the bids were due 1/16 so that an amount could be budgeted for town meeting, but the actual contractor would still be decided by the townspeople at Town Meeting.
- 4.2.11. E. Morrill stressed that although they had problems in the past with rocks in the sand, they had purposely screened to a smaller size this year, and he was happy to let anyone into the sand shed who wanted to check the pile. C. Taylor replied, "I don't have any issue with rocks in the sand." E. Pratt vocalized that she felt they were doing good.

4.3. Animal Control –

- 4.3.1. P. Graf said there had been 4 calls but her computer died and she was unable to get her reports out of it.
- 4.3.2. She stated she had stepped down as the ACO in Madison today. She said this should enable her to get more done in Embden next year.
- 4.3.3. She requested the Town purchase a catch pole and net. She added the cost should be approx. \$200.

4.4. Board of Assessors –

- 4.4.1. R. Young advised the Assessors had met with Bill VanTuinan in Madison to get his opinion on a couple of things. He remarked that they had gotten a lot out of the meeting.
- 4.4.2. C. Taylor noted that T. Lamontagne had told him that the Assessors were planning on mailing out the List of Estates forms again this year. R. Young replied, "What it does is forces people to review each year, instead of just when there is an issue." C. Taylor articulated, "Maybe sending out these List of Estates every year is too overwhelming."
- 4.4.3. E. Pratt mentioned that her neighbor, Mr. McCarthy, had built 3 woodsheds which each looked to be under 200 sf., but had since connected them. C. Taylor affirmed that they had referred the issue to the CEO at the last BOS meeting.

4.5. Planning Board – No report.

4.6. Local 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.

4.13. Town Clerk/Treasurer –

- 4.13.1. B. Baker submitted the audit engagement letter from RHR Smith. BOS reviewed and signed. B. Baker commented that they were scheduled to come the last week of January but she had requested an earlier date.
- 4.13.2. She submitted a Treasurers Report of Liened Taxes.
- 4.13.3. She advised that she had mailed 40 reminder notices for unpaid 2012 & 2013 taxes.

- 4.13.4. She said she had mailed 139 dog reminder postcards. She added that a large number of people had come in to do their dogs Thursday and Friday.
- 4.13.5. B. Baker submitted an Expense Report along with a TRIO expense report for cross-checking purposes.
- 4.13.6. She revealed that 8 accounts were up for foreclosure, but 1 or 2 more had paid on Friday.
- 4.13.7. She acknowledged that Nomination Papers were now available.
- 4.13.8. She advised that Rita Morrill had volunteered her time to train on AED use.

4.14. Registrar of Voters.

- 4.14.1. B. Baker declared that she had nothing to report.

4.15. Tax Collector – No Report.

4.16. Community Center –

- 4.16.1. E. Pratt reported that the program Saturday (D. Mattieu, A. Cates, D. Taylor) was attended by approx. 80 people and had made around \$338 after paying the band, along with approx. \$42 in the kitchen.
- 4.16.2. C. Taylor said, "I know you probably have needs over there [the ECCTR]." S. LeHay advised they had a list.
- 4.16.3. E. Pratt stated that the ECC had given the town more than \$14,000 this year. Discussion continued.

4.17. Emergency Management Directors – No Report.

- 5. **Board of Selectpersons Concerns:** None.
- 6. **New Business:** None.
- 7. **Old Business:** None.
- 8. **Correspondence:** None.
- 9. **Community Relations, Announcements, and Open Public Forum.**

9.1. Open Public Forum.

- 9.1.1. S. LeHay asked, "Knowing that budgeting is coming up, is there a way to track how many hours these people are putting into their jobs, like the Board of Assessors, for example, is there a way to tell how many hours each individual is putting in?" He clarified that the committees that get paid per meeting and therefore did not get paid if they didn't show up, and the Tax Collector and Clerk who had set hours, could be removed from the equation. C. Taylor expressed that there were no raises being proposed this year, with the exception of the the Assessors who were pushing for one."
- 9.1.2. S. LeHay pronounced that he wanted an article on the Town Meeting warrant to make the Tax Collector and Clerk appointed by the Selectmen. Lengthy discussion continued.

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

11. Next Meeting Announcement & Adjournment

- 11.1. Next Regular Selectperson's Meeting – Monday, January 5, 2015.
- 11.2. Budget Meeting – Monday, December 29, 2014 at 18:00.
- 11.3. Motion to adjourn made by E. Pratt (2nd – C. Taylor). (3-0) Adjourned 20:38.

*Minutes submitted by:
Bonnie A. Baker, Town Clerk*