

Town of Embden



Minutes of the Board of Selectpersons

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April 20, 2015

19:00 PM Meeting held at the Embden Town Office

Board Members In attendance.	Scott LeHay, Elizabeth Pratt, Charles Taylor
Board Members Absent.	None
Other Officials Present.	Shawn Cyrway, Terriann Lamontagne & Leo Mayo
Members of the Public Present.	Paula & Paul Fortin
Secretary.	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 April 6, 2015 as written (3-0).
 - 2.2. Reviewed Warrant #2015-008 totaling \$171,569.95. (3-0).
 - 2.2.1. S. LeHay remarked that he hoped the new TRIO system would help alleviate some of the registration errors.
C. Taylor specified the amounts were funds the Town was paying to the State that had not been collected yet.
3. **Appointments & Resignations.**
 - 3.1. **Planning Board Alternates (2)** – Tabled until next meeting.
 - 3.2. **Board of Appeals Members (3)** –
 - 3.2.1. S. LeHay made a motion (2nd – E. Pratt) to appoint John Duff as Appeals Board member for a term of one year. (3-0)
 - 3.2.2. Remaining members tabled until next meeting.
 - 3.3. **Code Enforcement Alternate/Deputy** –
 - 3.3.1. C. Taylor advised that T. Lamontagne was interested in the position, however the Town would need to request a waiver from the State because she had not achieved certification yet.
 - 3.3.2. L. Mayo asked whether any of the testing had been done yet.
 - 3.3.3. E. Pratt made a motion (2nd – S. LeHay) to appoint Terriann Lamontagne as Deputy CEO for a term of one year. (3-0) C. Taylor stated he would draft a letter to the State to attain the waiver.
 - 3.4. **Emergency Management Director** –
 - 3.4.1. C. Taylor advised the co-director position was “no longer needed.”

4. Department Officials Reports.

4.1. **E-911** –C. Taylor asserted that E. Ketchum had contacted him and said she did not want a deputy, merely a person to do the data entry in the computer. B. Baker pointed out that since R. Dunphy had been appointed as deputy under E. Ketchum’s previous term, and he was not reappointed, his term would have expired when her term ended.

4.2. **Winter Roads Contractor** – No Report.

4.3. **Animal Control** – No Report.

4.4. **Board of Assessors** –

4.4.1. T. Lamontagne informed them that Maine Revenue Service was here last week. She stressed that the burden of proof was on the taxpayer.

4.4.2. C. Taylor stated, “So we are not privy to that, which is ok, but I did get the report, and it is NOT encouraging! If you and the Assessing Board say you can’t do anything about these numbers, then it’s time to do something else...I still debate that the towns around us are really up to par.”

4.4.3. P. Fortin asked what the effect would be if the camps on Embden Pond started selling for lower amounts. T.Lamontagne affirmed that it would drop the valuation, but cautioned him to remember that the top and bottom 15% of sales are disregarded, and the mid 70% used in a sales analysis. P. Fortin responded that some of the sales on the report had sold for less. He remarked, “It looks like you got it starting to come back down.” He added that Madison had seen the same trend on Lakewood.

4.5. **Planning Board** –

4.5.1. L. Mayo said they would be working on the ordinance as soon as the state gave them the guidelines.

4.5.2. He advised he would be attending a class in Augusta Friday.

4.5.3. He declared that permit applications should begin coming in. He added that they had processed one application at their last meeting.

4.6. **Local Plumbing Inspector** –

4.6.1. L. Mayo mentioned that there was still frost in the ground, and there had been some frozen sewer lines.

4.7. **Board of Appeals** – No Report.

4.8. **Code Enforcement Officer** – No Report.

4.8.1. B. Baker revealed that R. Dunphy was on vacation until April 26th.

4.9. **Health Officer** – No report.

4.10. **Road Commissioner** – No Report.

4.11. **R.S.U. #74** –

4.11.1. S. Cyrway announced that there would be a budget hearing next week on April 30th. He said he highly urged all residents to attend the budget hearing because that is where the actual amounts would be set. He stressed that this would be the place for residents to have a say on those numbers.

4.11.2. P. Fortin asked if this would be a chance to curtail the repairs of the high school for a year. S. Cyway replied no, those repairs had already been approved. He informed them that the public could not add or remove programs or expenditures, but could only increase or decrease monetary amounts, which would force the school board to figure out how to make the amounts work.

4.11.3. S. Cyrway communicated the school board had formed a special committee to research the cost sharing formula, which would meet on April 29th at the Carrabec High School library. He specified that there would be no public participation, but the meeting was open for all to attend. He stated New Portland might be interested in this process as well, since they were in a similar situation.

4.11.4. C. Taylor questioned how long it would take to redo the budget if it was voted down on May 12th. S. Cyrway said about a month.

4.12. Recreational Director – No Report.

4.13. Town Clerk/Treasurer –

- 4.13.1. B. Baker noted that there were 31 known unregistered dogs remaining.
- 4.13.2. She said that she had mailed reminder notices for the unpaid 2013 taxes.
- 4.13.3. She submitted a Treasurer's Report of Outstanding Liened Taxes. She specified that the 2006, 2007, and 2012 taxes would decrease to \$0 once the tax acquired property had been sold in June.
- 4.13.4. She submitted two Check Reconciliation reports. BOS reviewed and signed.
- 4.13.5. She mentioned that Wayne McLaughlin would like to request a new donee card for State surplus. BOS approved.
- 4.13.6. B. Baker asked the board to approve training for her and R. Blake on May 14th and 15th. BOS approved.

4.14. Registrar of Voters.

- 4.14.1. B. Baker told them that she would need to leave at 17:00 on April 30th for the Public Hearing.

4.15. Tax Collector – No Report.

- 4.15.1. BOS reviewed and signed TRIO contract for motor vehicle module.

4.16. Community Center –

- 4.16.1. E. Pratt stated that they served about 90 people at the Turkey Supper.
- 4.16.2. E. Pratt announced the following events:
 - Steve & the Good Ole Boys – Saturday 19:00-23:00 No alcohol.
 - Chicken Pot Pie Supper – May
 - Doug Matthieu, Danny Taylor, Adam Cates – May 16th
 - Picking Parties – Sundays
 - Weight Watchers – Every Wednesday
- 4.16.3. S. LeHay said about 80 people attend the Open Mic on Sundays each week.
- 4.16.4. C. Taylor inquired if there were any improvements needed at the ECctr. S. LeHay answered there was some electrical work that needed to be done, but W. McLaughlin could not do it. He added that because it was a public building, any permits had to be attained from the State. Discussion continued.

4.17. Emergency Management Directors – No report.

4.18. RSU Withdrawal Exploratory Committee –

- 4.18.1. C. Taylor reported that Ken Coville (RSU74 Superintendent) had pulled the group aside and suggested that Embden pull out Fahi/Sand, Hancock, and Embden Pond areas to form a separate town, contracting Embden for town services and letting that new town tuition their students, as a way to decrease the valuation.
- 4.18.2. E. Pratt explained that the committee had met with the School Board at the school on April 14th, and then held a subsequent meeting of just the committee members at the Town Office. She added that the attorney had been very helpful at the meeting with the School Board.
- 4.18.3. She announced that the next meeting would be held April 28th at the Embden Town Office at 18:00.
- 4.18.4. BOS reviewed draft letter to Embden residents. Discussion followed.
- 4.18.5. Information meeting was tentatively set for May 9th at 09:00.
- 4.18.6. Public Hearing was tentatively calendarized for May 30th at 09:00 at the ECctr.
- 4.18.7. Election was tentatively scheduled for June 9th. Polling hours will be from 08:00-20:00.

5. Board of Selectpersons Concerns:

- 5.1. C. Taylor reported that the boat launch may need some repair this year. BOS asked L. Mayo to look at it.

6. New Business.

- 6.1. **Review & Sign Fire Protection Agreement.** BOS reviewed and signed.

7. Old Business.

7.1. Discussion Regarding Future Options with RSU#74. Covered under 4.18.

8. Correspondence. None.

9. Community Relations, Announcements, and Open Public Forum.

9.1. Open Public Forum: None.

10. Executive Session (Non-Public) (ME §405):

10.1. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (A) to discuss a personnel issue.

10.1.1. S. LeHay made a motion (2nd – E. Pratt) to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (A) to discuss a personnel issue (3-0).

BOS entered executive session at 20:46.

E. Pratt made a motion (2nd – S. LeHay) to come out of executive session (3-0).

Meeting resumed at 21:23.

E. Pratt made a motion (2nd – S. LeHay) to take no action (3-0).

11. Next Meeting Announcement & Adjournment

11.1. Next Regular Selectperson's Meeting – Monday, May 4, 2015.

11.2. Motion to adjourn made by E. Pratt (2nd – S. LeHay). (3-0) Adjourned 21:24.

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