

Town of Embden



Minutes of the Board of Selectpersons

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July 6, 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. Eleanor Ketchum, Leo Mayo, Larry Witham, & Michael Witham

Members of the Public Present. Timothy & Torry Wahler

Secretary. 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 June 15, 2015 as written (3-0).
 - 2.2. Reviewed Warrant #2015-013 totaling \$50,775.90. (3-0).
3. **Appointments & Resignations:**
 - 3.1. **Planning Board Alternates (2)** – Tabled until next meeting.
 - 3.2. **RSU Withdrawal Committee (4)** –
 - 3.2.1. C. Taylor advised that the BOS had met with some folks and decided who should be appointed to the Committee. Discussion continued.
 - 3.2.2. E. Pratt announced the proposed members of the RSU Withdrawal Committee.
 - Elizabeth Pratt (Selectman)
 - Larry Witham (School Board Member)
 - Robert Dunphy (Member of Original WECommittee that Circulated the Petition)
 - Timothy Wahler (Member of the Public)
 - 3.2.3. To. Wahler asked whether the School Board would actually be the ones to select the Embden School Board Member to serve on the Committee. C. Taylor replied yes.
4. **Department Officials Reports.**
 - 4.1. **E-911** –
 - 4.1.1. E. Ketchum mentioned that the July Katie Crotch Road sign went up today. She added that she had one more sign to put up in August, but once that one was gone she would not replace it until the Town “decided what

to do” regarding the road. C. Taylor asked whether she wanted to try to change the name of the road at the March 2016 ATM. E. Ketchum replied, “As soon as possible.”

4.1.2. She said she had put up one sign this side of the pond.

4.1.3. She reported that she had measured a couple of places for new numbers.

4.1.4. She noted that she would order another sign for the Wentworth Road the next time she placed an order. She explained that it was not worth the added expense to order just one sign.

4.2. Winter Roads Contractor – No Report.

4.3. Animal Control – No Report.

4.4. Board of Assessors – No Report.

4.4.1. B. Baker announced that the BOA had technically committed taxes today, with a mil rate of 12.96. (*Last year’s mil rate was 12.46.*) She explained that two members of the Board had signed the documents last week so that the bills could be sent to the printers, however they had conferenced with the third board member by phone before setting the mil rate, and he had stopped in today to sign the official paperwork. She added that the due date for the 1st installment would be August 5th.

4.4.2. She mentioned that T. Lamontagne planned to attend Property Tax School the first week of August, and added that she did not think either R. Young or W. McLaughlin would attend. She remarked that the BOA had asked her to attend PTS for part of the week, and requested August 5–6 off to attend the training. BOS approved.

4.5. Planning Board –

4.5.1. L. Mayo reported that things were, “going along ok.”

4.6. Local Plumbing Inspector –

4.6.1. L. Mayo stated there was an individual that wanted to install a holding tank, but needed BOS approval. BOS reviewed & signed.

4.7. Board of Appeals – No Report.

4.8. Code Enforcement Officer – No Report.

4.8.1. S. LeHay asked whether the Town had a Deputy CEO. C. Taylor responded that the BOS had appointed T. Lamontagne, but he needed to do a letter to the State requesting a one year waiver for her to complete her certification. He promised to write the letter this week. S. LeHay added that he had someone else interested in the position.

4.9. Health Officer – No report.

4.10. Road Commissioner –

4.10.1. E. Ketchum urged the Road Commissioner to trim the brush on the corner of the Wentworth Road at the New Portland end. She stressed that it was a hazard, because people couldn’t see coming off of the road. Discussion continued.

4.10.2. M. Witham reported they had been out doing some trimming, & added the East Shore Road looked good. C. Taylor agreed.

4.10.3. M. Witham commented that he had Fine Line do patching on the Wentworth and East Shore Roads.

4.10.4. He stated that the spot on the Moulton Road where they had put some rip rap rock last year had washed out again. He remarked that he had considered installing a guardrail there. He added that he would add rip rap there again.

4.10.5. He pronounced that he needed to start brushing on the Wentworth Road.

4.10.6. He said E. Witham had been out doing some grading. He told them that the Hancock Pond Road had been done last week. He stressed that the Embden end looked much better than the North New Portland section.

- 4.10.7. M. Witham advised that he had purchased a couple of culverts from Jordan Lumber for the end of the Gilman Road. He added that it was not actually a town road, but Sam White had put the culvert there years ago, and he felt that the Town should replace it.
- 4.10.8. He stated that there was another long section of culvert on the Moulton Road near the substation that would probably need to be replaced.
- 4.10.9. He pointed out that Williams Hill was always an issue. He said that it had been fixed last year, but it had washed out again.
- 4.10.10. He said that J. Kaplan had ordered some calcium, and would hopefully start putting it out next week.
- 4.10.11. He advised he had dealt with a wash out on the Fahi Pond Road near E. Pratt's property.
- 4.10.12. Ti. Wahler said that he understood that in order for the town to take over maintenance of a road, it needed to be approved at a Town Meeting. He asked whether the BOS would put an article in the ATM next year to approve a small amount of maintenance on the Eames Road. He asserted that he was not asking the Town to take over plowing or anything, only to grade once or twice a year, because the road was getting torn up by people coming to use the public boat launch. C. Taylor responded, "We have home rule." He stated that the BOS could vote to rock rake once or twice a year if they chose. E. Pratt interjected, "The dam is public property. If the dam is going to be open to the public, then maybe once or twice a year, [the Town needs] to rock rake that road." To. Wahler stressed that the boat ramp on the Eames Road was public access. Ti. Wahler specified that the State had cleared room for parking a few years back, and the he plowed that, but in the spring if the Town could grade it, it would help keep the water from running down the middle of the road. E. Pratt noted that the BOS would vote on the issue at their next meeting. Ti. Wahler interjected, "I will mention it to the other four landowners."

4.11.R.S.U. #74 –

- 4.11.1. L. Witham declared, "If you recall, I was drafted, but with the understanding that at the end of June I would resign, and Shawn Cyrway would be elected or appointed to take my place." Extensive discussion continued.
- 4.11.2. L. Witham announced there would be a School Board meeting on July 8th at 18:00.
- 4.11.3. C. Taylor said there would be a Cost Formula Meeting held July 15th at 18:00 in the CCS Library.

E. Pratt made a motion (2nd – S. LeHay) to take a brief recess. (3-0)

Meeting was recessed at 20:07.

E. Pratt made a motion (2nd – S. LeHay) to resume the meeting. (3-0)

Meeting resumed at 20:15.

- 4.11.4. C. Taylor advised that he had spoken with Kevin Sousa, a potential applicant for the potentially vacant school board position, who would try to attend the Wednesday night meeting, and would definitely attend the Thursday night meeting.
- 4.11.5. L. Witham disclosed that the Superintendent had chosen a state mediator/facilitator for the potential Cost Sharing Formula restructuring. He articulated that he felt the School Board members should have had a say in the selection. S. LeHay explained that the original list provided by the Commissioner of Education contained four names, however three of the individuals either couldn't or wouldn't do it. C. Taylor asked whether the School Board was involved in the selection. L. Witham emphasized, "No. It was a unilateral decision."

4.12.Recreational Director –

- 4.12.1. M. Witham reported that R. Dunphy and his grandsons had put the swim dock in last Thursday, however some pieces were missing.

4.12.2. He said that the old float was there, but the little yellow float was merely tied to the dock.

4.12.3. S. LeHay announced that swimming lessons would begin next Monday.

4.13. Town Clerk/Treasurer –

4.13.1. B. Baker advised that funds were getting extremely low. She concluded that the Town needed the tax money to start coming in quickly in order to avoid a TAN. Discussion continued.

Selectmen announced a Special Selectmen's Meeting to be held Thursday, July 16th at 17.30 in case the TAN paperwork needed to be signed in order to close in time to pay the July 20th Warrant.

4.14. Registrar of Voters.

4.14.1. B. Baker said she had nothing to report.

4.15. Tax Collector – No report.

4.15.1. C. Taylor stated that R. Blake had been trained today on the new Motor Vehicle program. He added that she had needed to download a program, but had an issue and was unable to do so. B. Baker interjected that it was a print driver for the new printer for the TRIO Motor Vehicles module. C. Taylor continued that the individual from TRIO would return in the morning. He added that she should have planned ahead, since it was something she knew would be needed, however B. Baker would come in early tomorrow morning to assist with the install. S. LeHay remarked that there had been a statewide internet issue this afternoon, it had not been just Embden.

4.16. Community Center –

4.16.1. E. Pratt announced the following upcoming events.

Steak Tip Supper – July 11th

Stuffed Chicken Dinner – August 8th

Breakfast 07:00-11:00 – August 22nd

4.16.2. E. Pratt reported that the Old Liberty String Band was attended by approximately 30 people. She stated that he had not accepted any payment for his performance.

4.16.3. She said that the benefit dinner had raised over \$1,600.

4.16.4. She announced that the Embden Pond Association had held a breakfast on the 4th of July for members only.

L. Witham added that about 80 people had attended.

4.16.5. She mentioned that there would not be any entertainment this month, except for the Country Sunday.

4.16.6. E. Pratt remarked that the Weight Watchers' Meetings on Wednesday nights were very well attended.

4.16.7. She stated the fans had been installed.

4.16.8. S. LeHay reported that the electrician was about done.

4.16.9. C. Taylor noted that the Lions' Club would be coming to pick up the bleachers.

4.16.10. E. Pratt said there would be a meeting Thursday night.

4.16.11. S. LeHay announced that he had acquired 60-70 used ceiling tiles for the ECCtr at no cost from the CHS renovations. He explained that they had planned to throw them away.

4.17. Emergency Management Directors – No report.

4.18. RSU Withdrawal Committee –

4.18.1. C. Taylor announced that the Withdrawal Committee would meet at the Superintendent's Office at 15:30 on July 9th.

4.18.2. L. Witham offered that Michael Whittemore was willing to help the group with numbers, etc.

4.18.3. C. Taylor expressed that Brainard Tripp was willing to help out as well, but was more interested in participating from the sidelines.

5. Board of Selectpersons Concerns.

5.1. C. Taylor stated that he was unable to attend the BOS office hours on Thursday. S. LeHay offered to come instead.

5.2. S. LeHay remarked that someone had placed a swing set and TV on a street corner with a “free for the taking” sign.

5.3. BOS and Treasurer discussed the possibility of accepting credit card payments in the future.

6. New Business. None

7. Old Business. None

7.1. Discussion Regarding Future Options with RSU#74.

7.1.1. C. Taylor stated that the school board was reviewing the Cost Sharing formula. S. LeHay added that they had found a moderator, and the meetings would be open to the public.

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): None.

11. Next Meeting Announcement & Adjournment

11.1. Next Regular Selectperson’s Meeting – Monday, July 20, 2015.

11.2. Special Selectperson’s Meeting – Thursday, July 16, 2015 at 17:30.

11.3. Motion to adjourn made by E. Pratt (2nd – S. LeHay). (3-0) Adjourned 20:46.

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