



Minutes of the Board of Selectpersons

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March 7, 2016

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. Ruth Blake, Terriann Lamontagne, and Eric Morrill (Winter Roads)

Members of the Public Present. Dale & Brenda Mullin, and Timothy & Torry Wahler

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 February 15, 2016 as written (3-0).
 - 2.2. Reviewed Warrant #2016-005 totaling \$56,677.76. (3-0).
3. **Appointments & Resignations:**
 - 3.1. **Selectmen Chair.** E. Pratt made a motion (2nd – S. LeHay) to appoint Charles Taylor as BOS Chair. (2-1)
 - 3.2. **GA Officer.** E. Pratt made a motion (2nd – S. LeHay) to appoint Charles Taylor as GA Officer. (3-0)
 - 3.3. **Schedule Date(s)/Time(s) for Interviews for Remaining Appointed Positions:**
 - 3.3.1. C. Taylor announced that interviews would be held on March 17th, 24th, and 31st for the following positions:
 - E-911 Addressing Officer
 - Animal Control Officer & Deputy
 - Planning Board Member (1) & Alternates (2)
 - Local Plumbing Inspector & Deputy
 - Board of Appeals Members (3)
 - Code Enforcement Officer & Deputy
 - Assessing Technician
 - Recreation Director
 - Emergency Management Director & Co-Director
 - 3.3.2. T. Lamontagne argued that the Assessing Secretary was “hired by the Assessors” and therefore not up for appointment by the Selectmen. S. LeHay emphasized that no one should feel that they are guaranteed to keep a job in this Town. Discussion continued.
4. **Department Officials Reports.**
 - 4.1. **E-911 –**
 - 4.1.1. E. Pratt advised that E. Ketchum had told her that no more signs would be placed until they could be pounded into the ground.
 - 4.2. **Winter Roads Contractor –**

4.2.1. E. Morrill stated it was now "Pothole Season."

4.2.2. He reported that they would be doing some shelving on some of the roads just in case we get more snow.

4.2.3. C. Taylor mentioned that the next time the Town renewed the Winter Roads contract they might need to look at the Murphy Road.

4.3. Animal Control – No report.

4.4. Board of Assessors –

4.4.1. T. Lamontagne said she had nothing to report at this time.

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 –

4.8.1. C. Taylor stated he had informed the CEO of an upcoming ES with the Town Attorney to be held at the next BOS meeting.

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 information on credit card processing. BOS reviewed. She mentioned that this company was the only one which would fully interface with TRIO. Short discussion ensued.

4.14. Registrar of Voters.

4.14.1. B. Baker stated there would be a School Referendum held Tuesday, March 15th. She added that the polling hours would be from 14:00-20:00. She explained that she had asked the school whether we could hold a longer election and had been told that all of the towns needed to vote the same date and times. She revealed that New Portland's election was actually scheduled for 14:00-18:00. She asked the BOS if they wanted her to get a hold of the School and MMA to see if the election times could be extended to 10:00-20:00 to better accommodate the Town's voters. S. LeHay adamantly stressed that the times needed to remain 14:00-20:00. BOS voted 2-1 to leave the times as they were.

4.15. Tax Collector – BOS reviewed written report.

4.16. Community Center –

4.16.1. E. Pratt announced the following upcoming/ongoing events.

Supper – March 12th

Snowmobile Supper – March 26th

Country Sunday

4.17. Emergency Management Directors – No report.

4.18. RSU Withdrawal Committee ,

4.18.1. E. Pratt asserted that she had nothing to report.

4.18.2. C. Taylor asked if they would be able to have everything ready to hold a vote with either the Primary or November Election. E. Pratt replied the RSU had the proposal from Embden for three months. She stressed that they were waiting for the school district. She added that she did not know whether it would be realistic to expect anything for the June or November elections.

4.18.3. Ti. Wahler stated that one of the Committee's concerns was Special Education costs. He elaborated that the group could not get a more accurate accounting from K. Coville, who was unwilling to provide the requested information unless the Town pays an extraordinary amount of money for the accounting. To. Wahler said that Embden currently has 24 Special Education students. C. Taylor asked who decided whether these students actually need these services. Ti. Wahler observed that the Committee had no way of knowing whether these

kids from Embden were getting very minor services or very intense services, because right now the district charged the Town an average.

4.18.4. To. Wahler asked how protected the Town would be if the attorney did not do a good job. C. Taylor replied, "I don't know."

4.19. RSU Cost Sharing Formula Committee.

4.19.1. C. Taylor reminded people there would be a District-wide referendum vote March 15th from 14:00-20:00.

5. Board of Selectpersons Concerns.

5.1. C. Taylor presented the budget numbers approved at Town meeting, and stated these were the numbers the Assessors were to use for commitment.

5.2. E. Pratt complained that someone had taken down the poster for the ATM that she had placed at Pinkham's Market. B. Baker mentioned that it might have been removed after town meeting, but it had been there Saturday. E. Pratt replied, "Well, then they must have put it back up, because it was gone the three times I went over there before Town Meeting."

6. New Business.

6.1. Dale & Brenda Mullin – Valuation Concerns.

6.1.1. C. Taylor remarked that the BOS had no citation to go into ES, and therefore the discussion needed to be held in Public Session.

6.1.2. D. Mullin stated they had put in a request for an abatement and been denied by the Assessors. He said he was being charged for a house lot, and also charged extra for a road. He declared that it wasn't a road, it was a driveway. BOS reviewed documentation.

6.1.3. D. Mullin pronounced that he was being charged for more than one lot. He added that T. Lamontagne had suggested he combine the parcels into one lot by deed, which he had recently done. He demanded an explanation. C. Taylor commented, "I am not an Assessor. You have the right to take this to the County [Commissioners]. I don't have enough information to overturn the Board of Assessors' decision."

6.1.4. D. Mullin asked when the Town was last revalued. To. Wahler answered that it had been done in 1985. D. Mullin asked what the cost would be for the Town to have a revaluation done, and just do that every five years and annually go on the permits. C. Taylor advised that the BOS had been in contact with O'Donnell, but they had not given the Town a price. To. Wahler submitted an estimate from O'Donnell. C. Taylor read from the estimate a price of approximately \$85 per parcel. He stated that if the Town voted for a revaluation, it would most likely not take place until 2019. He added that the ongoing maintenance charges to have the firm take over the assessing would be \$10-20k. Discussion continued. C. Taylor stressed, "It is all relative. You might get a lower valuation, but you're going to have a high mil rate."

6.1.5. D. Mullin asked whether there would be an opportunity for the Assessors to view their property before this year's commitment. T. Lamontagne requested they make an appointment with her. S. LeHay interjected, "My advice is to speak with the Assessing Board. They need to work as a whole."

6.2. Timothy & Torry Wahler – Valuation Concerns.

6.2.1. To. Wahler read from the BOS minutes from a November 2015 meeting.

6.2.2. She asked whether it was common for the Town to involve the Town's attorney for every abatement hearing heard before the County Commissioners. T. Lamontagne replied, "Absolutely." To. Wahler suggested this was a waste of the Town's money. C. Taylor asserted that it was a CYA.

6.2.3. To. Wahler asked if the Town would send her a bill if they appealed to the County Commissioners and lost.

6.2.4. To. Wahler stated they had issues with the properties on their pond. BOS reviewed submitted picture evidence.

6.2.5. Extensive discussion ensued.

6.2.6. T. Lamontagne cautioned the BOS, "I think you need to get all of the information in front of you before you start making an opinion on this." C. Taylor replied, "Hey, no, we are listening to our residents!"

6.3. Review & Sign Fire Protection Contract: Tabled until next meeting.

7. **Unfinished Business.** None
8. **Correspondence.** BOS reviewed correspondence.
9. **Community Relations, Announcements, and Open Public Forum.**

- 9.1. **Open Public Forum:**

- 9.1.1. To. Wahler presented pictures of damage to the Eames Road from a car fire on March 7th. She argued that there was only one way in and one way out, so if that had caught the trees on fire then they would not have been able to get out. Ti. Wahler declared, "That is indicative of the problem we have. He was parked on that side because the other side was full." To. Wahler pointed out that the BOS had said they contacted the Dept. of Conservation, however the DoC had no say, it was actually IF&W. She stressed that they had thought about putting a gate up at the end of the road and giving IF&W a key. She asked how the BOS felt that would work for their Embden residents. C. Taylor replied, "Whatever, it is what it is!" To. Wahler voiced, "The public is using that road. Clearly they use it every day."

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

11. **Next Meeting Announcement & Adjournment**

- 11.1. Next Regular Selectperson's Meeting – Monday, March 21, 2016.

- 11.2. Motion to adjourn made by E. Pratt (2nd – C. Taylor). (3-0) Adjourned 20:52.

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