

Town of Embden



Minutes of the Board of Selectpersons

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April 4, 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, Robert Dunphy, Leo Mayo, Terriann Lamontagne

Members of the Public Present. Frank Nile, 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 March 21, 2016 as written (3-0).
 - 2.2. Reviewed Warrant #2016-007 totaling \$41,202.66. (3-0).
3. **Appointments & Resignations.**
 - 3.1. **E-911 Addressing Officer –**
 - 3.1.1. E. Pratt made a motion (2nd – S. LeHay) to appoint Eleanor Ketchum as E-911 Addressing Officer (3-0) for a term of 1 year.
 - 3.2. **Animal Control Officer & Deputy –**
 - 3.2.1. C. Taylor made a motion (2nd – E. Pratt) to appoint Pamela Graf as Animal Control Officer (3-0) for a term of 1 year.
 - 3.3. **Planning Board Member (1) & Alternates (2) –**
 - 3.3.1. E. Pratt made a motion (2nd – S. LeHay) to appoint Eleanor Ketchum as Planning Board Member for a term of 5 years, and Janice Welch as Alternate Planning Board Member for a term of 1 year (3-0).
 - 3.3.2. C. Taylor made a motion (2nd – S. LeHay) to appoint Frank Nile as Alternate Planning Board Member for a term of 1 year (3-0).
 - 3.4. **Local Plumbing Inspector & Alternate –**
 - 3.4.1. E. Pratt made a motion (2nd – S. LeHay) to appoint Leo Mayo as Local Plumbing Inspector for a term of 1 year (3-0).
 - 3.4.2. E. Pratt made a motion (2nd – S. LeHay) to appoint Robert Dunphy as Alternate/Deputy Local Plumbing Inspector for a term of 1 year (3-0).

3.5. Board of Appeals Members (3) –

3.5.1. S. LeHay made a motion (2nd – C. Taylor) to appoint John Duff & Mary Keenan as Appeals Board Members for a term of 1 year (3-0).

3.6. Code Enforcement Officer and Alternate/Deputy –

3.6.1. S. LeHay made a motion (2nd – E. Pratt) to appoint Robert Dunphy as Code Enforcement Officer and Terriann Lamontagne as Deputy Code Enforcement Officer for a term of 1 year (3-0).

3.7. Recreation Director – Tabled until meeting.

3.8. Emergency Management Director(s) –

3.8.1. S. LeHay made a motion (2nd – C. Taylor) to appoint Robert Dunphy as Emergency Management Director for a term of 1 year (3-0).

4. Department Officials Reports.

4.1. E-911 –

4.1.1. E. Pratt advised that E. Ketchum had called to say she could not be here tonight.

4.2. Winter Roads Contractor – No report.

4.3. Animal Control – BOS reviewed written report.

4.3.1. B. Baker explained that P. Graf was dealing with an emergency dog situation and could not attend tonight.

4.4. Board of Assessors –

4.4.1. T. Lamontagne stated she had nothing to report.

4.5. Planning Board –

4.5.1. L. Mayo reported there was a possible subdivision coming up.

4.5.2. R. Dunphy added that there was a possible ATF Permit coming up as well.

4.6. Local Plumbing Inspector –

4.6.1. L. Mayo remarked that there was not much going on at this time, just a few permits.

4.7. Board of Appeals – No Report.

4.8. Code Enforcement Officer –

4.8.1. R. Dunphy explained that the possible ATF Permit was at the Vartanian house.

4.9. Health Officer –

4.9.1. R. Dunphy advised that ticks were out.

4.10. Road Commissioner – No Report.

4.10.1. C. Taylor expressed that he liked the idea of a 3-year road plan. Discussion continued.

4.10.2. F. Nile asserted, "If he is an elected Road Commissioner, he shouldn't be just there to give himself a job. He should be making a plan, a 3-year or a 5-year, so you can prioritize." He continued, "Last year we spent all of that money on Dunbar Hill, he bought \$80k of gravel from himself, and yet we have a bridge that a fire truck or an ambulance or a plow truck could fall through. Nobody was going to fall through Dunbar Hill." Discussion continued.

4.10.3. F. Nile commented, "You guys are spending half a million dollars every year on roads...All of this money we are spending on roads, we could be saving money instead of putting it in the pocket of the summer and winter roads contractors." He explained he had gone to Canaan, Anson and New Portland, and Embden was paying \$300k more than those towns each year. He articulated, "You think this is personal, but why is it personal just because it's Mike Witham. I said the same thing when Sam White was Road Commissioner, and he is my friend."

- 4.10.4. E. Pratt stressed, "The way it is supposed to be done is we have complaint forms. If you fill one out then he will have to respond to it."
- 4.10.5. R. Dunphy asked who set the budget. C. Taylor responded, "The department heads, and if there is a lack of effort, then the Selectmen set it."
- 4.10.6. To. Wahler pointed out that you can't wait until the roads are gone and then try to fix it.
- 4.10.7. BOS discussed the possibility of setting up a committee to look into ways to save money on town road maintenance. Ti. Wahler suggested putting a sign up here and on the web site for those interested in serving on a committee. E. Pratt stated, "We do need a committee, but we have spent enough time on this tonight. C. Taylor emphasized, "I do not want [Frank Nile] on this committee because you have an agenda." Extensive heated discussion ensued. The following individuals agreed to serve on the aforementioned committee: Frank Nile, Timothy Wahler, Torry Wahler, and Scott LeHay,

4.11.R.S.U. #74 – No Report.

4.12.Recreational Director –

- 4.12.1. BOS reviewed written report. C. Taylor read aloud. E. Pratt said, "She hasn't applied." B. Baker asked, "Wouldn't you consider [her letter] an application?" S. LeHay replied, "I agree that it is an application, although it is an 'ass backwards' way of doing it." E. Pratt stated, "It might be an application, but it's a snotty way to do it, but apparently she does a good job with the kids." S. LeHay agreed, "She does do a good job with the kids." He explained he would like to see more money go to the kids. He added that he had a problem with a Rec. budget where half of the budget went to pay the Rec. Director. He concluded, "Most of our kids go to Solon and don't get "dime one" from this town." B. Baker interjected that her daughter attended the Solon Elementary and still participated in our Rec program. She specified that Embden Rec had enabled her daughter to participate in Cheering for the past year. S. LeHay declared, "One child does not make a Rec program." C. Taylor agreed to request that T. Murray attend the next BOS meeting.
- 4.12.2. E. Pratt asked L. Mayo to look at the changing room at the swim beach to see what repairs were needed.

4.13.Town Clerk/Treasurer –

- 4.13.1. B. Baker submitted the following reports:

Treasurer's Report of Outstanding Liened Taxes

- 4.13.2. She said she and R. Blake were interested in attending the MMTCTA Annual Conference in Auburn on May 19th & 20th. She stressed that she felt, and she thought R. Blake agreed, that this was one of the most worthwhile trainings offered. C. Taylor stated, "I support that." 2nd – E. Pratt. (3-0)
- 4.13.3. BOS reviewed and discussed proposal for credit card processing. C. Taylor asked which line the expense would come out of. B. Baker replied that when the TRIO MV module was originally purchased, the initial expense was paid out of the Technology line and subsequent annual fees came from the Software licensing line. E. Pratt made a motion (2nd – S. LeHay) to approve implementation of the Payport credit card processing with TRIO interface. (3-0)

4.14.Registrar of Voters.

- 4.14.1. B. Baker remarked announced that there would be a School Budget Validation Referendum held on Tuesday, May 10th, with polling hours from 10.00-20.00. She added that the Public Hearing would be held Tuesday, April 28th at 18.00 at Carrabec High School.

4.15.Tax Collector –

- 4.15.1. R. Blake presented a written report to the BOS.
- 4.15.2. She stated that approximately \$107k was still outstanding.

4.15.3. She said she would be mailing 30-Day Notices on April 26th, and the liens would go on May 26th.

4.15.4. She advised that she would be taking the week of school vacation, April 18th-22nd.

4.16. Community Center –

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

Roast Pork Supper – April 9th

Steve & the Good Ole Boys – April 23rd

4.16.2. S. LeHay remarked that the stove had been fixed.

4.16.3. B. Baker presented quote requested by W. McLaughlin for the cost of cable TV at the ECctr. BOS reviewed.

S. LeHay directed the quote be given to W. McLaughlin, and if the ECC wants it they could pay for it.

4.16.4. To. Wahler requested a count of how many people from our town utilize the events at the ECctr. She stated she was all for supporting events for older people in our community, but E. Pratt had told her at Town Meeting that it was mostly people from out of town who were attending events. She expressed that she felt it was very worthwhile as long as was more than 20 Embden people using the ECctr.

4.16.5. S. LeHay pointed out that he felt that with the money the ECC was bringing in they should be able to pay all of the utilities for the ECctr. He stressed that it might take everything they had, and they might need to “get creative,” but he felt they needed to be paying all of the utilities.

4.16.6. He advised that the Town would see the water cost decrease, because he had re-negotiated for the Town.

4.16.7. He affirmed, “I don’t think the building will ever be self-sufficient but I think it needs to be closer.”

Discussion continued.

4.17. Emergency Management Directors –

4.17.1. R. Dunphy said nothing was happening yet.

4.18. RSU Withdrawal Committee .

4.18.1. E. Pratt stated our lawyer said he was waiting for their lawyer.

4.18.2. Ti. Wahler pointed out that he thought it was time to contact Paula Gravel from the State to see if they could move things along. C. Taylor stated, “I support that as a Selectman.”

5. Board of Selectpersons Concerns:

5.1. S. LeHay advised he had a question about deputies and cross-training. B. Baker replied, “Ruth and I actually just sat down and found a New Clerks’ class for her, although it isn’t until August.

5.2. BOS discussed the properties whose owners had received notices requiring cleanup.

6. New Business: None

7. Unfinished Business: None

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, April 18, 2016.

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

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