

# Town of Embden



## Minutes of the Board of Selectpersons

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June 20, 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, Wayne McLaughlin, and 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 6, 2016 as amended (3-0).
  - 2.2. Reviewed Warrant #2016-012 totaling \$192,678.00. (3-0).
  - 2.3. Reviewed Warrant #2016-012-02 totaling \$6,523.45. (3-0).
3. **Appointments & Resignations:** None.
4. **Department Officials Reports.**
  - 4.1. **E-911 –**
    - 4.1.1. E. Pratt mentioned that E. Ketchum was ill.
    - 4.1.2. C. Taylor stated he had emailed all of the Selectmen a copy of the State E911 manual.
  - 4.2. **Winter Roads Contractor –** No report.
  - 4.3. **Animal Control –** No report.
  - 4.4. **Board of Assessors –**
    - 4.4.1. W. McLaughlin advised that they were following up on building permits and getting pictures where needed.
  - 4.5. **Planning Board –** No Report.
    - 4.5.1. C. Taylor announced that the Public Hearing scheduled for July 23<sup>rd</sup> would be moved to sometime in August.
  - 4.6. **Local Plumbing Inspector –** No Report.
  - 4.7. **Board of Appeals –**
    - 4.7.1. C. Taylor read an email from J. Duff containing the minutes from 02/18/2015.
  - 4.8. **Code Enforcement Officer –** No Report.
  - 4.9. **Health Officer –** No Report.

#### **4.10. Road Commissioner –**

4.10.1. M. Witham reported the following work had been done.

MILL ROAD:

- Calcium (Friday)

PERKINS ROAD (Last week & week before):

- Resurfacing with ¾" material

SLIPP ROAD:

- Started ditching
- Put calcium on road (this morning)

4.10.2. He stated he would be picking up the 'Mowing Ahead' signs which had been purchased last year.

4.10.3. C. Taylor read an email received from Jeremy Hill requesting a lowered speed limit on the Bert Berry Road.

S. LeHay made a motion (2<sup>nd</sup> – E. Pratt) to post the speed limit to 35mph on the Bert Berry Road. (3-0)

4.10.4. Ti. Wahler asked if it would be possible to purchase some fill the next time M. Witham was ditching for a nominal fee. M. Witham replied normally it was free.

#### **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 following reports:

Treasurer's Report

Check Reconciliation Reports

TRIO Expense Report

Treasurer's Expense Report

4.13.2. She requested July 1<sup>st</sup> off. BOS approved.

4.13.3. C. Taylor asked whether she planned to attend the Tuesday, July 5<sup>th</sup> Select board Meeting. She replied that she was not available on Tuesday evenings. C. Taylor suggested the BOS move the meeting. E. Pratt made a motion (2<sup>nd</sup> – S. LeHay) to move the BOS meeting to Wednesday, July 6<sup>th</sup>. (3-0)

#### **4.14. Registrar of Voters.**

4.14.1. B. Baker reported that 28 people had voted in the June 14<sup>th</sup> election.

#### **4.15. Tax Collector –**

4.15.1. BOS reviewed written report.

4.15.2. R. Blake advised she had mailed 107 30Day Notices, and 73 liens had been put on.

4.15.3. She stated she had taken a TRIO dog licensing webinar.

4.15.4. She said she had contacted BMV and been told that according to BMV B. Baker did not need any further training, just the TRIO class and maybe a fall update class.

4.15.5. She said she would be out of the office on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

4.15.6. R. Blake reported that taking credit cards was working well. She added that she strongly encouraged allowing credit cards to be accepted over the phone. Discussion continued. C. Taylor made a motion (2<sup>nd</sup> – E. Pratt) to allow credit cards over the phone. (3-0)

4.15.7. C. Taylor asked about allowing residents to do their boats and vehicles online. R. Blake replied that they could not do anything with excise online. C. Taylor asked if that was a statewide thing. R. Blake replied that she did not know. Discussion continued. C. Taylor reasoned that it would alleviate some of the complaints about office hours. He asked R. Blake to find out the details. R. Blake argued she wouldn't know who to

contact to make that happen because B. Baker “does that stuff.” Further discussion ensued. C. Taylor declared, “I think it would be great to have that capability.”

#### **4.16. Community Center –**

- 4.16.1. W. McLaughlin stated that he had a few questions, and had been getting questions from people [in the ECC] which he could not answer. He added that the ECC was concerned about hiring a cleaner, and wanted to know why they had not been included or consulted. He stressed that in the past the ECC had voted down hiring a person to clean. S. LeHay stated that he had put together a RFP which was then reviewed and approved by the BOS. W. McLaughlin asked why the ECC had not been included. S. LeHay replied, “I’ve sat through those ECC meetings, and I don’t think \$100/week is too much to pay her to clean, and I’m tired of a town building looking like crap.” C. Taylor argued, “You and Betty have admitted that people are not getting younger over there. It’s an aged group. We don’t need you up on a ladder dusting. We have a cleaning lady, and she is insured.” W. McLaughlin replied, “These people get upset when they’re left out. Also, I heard around town that [the ECCtr is] going to close. [The ECC is] afraid they will vote something just to have the BOS reverse it.” E. Pratt stated that she had been the one at the last meeting who had urged the BOS to vote for this. She said the group was getting older, and it was hard for these people to do the Thrift Store, etc. and then to clean also. She added that hindsight was 20/20, and they probably should have gone back and told the group what they wanted to do. S. LeHay remarked, “I don’t want to take anything from the group, they try.” W. McLaughlin exclaimed, “The biggest thing is the ECC feels we were left out of it.” S. LeHay responded, “And I will take that into consideration.” Discussion continued. C. Taylor proclaimed, “We thought we had done our due diligence, but failed to get the group involved, and I will apologize for that.”
- 4.16.2. W. McLaughlin asked who was letting the cleaning person in and out. S. LeHay remarked that he was giving her his key when she wanted to clean. C. Taylor interjected that a set of keys needed to be kept at the Town Office. B. Baker pointed out that she had a key to the front door, as well as the alarm code.
- 4.16.3. E. Pratt said the ECCtr needed at least 2 new toilets, ones which were not built for very small children. C. Taylor requested they get an estimate from the plumber for the next meeting of the cost to replace the toilets.
- 4.16.4. W. McLaughlin reported they were still having trouble with the hot water.
- 4.16.5. He pointed out that they needed to cap off where the sinks had been removed.
- 4.16.6. B. Baker advised that she had contacted TWC, and the Town would be required to pay the same monthly payment until the end of the contract regardless of whether they canceled the internet.
- 4.16.7. W. McLaughlin stated that Bob Marley had contacted the ECC wanting to perform another show there.
- 4.16.8. To. Wahler complained that the calendar on the website for the ECCtr had not been updated since 2011, and was showing only the repetitive events on there. S. LeHay replied that Jean Cole had been managing the Shutterfly site, but it would now be Carol Dolan.
- 4.16.9. E. Pratt announced the following upcoming events:
  - Pond Association Breakfast – July 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Steak Tips Supper – July 9<sup>th</sup>
- 4.16.10. S. LeHay asked who he would contact if he wanted to rent the building. W. McLaughlin said it would be him, R. Young did the entertainment.

#### **4.17. Emergency Management Directors – No Report.**

#### **4.18. RSU Withdrawal Committee .**

- 4.18.1. Ti. Wahler announced an upcoming meeting to be held June 23<sup>rd</sup> 18:00 at the Town Office. He added that the attorney would be in attendance.

**4.19. Highway Department Exploratory Committee .**

4.19.1. S. LeHay reported that they had not met since the last BOS meeting. He said they would meet again June 27<sup>th</sup> 18:00 at the Town Office.

**5. Community Relations, Announcements, and Open Public Forum.**

**5.1. Open Public Forum:**

5.1.1. Further discussion on numbering of properties.

**6. New Business.**

**6.1. Review & Sign Animal Shelter Contract.** BOS reviewed and signed.

**7. Unfinished Business.**

**7.1. Cash Handling Policy**

7.1.1. C. Taylor advised he had sent the proposed policy to MMA who said it looked good, but recommended it be sent to the town's auditor to review. He said he had sent the policy to RHR Smith but had not heard back yet.

**8. Correspondence.** BOS reviewed correspondence.

**9. Board of Selectpersons Concerns.**

**9.1.** C. Taylor stressed that they should be checking with the cleaning person about meeting dates for the different boards and committees to ensure they were not interfering with her cleaning schedule. Discussion continued.

**9.2.** C. Taylor read the final order from the District Court in Skowhegan regarding the Benes matter. He stated the town attorney had advised them not to appeal the decision. E. Pratt remarked, "I saw the name of the judge and said well that figures." C. Taylor interjected, "We had to do our due diligence and hope for the best. There are two folks out there who are saying we were advised not to pursue this." S. LeHay urged the discussion be held in Executive Session. C. Taylor said he would write letters requesting attendance at the next meeting for a personnel matter.

**9.3.** BOS signed LRAP paperwork and put them in the Road Commissioner's mailbox for him to fill out.

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

**11. Next Meeting Announcement & Adjournment**

**11.1.** Next Regular Selectperson's Meeting – Wednesday, July 6, 2016.

**11.2.** Motion to adjourn made by E. Pratt (2<sup>nd</sup> – S. LeHay). (3-0) Adjourned 20:44.

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