

# Town of Embden



## Minutes of the Board of Selectpersons

January 16, 2017

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:** Robert Dunphy & Wayne McLaughlin

**Members of the Public Present:** Timothy & Torry Wahler

**Minutes Taken By:** 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 January 2, 2017 as written (3-0).
  - 2.2. Approved Warrant #2017-002 totaling \$153,881.22. (3-0).
3. **Appointments & Resignations:**
  - 3.1. C. Taylor mentioned that three individuals had expressed interest in the vacant Assessor position, Robert Dunphy, Michael Malesky, and Dwight Barron. He asked who the Assessors planned to pick. W. McLaughlin stated he thought the Selectmen had planned to appoint at the first BOS meeting in March. C. Taylor replied, "I did say that, but we have three candidates anxious to get started and learn before they hit the pavement in April." W. McLaughlin said he preferred to wait and discuss the matter with T. Lamontagne. C. Taylor stated the position would be appointed at the next BOS meeting.
4. **Department Officials Reports:**
  - 4.1. **E-911** – No report.
  - 4.2. **Winter Roads Contractor** – No Report.
  - 4.3. **Animal Control** – No report.
  - 4.4. **Board of Assessors** –
    - 4.4.1. W. McLaughlin reported that the Sketching program had been installed last Wednesday.
    - 4.4.2. He advised they had a hearing with the County Commissioners on February 1<sup>st</sup>.
    - 4.4.3. C. Taylor asked if they needed some help. W. McLaughlin replied, "Not so much going on right now, but we will need someone later on."
  - 4.5. **Planning Board** – No Report.
  - 4.6. **Local Plumbing Inspector** –
    - 4.6.1. R. Dunphy reported it had not been very busy.
  - 4.7. **Board of Appeals** – No Report.

**4.8. Code Enforcement Officer –**

4.8.1. BOS reviewed request from CEO, re: Tammy Burrill keeping a snowbound camper on her lot until the snow melts, or 3/30, whichever came first. BOS discussed. Request approved (3-0).

4.8.2. C. Taylor asked whether the new SLZ ordinance had been returned from DEP with conditional approval. R. Dunphy said he did not think so.

4.8.3. He said there had only been three applications for the last PB meeting, and the board had processed two of them.

4.8.4. He reported that Piper would be doing some timber harvesting in the SLZ.

**4.9. Health Officer –**

4.9.1. R. Dunphy stated, "There's no ticks."

**4.10. Road Commissioner – No report.**

**4.11. R.S.U. #74 – No Report.**

**4.12. Recreational Director –**

4.12.1. S. LeHay said, "When I look at these kids, most are going to school programs." He suggested sending \$4k to Anson and \$2 to Solon, flat rate, to allow the Embden kids to participate, but the scholarship program should stay as it is. C. Taylor clarified, "So [S. LeHay] want to cut the Rec. budget to \$6k, plus the carry forward?" S. LeHay said yes. Discussion continued.

**4.13. Town Clerk/Treasurer –**

4.13.1. B. Baker submitted the following reports:

- Budget Worksheets

4.13.2. She advised the auditor would be coming next week.

**4.14. Registrar of Voters.**

4.14.1. B. Baker said she was preparing for town meeting.

4.14.2. C. Taylor said Phil Curtis had agreed to be our moderator again this year.

**4.15. Tax Collector – No Report.**

**4.16. Community Center –**

4.16.1. W. McLaughlin reported that there had been a relatively good crowd at the supper Saturday.

4.16.2. He stated the ECC had a meeting last week and, "Everyone over there voted that we are not interested in the proposition brought up at the last [budget] meeting." C. Taylor explained, "It was said at the budget meeting, [S. LeHay] had thought to expand the Rec. program. We gave the ECC final say on it, whether they are getting to old to continue."

4.16.3. C. Taylor said there would be an auction and dinner benefit this weekend.

4.16.4. E. Pratt announced the following upcoming events.

Dinner – 21<sup>st</sup>

Country Sunday

Next Month's Supper – Pork Cutlets

4.16.5. E. Pratt mentioned that the ECCTR would be used to feed the fishermen, weigh fish, etc. during the upcoming fishing derby.

4.16.6. W. McLaughlin said he had M. Witham come and move some snow at the ECCTR for parking, and had E. Creamer come sand. E. Pratt stressed that the ECC paid those expenses.

4.16.7. Ti. Wahler stated, "Don't think we are attacking the Community Center. That serves a valuable purpose. It does a good job, you do a good job, but the people want to know what the cost is to the Town. Yes, you gave

\$12k to the Town, but that doesn't begin to pay for itself. And that's ok. Many worthwhile things don't come close to paying for themselves." He added that the people just wanted to know how much the ECCtr was costing. Heated discussion followed.

4.16.8. C. Taylor stated the ECC had submitted a quote for a generator for the building. C. Taylor read quote (\$51,378 plus \$1,760 possible additional costs). He pointed out that a generator would be necessary to make the ECC a warming center. W. McLaughlin interjected, "He went by the service that was over there, but said if we found the usage is less, we may be able to go for a smaller generator. E. Pratt asked whether he had talked about grant money. W. McLaughlin replied that he had, but they had not gotten into it, but he was willing to look into it more. C. Taylor declared, "We can set some money aside, but with the Slipp Road bridge repairs needs, that has to take precedence over a generator." W. McLaughlin asked whether the board wanted him to get another estimate. C. Taylor said yes. R. Dunphy exclaimed, "I'm not sure if you want a generator or just a backup." Extensive discussion continued.

#### **4.17. Emergency Management Directors –**

4.17.1. R. Dunphy said there was another meeting set up for hazard mitigation.

#### **4.18. Highway Department Exploratory Committee –**

4.18.1. S. LeHay said they had met last Monday. He stated they were finalizing and putting things together, and would have a final draft by Thursday. Discussion ensued.

4.18.2. To. Wahler explained that the point was to keep the BOS from becoming an employer, like they didn't want to be. She said if the town had a committee of 5-7 people that did the hiring of the foreman. She added that obviously the BOS would have to do the actual approval and hiring, and the foreman should then choose who he wants to work for him. C. Taylor pointed out that it would be more work for the Treasurer. To. Wahler replied, "But the girls have to keep track of the paperwork for the contractors now, so it would be a tradeoff." She said that they might not be looking at someone who owns their own business, but would need someone who needed to work. She asked where else someone could work in their own town and make \$40k. She stressed it would be a good job for someone. Discussion continued.

4.18.3. C. Taylor said as far as 'Selectmen Recommend' for the article he wasn't sure if they would do that or just put that the Committee recommends. E. Pratt stated, "I do not recommend this." C. Taylor stated, "I do not recommend this. I disagree with all parts of this." Heated discussion continued.

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

5.1. **Open Public Forum.** None.

6. **New Business.** None.

7. **Unfinished Business.**

7.1. **Update on Slipp Road Bridge.** None.

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

9. **Board of Selectpersons Concerns.**

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

### **11. Next Meeting Announcement & Adjournment**

11.1. Next Regular Selectperson's Meeting – Monday, February 6, 2017.

11.2. Motion to adjourn made by C. Taylor (2<sup>nd</sup> – E. Pratt). (3-0) Adjourned 21:16.

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