

SECRET BALLOT ELECTION

Friday, March 1, 2024

And

TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Saturday, March 2, 2024

To Ernest Falcone, resident of the Town of Embden, in the County of Somerset, State of Maine,

GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the town of Embden in said county and state, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Embden Town Office in said town on Friday, the 1st day of March, A.D. 2024, at nine and forty-five o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to act upon Article 1 and by secret ballot on Article 2 as set out below, the polling hours therefore to be from ten o'clock in the forenoon until six o'clock in the evening;

And, to notify and warn said inhabitants to meet at the Embden Community Center in said town on Saturday, the 2nd day of March 2024 A.D., at ten o'clock in the morning, then and there to act on Articles 3 through 39 as set out below, to wit:

Article 1: To elect a moderator, all municipal officers, and school committee members are required to be elected.

Article 2: To elect municipal officers and school committee members as are required to be elected.

Nominated Candidates:

Selectman, three-year term: Jan Welch **91 votes**

Selectman, three-year term: Carroll Chapman **29 votes**

Town Clerk/Treasurer, three-year term: Christine Sockwell **120 votes**

Road Commissioner, three-year term: Michael Witham **118 votes**

RSU #74 School Board Director, three-year term: Eric Ewing **116 votes**

Article 3: To see if the Inhabitants will accept the following tax assessment and collection related questions:

A. To see if the Inhabitants will authorize the Tax Collector and Treasurer to apply any property

tax overpayment of less than \$50 to that person's next year's property taxes.

B. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to authorize citizens to pay their property taxes in one installment, due and payable 45 days after commitment or by September 15, 2024, whichever comes first and to charge interest at the rate of 8.5% per annum on unpaid balances after due date.

C. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to authorize the Tax Collector or Treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. Section 506 and pay 0% interest on these prepaid taxes.

D. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate from overlay to pay tax abatements and applicable interest granted during the fiscal year 2024 pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A Section 710.

E. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to set the interest rate of 2% to be paid by the Town on abated taxes pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A Section 506-A.

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 4. To see if the Inhabitants will authorize the Selectmen to procure a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) for the purpose of paying municipal indebtedness; such note to be repaid during the current fiscal year from taxes paid during the municipal year.

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 5. To see if the Inhabitants will authorize the Municipal Officers to apply for, accept, and expend grant money available from the State of Maine, Federal Government, or other organizations for any public purpose when they deem it to be in the town's best interest and needed matching funds are available within the current budget.

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 6. To see if the Inhabitants will authorize the Municipal Officers to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the budgeted amount of the previous annual budget during the period from January 1, 2025, to the Annual Town Meeting.

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 7. To see if the Inhabitants will authorize the Municipal Officers to sell and dispose of any tax acquired property pursuant to State of Maine statute H.P. 69-L.D. 101 An act to return to the former owner any excess funds remaining after the sale of foreclosed property. Then to award the property on such terms and to execute a Quit Claim Deed for such property.

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 8. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to accept gifts of money, equipment, or other articles for the town. (All gifts to become property of the town.)

Selectmen recommend.

Article 9. To see if the Inhabitants will accept funds from, but not limited to, the following potential revenue sources:

- A. Municipal Revenue Sharing
- B. Local Roads Assistance Program
- C. State Aid for Education
- D. Civil Emergency Funds
- E. Tree Growth Reimbursement
- F. Veteran's Exemption Reimbursement
- G. Homestead Exemption Reimbursement
- H. General Assistance Reimbursement
- I. FEMA

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 10. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to authorize the municipal officers to make final determinations regarding the closing and opening of roads to winter maintenance pursuant to 23 M.R.S.A. Section 2953.

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 11. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$158,000 from taxation for compensation, applicable taxes, training, and other related expenses for the Municipal Officials.

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 12. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000 from taxation for membership, dues, etc. in civic organizations, (e.g.; KVCOG, SEDC, MMA, MTCCA, MTCTA, MAAO, etc.).

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 13. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 from taxation for all insurance policies (e.g.; worker's comp., building, equipment, etc.).

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 14. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 from taxation for legal expenses (If required, any additional funding to be from Surplus).

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 15. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,500 from taxation for audit of the 2023 town books, expenses relating to Town Meeting(s), and for printing

of the Annual Town Report. (If required, any additional funding to be from Surplus).

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 16. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$80,000 from taxation for utilities (e.g.; fuel, electricity, telephone, internet, security alarm, mowing, trash removal, office supplies, cleaning, etc.).

Town Office	\$30,000	Boat Landing/Town Beaches	\$2,500
Community Center	\$40,000	Street Lights	\$2,500
Town House	\$ 2,500	Sand Shed	\$2,500

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 17. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,000 from taxation for office supplies, equipment, Information/Technology, and Software Licensing used for operating the town office.

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 18. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 from taxation for Facilities Maintenance.

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 19. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 from taxation for compensation, applicable taxes, training, and other related expenses for Tax Assessment including tax maps.

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 20. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 from taxation for compensation, applicable taxes, training, and other related expenses for the Planning Board.

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 21. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$44,000 from taxation, for compensation, applicable taxes, training, and other related expenses for Code Enforcement.

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 22. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 from taxation, for compensation, applicable taxes, training, and other related expenses for the Appeals Board (If required, any additional funding to be from Surplus).

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 23. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 from surplus for emergency services and authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into contractual agreements with the Town of Anson (fire protection), Anson-Madison-Starks (AMS Ambulance Service), and Anson/Madison Water District (for the annual rental of fire hydrants). If required, any additional funding to be from Surplus.

Fire Protection	\$56,000
Ambulance Service	\$25,000
Hydrant Rental	\$19,000

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 24. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 from taxation, for Animal shelter fees, compensation, and applicable taxes for the town's Animal Control Officer.

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 25. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 from taxation for signs, maintenance, compensation, and applicable taxes for the town's E911 Coordination Officer.

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 26. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 from taxation for the town's recreation department.

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 27. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to pay all Town hired labor and equipment at the prevailing State of Maine hourly rate or what they will do related thereto.

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 28. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$250,000 from taxation for repair and maintenance of bridges, roads, and culverts, dedicated for use by the Road Commissioner (to be used in conjunction with carried forward balance and LRAP grant monies from the State of Maine).

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 29. To see if the Inhabitants will allow the Select Board to enter into a three-year snow removal contract with J.R.Nunes & Sons and to raise and appropriate \$372,500 from taxation for

winter roads. (J.R Nunes & Sons was the only bidder for the 2024-2027 three-year snow removal contract at the price of \$372,500 per year).

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 30. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$55,000 from taxation for sanitation/solid waste disposal to Waste Management, Inc. (If required, any additional funding to be from Surplus).

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 31. To see if the Inhabitants will raise and appropriate \$2,000 from surplus for the purpose of General Assistance administered by the town. (If required, any additional funding to be from Surplus).

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 32. To see if the Inhabitants will raise and appropriate the recommended amount from surplus for the following Social Services.

A. Stewart Public Library	\$1,500.00
B. Somerset County Hospice	\$1,500.00
C. Kennebec Behavioral Health	\$ 250.00
D. Spectrum Generations	\$1,050.00
E. People Who Care Food Cupboard	\$5,000.00
F. Baker Mountain	\$1,000.00
G. American Red Cross	\$ 250.00
H. KVCAP	\$1,000.00
I. Sunset Cemetery	\$1,000.00
J. Madison Public Library	\$ 600.00
K. Sexual Assault Crisis & Support Center	\$ 316.00
L. Maine Public Broadcasting	\$ 100.00
M. Community Health & Counseling	\$ 200.00
N. Life Flight of Maine	\$ 902.00
Total:	\$14,668.00

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 33. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to appropriate the sum of \$3,000 from surplus to the Embden Travelers Snowmobile Club for the maintenance of their system of trails and bridges open in snow season to the public within the Town of Embden.

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 34. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,500 from surplus plus interest from the Mary Ann Burns trust fund for use, dedicated to maintenance of cemeteries within the town.

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 35. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,000 from excise to add to the Capital Improvement Fund, specifically for future town road paving projects.

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 36. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,000 from surplus to add to the Capital Improvement Fund, specifically for future town building projects.

Selectmen recommend. [Article Passes](#)

Article 37. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to amend the Embden Shoreland Zoning Ordinance:

Add to Definitions

Temporary Large Dock System – A dock extending into a body of water over or below the normal high-water line that has **any** of the following characteristics:

1. Is designed or intended for docking more than three motorized boats/watercraft of any size;
2. Extends into the water more than 50' from normal high water;
3. Is moored to the floor of the waterbody pursuant to a submerged land lease issued by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, Bureau of Parks & Lands;
4. The dock benefits any property including subdivisions or a multi-family structure.

Add to Section 15.(C) the following:

15.(C)(11) A person or entity wanting to install a temporary Large Dock System as defined herein must first obtain a permit from the Code Enforcement Officer. Temporary Large Dock Systems must be installed no less than 100' (at the shoreline) from the boundary with the nearest abutter. Annual renewal of the permit for a Temporary Large Dock System is not required unless any of the following changes from the original permit are planned:

- a. The length of the dock over the water is to be increased.
- b. The dock's capacity is to be expanded to include additional boat slips.
- c. The dock is to be relocated either at the shoreline or its location over the water.

If any of these changes are to be implemented, the person or entity must apply for a new permit from the Code Enforcement Office. Once issued, annual renewal is not required unless any of the above-listed changes are planned.

This section applies to all docks qualifying as Large Dock Systems regardless of when it was first installed.

Selectmen recommend. [Article dies on the floor. No motion.](#)

Dated: 1st day of February 2024

Charles E. Taylor, Select Board Chairman

Wayne McLaughlin, Selectman

Janice Welch, Selectwoman

Municipal Officers