

Town of Embden

Minutes of the Board of Selectpersons

January 4th 2024, 6:15pm at the Embden Town Office

Board Members in Attendance: Charles Taylor, Wayne McLaughlin, Janice Welch

Other Officials Present: Ruth Blake, Leo Mayo, Terri Lamontagne, Josh Nunes, Anthony Sparrow

Members of the Public Present: Betty Pratt, Bill Redmond

Minutes recorded by: Janice Welch

1. **Call to Order:** Chuck called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Consent Agenda**
 - a. Approved, December 7, 2023, minutes: Janice made motion to approve the minutes, Wayne seconded. Passed 3-0.
 - b. Review Town Warrant – (#2,62,63, and payroll #1) – Approved and signed
 - c. Bank Reconciliation- November bank rec. should be finished this weekend
4. **Appointments and Resignations-** None
5. **Presentation-** None
6. **Executive Session-** None
7. **Department Officials' Reports**
 - a. E-911 – Christy was out this morning measuring driveways. She is still working on catching up on past years work.
 - b. Winter Roads – Now that the dirt roads are freezing, they can plow them. There is logging being done on Hancock Pond. The logging company has reached out to Josh to see if he could put a bit of extra sand on those roads. He agreed.
 - c. Animal Control – Robin is doing a fantastic job. Christy and Robin are working together to make sure all dogs are registered.
 - d. Assessor – Nothing to report. Shirley was here in November
 - e. Planning Board – The Solar Ordinance is coming along well. We will hold a special Town Hearing and Meeting after our annual Town Meeting.
 - f. Board of Appeals – Nothing to report
 - g. Local Plumbing Inspector – We are need of a LPI and a Deputy.
 - h. Code Enforcement Officer- The Select Board will be reaching out to the lawyer's office regarding Courtney Cowen's past due fine. Terri will be reaching out to the lawyer regarding Jay Strickland's past due fine. The soar farm on the Kennebec River Rd is looking good. A BIG thank you to Terri fore helping Christy out with the quitclaim deeds needed for last year's foreclosures.
 - i. Health Officer-There are a few cases of covid in the area.
 - j. Road Commissioner – We are preparing for more FEMA reports . The work that was done after the spring flood held up very well during this last storm. This kept the damage at a minimum.
 - k. RSU#74- Eric Ewing is running again.
 - l. Town Clerk/Treasurer- The reminder post cards for dog licensing worked. People are coming out and licensing there dogs. Another reminder letter will be sent out this month. After January 31st there is a \$25 fine per dog, and in March the list of unlicensed will be turned over to the ACO. Christy is needing the department heads to return in there reports for the Town Report by January 16th. Leo is no longer picking up the trash. Christy reached out to Tim Dickey who said he will take it over. Seven out of nine potential foreclosures have paid their 2021 taxes. The last two will be in tomorrow to make their payment.
 - m. Registrar of Voters – Christy just completed the final reports for last November's election. She is now preparing for the three elections coming up this March. Jan made a motion to have the election hours for the Municipal Officers held on March 1st from 10am -6pm. Wayne seconded. Passed 3-0.
 - n. Tax Collector – Ruth collected \$60,692.24 since 12/7/2023.
8. **Community Center-** There is a problem with people changing the temperature on the thermostat. Dan has ordered cages for them. Wayne will be reaching out to him to find out when they will be installed. There are

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people in town who would like to see the ECC turned into a shelter, not just a warming center. Jan is reaching out to the Red Cross regarding this. As of now, we do not have the resources or volunteers to make this possible. This spring a cook will be needed for the ECC dinners. Larry Witham will no longer be doing it.

9. **Unfinished Business** – The Select Board and Christy will meet next Wednesday to begin work on the 2024 budget.
10. **New Business** – None
11. **Correspondence**- Nothing to report
12. **Community Relations, Announcements, and Open Public Forum**-
13. **Next Meeting Announcement & Adjournment** –
 - a. Next regularly scheduled meeting – February 1, 2024
 - b. Janice made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Wayne seconded, and the Board voted 3-0 to adjourn at 7:19 pm.