

Town of Embden

Minutes of the Board of Selectpersons

March 6th, 2025, 6:15pm at the Embden Town Office

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

Other Officials Present: Leo Mayo, Michael Witham, Ruth Blake, Robin Wilkey

Members of the Public Present: Paula Sancouci, Paul Fortin, Sara Bickford, James Turner, Charity Fletcher, Leah Agren, Kayla Starr, Kate Tozier, Kevin Sousa, Winn Smith, Betty Vining

Minutes recorded by: Janice Welch

1. **Call to Order:** Charles called the meeting to order at 6:16pm
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Consent Agenda**
 - a. Approved Minutes: Wayne motioned to approve February minutes; Janice seconded. Approved 3-0.
 - b. Review Town Warrant – (AP # 11, and Payroll # 9 & 10) – All signed and approved.
 - c. Bank Reconciliation-
4. **Appointments and Resignations-** Janice turned in her resignation letter. She is resigning as of March 30th, 2025. Keith Stephans turned in an application for the Appeals Board. Janice made motion to appoint Keith, Wayne seconded. Passes 3-0.
5. **Presentation-** Sara Bickford from Somerset County Emergency Management Agency talked about the ECC becoming a shelter. This is something that that has been attempted before. We do not have the staff to make this possible.
6. **Executive Session-**
7. **Department Officials' Reports**
 - a. E-911 – No report
 - b. Winter Roads Contractor – No report
 - c. Animal Control – ACO is doing a fantastic job. Robin is wanting to open a Pet Food Pantry at the ECC. She would man it once a month. Wayne will make room for storage of pet supplies.
 - d. Assessor – No report
 - e. Planning Board – Going well, light agenda. Full Board now.
 - f. Local Plumbing Inspector –No report
 - g. Board of Appeals – Request to be paid has been turned in for February 11th Appeals Meeting.
 - h. Code Enforcement Officer – No report
 - i. Health Officer- The Flu is going around
 - j. Road Commissioner – There has been lots of flooding. There was quite a lot of water in the road in front the Resorts. There was an issue on West Shore Road by the pillars. Snow was not pushed back enough. Michael will take the grader over tomorrow and fix the road. There has also been a problem with culverts freezing. We may need to get a steamer next year to take care of the issues. The water is running fast and furious from the solar farm on the Kennebec River Road. Michael said he will donate time to push back snow at the ECC. Michael and Christy have spoken with Elaine in Solon about where FEMA money goes. It looks like it goes back into the road budget. Charles went into the FEMA portal and signed the documents that needed to be signed. East Shore Road is one of the paving projects this summer. Priest Industries will be putting the dock in this spring. We need to start thinking about getting a new dock for the boat landing.

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- k. R.S.U. #74 -Budget season starts in April. Funding is a huge question. There may be less funding.
- l. Town Clerk/Treasurer – No report
- m. Registrar of Voters – No report
- n. Tax Collector – Ruth had a problem pulling a report. Trio is wanting us to switch to Web version.
- o. Embden Community Center- Snow has knocked panels off on the back of the building. Two heat pumps froze. Wayne is checking to see if it is under warranty. Still no word from Handy Andy. The insurance guy that spoke with Wayne said that sand in the Sand Shed should not be pushing on the walls of the shed. It will ruin the building. Michael asked if the food cupboard is open enough for people to get to. Wayne brings food from the People That Care Food Cupboard. They started out with 17 people helping, now only has 5 or 6. Charles mentioned how valuable it is and anyone can use it. Kayla Starr is working on the Baseball program. Batting cage net is in the works. Lots of ideas. Basketball and pickleball, a Rec Committee was suggested. The Town's rec departments are combining to "Cobra Recreation. Looking into a Fly-Fishing Program and a hiking trail behind the ECC. Kaya is meeting with Jeff McCabe. She will write grants.

8. Unfinished Business – Select Board signed Anson Fire Dept. contract.

9. New Business –

10. Correspondence-

11. Community Relations, Announcements, and Open Public Forum- Next Meeting Announcement & Adjournment – Request for better outreach to residents -FB, social media, newsletter. Paul Fortin with the School Withdrawal Investigation Committee said its time for a petition to see if they will continue looking into withdrawing from the district. The petition will need 10% of the number of voters cast in the last Gubernatorial Election. Total number of votes cast at the municipal vote must be 50% of the total number of votes cast at the last Gubernatorial Election.

- a. Next regularly scheduled meeting – April 3, 2025
- b. Janice made motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:37, Wayne seconded. Passes 3-0.