

**Town of Embden**  
**Minutes of the Board of Selectpersons**  
January 8, 2026, 6:15pm at the Embden Town Office

**Board Members in Attendance:** Charles Taylor, Wayne McLaughlin, Kayla Starr

**Other Officials Present:** Ruth Blake

**Members of the Public Present:** Josh Nunes, Paula Sansouci, Terry Bugay, Dillon Robinson, Ernie Falcone, Jack Gartner, Katy Merrow, James Turner, Darren Priest

**Minutes recorded by:** Christy Sockwell

1. **Call to Order:** Charles called the meeting to order at 6:19pm
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Consent Agenda**
  - a. Approved Minutes: Approved 3-0
  - b. Review Town Warrant – (AP # 58,59,2 and Payroll #1) – All signed and approved.
  - c. Bank Reconciliation- December Rec is in process.
4. **Appointments and Resignations-** None
5. **Presentation-** None
6. **Executive Session-** None
7. **Department Officials’ Reports**
  - a. E-911 – It has been a slow month for addressing.
  - b. Winter Roads – Nunes will continue to plow Kilowatt Drive until Charles hears back from CMP. There is still ice on the roads. Nunes continue to salt the roads. They have already gone through 60 tons. The Select Board will be sending a letter to the residents that park their car on the side of Wentworth Road during storms.
  - c. Animal Control – Robin turned in a report last month. She is dealing with a feral cat issue on East Shore Road. The family feeding them has moved. Robin is doing a great job!
  - d. Assessor – The Select Board approved an abatement for tax year 2023 & 2024 on the trailer that had been moved in 2023.
  - e. Planning Board – Planning Board is in a meeting at the Town Office right now. There is only one continuation on the agenda.
  - f. Local Plumbing Inspector – No Report
  - g. Board of Appeals- No appeals.
  - h. Code Enforcement Officer- No Report
  - i. Health Officer- No Report
  - j. Road Commissioner – MDOT will be meeting at the Town Office on January 15<sup>th</sup> to review our roads.
  - k. Rec Dept. – The Rec Director would like to use the ECC gym for basketball and soccer. Their request is that the tables and chairs are off the floor for them. The Rec Department is doing great! Over one hundred kids are signed up for basketball. There is a lot of parent involvement.
  - l. R.S.U. #74 – The Superintendent sent the Selectboard a letter thanking them for hearing his request to lease the ECC for special needs children in our district. He would like to know if the Select Board is open to the idea. Charles said that this is something the Select Board cannot decide on. It needs to go before the Town. There will have to be a special referendum held in June. Charles will reach out to Mark to see if he will attend the next Select Board Meeting for Q&A.
  - m. Town Clerk/Treasurer- Christy is working on December’s bank rec. She is down to ten properties that are up for foreclosure. Christy has been in contact with the auditor about the 2024 audit. She has a list of reports needed to start the audit. She mailed out one hundred and forty letters to unlicensed dog owners. She will also be printing up and sending out W-2s and 1099s. Christy is working on putting together the Town Report and the budget report for budget discussions next week.
  - n. Registrar of Voters- Christy is working on finishing up the VPH report for the November Election. This year’s Town Meeting will start at noon instead of 10am. Ernie Hilton will be our Moderator.
  - o. Tax Collector – \$64,005.78 has been collected since December 11<sup>th</sup>. Ruth is looking for people to send in their pictures of loons on the different ponds in Embden. Her favorite photos will be put on the cover of the Town Report.

# Town of Embden

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- p. Community Center- Terry Bugay has been looking into changing the key locks on the ECC to a coding system. Seacoast Security said they would have to run a new security system for that type of lock to be compatible. This would be very expensive. They suggested inexpensive locking system that can be accessed through a smart phone. Pass codes can be changed as often as needed. This may be the solution. This would take away the need for someone to physically come lock and unlock the building with every event.
8. **Unfinished Business-** Jack Gartner, Ernie Falcone, and Darren Priest are concerned about the health of Embden Pond and the surrounding ponds. They believe there are high levels of phosphates running into the lake from the runoff of marijuana grow farms and from streamways carrying the phosphates down. This is causing harmful plumes the lake. Chuck will talk to Terriann our Code Officer to get info the marijuana grow facility that is on East Shore Road. Kayla will reach out to the Planning Board about creating ordinances that will protect the lake.
9. **New Business** – The Select Board has requested that the EPA be added to the agenda.
10. **Correspondence-** None
11. **Community Relations, Announcements, and Open Public Forum-**
12. **Next Meeting Announcement & Adjournment** –Charles makes motion to adjourn meeting at 7:45 pm. Wayne seconded. Next regularly scheduled meeting – February 5, 2026