Town of Embden

Minutes of the Board of Selectpersons

October 1st, 2026

Board Members in Attendance: Charles Taylor, Kayla Starr, Foster Robinson

Other Officials Present: Michael Witham, Ruth Blake, Charles Pease

Members of the Public Present: Ann Bridges, Paula Sansousi, Terry Bugay, Leah Agren, Anthony Salisbury, Heidy Mullen

Minutes recorded by: Christy Sockwell and Terry Soosman

1. **Call to Order:** Chuck called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Consent Agenda**
    a. Approved Minutes from August –Kayla makes motion to approve as written. Foster seconded. Passes 3-0
    b. Review Town Warrant – (#40) Payroll (#41,42) –Passes 3-0
    c. Bank Reconciliation- September bank rec to begin next week.
4. **Appointments and Resignations-** no report
5. **Presentation-** no report
6. **Executive Session-** Foster motioned to go into executive session 1 M. R. S. 405(6)(A) Personnel Matters at 7:28pm, Kayla seconded. Passes 3-0. Foster motioned to come out of executive session at 8:16pm. Foster made motion to create a new position in the office that would include Administrative Assistant, Deputy Clerk, Deputy Treasurer, Deputy Registrar, and Deputy Tax Collector. This will have to be taken to a Special Town Meeting. The new position will be Article 1. Article 2 will cover an arrangement with Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust. This will provide full-time employees with access health insurance. The Town would pay $750 per month for the coverage. This is half the cost of the cheapest plan. The 3rd and final article will address making the Clerk/Treasurer position an appointed position instead of being elected. Charles seconded. Passes 3-0.

Department Officials' Reports

a. E-911 – Christy has an address to mark on Hancock Pond Road.
b. Winter Roads – Nunes has started to load winter sand into the shed, Oct 15th, 2026, invoice still due from Nunes.
c. Animal Control – No report
d. Assessor – no report
e. Planning Board – Ann Bridges and Selectman reviewed downstairs conditions, motion to approve additional $2000.00 to Ann for her role in working the file room. Looks great, thank you Ann for your continued hard work.
f. Board of Appeals – No report
g. Local Plumbing Inspector – No report
h. Code Enforcement Officer- Charles Pease reporting slowdown with on-site visits. Hiring contractor for handicap ramp to Town Office, needs to be up to code, resident had issues entering, when asked reported no issues with hand, as he hit upon entering.
i. Health Officer- Charles Pease said the lawyer involved in 215 Wentworth property, has asked for "angry letter" stating the issues with said property.
j. Road Commissioner – Michael Witham, stated, grading on Hancock Pond, cleaning up a few places. Moulton road done grading, to finish Dunbar Hill, cleaned up a tree on Station Road, dragged an apple tree on Moulton Road. Looking to get mulcher to Wentworth Road. He will look to hire Belanger for use of bucket truck to clean up some trees, look to hire Thomas Rodrique for use of pulp truck. Discussion of signage for ATV trails, reporting speed and late hours on roads to be an issue. American Flags from town poles have been retrieved for winter and will be stored at Town Office.
k. RSU#74 - No report
l. Town Clerk/Treasurer- Training continues with Terry Soosman taking the roles.
m. Registrar of Voters – Training continues with Terry Soosman, taking the role. Ramping up for election, ballots have been received at office.

n. Tax Collector – Ruth continues working with TRIO on recreating the report needed to provided taxes received to date. A large majority of taxes have been paid, with "piles of payments received" each day. Ruth questioned the tax exempt, stating she is awaiting a return call from Assessor to confirm amount dropping from the original $25,000.00. Charles Taylor mentioned he would could call Assessor and suggested Ruth follow up as well.

o. Rec. Dept. – The Rec Program is successful, lots of kids on sight Wednesday nights, children were invited to be part of homecoming events at the high school. **SPREAD THE WORD -WE NEED COACHES!**

p. Community Center- The Embden Community Club presented Job descriptions for the Maintenance Supervisor and Janitor at the ECC. Discussion on how better to utilize Center. Review of internet and phone options, TDS has offered, "trade in lieu of donations". Ergo has offered a cheaper work around, still exploring options as NO CONTRACT currently with TDS. Pet pantry, securing the provided pet food, toting up the food and breaking down 50-pound bags to smaller bags for the public. Dryer vent to be checked. Camera for the lot moved to capture drop off dumpsters, as tires dropped noted to be an issue.

7. **Unfinished Business** – No reporting
8. **New Business –** Kayla Starr has been nominated for the 2026 Spirit of American award and will be recognized on October 21, at 5:30 at Spirit of American Award Ceremony in Skowhegan. CONGRATULATIONS KAYLA!!
9. **Correspondence-** No Reporting
10. **Community Relations, Announcements, and Open Public Forum-** Madison resident Anthony Salisbury presented paper concerning the Fluoride Overfeed Incident, effecting towns of Madison, Anson and Embden, asking to Reintroduce the LD 1570(or equivalent legislation) in the 133rd Legislature.
11. **Next Meeting Announcement & Adjournment –**

a. Next regularly scheduled meeting – November 5th, 2026.
b. Dillon made motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 pm, Kayla seconded. Passed 3-0