

TOWN OF CHINA

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China, ME 04358



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Select Board Meeting

Monday – 01/18/2010 – Town Office Meeting Room
7:00 P.M.

Minutes

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7:00 pm. Board members present were Paul MacDonald, Peter Foote, Joann C. Austin, Neil Farrington, and Irene L. Belanger. Others present were Richard Morse, Tim Basham, Tim Theriault, Leslie R. French, David Jenney, Mary Grow, and the Town Manager. Those present were led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag by SCVFD Chief Richard “Dick” Morse.

On a motion by Selectperson Peter Foote and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 5-0 to accept Payroll Warrants #79 (31) for \$18,028.87 and #80 (32) for \$30.16 and Payables Warrant #82 (33) for \$374,647.87 as presented.

Manager's Report:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Implementation Committee/Other Committees Meetings:** The Town Manager updated the Board on the meeting dates, times, and places for the Implementation Committee, the Open Space Committee, and the Library Services Committee.
- **1st Quarter Tipping Fees – P.E.R.C.:** The Town Manager noted the first quarter tipping fee will be \$72.20 per ton, not much of a change from the fourth quarter of 2009.
- **One Room School House Update – Phase II Considerations:** The Town Manager noted that the bids for Phase II or the restoration project should be sent out within seven days and the work could begin shortly after awarding the contract in late February. .
- **MDOT – Weeks Mills Road Project:** The Town Manager noted that substantial reconstruction of the Weeks Mills Road is in the State's highway budget. He noted that the MDOT has estimated the project to cost approximately \$600,000.00. The Weeks Mills Road was the only project chosen in MDOT Division 2.

Unfinished Business:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Recycling Coordinator:** Recycling coordinator Neil Farrington reported that he and the Town Manager have talked with officials from the towns of Vassalboro and Windsor about recycling initiatives in China. These were introductory meetings with the goal of establishing contacts and exchanging information about each town's recycling program. Neil went on to note that we have 19 bales of cardboard stored and ready for shipment to the recycling market.

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New Business:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Appointments:** There were not any appointments for this meeting. There will be appointments for the next meeting.
- **Foreclosures:** On a motion by Selectperson and a second by Selectperson, the Board voted 5-0 to give people whose properties the town foreclosed on in December another 60 days from January 18, 2010 to pay back all taxes, interest, and fees before the town actually takes possession. Copies of the foreclosed properties are on file at the town office.
- **2010-2011 Municipal Budget Deliberations – Town Meeting Articles:** The board reviewed the Town Manager's proposed budget by department. They proceeded through the expenditure side of the budget up to the Recreation Department requests, or through Article #18 of the Town Business Meeting Warrant. The Town Manager noted that the proposed budget does not contain any new proposals and that many expenditure requests are either the same as last year or reductions from last year; only a few are slightly higher. He went on to say that the municipal budget will not affect the mil rate. A one percent pay raise is proposed for town employees. The assessing agent agreed to accept the same increase as recommended for employees. One area of increase is in China Rescue. Tim Theriault said the china Rescue has eight new members whose equipment and training costs are coming from current operating funds and will continue in future years. The initial \$20,000.00 request for 2010-2011, a \$4,000.00 increase, was reduced to \$17,000.00 after noting that China Rescue would have a reserve fund over \$3,000.00 that could be used for expenditures in the current year or next year.

The Select Board decided to schedule a special meeting on January 25, 2010 to finish reviewing the proposed 2010-2011 municipal budget and the meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. Discussions regarding Thurston Park took up a good deal of the regular meeting time focusing on a stewardship plan produced for the town by Vite Vitale. A specific question was whether or not the Select board would accept the Open Space Committee's recommendation to create a Thurston Park Committee and appoint its members. There was a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin to allow a proposed Thurston Park Committee to develop objectives and recommendations and identification of financing resources for the development of the Park over a one year period and thereafter to report to the Open Space Committee and Select Board that was not seconded. Mr. Richard Morse stated to the Select Board that if they totally exclude forestry management, Thurston Park might lose its certification as a Tree Farm. He went on to say that a tree farm management plan can have more goals than just forestry management, but it must include harvesting when and where needed. He also noted that there still remains a lot of

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ice storm damaged trees in the Park. Mr. Jenney noted that Mr. Vitale had produced a management plan for Vassalboro recreation land and did an excellent job. Tim Theriault, who said he visits the park regularly, proposed starting with a survey to see how many residents use Thurston Park and what they use it for. He also said he seldom sees others in the Park when he is there. The Town Manager noted that China may have lost the services of Sappi Fine Paper forester Howard Charles and wildlife biologist Katie Cousins. An e-mail from the Town Manager expressing regret at the loss was sent after the January 4, 2010 Select Board meeting.

In other business the board discussed LD1577. On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Paul MacDonald, the Board voted 4-0 to direct the Town Manager to submit a letter to the Clerk of the energy & Natural Resources committee stating that the Select board is not in favor of LD1577 as presented.

On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Paul MacDonald, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 10:07 p.m.

On a motion by Selectperson Joann and a second by Selectperson Paul MacDonald, the Board voted 5-0 to

Respectfully submitted,


Joann C. Austin, Secretary
China Select Board