

TOWN OF CHINA

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China, ME 04358



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Select Board Meeting

Monday – 03/14/2011 – 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 Willette, Karen Willette, Evan Smith, Elwin Higgins, Mary Grow, and the Town Manager. Those present were led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag by Paul MacDonald.

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Paul MacDonald, the Board voted 5-0 to accept the minutes of the 02/28/2011 Select Board meeting as presented

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Paul MacDonald, the Board voted 5-0 to accept Warrant #40 for \$19,019.96 and Warrant #41 for \$344,471.90 as presented.

Unfinished Business:

- Public Comment: There was not any public comment at this time.
- Recycling Coordinator

Recycling Revenue Report – Selectperson Neil Farrington: Mr. Farrington noted the current market prices for all commodities China recycles. He pointed out that the markets remain relatively strong. He went on to say that the transfer station receives #1-#7 plastics, including the heavier molded plastics. Selectperson Paul MacDonald expressed concern about the ability to store all the recyclables.

Energy Efficiency Grant (EECBG): The Board discussed the aspects of the recently awarded grant to the town. Grant funds are to be used to increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions. China has already installed solar panels and added insulation to the town office attic area. The town should realize a substantial savings on the heating bills over the long term at the town office. Additional grant funds will be used to purchase and install wood pellet furnaces at the equipment storage building and at the recycling building. Funding for additional baling equipment is also part of the grant award.

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, and a second by Selectperson Paul MacDonald, the Board voted 5-0 to authorize the Town Manager to expend up to \$72,325 to purchase a horizontal baler with a conveyor belt that can bale multiple kinds of recyclables, like hard plastics, with up to \$30,000 to come from the grant award.

Fees: On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 4-1(Austin) to increase the fee charged for commercial waste and commercially hauled MSW from one cent per pound to four cents per pound, and to

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further allow a credit of two cents per pound for recyclables for commercial waste and commercially hauled MSW, all to become effective July 1, 2011. Selectperson Neil Farrington said the main goal is to encourage commercial establishments and commercial haulers to recycle and that delaying the fee increase to July 1, 2011 is intended to give them time to add space for recyclables on vehicles used to transport waste and to talk up recycling with their customers. Selectperson Joann C. Austin objected because she thinks commercial haulers already pay more than a fair share of transfer station costs. She went on to say that obtaining the recycling goals would be better attained by a pay-per-bag system. It was noted that when packer trucks unload into the hopper, the ice and snow and water are all part of the load going into the hopper. This results in heavier than necessary loads going to PERC and additional liquids drained into holding tanks at the transfer station. There are additional costs for the processing of the liquids.

- **Foreclosures:** On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Paul MacDonald, the Board voted 5-0 to allow Karen Willette and Alex Epick to redeem their formerly owned properties conditioned upon their paying all expenses to a current status. The expenses include, but are not limited to, taxes that would have been owed had they retained ownership and expenses/fees associated with the collection process. There are foreclosure considerations associated with other properties and the Board will process those items at a later meeting.

New Business:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Appointments:** On a motion by Selectperson and a second by Selectperson , the Board voted 5-0 to appoint Sheri Wilkens to the Thurston Park Committee and Open Space Committee, Frank Soares to the Open Space Committee, Hope Shorey to the Recreation Committee, and Bill Seekins to the Thurston Park Committee.
- **Paving Bids:** On a motion by Selectperson Paul MacDonald and a second by Selectperson Joann C. Austin, the Board voted 5-0 to accept the low bid as determined by the Town Manager.
- **Red Light Application – Weeks Mills Volunteer Fire Department:** On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Paul MacDonald, the Board voted 5-0 to postpone acceptance of the application pending receipt of more information about the applicant and allowable responsibilities. The Board wished to express thanks to the applicant for his desire to be involved with the WMVFD.
- **Quit Claim Deed Execution:** On a motion by Selectperson Paul MacDonald and a second by Selectperson Joann C. Austin, the Board voted 5-0 to accept the Quit-Claim Deed for Linda Suga as presented. A copy will be on file at the town office for public inspection.

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Manager's Report:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Visioning Meeting Follow-Up – Summary Sheet:** The Town Manager noted that the items on the list will be discussed at various Select Board meetings in the coming months.
- **Annual Town Business Meeting Date, Time, Place Announcement:** It was noted that the meeting will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2011 in the multi-purpose room at the China Middle School. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. and refreshments will be served beginning at 8:30 a.m. A quorum of 122 registered China voters is needed to open the meeting.
- **Committees: Call for New Member Participation, Meeting Notices**
 - **Re-Convening of Committees:** The Board discussed efforts they hope will encourage heightened involvement in the reconvening of the respective Comprehensive Plan committees. Requests for volunteers have been placed in the Town Line newspaper. A meeting has been called by the Select Board Chairperson to discuss how best to pursue Comp Plan initiatives.
- **Department of Public Safety – Liquor Licensing Announcement:** The Town Manager noted that a letter has been received from the Department of Public Safety regarding an obligation to notify municipal officers at least 15 days prior to the final selection for an agency liquor store license. The applicant in the China area is Hannaford Supermarket & Pharmacy. DPS notified all parties of the respective hearing schedule.
- **FEMA Communication on Floodplain Management:** The Town Manager read portions of a letter sent to the Town of China commending China for the efforts that have been put forth in implementing the floodplain management measures for the Town of China, to be able to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program.
- **CMP – Pole Replacements in China:** On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Joann C. Austin, the Board voted 5-0 to accept and sign the pole location permits for placement of new and replacement poles in China. Copies of the applications are on file at the town office.
- **RSU#18 Major Capital Improvement Application:** It was noted that the Major Capital Improvement Application submitted to the Maine Department of Education ranked 59 of 71 applications. This would mean that the project submitted would not be likely to be funded.

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann C. Austin, Secretary
China Select Board