

Town of China
Minutes for the Annual Town Business Meeting
March 20, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 9:26 a.m. by Town Clerk Rebecca Hapgood shortly after the quorum of 125 was reached. Richard Thompson was elected moderator and led the voting body in the Pledge of Allegiance. Reverend Ernest Labelle of the China Region Church of the Nazarene gave the invocation to start the meeting.

Select Board member Peter Foote honored Police Officer James Lane for his 30 years of dedicated service to the town and recognized him as he retires from employment with the town.

Article 2. On motion by Neil Farrington and second by Irene Belanger voted to entertain a presentation up to 10 minutes from **CHINA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE** representatives regarding the progress of proposed implementation of the China Comprehensive Plan.

Article 3. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Irene Belanger voted to entertain a presentation up to 5 minutes from **FIRSTPARK** representatives.

Article 4. By a written vote (with no discussion or questions) voted 79-20 to exceed the property tax levy limit of \$612,917 established for China by State Law (LD#1) due to extraordinary circumstances outside the control of the municipal legislative body; namely, and in this particular case, insurance costs, winter road maintenance contract cost increases, and projected reduced State subsidies to China, (reductions in State Revenue Sharing, Tree Growth, Local Road Assistance, etc.).

Article 5. On motion by Irene Belanger and second by Robert Batteese voted to raise or appropriate \$349,644 for **ADMINISTRATION** and \$98,400 for **ADMINISTRATION OTHER** expenses.

Article 6. On motion by Robert Batteese and second by Charles Plumer voted to raise or appropriate \$8,000 for **PLANNING BOARD EXPENSES**, \$4,400 for **MAINE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION DUES**, and \$6,493 for **the KENNEBEC VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**; any remaining balance in the Planning Board budget at the end of the fiscal year to lapse to a Planning Board Reserve account.

Article 7. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Paul MacDonald voted to raise or appropriate \$39,000 with \$10,000 coming from Undesignated Fund Balance for the **CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT** to be appropriated for the following purposes: **MUNICIPAL EQUIPMENT/CAPITAL RESERVE**.

Article 8. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Irene Belanger voted to raise or appropriate \$35,350 for contracted **ASSESSING** and \$11,500 for **LEGAL**

SERVICES; any remaining balance in the legal budget at the end of the fiscal year to lapse into the legal reserve account.

Article 9. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Irene Belanger voted to raise or appropriate \$20,000 for **COMPUTER HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE** for the Town Office.

Article 10. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Irene Belanger voted to raise or appropriate \$23,452 for **POLICE SERVICES**.

Article 11. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Robert Batteese voted to raise or appropriate the following amounts for the **FIRE DEPARTMENTS and RESCUE DEPARTMENT and PSAP (E-911 CALL ANSWERING) and DISPATCH SERVICES** to be allocated in the following manner; any remaining balance in any department at the end of the fiscal year to lapse into the **RESERVE ACCOUNT FOR THE RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENT/SERVICE**:

	<u>Approved Amount</u>	
South China VFD	\$18,000	
China Village VFD	\$20,950	
Weeks Mills VFD	\$14,000	
Weeks Mills VFD	\$5,000	for a building reserve from Undesignated Fund Balance
Palermo VFD	\$1,500	
Rescue	\$17,000	
PSAP/E-911 Calls	\$19,000	
Dispatching Service	<u>\$25,000</u>	
Totals:	\$120,450	

Article 12. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Irene Belanger voted to raise or appropriate \$6,000 for the **CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT** for use by the selectmen for the fire departments' capital purchases or major capital repairs.

Article 13. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Irene Belanger voted to raise or appropriate \$197,695 for **INSURANCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION PREMIUMS** and \$15,832 for **EMERGENCY SERVICES INSURANCE**.

Article 14. On motion by Robert Batteese and second by Charles Plumer voted to raise or appropriate \$16,000 from Undesignated Fund Balance for **PAYMENT ON THE DEBT (PRINCIPAL & INTEREST) INCURRED FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE CHINA RESCUE VEHICLE**.

Article 15. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Irene Belanger voted to raise or appropriate \$290,117 for **SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL/CHINA TRANSFER STATION OPERATIONS**.

Article 16. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Irene Belanger voted to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$8,500 from Undesignated Fund Balance for the purpose of **PURCHASING A "ROLL-OFF" OPEN TOP CONTAINER OR PACKER-CAN** for use at the China Transfer Station.

Article 17. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Irene Belanger voted to raise or appropriate \$646,664 (\$63,000 FROM HIGHWAY GRANT & \$583,664 FROM EXCISE TAXES) for **ROAD MAINTENANCE**; highways, bridges & gravel roads, paving, and winter road maintenance and to further authorize the Select Board to expend a portion of the appropriated amount prior to the beginning of the 2010/2011 fiscal year as they deem to be in the best interest of the Town of China.

Article 18. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Joann Austin voted to raise or appropriate \$2,500 for **STREET SIGNS** and \$7,000 for **STREET LIGHTS**.

Article 19. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Peter Foote voted to earmark the balance, after administration expenses, of the **SNOWMOBILE REGISTRATION TAX REFUND** from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to the China Four Seasons Club. The cost allocated to administration is not to exceed \$3.00 per snowmobile.

Article 20. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Donald Pauley voted to raise or appropriate \$19,530 for **RECREATION** and to have any remaining balance in the current budget lapse into the **RECREATION RESERVE ACCOUNT**, said Reserve Account to be capped at \$5,000.00.

Article 21. On motion by Donald Pauley and second by Charles Plumer voted to raise or appropriate \$17,500 for the **WELFARE ACCOUNT**.

Article 22. On motion by Frederick (Rick) Fischer and second by David Landry voted to raise or appropriate \$4,500 for the **CHINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY** toward the cost of **UTILITIES** and **REPAIRS** for the Old Town Meeting House.

Article 23. On motion by Gary Nichols and second by David Landry voted raise or appropriate \$4,500 for the **SOUTH CHINA LIBRARY AND \$4,500 for THE ALBERT CHURCH BROWN MEMORIAL LIBRARY.**

Article 24. On motion by Neil Farrington and second by Peter Foote voted to raise or appropriate \$6,530 for the **KENNEBEC VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY.**

Article 25. On motion by Donald Pauley and second by Annette McLaggan voted to raise or appropriate \$13,957 for the following **SOCIAL SERVICE and NON-PROFIT AGENCIES:**

Kennebec Behavioral Health	\$3,000
American Red Cross	\$500
Children's Center	\$600
Salvation Army	\$500
Senior Spectrum	\$2,276
Sexual Assault Crisis & Support Center	\$1,486
Hospice Volunteers of Waterville Area	\$1,550
Family Violence	\$1,000
Demand Response	\$545
D.H.R.S. - Catholic Charities	\$500
Waterville Boys & Girls Club	\$1,000
Healthy Hearts	<u>\$1,000</u>
Total:	\$13,957

Article 26. On motion by Joann Austin and second by Neil Farrington voted to raise or appropriate \$20,000 (with \$3,000 from Perpetual Care Funds) for the purpose of maintaining **CEMETERIES AND FOR MEMORIAL DAY AND \$950 for VETERANS GRAVE MARKER EXPENSES;** said money for grave marker expenses to be divided equally between the China and South China Legion Posts.

- Article 27. On motion by Robert Batteese and second by Joann Austin voted to establish two (2) **TAX PAYMENT DUE DATES** to be September 30, 2010 and March 31, 2011 and to charge an **INTEREST RATE** of seven percent (7.0%) per annum after each tax payment due date, with interest to be calculated daily at the rate of 0.00019178082 for each day or fraction thereof that each payment is overdue; and to further see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to **SELL AND CONVEY BY WARRANTY DEED OR QUIT CLAIM DEED TAX ACQUIRED PROPERTIES** as determined to be in the best interests of the Town of China and to further authorize the tax collector or treasurer to **ACCEPT PREPAYMENTS OF TAXES NOT YET COMMITTED** pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. Section 506.
- Article 28. On motion by Neil Farrington and second by Joann Austin voted to appropriate **AMOUNTS RAISED IN "OVERLAY" TO BE USED TO PAY TAX ABATEMENTS AND APPLICABLE INTEREST** granted during the respective fiscal year.
- Article 29. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Robert Batteese voted to appropriate from Undesignated Fund Balance an amount not to exceed \$50,000 for the purpose of **USING THESE FUNDS AS THE REQUIRED MATCHING FUNDS IN SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATIONS** and to further authorize the Selectmen to **APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT FUNDS** from the State of Maine, Federal Government, and any other duly authorized authority.
- Article 30. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by David Landry voted to raise or appropriate \$26,200 for **LAKE RESTORATION** expenses.
- Article 31. On motion by Donald Pratt and second by Annette McLaggan voted to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$45,000 from the overlay and or undesignated fund balance to serve as a **CONTINGENCY FUND** to be spent by the Selectmen on unanticipated expenses and emergencies and to avoid overdrafts that may occur during this fiscal year.
- Article 32. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Irene Belanger voted raise or appropriate \$2,500 from Undesignated Fund Balance for the purpose of funding **CHINA COMMUNITY DAYS** events and to allow any remaining balance to lapse into the China Community Days reserve account at the end of the fiscal year; said appropriation to become available in the current fiscal budget year.
- Article 33. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Robert White voted to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$4,700 from Undesignated Fund Balance for the purpose of **PRESERVING THE HISTORICAL RECORDS IN THE TOWN OF CHINA.**
- Article 34. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Irene Belanger voted to raise or appropriate an amount not to exceed \$1010 for the purpose of **COMPENSATING THE TOWN HEALTH OFFICER** for services provided.

Article 35. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Irene Belanger voted to appropriate \$15,000 from Undesignated Fund Balance for the purpose of **SETTING UP A RESERVE ACCOUNT/DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE TO FINANCE THE UNFUNDED ACCRUED COMPENSATED BALANCES OF THE TOWN.**

At 11:02 a.m. Scott Pierz made the motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Charles Plumer and accepted by the legislative body remaining unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rebecca Haggood". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Rebecca Haggood, Town Clerk