

TOWN OF CHINA

571 Lakeview Drive
China, ME 04358



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Select Board Special Budget Meeting
Monday – 01/19/2015 – Town Office Meeting Room
6:00 P.M.

Minutes

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 6:00 pm. Board members present were Irene L. Belanger, Robert MacFarland, Amber McAllister, Neil Farrington, and Joann C. Austin. Others present were Toni Wall, Mary Grow and the Town Manager. Those present were led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag by Selectperson Neil Farrington.

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Robert MacFarland, the Board voted 5-0 to accept the minutes of the 12/31/2014 Select Board meeting as amended. The minutes of the 01/12/2015 SB meeting will be processed at a future meeting.

Unfinished Business:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **2015-2016 Municipal Budget – Annual Business Town Meeting, Saturday, March 21, 2015 - Review of Budget and Approval of Warrant Articles:** The following is an accurate representation of actions taken by the Board on the respective Articles proposed for the Annual Town Business Meeting Warrant:

The Town Manager noted that the budget presented would result in a slightly lower tax rate. The China Annual Town Business Meeting will include a request for approval of a Tax Increment Financing Program District (TIF) that would set aside tax revenues paid on CMP's improved and expanded power line in a special reserve fund to be used for economic development purposes. A public informational hearing is also planned just prior to the Annual Town Business Meeting on Saturday, March 21, 2015 at the China Middle School multi-purpose room.

It was noted that the health insurance premiums that town employees receive as a benefit are scheduled to increase by 7% and the dental benefits by 4%. The Town Manager is recommending a 2% remuneration increase for all employees uniformly.

The Town Manager also noted in his presentation of the budget that the town, with the proposed budget, will not be exceeding LD#1, the proposed increases in the municipal budget over the last five years have averaged less than the CPI/inflation rate, and that the budget presented will not affect the mil rate; on the contrary, it has the potential of reducing the mil rate. He thanked the Select Board for their time, passion for the job, and their consideration.

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On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Amber McAllister, the Board voted 5-0 to accept Articles 2 and 3 as presented with a recommendation of "yes".

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Amber McAllister, the Board voted 2-3 (Austin, Farrington, and MacFarland) not to accept Article 4 as presented with the recommended 2% remuneration increase.

On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Robert MacFarland, the Board voted 3-2 (Belanger and McAllister) to accept Article 4 as amended with a 1.7% remuneration increase and with a recommendation of "yes".

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Robert MacFarland, the Board voted 5-0 to accept Article #5 as presented with a recommendation of "yes".

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Amber McAllister, the Board voted 5-0 to accept Article #6 as presented with a recommendation of "yes".

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Amber McAllister, the Board voted 5-0 to accept Article #7 as presented with a recommendation of "yes".

On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to accept Article #8 as presented with a recommendation of "yes".

On a motion by Selectperson Amber McAllister and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to accept Articles #9 and #10 as presented with a recommendation of "yes".

On a motion by Selectperson Amber McAllister and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to accept Article #11 as presented in the Select Board Recommends column and with a recommendation of "yes".

On a motion by Selectperson Amber McAllister and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to accept Article #12 as presented with a recommendation of "yes".

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On a motion by Selectperson Robert MacFarland and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to accept Articles #13 and #14 as presented with a recommendation of "yes".

On a motion by Selectperson Amber McAllister and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to table Article #15 as presented to the next SB meeting with the request to the Town Manager for additional financial information as requested.

On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to accept Article #16 as presented with a recommendation of "yes".

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Robert MacFarland, the Board voted 5-0 to accept Articles #17 and #18 as presented with a recommendation of "yes".

On a motion by Selectperson Amber McAllister and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to accept Article #19 as presented with a recommendation of "yes".

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 5-0 to accept Articles #20 and #21 as presented with a recommendation of "yes".

(Digressing: Articles 22 and 23 were acted upon last the last meeting)

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 5-0 to accept Articles #24 and #25 as presented with a recommendation of "yes".

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Amber McAllister, the Board voted 5-0 to accept Articles #26 and #27 as presented with a recommendation of "yes".

On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Robert MacFarland, the Board voted 5-0 to accept Article #28 as presented with a recommendation of "yes".

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On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Robert MacFarland, the Board voted 5-0 to accept Article #29 as presented with a recommendation of "yes".

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 5-0 to accept Article #30 as presented with a recommendation of "yes".

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Robert MacFarland, the Board voted 5-0 to accept Articles #31, #32, and #33 as presented with a recommendation of "yes".

The only item remaining to be acted upon is the transfer station budget. Additional information will be provided by the Town Manager to the Board relating to that budget item considering an additional position is to be added and that the wage increases included in the transfer station budget are to be adjusted from 2% to 1.7%. All other budgets that have wage increases calculated at 2% are also to be adjusted down to a 1.7% increase. Board members asked the Town Manager to complete employee performance evaluations before any additional remuneration increases are to be considered. They noted that job performance is important in the consideration of remuneration increase recommendations.

- **Committee/Organization Reports – Selectperson Belanger:** There were not any committee announcements at this time.
- **TIF Agreement Conversation Continued – Bill Najpauer – Draft Document for Consideration:** This item was continued to the next regular meeting.

New Business:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Municipal Appointments – China Planning Board:** Planning Board Chairperson Toni Wall addressed the Select Board relative to the filling of positions vacated by the resignation of Kyle Pierce. To accommodate the filling of essential positions on the PB, Toni recommended that Milton Dudley be appointed to the District 3 seat, that Frank Soares be appointed to the Alternate-at-Large position, and that the Alternate-At-Large seat remain open until someone expresses interested in filling the position. It was noted that a person living anywhere in town can express interest in and be appointed to the Alternate-at-Large position. The person filling toe position is expected to attend meetings and participate in discussions, but can only vote when a regular member is absent. Residents interested in serving in the position are encouraged to contact the Town Manager.

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On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 5-0 to: accept, with regret, the resignation of Kyle Pierce and appoint the individuals as recommended to the respective seats conditioned upon the appropriate resignations and expressions of interest in the respective seats.

Manager's Communications (Non-Action Items):

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Committees – Meetings and Updates: Thurston Park II TBD 2nd Thursday of the Month, Location, Town Office Meeting Room, China Historical Society Committee TBD, China Library Feasibility Committee, Fourth Wednesday of the Month in 2014, March 26, 6:30 P.M. in the town office meeting room, Economic and Community Development Committee, First and Third Thursday of the Month, Time 6:30 P.M., Location China Town Office Meeting Room.** The respective dates, times, and places of the meetings were announced.
- **Visioning Session – Board Retreat Summary:** It was noted that the Board will devote time to a review of the summary of the visioning session goals for affirmation of the goals going into the New Year.
- **Transfer Station Stickers Now Available for 2015:** For public information, it was announced that the stickers are available and need to be displayed for residents to use the transfer station.
- **Governance Meeting RSU#18 – Thursday, January 29 – Superintendent's Office 5:30PM:** It was again announced that the governance meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 29, 2015. The meeting was said to be of high priority in the need to continue/develop good relations between the RSU#18 and member towns.
- **Personnel Policy Additions – Code of Ethics:**

In other business: On a motion by Selectperson Amber McAllister and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 5-0 to authorize the Town Manager to offer burn permits to residents "on-line". It was the intent of the Board to attempt to offer the permits for a minimal fee and then consider the permit offering without a fee if the Town Manager thought it appropriate to attract usage of the offering.

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Robert MacFarland, the Board voted 5-0 to appoint Rebecca J. Hapgood to a two year term as Registrar of Voters and Town Clerk.

The Board discussed the need for a China Select Board member to be on the County Budget Committee. Mr. Paul MacDonald's position is vacated by his desire not to seek re-election to the China Select Board. Selectperson Robert MacFarland expressed willingness to serve if nominated and elected.

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The Board discussed the possibility of presenting the Spirit of America Award to certain China residents at the Annual Town Business Meeting.

On a motion by Selectperson Amber McAllister and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amber McAllister", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Amber McAllister, Secretary
China Select Board