

TOWN OF CHINA



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Select Board Meeting

Monday – 11/03/2014 – Town Office Meeting Room

7:00 P.M.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Chair asked for a moment of silence in respect to Mr. Charles Plumer and Mr. Gene Pierce, both having passed away recently.

Minutes

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7:00 pm. Board members present were Paul MacDonald, Peter Foote, Amber McAllister, and Irene L. Belanger. Others present were Roger Poulin, Tim Theriault, Deby Foote, Jonathan Vogel, 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 4-0 to accept the minutes of the 10/20/2014 Select Board meeting as amended.

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Paul MacDonald, the Board voted 4-0 to accept Payables Warrant #24 for \$68,814.76, Payroll Warrant #25 for \$17,922.22, and Payables Warrant #26 for \$7,750.28 as presented.

Unfinished Business:

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

Recycling Report -

Update on Commodities Market (Recycling Items) and Other Items: Select Board member and Recycling Coordinator Paul MacDonald provided information about current recycling commodity market pricing and information about the inventory of recyclable currently at the transfer station. Of importance Paul additionally noted how clean and organized the transfer station appears, particularly the recycling area.

Selectperson MacDonald went on to lead a discussion about composting and the need to make certain that people understand that the town does not guarantee that the compost provided to residents is not one hundred percent organic. He noted it is impossible to know if materials with pesticides has been deposited in the compost pile at the transfer station. Selectperson Irene L. Belanger suggested that the town provide signage at the compost pile noting the disclaimer.

Transfer Station Committee – Mission/Deliverables Expected: The Board did not take any action on the formation of a committee. This item will have to be discussed when the new Board convenes.

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RSU#18, KVCOG, Economic & Community Development Updates – Selectperson

Belanger: Selectperson Irene L. Belanger informed the Board and members in attendance about the following organizations/committees:

RSU #18: Selectperson Irene L. Belanger noted that the educational budget deliberations will begin soon for the 2015-2016 budget.

K.V.C.O.G.: A compiling of a list of available commercial properties is being handled by KVCOG at this time. Selectperson Belanger suggested that the town office staff make a list of China buildings for KVCOG and for the Mid Maine Chamber. China joined the Mid Maine Chamber of Commerce this past year.

EC&D Committee: The dessert and coffee for local business people will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, at 5:30 p.m. at the Green Bean coffee shop in South China Village. Invitations are being sent out.

The local EC&D Committee is discussing the possibility of having a winter carnival weekend early in 2015, centered around a vintage snowmobile show on the China ball fields behind the China Middle School.

Handouts: Handouts were provided on numerous topics. Selectperson Irene L. Belanger obtained the handouts at the most recent MMA convention.

Transfer Station Committee – Mission/Deliverables Expected: The Board did not take any further action on this topic. It will be discussed at a later Board meeting.

New Business:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Roger Poulin – FirstPark Informational Update:** The Board heard an update on FirstPark from town representative Roger Poulin. Mr. Poulin noted that the Oakland business park's current director has started a more robust plan to recruit businesses to locate in the park. The new director is meeting with prospective businesses rather than blasting the media with advertisements only.

Roger also said that a selective timber harvest program is currently under way and will last through the winter. This initiative is intended to produce much needed revenue for the park.

Mr. Poulin continued to point out that business parks always take time to fill up; the expected break-even point has now passed. The FirstPark group now has a goal to have FirstPark at least break-even and perhaps begin returning money to its supporting towns by 2021.

- **Jonathan Vogel – Library Feasibility Committee Update Appointments Catherine McCormac, Cheryl Baker and Carole Johnson, Louisa Barnhart, Robin Sabattus, Thomas Parent and Naomi Homan to the China Library Feasibility Committee:** On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Paul MacDonald, the Board voted 4-0 to appoint Catherine McCormac, Cheryl Baker and Carole Johnson, all representing the South

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China Library, and Louisa Barnhart, Robin Sabattus, and Thomas Parent, all representing the Albert Church Brown Library, and Naomi Homan, representing the community, to the Library Feasibility Committee. Mr. Vogel reported that Gary Nichols and Susan Cottle have resigned from the Committee.

Jonathan went on to say that representatives of the South China and Albert Church Brown libraries agree on trying to enhance services in the short term, but have different long-term interests. The Albert Church Brown Library representatives wish to focus on maintaining their library as a village center; the South China Library representatives want a new building and are willing to relocate.

One proposal under consideration, Mr. Vogel noted, is to recommend a new town employee who would work as a “resource director” to promote both libraries and help expand library hours.

Additional periodic updates will be provided to the Board.

- **Thurston Park II Committee – Maine Trails Grant Program, Safety and Environmental Education – Approval and Signatures:** On a motion by Selectperson Amber McAllister and a second by Selectperson Irene Al. Belanger, the Board voted 4-0 to approve of and sign a Resolution in favor of and write a letter in support of a \$5000 trails grant application. The Board signed the letter of support drafted by the Town Manager and they also signed the respective Resolution grant application document.
- **Personnel Policy Revisions:** On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Paul MacDonald the Board voted 4-0 to accept the Personnel Policy updates as presented. The Board had read the proposed document changes prior to the meeting.
- **Municipal Appointments – TIF Committee Stephen Nichols and Kyle Pierce:** On a motion by Selectperson Amber McAllister and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 4-0 to appoint Kyle Pierce and Stephen Nichols to the TIF program committee. Other members already on the Committee are Bill Najpauer, William Van Tuinen and the Town Manager. After the November elections, it is the intention of the Board to potentially appoint Select Board members to the Committee.
- **Red Light Application – Justen Quimby, SCVFD:** On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Amber McAllister, the Board voted 4-0 to approve and sign a Red Light Application for Justin Quimby of the SCVFD.

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.,**

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Location China Town Office Meeting Room. The respective dates, times, and places of the meetings were announced.

- **TIF Agreement Conversation Continued:** This item will be discussed at the next SB meeting, to allow for newly elected Board members to be informed on the initiative.
- **General Assistance Ordinance Amendments – Public Hearing:** On a motion by Selectperson Paul MacDonald and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 4-0 to set a public hearing for 6:55 p.m. on Monday, November 17, 2013 in the town office meeting room on amendments to the town's General Assistance Ordinance.

In other business: Select Board Chairperson Peter Foote thanked Timothy Theriault, Chief of the CVVFD, and through him other volunteers, for the emergency services departments' efforts during Sunday's snow storm. Chief Theriault recommended a future discussion of better ways to handle such emergencies. He pointed out that firefighters and Rescue personnel should not be cutting trees out of the roadways.

At the end of the meeting, Selectpersons Irene L. Belanger and Amber McAllister presented retiring Board members Peter Foote and Paul MacDonald with certificates honoring their service to the town as Select Board members and for Peter Foote's service on the Planning Board and for Paul MacDonald's service on the Budget Committee and County Budget Committee.

The Town Manager was asked about the status of the prepared response to the recent Town Line letter to the editor relating to handling of finances. He noted that the response is scheduled to be in the next edition of the Town Line.

On a motion by Selectperson Paul MacDonald and a second by Selectperson Amber McAllister, the Board voted 4-0 to adjourn at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann C. Austin, Secretary
China Select Board