

# TOWN OF CHINA

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China, ME 04358



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## Visioning Session Deliberations and Conversations – Goal Setting/Strategic Planning

12/14/2015

5:30 P. M.

The Board participated in a goal setting session and proceeded through a list of short term goals and agreed to finish the initiative at a later meeting. The Board will proceed through a list of intermediate and long term goals. At such time as the process is complete, the Town Manager will produce the final agreed upon goals for review and approval.

## Select Board Meeting

Monday – 11/02/2015 – Town Office Meeting Room

7:00 P.M.

## Minutes

Welcome and agenda review... The Chair Robert MacFarland welcomed everyone and asked for a review of the agenda by the Board for any input or additions. The meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m. Board members present were Irene L. Belanger, Robert MacFarland, Neil Farrington, Ronald Breton, and Joann C. Austin. Others present were Frank Soares, Dale Worster, Jonathan Litchfield, D. Litchfield, Amanda Morris, Jeff Nevins, Attorney Steve Bourget, Mary Grow and the Town Manager. All present were led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag by the Town Manager.

On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Ronald Breton, the Board voted 5-0 to accept the minutes of the 11/30/2015 Select Board meeting as amended.

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Ronald Breton, the Board voted 5-0 to accept China Payroll Warrant #31 for \$20,718.01, and Town Payables Warrant #32 for 437,385.42 as presented.

## Unfinished Business:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Transfer Station Co-Coordinator's Conversation – Transfer Station Committee Items PPT–Implementation/Vote Decisions? Public Information and Communications:** A number of topics were discussed at this time as follows:

The possibility of having a box placed at the transfer station for the acceptance of clothing; the possibility of having "T-Shirts" to hand out for youngsters or "junior recyclers" to promote recycling at an early age; and various comments from Select Board members and Mr. Frank Soares, the Chair of the China Transfer Station Committee.

Frank commented that the Committee would need an extension of time to properly fulfill the task

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of educating/informing the public on the PPT initiative. He went on to say that the Committee thought it best to have “hard figures” on costs and benefits of the PPT proposed program and that a revised time-line needs to be developed after deliberations. He suggested a vote on the PPT program needs to be postponed to a much later date in 2016 or early 2017. Frank also commented about potentially having a trial period implementing the program before a vote. Selectperson Robert MacFarland said that he did not see a problem with implementing the program and a subsequent vote after the first of the following year. He suggested that the Town Manager work with WasteZero go perfect a better schedule for the implementation of the program. Selectperson Ron Breton suggested that the Board set the trial date at the current meeting. Selectperson Joann C. Austin was willing to make the motion to set the program into action when the Board agreed to ask representatives from WasteZero to be present at the next SB meeting on December 28, 2015 to respond to particular questions about options for implementation of the program.

It was the intent of the Board to vote on implementing the PPT Program at the December 28, 2015 SB meeting, tentatively thinking that the implementation would begin on July 1, 2016 and a subsequent vote on whether or not to continue the program in November of 2016 or March 2017.

- **Committee/Organization Reports, Board Reference – Selectperson Belanger: RSU#18, KVCOG, Economic & Community Development, Mid-Maine Chamber and KRDA Updates – Selectperson Belanger:** Selectperson Irene L. Belanger reported the following: There would be a Spirit of America Award ceremony in Manchester on Tuesday evening and Irene asked if anyone on the Board would be able to represent the town as she has a conflicting schedule and would not be able to attend. Selectperson Joann C. Austin agreed to be Irene’s substitute.

## **New Business:**

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time. At this point, and on a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Ronald Breton, the Board voted 5-0 to deliberate on whether or not to allow Mr. Jonathan Litchfield by “buy-back” property foreclosed upon by the town that he formerly owned.

The Board heard the extenuating circumstances Mr. Litchfield asserted were the causes for being in arrears on property taxes over two and one half years. Members of the Litchfield family said that they were prepared to pay all assessments on the property and all costs associated with the lien/foreclosure process to bring the property to a “current status” like the condition that would have been a reality if the foreclosure process did not take place.

There was discussion about a manufactured home on the property that was in violation of town laws. Mr. Litchfield indicated that the manufactured home would be removed in the near future. On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 3-0-2(Austin, Breton having \*\*\*recused himself from voting) to allow Mr. Jonathan Litchfield to “buy-back” the property foreclosed upon (Map 55, Lot 008-A) located at 7 Litchfield Lane, contingent upon all assessments on the property and all costs associated with the lien/foreclosure process to bring the property to a “current status” like the condition that would

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have been a reality if the foreclosure process did not take place, and further, that the manufactured home be removed before a Quit-Claim deed would be executed, with the Town Manager being authorized to execute the transaction on behalf of the town.

- **Appointment(s): TIF Committee:** On a motion by Selectperson Ronald Breton and a second by Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to appoint Paul MacDonald to the TIF Committee. **Jeff Nevins – FairPoint Communications – Broadband Capacity in China:** The Board heard a presentation on broadband capacity from Mr. Nevins of FairPoint Communications, who talked about the process of expanding band width to accommodate growing use. The message was that residents with questions or comments or complaints about internet service should either call the number on the recent news release by FairPoint Communications or call the China Town Manager who will gladly pass along the communication to Jeff at FairPoint. Jeff also noted that the demand for use of greater amounts of broad band width has increased substantially since NetFlix began using the respective networks.

#### **Manager's Communications (Non-Action Items):**

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Committees – Meetings/Updates: Thurston Park II 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month, 7:00 P.M. in the Town Office, Economic and Community Development Committee, As Announced, Time 6:30 P.M., at the Green Bean Restaurant, Transfer Station Committee, Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 9:00 A.M. in the Town Office.** The respective dates, times, and places of the meetings were announced.
- **TIF Information/Conversations:** The Board agreed to have this item on the agenda for continued conversation and clarification. It was noted that the TIF Committee is fully populated enough to have the inaugural meeting on Monday, December 21, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the town office meeting room.

**2016-2017 Municipal Budget – First Draft Available December 14, 2015 and 2016 Annual Town Business Meeting – Warrant Items for Consideration:** The Town Manager noted that the budget materials are almost complete with just a few more requests needing to be included in the final first draft. The materials will be sent to the Board before the next regularly scheduled meeting.

In other business:

On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Ronald Breton, the Board voted 5-0 to allow the former owners of the most recent (December 14, 2015) foreclosed upon properties to redeem the respective properties within 60 days of this date; contingent upon all taxes and expenses are paid for up to the current date like the condition that would have been a reality if the foreclosure process did not take place.

\*\*\* Recuse to declare yourself to be, or to render somebody, disqualified to judge something or participate in something because of possible bias or personal interest.

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On a motion by Ronald Breton and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Irene L. Belanger".

Irene L. Belanger, Secretary  
China Select Board