

TOWN OF CHINA

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Select Board Meeting

Monday – 03/11/2013 – Town Office Meeting Room

7:00 P.M.

Minutes

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7:00 pm. Board members present were Peter Foote, Joann C. Austin, Steven Hughes, and Irene L. Belanger. Others present were Charles Clark, Frank Mason, Jean Mason, Ronald Breton, Kyle Pierce, Robert Williams, H. David Cotta, Roger Katz, Janet Preston, Mary Grow and the Town Manager. Those present were led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag by Charles Clark.

The minutes of the 02/25/2013 will be presented to the Board for acceptance at the next meeting.

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Steven Hughes, the Board voted 4-0 to accept Payroll Warrant #47 for \$23,335.62 and Payables Warrant #48 for \$325,821.26 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. He noted that in general the prices for recyclables have stabilized and in particular some plastic recyclables pricing has increased. Paul also noted that the town is attempting to send single product loads to the recyclables market to maximize the return to the town. He went on to note that we may need additional areas for storage of recyclables to be able to aggregate the amounts of a single product needed to complete a full load.

- **KVCOG and RSU#18 Leadership Information – Selectperson Irene L. Belanger:**
Selectperson Irene L. Belanger announced the RSU #18 budget workshops scheduled for 6:00 p.m., March 18, March 19, and March 20 at the Oakland Middle School. She handed out a copy of the Superintendent's proposed budget for the upcoming year. Resident Ronald Breton alleged/complained that RSU#18 has run out of funds to maintain buses. School Committee Representative Charles Clark confirmed that a bus that needs a \$12,000 motor overhaul is out of service until the new fiscal year starting July 1, 2013. He noted a spare bus needed motor work.

Selectperson Belanger noted some highlights of the Mobilize Kennebec Valley initiative sponsored by KVCOG, specifically point out the biking/walking trails effort.

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- **2013-2014 Municipal Budget – Warrant Signing:** On a motion by Selectperson and a second by Selectperson, the Board voted 4-0 to accept and sign the final Warrant for the Annual Town Business Meeting scheduled for March 23, 2013 at the China Middle School.
- **China Lake Access Feasibility Committee – Report on Progress – Recommendation:** Committeeperson Janet Preston provided the Board with a preview of the China lake Access Feasibility Committee's planned presentation at the March 23, 2013 Annual Town Business Meeting. She said negotiations to purchase The Cabins at China Lake (formerly Candlewood Camps) are suspended and the committee is investigating other properties.
- **Kyle Pierce and Economic & Community Development – Appointments:** Kyle Pierce provided the Board with information about her proposal to pursue/promote economic and community development in China. On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Steven Hughes, the Board voted 4-0 to accept and sign the appointment papers as presented. The appointments were for positions on the Committee and copies will be on file at the town office.

New Business:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Senator Roger Katz – Environmental Scan – Maine Legislation:** State Senator Roger Katz addressed the Board noting that the State budget is in trouble because revenues are in decline and that legislators are reviewing many proposals to balance the State budget. Mr. Katz said that he does not favor Governor Paul LePage's plan to temporarily suspend state revenue sharing to municipalities for two years. He had introduced a bill prior to the governor's budget that would increase revenue sharing to municipalities over two years restoring the original 5.1% from the current 3.5% share of state and individual income tax and sales tax revenues. Senator Katz suggested a good balance in revenues would be derived from one third income taxes, one third sales taxes and one third property taxes. At the present time, taking state and municipal revenues, forth-three percent comes from property taxes. The Senator said he would like to see the burden lifted from the property taxes. At the same time, Mr. Katz questioned the wisdom of increasing income taxes because that might discourage entrepreneurs and young people from moving to Maine.

Senator Katz said he leans toward increasing or broadening the sales tax and meals and lodging taxes, and the tax on the transfer of expensive seasonal property as these taxes potentially transfer the burden on out-of-staters harder than Mainers. Representative H. David Cotta disagreed saying that Mainers would pay the higher sales taxes every day all year.

Much of the discussion that followed the presentations by Representative Cotta and Senator Katz focused on specific examples of state government inefficiencies and contradictions. Select Board Chair Foote told Katz and Cotta that it was frustrating for local officials trying to prepare budgets not to know how much to expect in state funding.

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Manager's Communications (Non-Action Items):

- **Public Comment:** At this time the Board heard from Frank Mason and Jean Mason who asked the Board to consider a local fireworks ordinance. They reflected on their personal experience on the Kidder Road and how fireworks have upset their personal lives. Select Board chair Peter Foote directed the Town Manager to consult with the Maine Municipal Association about the authority of the Select Board to enact or enforce fireworks restrictions without the benefit of an ordinance adopted by a town meeting. The Town Manager will report back to the SB after consultation with the legal staff at the MMA.
- **Committees:** he Thurston Park II TBD, China Historical Society Committee TBD, China Library Feasibility Committee, the Fourth Wednesday of Each Month at 6:30 P.M. in the Town Office Meeting Room; and China Lake Access Feasibility Committee, Friday, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. in the Town Office Meeting Room: The respective dates, times, and places of the meetings were announced.
- **Fire Road #60 Enforcement Update:** The Town Manager reported that the condemned buildings off Fire Road #60 have been demolished and removed from the site. The former residents have moved to Mount Vernon. Mr. Robert Williams addressed the Board asking them if they had decided whether or not they might compromise on the amounts the town is attempting to recapture relating to the eviction of residents off Fire Road #60. Mr. Williams is attempting to purchase the property. The town has accumulated costs approximating \$11,500 for legal expenses and demolition cleanup of the property. Mr. William has a tentative contract with the owners.

Board members expressed their sentiments and did not make any final decision in the matter as there was not any definitive accounting of final costs in the project.

- **Transfer Station Committee – Recommendations Letter, Susan Cottle to Present at the next SB Meeting:** Susan Cottle will present the findings and recommendations of the Transfer Station Committee on March 25, 2013 at the SB meeting.
- **Foreclosed Upon/Tax Acquired Property – Status:** The Town Manager reported that only two properties remain under foreclosure at time. All other former property owners have opted to redeem the respective properties as offered by the SB at a previous meeting.

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Joann C. Austin, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 9:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joann C. Austin". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Joann C. Austin, Secretary
China Select Board