

TOWN OF CHINA

571 Lakeview Drive
China, ME 04358



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Select Board Meeting

Monday – 03/23/2015 – Town Office Meeting Room

7:00 P.M.

Minutes

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7:00 pm. Board members present were Irene L. Belanger, Robert MacFarland, Amber McAllister, Neil Farrington, and Joann C. Austin. Others present were Elwood Ellis, Bob Bennett, Sarah Dow, Mary Lockhart, Brad Jackson, Shawn Esler, 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 Neil Farrington, the Board voted 5-0 to accept the minutes of the 03/09/2015 Select Board meeting as amended.

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Neil Farrington, the Board voted 5-0 to accept China Payroll Warrant #47 for \$22,194.32 and Town Payables Warrant #48 for \$57,558.64 as presented.

At this point Selectperson Irene L. Belanger presented the Spirit of America Award to Mary Lockhart. Mary was not at the Annual Town Business Meeting at which the Spirit of America Award recipients were recognized and presented with the awards.

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 Co-Coordinators Irene L. Belanger and Neil Farrington provided information about current recycling commodity market pricing and information about the inventory of recyclable currently at the transfer station. Neil continued on, noting that the transfer station was again in very clean condition and organized. He informed the Board that the price for recycled commodities on the open market has been falling.

Selectperson Irene L. Belanger suggested that the town needed to promote recycling by advertising in newspapers and that the Unity College students would be providing some information to include in the Town Line and on the town's Web site and Facebook page.

- **Visioning Session – Board Retreat Summary for Next Meeting:** There was not any discussion of the visioning session goals at this time. It will be a topic at a meeting later in the spring.
- **Transfer Station Committee – Mission/Deliverables Expected if Created/Appointed:** The Board has not made a decision whether or not to appoint a committee at this time. At such time as the Board

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decides to do so, this item will appear on the agenda though in the interim it will be taken off the agenda.

- **Committee/Organization Reports – RSU#18, KVCOG, Economic & Community Development and KRDA Updates – Selectperson Belanger:** Selectperson Irene L. Belanger reported the following;

RSU#18: Selectperson Irene L. Belanger introduced Elwood Ellis and Robert Bennett, China's representatives on the RSU#18 School Board. Elwood Ellis said the state funding to RSU#18 has been reduced and that the current draft budget has a 3.3 percent overall increase. He noted that it looks as though China taxpayers will be asked for a significant increase over the current year, around \$600,000 in additional funding. Selectperson Amber McAllister commented that the town had a significant increase in the current education budget and that additional such annual demands are not sustainable over the long term.

Mr. Ellis noted that "school choice" is a major factor in China's school contribution. He went on to note that Erskine Academy, attended by more than 200 China students, charges over \$2000 more per student in tuition than does Messalonskee High School.

It was noted that the RSU#18 Board will make its final decisions on the budget at its April 1, 2015 meeting. Hearings will then be held in member towns to respond to residents' questions and concerns. The China hearing is scheduled for Thursday, April 16, 2015 at the China Middle School.

EC&D Committee: Selectperson Belanger reported that the group will continue to meet and plan for the upcoming Community Days events.

Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce: Selectperson Irene L. Belanger commented about the next Business to Business gathering scheduled to be held at Colby College.

K.V.C.O.G.: Selectperson Irene L. Belanger reported that the KVCOG has scheduled a workshop on the options for disposal of paint and noted the date and time for the workshop.

KRDA: Selectperson Irene L. Belanger reported that the General Assembly meeting scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on Thursday will include a vote on the new proposed budget for the authority. The budget will be significantly increased though the member towns will not be asked to increase their respective contributions.

New Business:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Quit-Claim Deed(s) Processing:** There were not any for processing.
- **Brad Jackson – Kennebec Regional Development Authority – FirstPark Update:** Mr. Brad Jackson, Executive Director of the Kennebec Regional Development Authority (FirstPark) told the Board of his new goals for the authority. He noted that he would be recommending an increase in the budget and what he proposed to do with the additional funds. The additional funds would not increase the amounts contributed by the member towns. Brad is the only employee of the authority.

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- **County Budget Committee – Robert MacFarland:** Selectperson Robert MacFarland noted that the budget discussions would begin in about three week and that preliminary budget numbers have been provided which indicate a relatively flat budget for China. There will be more definite numbers forthcoming in April.
- **Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation Grant Award:** It was announced that the town had received a grant of \$20,000 by the foundation to purchase and equip a police cruiser. China's police officer Shawn Esler informed the Board of the potential costs of purchasing and equipping a new vehicle. On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 5-0 to accept the grant award with appreciation. On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Robert MacFarland, the Board voted 4-0-1(Belanger) to go out to bid for the purchase. Officer Esler suggested that the Board discuss vehicle specifications and they agreed to do that at the next SB meeting.

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 Tuesday of the Month, 7:00 P.M., Town Office Meeting Room, China Historical Society Committee TBD, China Library Feasibility Committee, Fourth Tuesday of the Month in 2015, at 7:00 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., Announced.** The respective dates, times, and places of the meetings were announced.
- **Transfer Station Stickers Now Available for 2015:** It was again noted that stickers are available and that residents should display a sticker when entering the transfer station.
- **Quorum Ordinance:** The Town Manager said that he would have proposed modifications to the Ordinance for discussion at the next meeting.
- **2015-2016 Municipal Budget – Summary:** The Board did not discuss this very much, noting that all Articles were approved with very little amendments.
- **Earth Day, April 2015 – Volunteers Needed:** The Town Manager noted that Earth Day clean-up would be held on Saturday, April 25, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Participants are asked to meet at the head of China Lake between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. Volunteers are needed. Additional information can be obtained by contacting Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and Betsy Pratt.
- **Town Line – Trash Talk Weekly Article:** Selectpersons Irene L. Belanger and Neil Farrington commented about the need for articles to be placed in the Town Line weekly explaining what is taking place at the transfer station and explaining the town's recycling effort. Unity College students will be contributing articles through Selectperson Belanger.
- **Emergency Services China Rescue – Portable Classroom – Selectperson Robert MacFarland:** The Board discussed the possibility of allowing the use of the portable classroom building by China Rescue. Because the portable does not have bathroom facilities, the Board asked the Town Manager to offer the use of the basement of the historical building as an alternative space. The historical building does have heat and bathroom facilities and good room for meetings.

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In other business;

On a motion by Selectperson Amber McAllister and a second by Selectperson Robert MacFarland, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Amber McAllister, Secretary
China Select Board