

# TOWN OF CHINA

571 Lakeview Drive  
China, ME 04358



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## Select Board Meeting

Monday – 03/09/2015 – 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 Megan Dunn, Dale Worcester, Mary Grow and the Town Manager. Those present were led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag by Selectperson Robert MacFarland.

The Board noted the dedication of the Town Report and congratulated Selectperson Irene L. Belanger for the prestigious award.

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 01/19/2015 and 02/23/2015 Select Board meetings as presented.

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Neil Farrington, the Board voted 5-0 to accept China Payroll Warrant #45 for \$23,028.39 and Town Payables Warrant #46 for \$396,844.63 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 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 of the amount of revenue received recently for selling cardboard on the commodities market.

Selectperson Irene L. Belanger again suggested that the town needed to continue to promote recycling by advertising in newspapers, on the town's Web site and with more signs. She specifically suggests that the town should have an article in the Town Line newspaper weekly relating to current events in China and more specifically about recycling benefits.

Selectperson Irene L. Belanger also noted that she, Selectperson Neil and the Town Manager received cards of thanks from the teaching staff at Unity College for their collective attendance and presentations at Unity College classes recently.

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- **Transfer Station Committee – Mission/Deliverables Expected if Created/Appointed:** There was not any action taken on this item as Chairperson Joann C. Austin suggests that the new Committee, when appointed, and Select Board review the findings and recommendations of the past committee at the start of the convening of the new committee.
- **Committee/Organization Reports – Selectperson Belanger:** Selectperson Irene L. Belanger reported the following committees and organizations:

**RSU#18:** Selectperson Irene L. Belanger noted the RSU#18 budget information sessions will be held in sequential meetings on March 16, 17 and 18, 2015 at the Messalonskee Middle School in Oakland.

**EC&D Committee:** Selectperson Belanger reported that the Committee will be meeting at The Green Bean Coffee Shop on Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

**Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce:** Selectperson Irene L. Belanger commented about the business after hours meeting that will be held on March 18 at the Thayer Center for Health in Waterville. She also said there would be a breakfast meeting for members at Thomas College on March 12, 2015.

**K.V.C.O.G.:** Selectperson Irene L. Belanger reported that the KVCOG is offering seminars to municipal officers if anyone is interested. She went on to note that Ross Nason of the KVCOG has information about tire disposal for municipalities.

**Shredding on Site:** Selectperson Irene L. Belanger organized a multi-municipal initiative offering residents of China and surrounding communities the service of shredding documents and other papers. The service will take place on Saturday, May 2, 2015 at the China transfer station from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. it was noted that the Town of Vassalboro has agreed to participate and share in the cost of the service.

**Alewives Restoration Committee:** It was also noted that there will be a public informational meeting on the Alewife Restoration Initiative scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on March 14, 2015 at the South China Community Church. It is believed that restoring alewives into China Lake will improve water quality.

**Spirit of America Award Ceremony:** Selectperson Irene L. Belanger reported about the ceremony that was recently held in Manchester, Maine. Elwin Higgins was recognized for being awarded in China.

- **Visioning Session – Board Retreat Summary:** The Select Board will review the visioning session goals at a future meeting after the Annual Town Business Meeting.

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## New Business:

- **Public Comment:** At this time resident Dale Worster appealed to the Board about the need for more community building events to be supported by the Board. Dale suggested an event each season to gather residents for community interaction.

This item and the asserted lack of volunteers created a lot of discussion. Board Chairperson Joann C. Austin said that the lack of a town center as part of the problem. She went on to note that China activities have traditionally focused in the four village sections of China. The activities have been led by churches, American Legion Posts, and libraries. Many of the members of these and other organizations are aging. The Chair said a community center and library that have been suggested by the Enhanced Library and Community Services Committee would be a good step in the right direction.

Selectperson Robert MacFarland suggested TIF funds be used to hire a director of volunteers if the TIF Program is passed at the Annual Town Business Meeting.

Selectperson Amber McAllister noted that events involving children always energize people, motivate parents. She went on to suggest that a community-wide yard sale would get residents attention.

Selectperson Joann C. Austin commented that conversations throughout time is needed on this topic. She sensed a need from lots of directions that should be addressed.

- **Quit-Claim Deed(s) Processing:** There were not any Quit-Claim to process at this time.
- **Personnel Policy Additions – Proposed Revisions to the Code of Ethics Document:** On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 5-0 to accept and sign the amended and recommended Personnel Policy as presented.
- **MDOT – Agreement Processing – Overweight Limit Consideration:** On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to accept and sign the agreement for processing overweight limit requests with the MDOT. A copy of the agreement will be in file at the town office.

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 for public information that the 2015 transfer station stickers are available at the town office without charge.

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- **Quorum Ordinance:** The Town Manager noted that the town's attorney is reviewing the current ordinance for recommended revisions. The town office staff has provided input in the process of review.
- **2015-2016 Municipal Budget – Annual Business Town Meeting, Saturday, March 21, 2015 – Town Office Will Be Closed:** Because of the need for staffing at the Annual Town Business Meeting it will be necessary to close the office on Saturday, March 21, 2015.
- **KSO Communication on Dispatching Services:** The Town Manager noted that there will be a meeting held on Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the building in Augusta regarding the possibilities of a recommended change in dispatching services for the KSO. This is the first meeting on the topic and there should be more in the future that could change the dynamic of dispatching in Kennebec County.
- **County Budget Committee – Robert MacFarland – New Member:** The Board congratulated Select Board member Robert MacFarland for his appointment to the Kennebec County Budget Committee. The Board also expressed their appreciation for the time Bob will take in this new voluntary position.

In other business;

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 5-0 to accept the resignation of Tom Stephenson as Chief of the WMVFD and to appoint George W. Shaw III as the new Chief.

On a motion by Amber McAllister and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amber McAllister", written over a horizontal line.

Amber McAllister, Secretary  
China Select Board