

# TOWN OF CHINA

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China, ME 04358



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## **Select Board Meeting**

**Monday – 08/25/2014 – Town Office Meeting Room**

**7:00 P.M.**

## **Minutes**

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7:00 pm. Board members present were Paul MacDonald, Peter Foote, Joann C. Austin, Amber McAllister, and Irene L. Belanger. Others present were Ronald Breton, Bill Van Tuinen, Mary Grow, and the Town Manager. Those present were led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag by Selectperson Paul MacDonald.

On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 4-0-1 (MacDonald Absent Last Meeting) to accept the minutes of the 08/11/2014 Select Board meeting as presented

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Paul MacDonald, the Board voted 5-0 to accept Payroll Warrant #11, CRLA Payroll for \$3,463.15, Warrant #12, China Payroll for \$20,255.53, and Warrant #13, China Payables for \$344,231.09 as presented. The Town Manager noted that the computer (data terminal) for the China Police Officer was included in the payables warrant #25 and expensed under contingency funding. The majority of the amount in the town payables was for paving. There was additional conversation about the CRLA proposed expenditures and the Select Board wanted Mr. Hart to attend the next meeting to inform the Board about what funds the CRLA might need in 2014-2015.

## **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 -**

#### **Shredding on Site and MMA Municipal Solid Waste Policy Survey Results:**

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 specifically that a full load of cardboard will soon be sold on the commodity market and that several gayloads of various recyclables will also be sold on the market. There are also a lot of plastic milk jugs ready to be sold and the July pricing for that category of plastic is \$1000 per ton. Paul made a special note that category 3-7 and rigid plastics now have value on the commodities market. He went on to mention the recent revenues received from recycled products sold.

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Selectperson MacDonald also led the Board in a conversation about instituting a pay-per-bag municipal solid waste system, which he firmly believes will lower taxes and be an incentive for residents to recycle. Mr. MacDonald referenced the MMA Municipal Solid Waste Survey results to support his comments. He also mentioned comparative transfer station budgets in two towns, one with single-sort recycling and the other being China. Paul went on to hand out information that showed that China could save .4 mils on the taxes if the PPT were implemented. He also commented that the cost of MSW disposal will increase significantly in 2018 if we do not act now.

- **RSU#18, KVCOG, Economic & Community Development Updates – Selectperson Belanger:** Selectperson Irene L. Belanger noted the following:

RSU#18: She would be attending the Wednesday meetings going forward and did attend the last meeting on the previous Wednesday. Irene noted that there was a discussion about public participation in meetings.

KVCOG: The KVCOG Board continues to work on policies that will be voted upon at some point in the future. She is serving as vice-president of the KVCOG Board.

EC&D: There was discussion at this point about Thurston Park and the recent damage done by visitors. The Board wanted Bill Seekins to meet with them at some point to discuss enforcement policies relating to adopted rules for the park. Selectperson Joann C. Austin remarked that we might need some clarity in policy for enforcement authority. Irene noted that the TP Committee will be meeting in the town office meeting room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in September.

## **New Business:**

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **TIF Agreements – Bill VanTuinen:** Assessors' Agent William Van Tuinen had a conversation with the Select Board and audience about the possibility of establishing a Tax Increment Financing District (TIF District) relating to Central Maine Power Company's improved and expanded transmission lines running through China. It is part of the CMP Maine Power Reliability Options Program initiative discussed at an earlier SB meeting. Mr. Van Tuinen said that TIF's have a lot to do with inter-governmental funding, touching on State revenue-sharing, county tax, and educational subsidies. A TIF would allow China to shield increased town valuation from the State's fully equalized municipal valuations. The revenues or taxes paid on the new valuation, in this case the improvements to the power lines in China, would be set aside in a special fund to be used for economic development projects. Money in this potential TIF fund would not be returned to CMP.

The shielding of the valuation from the State's fully equalized municipal valuations does not make China to appear richer. If the increased valuations are not shielded, China would appear richer and would therefore pay more county taxes and receive less state funds for schools and

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from the State Revenue Sharing program. The increased valuation from the upgrade of the power lines in China could be at least \$10 million dollars and as high as \$15 million dollars. Bill referenced several examples of municipalities creating TIFs for various valuation increases, including the town of Madison and the TIF they created for Backyard Farms.

Mr. Van Tuinen commented that he was surprised at the number of towns in central Maine along the natural gas pipeline whose officials and voters chose to establish TIFs for the pipeline increased valuations.

Selectperson Joann Austin wanted to know how many other towns have created TIFs and what types of projects were planned for financing with TIF funds. SB Chair Peter Foote said the Board would consider the options. He went on to reference the Causeway Road as a place to invest in development. A TIF needs approval from the Select Board and town meeting voters and from the State Department of Economic and Community Development. There would also need to be public hearings in the process. The Board thanked Mr. Van Tuinen for his presentation.

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Amber McAllister, the Board voted 5-0 to

- **2014-2015 Municipal Tax Commitment – 2013-2014 Amended Commitment:**

On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin to set the mil rate for 2014-2015 at 15.1 mils, and a second by Amber McAllister, the Board voted 5-0. Assessors' Agent William Van Tuinen informed the Select Board about the information on the line items in the 2014 Municipal Tax Rate Calculation Form.

Most of the increase in the 2014-2015 expenditures is due to the school budget voters approved earlier in the year. The increase in the education budget was over \$500,000. The Town Manager noted that the tax bills would be sent out on of just after Friday, August 29, 2014.

On a motion by Selectperson Amber McAllister and a second by Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to accept and sign an amended 2013-2014 Municipal Tax Rate Calculation Form. It was found that there was a clerical error on the initial form.

On a motion by Selectperson Amber McAllister and a second by Joann C. Austin, the Board voted 5-0 to include a letter in the tax bill mailings explaining the reasons for the increase and how the municipal, education, county and FirstPark budgets contributed to the increase.

**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> 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**

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

- **November Election – Time Line:** The significant time line events leading up to the referendum election were noted. The election will be held at the China Middle School multi- purpose room. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 7, 2014. Absentee ballots are available. Nomination papers for the respective open positions on the Select Board, Planning Board and Budget Committee.
- **MDOT Culvert Replacement – Route #137 – Mud Pond Area:** It was noted that the integrity of the culvert has been failing quite rapidly and that the State DOT has moved ahead the schedule for replacement. It was initially expected that the culvert would be replaced in late September. It has been announced that the culvert will now be replaced on September 3 and September 4, 2014. Road closing signs have been placed and detour signs will soon be appearing on the respective roads. An advertisement was put into the Town Line newspaper.

## **In other business:**

Lake Level Draw Down: It was noted that the draw-down of China Lake would begin in October.

Striping of Roads: It was noted that the striping of roads for the 2014-2015 year will begin in mid-September.

KSO – Speed and Special Details: The Board had been sent information about the details by e-mail. A copy of the summary is available for review.

Hazardous and Drug Drop-Off Days: The date, time and location of the respective event were mentioned and the town will need to advertise this initiative leading up to the day of the event.

On a motion by Selectperson Paul MacDonald and a second by Selectperson Amber McAllister, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann C. Austin, Secretary  
China Select Board