

# TOWN OF CHINA

571 Lakeview Drive  
China, ME 04358



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## Select Board Meeting

Monday – 03/29/2010 – 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, Neil Farrington, and Irene L. Belanger. Others present were Crystal Leland, Keith Wilson, Ervin Morrison, Patrick Dow, Michaela Petrone, Mike Petrone, Kristy Quimby, Al Althenn, Mitchellynn Quimby, Mary Grow, and the Town Manager. Those present were led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag by Michaela and Mike Petrone.

On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 5-0 to accept the minutes of the 03/29/2010 Select Board meeting as amended

On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Paul MacDonald, the Board voted 5-0 to accept Warrant #37 for \$16,185.11 and Warrant #38 for \$399,279.64 as presented.

## Manager's Report:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Implementation Committee – Wednesday, April 21, 2010/Library Services – Tuesday, April 30, 2010/Thurston Park Committee – April 21, 2010, Open Space Committee – Wednesday, May 6, 2010 and Wednesday, June 2, 2010/Facilities & Capital Improvement Committee/Other Committees Meetings:** It was noted that the Implementation Committee will meet on Wednesday, April 21, 2010, the Library Services Committee will meet on Tuesday, April 30, 2010, the Thurston Park Committee will meet on Wednesday, April 21, 2010, the Open Space Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 6, 2010 and Wednesday, June 2, 2010 and the Facilities & Capital Improvement Committee has not set a meeting date for their next meeting and will do so in the near future.
- **One Room School House Update – Phase II:** The Town Manager noted that work continues on this restoration project with most of the work on the building expected to be done by the end of May 2010. Town officials met with a CDBG officer and a local engineer from A.E. Hodsdon Engineering to assess the progress to date on the project.
- **Sidewalks – South China Village Area:** The Town Manager noted that the initial surveying of the area has been done by A. E. Hodsdon Engineering and that the town might hold a Public Hearing in the near future to inform residents in the target area.

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- **Weeks Mills Road Reconstruction:** The Town Manager noted that officials of the town and of the MDOT have met a couple of times and have toured the 2.2 miles of the Weeks Mills Road to point out the more heavily damaged areas and for reference in determining the best treatment for the road. A report will be given periodically.
- **Recycling Bins/Recycling Containers:** Recycling bins, compost bins, kitchen scrap pails, and rain barrels remain on sale at the transfer station and town office. Orders may be taken by phone or in person at the respective places.
- **CRLA – Mr. David Landry – Future Date of Presentation:** Mr. Landry will make a presentation to the Select Board and public at the March 10, 2010 Select Board meeting.
- **Branch Mills Bridge – Donations Received and Progress Report:** The new bridge over the Sheepscot River in the Branch Mills area of China has been installed. Two people have contributed financially and the town office has received extremely favorable comments from area residents about the new bridge.
- **Bids – Summer Work – Due Date:** It was noted that bids for summer road work are due at the town office by 1:00 p.m. on Friday, April 23, 2010.
- **Football & Cheering – Newspaper/Town Web Site Notice:** It was noted that an advertisement has been placed in the Town Line and notices sent out to several residents informing people that the town may entertain proposals for the use of town owned fields and equipment in support of a football and cheering program. Responses are to be delivered to the town office by 1:00 p.m. on Friday, April 23, 2010. It was also noted that the town reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.
- **Fee Free Open Transfer Station Day – Saturday, June 5, 2010:** The SB agreed to have the annual fee-free day at the transfer station on Saturday, June 5, 2010. The same limitations as last year will be applicable this year.
- **MDOT Paving on Route #3:** It was noted that the MDOT intends to overlay a section of Route #3 starting at the intersection of Route #3 and the Dirigo Road heading northerly for approximately 2.31 miles to Route #32.
- **Docks Installed:** It was noted that the docks will be installed tomorrow morning, Tuesday, April 20, 2010. The docks were installed on May 15 in 2009.

## **Unfinished Business:**

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Recycling Coordinator:** Recycling Coordinator Neil Farrington noted that China has received recycling products from Vassalboro and will combine the product with China's and send the baled material to the recycling market for improved revenue collections. Officials and other employees will be attending a solid waste conference in Rockport on April 26 and 27, 2010. Mr. Farrington noted that Earth Day will be held on Saturday, April 24, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

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- **RSU #18 Budget Update – Visioning Session Deliberations – Irene L. Belanger:** Board Chairperson Irene L. Belanger outlined the schedule for action on the 2010-2011 RSU#18 budget, saying the regional board intended to finalize on April 14, 2010. She noted that informational meetings will be held in each town in the region in late April and early May, with China's scheduled for Tuesday, April 27, 2010 at the China Middle School. On Thursday, May 13, 2010, voters from Belgrade, China, Oakland, Rome, and Sidney will meet together in Oakland to discuss and vote on the proposed budget. Local written-ballot votes on approving or rejecting the final figure arrived at the May 13, 2010 meeting will be held in each town on Thursday, May 20, 2010.

Irene also summarized the recent RSU#18 Visioning Session noting how successful it was and how it was focused on the long term health of the education system. The group supported innovative suggestions from participants regarding the future funding challenges facing education initiatives.

- **Senior Volunteer Program – Selectperson Neil Farrington:** Selectperson Neil Farrington explained that a town vote to authorize such a program is only a first step in a longer process. If voters approve, the Select Board can work out the details, like determining the age of eligibility and other requirements. The ballot question includes a \$5,000.00 cap for the first year of the program. The funding of the program could come from the SB contingency Fund that voters approved in March of 2010; from the Overlay line-item; or, if the start date is postponed, from an appropriation at the 2011 Annual Town Business Meeting. Based on information from other towns, it is expected that few people will apply and or qualify.

## **New Business:**

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Visioning Session Deliberations:** This item will be discussed over the next few meetings, if and when appropriate.
- **Red Light Applications – China Rescue and South China Volunteer Fire Department:** On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 5-0 to approve of and sign Red Light Applications for members of the Weeks Mills Volunteer Fire Department and the South China Volunteer Fire Department, copies of which will be on file at the town office and attached to these minutes.

- **June 8, 2010 Ballot – Referendum Articles/Questions - Public Hearing Dates/Times:** On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 5-0 to set the public hearings for the respective June 8, 2010 Ballot Questions, the Volunteer program and four land use questions submitted by the China Planning Board, for May 10, 2010 starting at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Office meeting room.
- **Appointment – Servicing Civil Process:** it was decided by consensus that this should be moved to the next regular SB meeting.
- **China Lake – Sucker Fish Trapping:** On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 5-0 to ask the Town manager to write to state officials expressing concern and asking for information. Resident Albert W. Althenn asked the Select Board to intervene with the State Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to stop the trapping of suckers in China Lake’s tributaries. He said the suckers are algae eaters and therefore benefit the lake; the State continues to issue permits allowing lobstermen from the coast to trap suckers for bait. He noted that, judging by the empty traps this spring and last spring, the lake has too few suckers left.
- **CMP Land Sale – Maine Power Reliability Program:** On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 5-0 to authorize the Town Manager to sign on behalf of the Town of China and to proceed with the sale of land to Central Maine Power Company, which needs a small amount of town land for its power line expansion project. The Town Manager noted that the “closing” on the property will be held in China on Thursday, April 22, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. in the town office.

In other business there was discussion about the disposition of the old Rescue Vehicle. On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 5-0 to authorize the Town Manager to sell the old China Rescue vehicle following procedures voters approved; and thus to consider selling it to the South China Village Volunteer Fire Department. It was noted that the Chief of the SCVFD, Dick Morse, expressed interest in using the truck for use of equipment and rest beaks during firefighting. The Town Manager noted that initially the WMVFD also expressed interest in the vehicle; however, after the respective fire chiefs discussed the topic, it was found that there was not space at the WMVFD to store the vehicle.

On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Paul MacDonald, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 8:48 p.m.

  
Respectfully submitted,  
Joann C. Austin, Secretary  
China Select Board