

TOWN OF CHINA

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Select Board Meeting

Monday – 03/14/2011 – Town Office Meeting Room

7:00 P.M. 28

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7:00 p.m. Board members present were Paul MacDonald, Irene L. Belanger, Joann C. Austin, Neil Farrington, and Peter Foote. Others present were Evan Smith, Scott Pierz, Elwood Ellis, Mary Grow, and the Town Manager. Those present were led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag by Paul MacDonald.

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 03/14/2011 Select Board meeting as presented

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Joann C. Austin, the Board voted 5-0 to accept Warrant #42 for \$17,661.47, Warrant #43 for \$82,052.87 and Warrant #44 for \$299,616.41 as presented.

Unfinished Business:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Recycling Coordinator:**
Recycling Revenue Report – Neil Farrington: Selectperson Neil Farrington noted market pricing for recyclables and the recyclables China currently has ready to be shipped to the recycling market. It was also noted that Vassalboro has a mandatory recycling ordinance for cardboard.
- **Foreclosures:** The Town Manager noted that there remain a few outstanding foreclosure cases. Notices have been sent to the respective parties and there has not been any response from any of them. The cases involve substantial equity that could be compromised. The Select Board directed to give the people involved a final notice to be present at the next Select Board meeting to discuss their respective circumstances.

New Business:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Appointments:** On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Paul MacDonald, the Board voted 5-0 to: appoint Dolly Batteese, Judy Stone, Anita Smith, Sheri Wilkens, Paul MacDonald, Irene L. Belanger, Bruce Fitzgerald, Leslie French, Phillip deMaynadier, and Joann Austin to the Thurston Park II Committee; to appoint Kyle McLaggan, Kevin McLaggan, and Sheri Wilkens to the Open Space Committee; and to appoint Erasmo Gonzalez as the town's Police Officer and an Animal control Officer. Erasmo was introduced to residents at the recent Annual Town Business Meeting and he is invited to the next Select Board meeting.

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Select Board Chairperson Peter Foote noted that a meeting of interested Comprehensive Plan Committee people and town officials and officers, he will promote a reinvigoration effort of the Comprehensive Plan goals noted in the official Plan. He went on to say that a renewed focus on Plan objectives is imperative.

Selectperson Joann C. Austin expressed an urgent need to convene the implementation Committee. She felt that a moratorium should be enacted until an ordinance could be developed and voted on that deals with basic design standards for commercial development in the village areas. The Town Manager will provide the Select Board with the respective Maine Statute referencing moratoria for their next meeting.

- **Red Light Application – Weeks Mills Volunteer Fire Department:** More information will be needed before the Select board is able to act on the application. Information will be provided to the Board at their next meeting with respect to age and liability/insurance issues.
- **Quit Claim Deed Execution:** On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Paul MacDonald, the Board voted 5-0 to accept and sign Quit Claim Deeds for W W Properties, Inc. and Alexander Epick.
- **Elwood Ellis – Emergency Services Road Serving the Schools:** Elwood Ellis, one of China's two representatives on the Regional School Unit 18 Board, noted to selectmen Monday that South China Fire Chief Richard Morse has long been concerned about emergency access to the China Primary and Middle Schools, and that voters last spring approved, as part of the RSU #18 budget, \$100,000 for a new road. Elwood asked the Select Board to consider land ownership issues because the proposed 600-foot road along the northern edge of the school property crosses both town and school property. For years the only access has been on School Street, a road south of the China Middle School.

Mr. Ellis went on to say that he perceived there to be two options: RSU #18 could build the road, asking for easements across town land; or the town could build it, with easements across school land and reimbursement through the school budget process. Elwood recommended the Select Board consider the second option, because he alleged there would be substantive complications with state regulations if the school took on the project.

The Select board had several questions about the project but did not take any action. Mr. Ellis is to communicate with the Select Board about cost estimates for the project. The Town Manager will talk with Mr. Ellis about Select Board concerns and schedule an additional meeting between Mr. Ellis and the Board.

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- **Select Board Meeting Schedule – Selectperson Neil Farrington:** Selectperson Neil Farrington proposed scheduling the Select Board meetings on every first and third Mondays of the months rather than every two weeks on Mondays. He said that the school budget is not currently part of the town's budget and therefore it would not be necessary to meet every two weeks on Mondays. He said that would reduce by two the number of SB meetings a year. The board deliberated on the proposal and ultimately did not take any action.

Manager's Communications:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Visioning Meeting Follow-Up – Summary Sheet:** It was noted that various visioning session items will ultimately be on the agendas throughout the spring and summer. Subsequent to reconvening the Comp Plan Committees, there should be items on the agendas relating to the respective committees' progress.
- **Annual Town Business Meeting – Summary:** It was noted that the official results of the are on file at the town office and will be posted on the town's Web site. meeting
- **Committees: Call for New Member Participation, Meeting Notices:**
 - **Re-Convening of Committee:** After the Comp Plan centered meeting scheduled for April 7, 2011, there will be meeting times posted for the respective committees. The Board has made extensive efforts to reinvigorate participation in the Comp Plan implementation process.
- **CMP – Pole Replacements in China:** The Town Manager noted that CMP will be doing extensive work in China over the next several months, a good deal of which will focus on pole placement and replacement. He went on to add that the Maine Power Reliability Program should commence this year.

On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Paul MacDonald, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann C. Austin, Secretary
China Select Board