

TOWN OF CHINA

571 Lakeview Drive
China, ME 04358



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Select Board Meeting

Monday – 11/22/2010 – 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 Glenn Wall, Stephen Daniels, Charles Plumer, Mary Grow, and the Town Manager. Those present were led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag by Glen Wall.

On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to accept the minutes of the Minutes of the 09/27/2010 Select Board meeting. On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Paul MacDonald, the Board voted 5-0 to accept the minutes of the 11/08/2010 Select Board meeting as amended.

On a motion by Selectperson Paul MacDonald and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to accept Warrant #22 for \$17,889.73 and Warrant #24 for \$357,993.69 as presented.

Manager's Report:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Implementation Committee – TBA/Library Services /Thurston Park Committee/Open Space Committee /Facilities & Capital Improvement Committee/Other Committees Meetings TBD:** The Town Manager noted the meeting times and dates and places of the respective committees. The Library Services Committee will be updating the SB in the near future.
- **Sidewalks – South China Village Area Bidding of Site Work:** it was noted that plans have been developed by Mark McCluskey of A.E. Hodsdon Consulting Engineers and are currently with the MDOT for review. After the MDO review the plans will be reviewed by the Select Board. Quotes for the work to be done will probably be requested in the winter.
- **Weeks Mills Road Reconstruction – MDOT – Spoke with Shawn Smith, Bureau of Projects Development, Highway Program, Project Manager II, Maine D.O.T. – Right of Way Delineation Completed, Need to Incorporate on ROW Map and Coordinate Needs With Budget and Meet with the T. Manager to Discuss Budget and Thereafter Meet With SB and Make Presentation in Winter Months:** The Town Manager noted the information associated with the Weeks Mills Road reconstruction project immediately above.
- **2011-2012 Municipal Budget Time Line – First Draft Budget Presentation to SB Before December 20, 2010:** The Town Manager affirmed that he would present the first draft to the Select Board at their December 20, 2010 meeting. Selectperson Neil Farrington expressed sentiment for a very conservative budget posture. He noted that there is a substantial increase in health care premiums for town employees that the town covers. The Town Manager stated that he is attempting to present a budget that will not affect the current mil rate.

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Unfinished Business:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **CMP Contractors in the China Area – New Electric Smart Meters to be Installed – CMP Representative of CMP to Answer Questions on the Program:** Steve Daniels, CMP representative, informed the SB and general public about the Smart Meter installation initiative. He praised the program and noted that the program offered advantages to consumers and to CMP. He went on to point out other attributes of the new meters; the meters are more accurate; after full implementation, homeowners will not have to shovel paths to meters; CMP staff will be able to pinpoint power outages and thereby improve response times; consumers will be able to monitor their power usage “on-line” through CMP’s Web site; and CMP personnel will be able to cut off power to houses instantly from the office in case of fire.

Mr. Daniels said that until the Maine public Utilities Commission finishes reviewing challenges from southern Maine residents, CMP is allowing people who do not want a Smart Meter to opt out by either signing up on CMP’s Web site, calling CMP’s customer service representatives, or by refusing the change when an installer arrives.

Mr. Daniels also informed the Board of the basic process CMP representatives will take to implement the program. He said installers will knock on doors. If there is not any answer, the installer will change-out the meter and leave a message that it was done. A typical change-out takes less than ten minutes and power is off only briefly.

Other points made by Mr. Daniels addressed were: power usage of the meter; electronic collection points; meter-reader job losses, and new staffing positions in the company office.

- **Recycling Coordinator:** The Select Board decided to discuss the “free for taking” area at the transfer station during the visioning session scheduled for December 6, 2010.
 - **User/Resident Survey:** It was noted that the survey will hopefully be sent out to residents before the end of the year.
 - **Transfer Station Stickers:** Chairperson Peter Foote noted the increased time and effort by town office staff and transfer station staff to promote the issuance of transfer station stickers to residents. There are new signs at the transfer station informing residents of the need to have a sticker and to present it to the staff at the transfer station upon entering. The Board agreed that the effort was substantial and producing good results.

New Business:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Abatement(s) and Supplemental Tax Assessments:** There were not any abatements or supplemental tax assessments presented.
- **Code Enforcement - Enforcement Items:** There were not any further updates on enforcement issues. The town is waiting for responses from the MMA on respective legal questions.

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- **MRC Board of Directors Election Ballot:** On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Joann C. Austin, the Board voted 3-0-1 (Peter Foote) to have the town cast a ballot in favor of Ellery Keene for a position on the MRC Board of Directors.
- **Appointment(s):** On a motion by Selectperson and a second by Selectperson , the Board voted 5-0 to appoint Kevin Rhodes as a second Animal Control Officer, to work with Julie Finley.
- **Foreclosure:** On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 4-0 to approve of a 60 day redemption period associated with a foreclosure on a property on the Ingraham Road. The previous owner will have up to 60 days after the foreclosure to purchase the property, paying all taxes and fees to a current status.
- **Quit Claim Deed Execution:** On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Joann C. Austin, the Board voted 4-0 to approve of and sign a re-execution of a Quit-Claim Deed associated with property on the Weeks Mills Road. A copy of the documents will be on file at the town office.

In other business the Board scheduled a visioning session to be held immediately after the regular Select Board meeting scheduled for December 6, 2010. The Thurston Park Committee will be presenting their final report to the Select Board after December 1, 2010.

Selectperson Neil Farrington had to leave the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

On a motion by Selectperson Paul MacDonald and a second by Selectperson Joann C. Austin, the Board voted 4-0 to adjourn at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joann C. Austin".

Joann C. Austin, Secretary
China Select Board