

TOWN OF CHINA

571 Lakeview Drive
China, ME 04358



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Select Board Meeting

Monday – 06/20/2011 – 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 Ron Breton, Sheldon Goodine, Kyle Pierce, Kevin Rhoades, Scott A. Pierz, Stephanie Foote, C. Mayo, Beth Preston, Erasmo Gonzalez, Bill Seekins, Jeff Coston, Russell Coston, Tim Coston, Mary Grow, and the Town Manager. Those present were led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag by Ron Breton.

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 06/06/2011 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 #56 for \$24,935.54, and Payables Warrant #57 for \$106,412.17 as presented.

Unfinished Business:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Fee Structure – Planning Board Recommendations – Chair Ron Breton:** On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Paul MacDonald, the Board voted 4-1(Austin) to adopt the revised fee structure as proposed and recommended by the China Planning Board at their March 22, 2011 meeting. China Planning Board Chairperson Ron Breton presented the new proposed fee schedule to the Select Board. This was the first recommended change since 2007. Mr. Breton said the goal is to have people whose projects take a lot of Planning Board and Code Enforcement Officer time should compensate the town, instead of having all taxpayers cover the costs. The new fee schedule proposes to raise fees for the processing of most subdivisions and commercial permits and also may add new charges. A copy of the proposed changes is on file at the town office.

Resident Sheldon Goodine objected to the proposed increases.

- **Recycling Coordinator:**

- **Recycling Report - Neil Farrington – Open Transfer Station Day - Saturday, June 11, 2011 – Summary Report/Product On Hand Ready For Market:**

- The Town Manager reported on the results of the open transfer station day, estimating that it would cost taxpayers approximately \$12,000 for labor and disposal and related costs.

- Selectperson and Recycling Coordinator Neil Farrington suggested the town consider a coupon attached to tax bills for free disposal offerings for the next year. Neil also noted that there are approximately 26 bales of mixed paper and 14 bales of cardboard remaining that could be shipped to the open market for substantial revenues.

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Composting – Stephanie Foote and Bill Seekins: Summer resident Stephanie Foote and year round resident Bill Seekins explained the process of adding household food scraps to the composting mix. They agreed that using the town’s \$20,000 grant award will not be a simple process. Mr. Seekins endorsed crating a concrete pad as the place to mix the compost, with a wall on one side to push against. Both he and Stephanie Foote said adding food means the compost must be managed to avoid odors attractive to flies and rodents. The management involves frequent mixing and maintaining proper levels of moisture and acidity and nutrient balance. Ms. Foote and Mr. Seekins did not think residents would bring enough food waste for a proper mix. They felt major producers such as the China Schools or businesses like the China Dine-ad and Hannaford should be approached. The Select Board asked both to work together to provide more information to the town and the Board asked the Town Manager to obtain an estimate for a concrete pad. Mr. Seekins invited transfer station attendant Kevin Rhoades to a week-long composting school in October. The Select Board would consider using part of the grant funds to pay the \$525 cost.

Selectperson Peter Foote proposed using grant money to build a concrete pad for compost. Selectperson Neil Farrington said he would use some of the funds to give residents small plastic compost buckets with a list of acceptable foods wastes printed on them, in which to bring kitchen waste to the transfer station to add to the yard waste that is already accepted. Selectpersons Farrington and Belanger also wanted an educational component added into the mix.

Transfer Station Ordinance Review: The Board agreed to take on the task of reviewing the Ordinance. It was last reviewed in 1992. They will do this over the next several weeks.

Skid Steer Update – Delivery Day: It was noted that the skid-steer is expected to be delivered by Friday of the current week.

- **Foreclosures – Update – Notice, Return Date, etc.:** The Town Manager noted that the foreclosed upon properties have gone out to bid in a “tax sale” of the town’s interest in the respective properties. He went on to note the due date for bids to be in the town office and the time the bids would be opened. Complete packets are available at the town office or on-line on the town’s Web site.
- **Junk Yard License – Coston and Compliance:** On a motion by Selectperson Paul MacDonald and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 4-1(Austin) to revoke Mr. Coston’s Junkyard License. A majority of the Board said that Mr. Coston failed to meet all the conditions under which the permit was granted. Mr. Russell Coston disagreed. The Board produced an aerial photo which showed the property and the extent to which junk yard items were dispersed over Mr. Coston’s property.

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New Business:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Teen Center – Elizabeth Preston:** A proposal for a “teen center” was made by Elizabeth Preston, a Neck Road resident and Wheaton College student. Elizabeth said she envisioned turning the town house basement into a center for games, music, movies, light refreshments and conversation. It would be open Friday and Saturday evenings for people aged 14-20. The Select Board offered questions and suggestions and said they intend to continue the discussion at the next Board meeting. The Board directed the Town Manager to have the Recreation Committee meet with Ms. Preston.
- **Red Light Applications – CVVFD:** On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 5-0 to approve and sign the Red Light Applications as presented. A copy of the approved applications will be on file at the town office.
- **Municipal Appointments/Planning Board Appointments:** On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 5-0 to accept Michael Morris’ resignation from the Planning Board with appreciation; accept Jen Morris’ resignation as Alternate Health Nurse; accepted Scott Rollins’ resignation from the China Planning Board Alternate-at-Large position; appointed Scott Rollins to the China Planning Board District 3 position; and appointed Kyle Pierce to the China Planning Board Alternate-at-Large position.
- **Ratio Declaration and Reimbursement Application – Declaration of Certified Ratio and Homestead Property Tax Exemption Information – Approval/Signing:** On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Paul MacDonald, the Board voted 5-0 to accept and sign the Application as presented.
- **Somerset County Communications Center – Contract Renewal for PSAP Services:** On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Joann C. Austin, the Board voted 5-0 to accept and authorize the Town Manager to sign on behalf of the town the Somerset Communications Contract for PSAP services for the upcoming year. There is not any increase in the per capita cost.

Manager’s Report:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Visioning Meeting Follow-Up – Summary Sheet:**
- **Committees: Implementation Committee – Meeting Thursday, June 23, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Office Meeting Room:** The Town Manager noted the respective committee meetings with associated times, dates and places.
- **Transfer Station Survey:** The Town Manager noted that the Survey is going to be distributed to most residents and tax payers in the next ten days. It will be mailed to an arbitrarily selected group, inserted in the Town Line, handed out at the town office, libraries, and transfer station, and be available on the town’s Web site. There will be reports on the progress of the Survey over the next three Select Board meetings.

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- **Tax Commitment Information:** Chairperson Peter Foote asked the Town Manager for a preliminary estimate on how the upcoming tax commitment might look after having estimates of most of the expenses and revenues for the upcoming fiscal year. The Town Manager noted that there could be a possibility of a small reduction in the mil rate even during these troubling economic times.
- **Boston Post Cane:** The Town Manager announced that town officials are looking for China's oldest resident, to present her or him with the town's Boston Post Cane.

In other business, the Board discussed financing documents associated with the purchase of the JCB Skid Steer, noted the days that KVCAP would be accepting LIHEAP Applications in China for China residents, the Time Warner Cable Contract that expires in 2014, roadside mowing, and FEMA items.

On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to accept and sign the Quit-Claim Deed as presented.

On a motion by Selectperson Paul MacDonald and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann C. Austin, Secretary
China Select Board