

# TOWN OF CHINA

571 Lakeview Drive  
China, ME 04358



Telephone 207-445-2014  
Fax 207-445-3208  
E-mail chiname@fairpoint.net  
www.china.govoffice.com

## Select Board Meeting

Monday – 07/06/2011 – 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 Mary Grow, and the Town Manager and those as noted in the attached Attendance Sheet. Those present were led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag by

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 04/27/2011 and 06/20/2011 Select Board meetings as presented

On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 5-0 to accept Planning Board Payroll Warrant #58 for \$1,453.30, Payables Warrant #60, (Assessing Agent) for \$2,710.00, Payables Warrant #60 for \$170,930.90, (All for Fiscal Year Ending 06/30/2011), Payroll Warrant #1 for \$23,544.51 and Payroll Warrant #2 for \$3,725.81 (CRLA), and Payables Warrant #3 for \$447,088.26 as presented.

## Unfinished Business:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Recycling Coordinator:** At this time the Select Board listened to, and exchanged comments with, four commercial haulers of municipal solid waste from China residents and businesses. The haulers expressed concerns about the higher tipping fees established at an earlier meeting by the Select Board. The Board did not take any action with regard to the established fee structure.

**Recycling Report - Neil Farrington – Product On Hand Ready For Market:** Transfer Station Coordinator Neil Farrington updated the Board on how much product the town has on-hand and ready to be shipped out to the commodities market. He noted that the town recently shipped a load of cardboard.

**Transfer Station Ordinance Review – SB Will Review In The Coming Weeks:** The Board agreed to review the China Solid Waste Flow Control Ordinance of the Town of China, Maine over the next several weeks. The Board may then make recommendations for additions or modifications to the Ordinance.

**Composting – Stephanie Foote and Bill Seekins – Follow-up:** At the last SB meeting, the Board discussed using grant funds to add food waste to yard waste already received at the transfer station. The intention of doing so was to reduce the waste sent to P.E.R.C. for incineration. At this meeting, Mr. Seekins and Ms. Foote focused on making the yard-waste operation more efficient before expanding to more complex operations incorporating food waste into the mix. Both recommended adding an intake area where yard waste could be sorted; a compacted gravel pad where the waste would be stacked in wind-rows; and a covered area where compost could be stored for distribution. It was further recommended that the town send an employee to a week-long composting school.

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- **Teen Center – Elizabeth Preston:** A teen-center was proposed by Ms. Preston at the last SB meeting. She is a college sophomore and said that she intends to rely on donations to equip the Old Town Office basement for table and board games, movies and light refreshments. The proposed teen-center is intended to provide young people a place to gather on Friday and Saturday evenings. The Select Board has been looking into insurance liability and legal issues associated with the establishment of a teen-center.

Beth Preston met with Recreation Committee Chairperson Dolly Batteese. Mrs. Batteese noted that the Recreation Committee budget has already been passed for the current year and therefore funds have been committed. She went on to note that the town does not have a Recreation Department and thus does not have anyone to supervise the proposed teen-center.

The Select Board expressed concerns about supervision, insurance coverage, legal aspects, and how sensitive situations would be handled. The Board was asked by Ms. Preston to have questions prepared for her for the next Select Board meeting. The Select Board thought that there might be possible difficulties in starting a teen-center this year, though progressing through all the uncertainties might allow for a start-up next year.

- **Municipal Appointments:** On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Paul MacDonald, the Board voted 4-1(Austin) to accept and sign the municipal appointments as presented. The Select Board accepted Health Officer Lisa McLaggan's resignation with appreciation for her service. Copies of the respective appointment papers are on file at the town office.
- **Foreclosed Properties – Bids Accepted/Awarded:** On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Joann C. Austin, the Board voted 5-0 to accept the high bids on the Cross Road and Willette Drive properties.

On a motion by Joann C. Austin and a second by Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 1(Austin)-4 to not accept any bid at all on the Deer Hill property and to allow the former owner to pay all calculated amounts to a current status had the former owners continued to own the property to date.

On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Paul MacDonald, the Board voted 5-0 to accept the high bid on the Deer Hill property.

There was much discussion relating to the Deer Hill property. The former owner was allowed to speak on her own behalf regarding why she never responded earlier in the foreclosure process.

The Town Manager noted that two of the three bids for properties more than covered the amounts due for calculated past taxes and fees and the third came within approximately \$13.00 of the amounts calculated.

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## New Business:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Municipal Tax Commitment:** On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Paul MacDonald, the Board voted 5-0 to accept and sign the tax commitment papers as presented. Copies of the commitment and associated papers are on file and available at the town office.
- **B.A.S.S. Group – IRS Code 125 Plan:** On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to accept the proposed revisions to the town's Health Reimbursement Plan as presented and to authorize the Town Manager to sign on behalf of the town. A copy of the plan is on file at the town office.
- **Contract For Assessors' Agent Services:** On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 5-0 to accept the proposed Contract for Assessing Agent's Services as presented and to authorize the Town Manager to sign on behalf of the town. A copy of the contract is available at the town office.

## Manager's Report:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Visioning Meeting Follow-Up – Summary Sheet:** The Select Board will discuss the visioning meeting priorities over the next several weeks as time permits.
- **Committees: Implementation Committee – Meeting Thursday, July 14, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Office Meeting Room:** The times, dates, and places of the various Committee meetings were announced.
- **Transfer Station Survey:** It was noted that the Survey will not be complete until sometime in August. There needs to be time for returning the survey and for the compilation of the data into a meaningful format.
- **Boston Post Cane:** The Town Manager noted that the candidate for the Boston Post Cane appears to be a resident who was born in 1910, unless someone older comes forward soon.
- **Time-Warner Cable Contract:** The Town Manager announced that with the town's cable contract expiring with Time-Warner in 2014, the Board need to be considering terms for a new contract.
- **KVCAP Announcement on LiHeap Applications:** It was noted that the Kennebec Valley Community Action Program will be accepting applications for home heating and lighting assistance in China in September.
- **Roadside Mowing:** It was noted that the annual roadside mowing has begun in the southern part of town.

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- **KVCAP Announcement on LiHeap Applications:** It was noted that the dates and times KVCAP will be accepting appointments in China will be publicized in the Town Line. This should save residents the drive to Waterville or Augusta.
- **Roadside Mowing – Progress Report:** The Town Manager noted that most of the roadside mowing in China and south of Route #3 should be completed by the end of the week. After that the crew doing the mowing will begin the mow roadsides north of Route #3.
- **CMP – Maine Power Reliability Program Notice of Work Commencement:** The Town Manager noted that Central Maine Power Company sent the town a letter indicating work on widening the transmission line corridor and improving transmission capacity that runs through China will start soon.
- **China Lake Association Meeting – Thursday, July 21, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. at the China Primary School:** The meeting time, date, and place were announced for public information.

In other business, the Town Manager updated the Select Board on the sidewalk project in the South China Village area, noted that the P.E.R.C. tipping fee for the third quarter in this calendar year would be \$71.00 per ton, and noted that some of the sidewalk construction work being done on Village Street continued late in the evening last Friday and potentially upset residents. The Town Manager noted that the town regrets any frustration it may have caused. On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 4-0 to accept and sign the Urban/Rural Initiative Program Certification Form provided by the MDOT. The Town Manager noted that the funds received/committed are to be spent on capital improvement programs as described on the form.

On a motion by Selectperson Paul MacDonald and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 4-0 to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Joann C. Austin, Secretary  
China Select Board