

TOWN OF CHINA

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Select Board Meeting

Monday – 01/22/2018 – Town Office Meeting Room

6:30 P.M.

Minutes

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance at 7:00 p.m. Board members present were Irene L. Belanger, Jeffrey LaVerdiere, Donna Mills-Stevens, Neil Farrington, and Robert McFarland. Others present were Ronald R. Breton, Ed Brownell, Elwood Stevens, Jean Conway, George Weber, Bill Van Wickler, Milton Dudley, Lynne O'Connor, David Herard, Dick Morse, Tim Theriault, Fred Glidden, Gary Cummings, Mary Grow and the Town Manager. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to accept and sign the minutes of the 01/08/2018 Select Board meeting as presented.

On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to accept and sign China Payroll Warrant #37 for \$30,126.60 as presented. On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Donna Mills-Stevens, the Board voted 5-0 to accept and sign Town Payables Warrant #32 for \$85,345.61 as presented.

Unfinished Business:

- **Organization Reports/Transfer Station Coordinators/Other Reports::** Selectperson Irene L. Belanger provided reports on China for a Lifetime Committee, the Kennebec Regional Development Authority, and the "Meet the Representatives" proposed meeting.
- **LD #150 Emergency Services Appropriations:** The Board had a conversation with emergency services personal about and everyone agreed that the various departments will have their respective treasurers bonded as they will be handling funds appropriated by taxpayers. They also agreed that the stipend amounts paid to the departments will be published in the Town Report. The stipends will not be paid out in a single payment though the amounts requested by the departments for operational expenses will be paid out in a single payment at the beginning of the next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018.

There was some discussion about the responsibility of the respective departments in the processing of W-2 forms for those members receiving stipends that did not have submittals for reimbursement costs by those members. The Board and department heads agreed that there should be a meeting at which they review the impact of the stipend initiative and whether or not it should continue.

- **Fire Pond Update and Discussion:** The fire pond off the China Neck Road was a major topic discussed at this meeting. China Village Volunteer Fire Department Chief Tim Theriault described the dimensions of the pond and noted that it was near the town road right-of-way. He noted that the pond was about 20 feet deep and that the sides of the pond were steep on all sides so that it would be unlikely that a person would be able to exit the pond if they fell into it. The Select Board generally commented that there should have been more thought on safety issues before asking voters to approve of an appropriation to build the pond. The Board had a conversation about various options, e.g. temporary fencing, permanent fencing, guardrails, Jersey barriers and chain link fencing.

A related issue that was discussed was how much liability the town would have and how much would the landowner have if there were an unfortunate circumstance associated with the pond and surrounding property. The Town Manager said that there is not any agreement between the town and landowner defining respective rights and responsibilities.

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On a motion by Selectperson Jeffrey R. LaVerdiere and second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 4-1 (Mills-Stevens) to appropriate up to \$6000 from the town's contingency fund to purchase and install guardrails to place along the Neck Road and easterly side of the fire pond. The Board recommended a redesign of the pond to slope the sides of the pond so that a person or wildlife could exit the pond.

- **2018-2019 Municipal Budget Deliberations:** The Board commenced a review of the proposed draft of the Warrant Articles for the Annual Town Business Meeting. The Board discussed and approved/completed all of the items included in the draft warrant attached to these minutes except for:

Article 8 Administration and Administration Other

Article 10 municipal Capital Equipment Account in the Reserve Fund

Article 13 Police Services and Animal Control Services

Article 17 Solid Waste

Article 18 Solid Waste Capital Equipment Purchases

Article 26 Septic and Water One Room – (bathrooms)

Article 27 – ACB Appropriation Request

Article 42 Earmark Funds to Transfer Station Reserve Account

and the possible purchase of the Bailey Property and Michaud land on the Neck Road and also the Comp Plan development and implementation costs and the rewrite of the Article 14 to accommodate LD150.

The Board scheduled a special meeting for Monday, January 29, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the town office meeting room to continue the discussion about the fire pond and to finalize the proposed 2018-2019 municipal budget.

New Business:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any particular public comment at this time. The public contributed throughout the meeting on several items.
- **Policies and Procedures:** The Board will continually review policies and procedures with the intent of updating any and all that need attention.
- **Appointment(s):** – China Planning Board and Transfer Station Committee and WMVFD Chief: On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to appoint Milton Dudley to the China Planning Board from District 2.

On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Jeffrey R. LaVerdiere, the Board voted 5-0 to appoint Lynne O'Connor to the Transfer Station Committee.

On a motion by Selectperson Jeffrey R. LaVerdiere and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to appoint William Van Wickler to the position of Chief of the Weeks Mills Volunteer Fire Department.

Manager's Communications (Non-Action Items):

- **TIF Information/Conversations:** The Board agreed to have this item on the agenda for continued conversation and clarification. The Board will hear from the TIF Committee on recommendations regarding the KVCOG dues and the proposed purchase of the Bailey property. The recommendations will impact the Board's decision on what Articles will appear on the Annual Town Business Meeting Warrant in March of 2018.

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- **Strategic Planning Session – Next Steps:** This appears on the agenda for potential discussion as other projects in the planning process mature.
- **General:** – Jim Dinkle, Executive Director of the KRDA to attend Mar 5 SB meeting and China Planning Board and Comprehensive Plan Request: It was noted that Mr. Dinkle would be present at the February 5, 2018 SB meeting and that there would be discussion about the Comprehensive Plan development and implementation effort and associated need for an appropriation to accomplish this task.

In other business:

On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Donna Mills-Stevens, the Board voted 5-0 to adopt the revised/amended policy on alcohol and controlled substances for town employees.

On a motion by Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Jeffrey R. LaVerdiere, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene L. Belanger

Irene L. Belanger, Secretary
China Select Board