

Select Board Meeting

Monday – 01/27/2014 – 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, Amber McAllister, and Irene L. Belanger. Others present were Ronald Breton, David Herard, Erasmo Gonzalez, Diane Woodworth, Bill Lord, Samantha LeFebvre, Kim Patnode, Kate DuFour, Tim Theriault, H. David Cotta, Tom Parent, Len LeGrande, Fred Glidden, Jonathan Vogel, Sheryl Peavey, Robert Batteese, Charles H. Plumer, Jane McIntosh, Mary Grow, and the Town Manager. Those present were led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag by the Selectperson Paul MacDonald

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 01/13/2014 Select Board meeting as presented

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Paul MacDonald, the Board voted 5-0 to accept Payroll Warrant #41 for \$21,616.86 and Payables Warrant #42 for \$60,725.82 as presented.

Unfinished Business:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Recycling Coordinator:**

Recycling Report -

Update on Commodities Market (Recycling Items) and Other Items: Select Board member and Recycling Coordinator Paul MacDonald provided information about current recycling commodity market pricing and information about the inventory of recyclable currently at the transfer station. He noted that in general the prices for recyclables have remained relatively constant for the last few months and that the prices for rigid plastic have increased a little. Mr. MacDonald referenced substantial revenue received recently from the processing of recycled metal. He went on to note the price increase for municipal solid waste processed through P.E.R.C. for the next quarter of the fiscal year.

- **RSU#18 Update and Governance Meeting, KVCOG Pond Hockey, and Economic & Community Development Updates – Selectperson Irene Belanger:** Selectperson Irene L. Belanger:

issued a plea for more volunteers to help with China's second annual pond hockey tournament scheduled for the weekend of February 8 and 9, 2014 at the head of China Lake,

noted the RSU #18 governance meeting to be held on January 29, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the RSU administrative office,

noted the next CEDS meeting scheduled at KVCOG, and

spoke about the recently held Economic and Community Development Committee meeting. Rosie Vanadestine, executive director of KVCOG spoke at the meeting and Irene also said a Valentines' Day dance was being hosted by the Committee.

- **2014-2015 Municipal Budget Delivery to the Select Board:**
Social Service Agency Representatives: The Select Board held what has come to be their annual meeting with representatives of social service agencies seeking monetary town support. The Board heard short presentations from six representatives of out-of-town agencies that serve China residents and also from China Rescue and the Albert Church Brown Library in the China Village section of China. Most of the Budget Committee also attended to hear the agency representatives.

Also present to discuss the China Rescue budget were Chief Erasmo Gonzalez and David Herard. Select Board Chairperson Peter Foote noted the history of expenditures in the China Rescue budget making the observation that for the last five years China Rescue has spent, on average, 80 percent of the respective budgets and therefore does not appear to be needing the budgets presented. The Chair went on to suggest that \$16,000 would be a more realistic budget request with some of that amount coming from the built-up Rescue Reserve.

Chief Gonzalez commented that there was a need for the higher budget request to build up reserves and to purchase needed equipment. Erasmo noted the cost of a mandated but refurbished infusion pump at \$750. He went on to note that a new one would cost about \$7500.

When asked how much they thought has accumulated into the Rescue Reserve, Erasmo and David responded about \$4500. They were told that the amount in the Rescue Reserve approximated \$21000.

Final decisions on the funding support for the agencies, and all other budget items were postponed to the next SB meeting.

New Business:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Quit Claim Deed – Thomas and Marie Michaud:** On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Paul MacDonald, the Board voted 5-0 to approve and sign a quit-claim deed as presented. A copy of the paper-work will be kept on file at the town office.
- **Kate Dufour, Maine Municipal Association – LR 2721 and SLG Road Bill (Or Carry-Over of LD 1177):** Kate Dufour suggested that Representative Cotta speak first as Representative Cotta had a previously scheduled commitment at or around 9:00 p.m. (It could be a

recommendation to see the minutes on Representative Cotta's comments immediately below before reading this section of the minutes.) Ms. Dufour is employed by the Maine Municipal Association and advocates for municipalities in the Maine Senate and Legislature.

Kate Dufour proceeded into more detail about the discontinued and abandoned roads bill by noting that as it stands, it attempts to clarify the process for discontinuing a road, requires a reaffirmation of a town meeting vote to discontinue 20 years after the original vote, eliminates the concept of abandonment and requires a municipality to inventory all publicly maintained roads for the last 50 years. Kate further noted that the second provision is unnecessary, since town meeting voters can reconsider a previous discontinuance decision at any time, and the fourth provision she sees as an unfunded mandate on local government.

Regarding revenue-sharing, Ms. Dufour and the Select Board agree that lowering the amount the state returns from income and sales taxes will require municipalities to raise property taxes or cut services or both.

- **Representative David Cotta – Legislative Initiatives (Not Any Information Provided):** On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Paul MacDonald, the Board voted 5-0 to have the Town Manager draft letters to Representative Cotta and Senator Roger Katz expressing support for maximum revenue sharing payments to municipalities and opposition to the road discontinuance bill as it stands.

Representative H. David Cotta, who did not provide advance information about what topic he would discuss with the SB, commented about two pieces of legislation; a bill on discontinued and abandoned roads and another on state revenue-sharing to municipalities. Mr. Cotta emphasized the bill on discontinued and abandoned roads is not in final form.

It did not seem that anyone could understand why there was any legislation at the state level on this topic as China, and other municipalities, have handled the processing of discontinued and abandoned roads efficiently over many years.

Representative Cotta went on to talk briefly about the possibility of an additional reduction in revenue-sharing to municipalities if current legislation is not passed supporting a restoration of revenue-sharing funds at current allocated levels.

Selectperson Paul MacDonald asked Representative Cotta what his position would be regarding the current legislation that would support revenue-sharing funding at current projected levels and Representative Cotta said, "... it depends on where the money is coming from". The Town Manager noted that the money was already collected by the

state and only needed to be allocated appropriately to fund revenue-sharing payments to municipalities.

- **Appointment – Economic & Community Development Committee:** On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Joann C. Austin, the Board voted 5-0 to appoint Jason Fredette to the Economic and Community Development Committee.

Manager's Communications (Non-Action Items):

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Committees: he Thurston Park II TBD, China Historical Society Committee TBD, China Library Feasibility Committee, the Fourth Wednesday of Each Month at 6:30 P.M. in the Town Office Meeting Room; and China Lake Access Feasibility Committee, Friday, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. in the Town Office Meeting Room:** The respective dates, times, and places of the meetings were announced.
- **Time-Warner Cable Contract Meeting:** The Town Manager noted that Shelly Winchenbach, representative of Time-Warner Cable in New England, met recently with the town and provided materials relating to un-cabled areas in town. A follow-up meeting will be held to discuss contract renewal options between the town and Time-Warner.

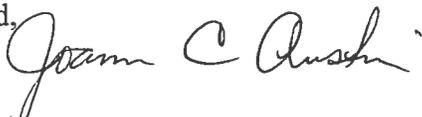
In other business:

The board decided to start the next regularly scheduled SB meeting, scheduled for February 10, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. to accommodate time to complete deliberations on the 2014-2015 municipal budget.

It was noted that the Annual town Business Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 22, 2014 beginning at 9:00 a.m. A quorum of 121 registered China voters must be present to open the meeting.

On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Joann C. Austin, Secretary
China Select Board