

TOWN OF CHINA

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Select Board Special Meeting

Monday – 01/29/2018 – Town Office Meeting Room

5:30 P.M.

Minutes

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance at 5:30 p.m. Board members present were Irene L. Belanger, Donna Mills-Stevens, Neil Farrington, and Robert McFarland. Others present were Ronald R. Breton, Paul Lucas, Larry Sikora, Robert Kurek, Lynne O'Connor, Tim Grotton, Kevin Rhoades, Gary McCarty, Wayne Chadwick, Jean Conway, Julie Finley, Kelly Grotton, Gary Cummings, Ed Brownell, Tim Theriault, Rick Pershkin (of A. E. Hodsdon Engineering), Mary Grow and the Town Manager. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Donna Mills-Stevens, the Board voted 4-0 to accept the minutes of the 01/22/2018 Select Board meeting as presented.

Unfinished Business:

- **Fire Pond Update and Discussion:** The Board discussed the fire pond off the Neck Road again. Engineer Rick Pershkin of A. E. Hodsdon Engineering was invited to the meeting by Chair Robert MacFarland. Rick provided his professional opinion that the steep sides of the wall might gradually erode into milder slopes that could cut away the edges of the pond, particularly of concern toward the Neck Road. The Board agreed to ask a representative of the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service for advice on stabilizing the perimeter sides of the pond.

CVVFD Fire Chief Tim Theriault noted to the Board that the person who was hired to excavate the pond had recently sloped the sides of the pond above the water level.

There was some disagreement between some members of the Board and Chief Theriault on what steps to take going forward. Questions needed to be answered on pond planning and construction before the Board would commit to any additional funds for the project. The Town Manager will be contacting the United States Department of Agriculture locally to ask for guidance regarding the best management practices when excavating for a pond as Board member Donna Mills-Stevens suggested.

- **2018-2019 Municipal Budget Deliberations:** The Board devoted a great amount of time on the remaining and proposed Warrant Articles for the Annual Town Business Meeting to be held on March 24, 2018 at the China Primary School. The following is a summary of the Articles discussed and associated Board votes on recommendations:

Article 5 Tax Increment Financing (TIF), Other: On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 4-0 to accept the Article as amended with a recommendation of Yes. The funding for the KVCOG was added to this Article. It was felt that the town uses KVCOG in many economic development initiatives.

Article 8 Administration and Administration, Other: On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 4-0 to accept the Article as written with a recommendation of Yes. There was a brief discussion about wage and benefit packages for employees.

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Article 13 Police and Animal Control Officer: On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 4-0 to accept the Article as written with a recommendation of Yes. The Board had a conversation about long term planning for a full-time officer who would be devoted to China.

Article 14 Emergency Services: On a motion by Selectperson Robert MacFarland and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 4-0 to accept the Article as amended with a recommendation of Yes on all the appropriations. The wording at the end of the article informs which departments would be included in the "lump-sum" payment of appropriations.

Article 17 Solid Waste/Transfer Station Operations Budget: On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 4-0 to accept the Article as written with a recommendation of Yes..

Article 18 Transfer Station Capital Equipment Purchases: On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 4-0 to accept the Article as written with a recommendation of Yes. There was discussion about the increased utility costs associated with the operation of the proposed equipment purchase

Article 26 One Room School House: On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 4-0 to accept the Article as written with a recommendation of Yes.

Article 27 Albert Church Brown Library: On a motion by Selectperson Robert MacFarland and a second by Selectperson Donna Mills-Stevens, the Board voted 4-0 to accept the Article as amended with a recommendation of Yes. The Board felt that the endowment proceeds for the last 18 months was significantly high enough for the ACB to accommodate its own operations budget. They felt that the ACB Board might make a request for funds in the future when the endowment is not producing sufficient revenues to cover operations. The Board did, however, include a contribution of \$100 to show support for the library in grant applications.

Article 29: Town Line Newspapers: On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 4-0 to accept the Article as written with a recommendation of Yes. There were comments from the Town Manager on the importance of the newspaper when needing to inform residents of China. He noted that the cost to advertise is significantly lower, and more effective, than the Sentinel and KJ.

Article 42: Municipal Review Committee Distributions to the Transfer Station Reserve in the Fund Balance: On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 4-0 to accept the Article as written with a recommendation of Yes.

Article 43: The Board, by consensus, decided not to include this Article in the Warrant. The China Tax increment Financing Committee voted not to recommend using Development Program Funds to purchase the proposed property owned by Susan Bailey.

Article 44-(Changed now to 43) Branch Mills Universal Church: On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Donna Mills-Stevens, the Board voted 4-0 to accept the Article as written with a recommendation of Yes.

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Article 45-(Changed to Article 44): Comprehensive Plan Development and Implementation: On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Irene I. Belanger, the Board voted 4-0 to accept the Article as written with a recommendation of Yes.

New Business:

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

Manager's Communications (Non-Action Items):

- **General – Jim Dinkle, Executive Director of the KRDA to attend Mar 5 SB meeting and China Planning Board Chair, Tom Miragliuolo, and the proposed Update to the China Comprehensive Plan:** The Town Manager announced that Mr. Dinkle, Executive Director of the KRDA, will be speaking with the Board at the 02052018 SB meeting. He also noted that Tom Miragliuolo will speak to the Select Board about an appropriation to undertake the development implementation of a new Comprehensive Plan.

In other business:

On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Irene I. Belanger, the Board voted 4-0 to adjourn at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Irene L. Belanger, Secretary
China Select Board