

TOWN OF CHINA

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Select Board Meeting

Monday – 01/08/2018 – Town Office Meeting Room

6:00 P.M.

Minutes

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance at 6:00 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, Elwood Stevens, Jean Conway, Ed Brownell, Tina Nelson, 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 Donna Mills-Stevens, the Board voted 5-0 to accept the minutes of the 12/27/2017 Select Board meeting as presented.

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Jeffrey R. LaVerdiere, the Board voted 5-0 to accept and sign China Payroll Warrant #35 for \$32,300.19 as presented. On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 5-0 to accept and sign Town Payables Warrant #32 for \$514,270.69 as presented.

Unfinished Business:

- **Organization Reports/Transfer Station Coordinators/Other Reports:**
Thurston Park II Committee, RSU#18, MRC, MRRRA, TIF Committee, China for a Lifetime Committee, Transfer Station Committee, Broadband Committee, etc. (other): Selectperson Irene L. Belanger reported on current activities relating to the KVCOG, KRDA, and China for a Lifetime Committee and the Transfer Station Committee.
- **2018-2019 Municipal Budget Deliberations:** The Board proceeded into Town Manager developed proposed budget numbers for the upcoming year. They progressed through all the line-item numbers and followed that process to the possible Warrant Articles for the Annual Town Business Meeting. The Town Manager noted that the remuneration increase for town employees is input at 3% from their most current wage. Questions were asked about the employee health benefit. Budget Committee member Jean Conway commented about the Health Reimbursement Arrangements item in the health benefit package noting that this is one way employers are able to reduce premiums while maintaining benefit coverage in policies

Select Board Chair, Robert MacFarland, suggested that the Board consider an article on the Warrant that would ask voter permission to develop the 13 lot subdivision, recently donated to the town by Wachusett Properties Inc., into a business park development. He went on to note that the town could build a spec building and lease it out to produce revenue.

The Board did not act on any Articles and indicated it would be prepared to continue with budget materials at their next regular meeting.

New Business:

- **Public Comment; Policies and Procedures:** The Board will continually review policies and procedures with the intent of updating any and all that need attention.

Manager's Communications (Non-Action Items):

- **TIF Information/Conversations:** The Board agreed to have this item on the agenda for continued conversation and clarification.

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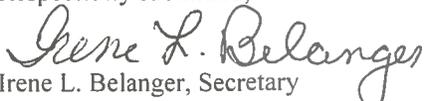
- **Strategic Planning Session – Next Steps:** This appears on the agenda for potential discussion as other projects in the planning process mature.
- **Fire Pond Update – China Neck Road:** The Town Manager provided the Board with an update on the progress of the fire pond development off the Neck Road. There were concerns noted about the lack of a barrier between the road and the pond. The Town has installed marking tape and cones in the area delineating the sensitive area. Mr. Tom Michaud and Mr. Tim Theriault will provide the Board with additional information when available.

In other business:

The Board briefly discussed an executive search initiative to replace the Town Manager by the end of June 2018. They were provided with a proposed contractual agreement from the MMA to assist in the search. The quote in the proposal was \$5500. The Board did not take any further action.

On a motion by Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Jeffrey R. LaVerdiere, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Irene L. Belanger, Secretary
China Select Board