

# TOWN OF CHINA

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## Select Board Meeting

Monday – 01/09/2017 – Town Office Meeting Room

7:00 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, Neil Farrington, Ronald R. Breton, and Joann C. Austin. Others present were Tom Michaud, Marie Michaud, Elaine Philbrook, Bob O'Connor, Jim Wilkens, Sheri Wilkens, Christian Wilkens, Lynn Schwarz, Ed Brownell, Glen Wall, Steve Hadsell, Matt Hebert, Robert MacFarland, Mary Grow and the Town Manager. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

On a motion by Selectperson Ronald R. Breton and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to accept the minutes of the 12/29/2016 Select Board meeting as presented.

On a motion by Selectperson Ronald R. Breton and a second by Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to accept and sign China Payroll Warrant #37 for \$24,491.82. On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Ronald R. Breton, the Board voted 5-0 to accept and sign Town Payables Warrant #38 for \$441,395.70 as presented.

## Unfinished Business:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Transfer Station Co-Coordinator's Conversation and Organization/Other Reports, Palermo:** Selectperson and Chair, Neil Farrington, commented about the good condition of the roads in China throughout this winter season, emphasizing how our staff is effective and efficient. Selectperson Irene L. Belanger reported the on the current events relating to respective organizations, e.g. the Business-After-Hours hosted by the Mid Maine Chamber. Selectperson Ronald R. Breton commented about receiving the initial payment from the town of Palermo for trash bags and their annual town contribution. He wanted to have a written understanding between China and Palermo for the invoicing and payment terms of the recently arranged agreement between the towns.
- **Appointment – Planning Board Alternate-AT-Large Position:** Three of the four interested candidates were in the audience. Mr. Howe did not attend. On a motion by Selectperson Ronald R. Breton to table the appointment to the next regular SB meeting, and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0. Audience members referenced the town's Planning Board Ordinance and respective parts that informed the town on the Select Board's appointment or election options for vacated positions. They expressed concern about the procedure for filling the Alternate-at-Large position on the PB, noting that the position had not been on a ballot since November of 2015, asserting the position had been open for more than 365 days, and they suggested that the position should be on the next ballot, particularly referencing the Special Town Meeting scheduled for January 28, 2017. The Board asked the Town Manager to review the

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circumstances associated with the Alternate-At-Large vacancy. The Town Manager noted that there were people in the audience recommending to applicants to express interest in being appointed to the Alternate-At-Large position and also putting this question on the next ballot, seemingly contradictory initiatives. Selectperson Joann C. Austin wanted more discussion and information on the issue.

- **2017-2018 Municipal Budget – Deliberations:** The Chair, Neil Farrington, led of the budget discussions noting that most Board members have been through a municipal budget session and that he found not much is able to be changed; only wages and a few other billed items from outside entities change if at all and that the budget is basically self-explanatory. Neil asked the Board to narrow the deliberations to the select items each member had questions about for the next meeting. He went on to reference that health insurance premiums and emergency services call answering and dispatching were two areas that increased. The Chair commented that we are fortunate to have the employees we have.

Selectperson Ronald R. Breton commented about remuneration to employees. He went on to suggest the Board look at increasing the stipend for the PB members commensurate with the stipend the SB members receive annually.

After the Board visited other items on the agenda, they returned to this budget item. Selectperson Jeff LaVerdiere expressed that health insurance premiums might be tied to employee remuneration. The Board felt that any change might have to come at mid-year or at the beginning of a fiscal year though all agreed that this would need to be reviewed for options. It was agreed that this would be a good topic for the strategic planning session.

The Board discussed whether or not the social service agency representatives needed to speak before the SB as almost all are the same entities who came to the town last year.

The Board will resume the budget deliberations at their next meeting hoping to complete the deliberations as soon as possible.

## New Business:

- **Public Comment:** At this time Tom Michaud and Sheri Wilkens addressed their concern about a petition presented to the SB regarding the direct initiative presented to the Town of China Select Board be included in the special town meeting warrant, the town meeting scheduled for Saturday, January 28, 2017. Sheri noted the urgency of the petition submitted and the special town meeting devoted to a moratorium on permitting recreational marijuana establishments. Tom Michaud asked if the PB could the Implementation Committee work.

Each member of the SB expressed their opinion on whether or not a moratorium on conditional use permit reviews is appropriate for China, all indicating they are not in favor of a moratorium on the review process. Selectperson Ronald R. Breton expressed that he felt the Comprehensive Plan the audience wanted to be re-written and the ordinance revisions envisioned by the petitioners would not be fully reviewed and ready for a vote within any six month moratorium period.

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- **Policies and Procedures:** The Board will continually review policies and procedures with the intent of updating any and all that need attention.
- **Marijuana Items – Special Open Town Meeting, Moratorium Ordinance Language and Warrant Signing:** Please reference the Public Comment item above; the petition noted and the marijuana moratorium item were discussed at the same time to some extent. In this part of the minutes there will be reference to the vote to move the moratorium question to a special meeting ballot. On a motion by Selectperson Ronald R. Breton and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to accept and sign as presented the respective documents placing a particularly worded question on the Special Town Meeting scheduled for Saturday, January 28, 2017 at the China Primary School. Selectperson Joann C. Austin wanted to clarify whether or not the word “commercial” needed to be included in the Warrant Article.

Robert MacFarland expressed concern that marijuana is against federal laws and that he felt the SB is obligated to uphold the laws of the land.

#### **Manager’s Communications (Non-Action Items):**

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Committees – Meetings/Updates: Thurston Park II, Economic and Community Development Committee, Transfer Station Committee, Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 8:30 A.M. in the Town Office, and TIF Committee, Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 6:30 P.M. in the town office meeting room, and Emergency Preparedness Committee, Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 10:15 A.M. in the Town Office.** The respective dates, times, and places of the meetings were announced.
- **TIF Information/Conversations:** The Board agreed to have this item on the agenda for continued conversation and clarification.
- **Visioning Session from November 29, 2016 – Follow-up and Priority List:** SB Chair Neil Farrington noted that the Board will revisit the strategic planning session shortly after the budget deliberations are completed.

On a motion by Ronald R. Breton and a second by Selectperson Joann C. Austin, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Irene L. Belanger".

Irene L. Belanger, Secretary  
China Select Board