

# TOWN OF CHINA

571 Lakeview Drive  
China, ME 04358  
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## Select Board Meeting

Monday – 10/16/2017 – 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 Jeanette Smith, Tom Michaud, Fred Glidden, Robert MacFarland, 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 Jeffrey R. LaVerdiere, the Board voted 5-0 to accept the minutes of the 10/02/2017 Select Board meeting as presented.

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Ronald R. Breton, the Board voted 5-0 to accept and sign China Payroll Warrant #21 for \$25,494.23 and China Payroll Warrant #22 for \$13,298.28 as presented. On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Joann C. Austin, the Board voted 5-0 to accept and sign Town Payables Warrant #23 for \$360,989.10 as presented.

At this time Selectperson Jeffrey R. LaVerdiere commented about the need for the Board to entertain a proposal for health insurance coverage for town employees and that he has invited Heidi White to make a proposal to the Board at their next meeting. He indicated he would need some census information to be able to have Ms. White provide a comparable quote for health benefits for town employees. The presentation is expected to begin at 6:00 p.m.

## Unfinished Business:

- **Transfer Station Co-Coordinators' Conversation and Organization/Other Reports:**  
Selectperson Irene L. Belanger reported the on the current events relating to respective organizations, e.g. HHW Day, Drug Take-Back Day and Shredding Initiatives. She also reminded everyone of the October 23, 2017 presentation on the RSU#18 bond issue that is on the local ballot in China.

On a motion by Selectperson Ronald R. Breton and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 4-1(LaVerdiere) to appropriate \$750.00 from the Contingency Fund for the Shredding-on-Site cost with funds to be partially reimbursed by towns participating in the initiative.

It was noted that the China for a Lifetime Committee has produced a survey that will be distributed to homeowners, people visiting the transfer station and town office, a direct mailing to a sample of people eligible for a homestead exemption, a direct mailing to a sample of people who own seasonal residences, and to some electronically through the town's Web site. Copies of the survey are available at the town office and transfer station and on the town's Web site for review. A drawing will serve as an incentive to participate. Several local establishments were generous enough to provide the bulk of the prizes.

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## New Business:

- **Public Comment:** A significant amount of time was devoted to a discussion of a neighborhood sensitivity on the Neck Road in and around the area where Parris and Catherine Varney host parties in their barn. Neighbors express dissatisfaction with public officials in their decision not to take any action to stop the events. Neighborhood residents Jeanette Smith and Tom Michaud asserted the Varneys need a permit to conduct such events. The Select Board told Jeanette Smith and Tom Michaud that they (Select Board) have been advised by the town's attorney on the subject and that they also do not intend to act in any way until a Superior Court judge rules on an earlier aspect of the issue, which is expected in November.  
Complimentary to the discussion just noted was the informal decision to ask the Maine Municipal Association attorney Rebecca Seel to review to review China's ordinances, looking for internal contradictions and making suggestions on amendments that would benefit the town. Selectperson Irene L. Belanger made this recommendation after having discussions at a recent MMA convention about local ordinances and how difficult enforcement is in the court system because of the lack of clarity and information in the respective ordinances. Selectperson Ronald R. Breton said that he did not have any objection to the review as long as it did not cost for the review over and above the fee we pay to the MMA annually for membership dues.
- **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):

- **Committees – Meetings/Updates:** 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.
- **Committee Vacancies, e.g. Budget Committee Position, Bicentennial Committee, and etc.:** The vacancies were noted.
- **Strategic Planning Session – Next Steps:** This appears on the agenda for potential discussion as other projects in the planning process mature.
- **Meeting Announcements –** Respective Town committee meetings were announced by the Town Manager.  
**Recognition of Service:** Select Board Chair Neil Farrington suggested there be a scheduled ceremony to recognize Selectperson Joann C. Austin's many years of service to the town on many Boards and Committees. The details will be forthcoming in the near future.  
**Candidate Forum:** It was noted that the Albert Church Brown Memorial Library would be holding a "Candidates Forum: on Sunday, October 21, 2017 and that the Town Manager will be the moderator of the meeting.
- **Foreclosed Upon Property 619 PVR:** The Town Manager provided an update on the disposition of the property, noting that the former owner remains in the dwelling on the property and that she has financial difficulties and is in poor physical condition. This issue is being handed over to the town's attorney.

In other business:

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On a motion by Selectperson Ronald R. Breton and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to set Saturday, March 24, 2018 as the date for the Annual Town Business Meeting. Select Board Chair and Bicentennial coordinator noted that he needed this to be set so that he could arrange for the printing of calendars and to schedule events around that meeting.

On a motion by Selectperson Ronald R. Breton and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to appropriate an amount up to \$7500 from the Contingency Fund to install a concrete pad and roof over the entrance at the lower entrance to the old town hall and also to place crushed rock and pavement at the curb cut and entry-way to the old town hall entrance and further to enter into a 5-year rental contract with the Town Line Newspapers for the lower level of said property with utilities to be prorated and related to the hours/days of use of said property.

Robert A. MacFarland asked for and received permission to have the Four Seasons group host another Trunk-or-Treat event at the old town office and town office parking area.

On a motion by Ronald R. Breton and a second by Selectperson Jeffrey R. LaVerdiere, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene L. Belanger, Secretary  
China Select Board

Assessors Meeting  
Monday  
10/16/2017

Agenda 8:49 p.m.

I. Abatements and/or Supplemental Tax Assessments

On a motion by Ronald R. Breton to approve of and sign the abatement request by Kevin Michaud Trucking as presented and a second by Selectperson Jeffrey R. LaVerdiere, the Board voted 5-0.

On a motion by Joann C. Austin to approve of and sign the abatement request by Primo Water Corporation and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0.

On a motion by Ronald R. Breton to approve of and sign the abatement request by Michaud Farms and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0.

On a motion by Ronald R. Breton to deny the abatement request by Leonard and Faye Cuzner

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and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0.

On a motion by Ronald R. Breton to deny the abatement request by Phillip Poulin and Kristin Lamontagne and a second by Selectperson Jeffrey R. LaVerdiere, the Board voted 3-2(LaVerdiere and Austin).

- II. Adjourn: On a motion by Assessor Jeffrey R. LaVerdiere and a second by Assessor Ronald R. Breton, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Irene L. Belanger, Secretary  
China Select Board and Assessors