

TOWN OF CHINA

571 Lakeview Drive
China, ME 04358



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Public Hearing
11/17/2014
6:55 P.M.

General Assistance Ordinance Amendments – Proposed Changes
Appendix A – Overall Maximums

The Town Manager opened the Public Hearing at 6:55 p.m. Board members present were Irene L. Belanger, Robert MacFarland, Amber McAllister, Neil Farrington, and Joann C. Austin. Others present were Ron Breton, Tim Basham, Sheldon Bumps, George Studley, Maxine Hamilton, Louis Hamilton, George Hamilton, Martha Wentworth, James Wentworth, Tamara Arp, Bill Bickford, Annette Bickford, David Herard, Tom Stephenson, Tom Rumpf, Mary Haskell, Marilyn Reed, Chris Hayes, Amy Hayes, Gary French, Travis French, Carrol R. White, Herb Tyler, Bob Riley, Andy Riley, Mary Grow and the Town Manager.

The Town Manager explained the proposed changes to the appendixes to the town's General Assistance Ordinance, noting examples of the changes in the overall maximums over the last year for different numbers in a family. There were not any questions from the audience.

The public hearing was closed at 6:59 p.m.

Select Board Meeting
Monday – 11/17/2014 – Town Office Meeting Room
7:00 P.M.

Minutes

The Town Manager opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Election of Chairperson and Secretary of the Board: On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger to nominate Joann C. Austin to be Select Board Chair and Amber McAllister to be Select Board Secretary and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Select Board voted 3-0-2 (Austin and McAllister).

The meeting continued with the Chair elected at 7:03 pm. Board members present were Irene L. Belanger, Robert MacFarland, Amber McAllister, Neil Farrington, and Joann C. Austin. Others present were Ron Breton, Tim Basham, Sheldon Bumps, George Studley, Maxine Hamilton, Louis Hamilton, George Hamilton, Martha Wentworth, James Wentworth, Tamara Arp, Bill Bickford, Annette Bickford, David Herard, Tom Stephenson, Tom Rumpf, Mary Haskell, Marilyn Reed, Chris Hayes, Amy Hayes, Gary French, Travis French, Carrol R. White, Herb Tyler, Bob Riley, Andy Riley, Mary Grow and the Town Manager. Those present were led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag by Selectperson Robert MacFarland.

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On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Amber McAllister, the Board voted 5-0 to accept the minutes of the 11/03/2014 Select Board meeting as amended.

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Robert MacFarland, the Board voted 5-0 to accept Payroll Warrants #27 for \$24,855.44 and #28 for \$2,745.08 and Payables Warrant #29 for \$485,583.09 as presented.

Unfinished Business:

- **Public Comment:** Policy Development: About 24 people attended the meeting, some with questions, some with expressions of concern, and some with suggestions about a recent hiring process for a person to oversee the public works and transfer station operations and personnel. Chairperson Joann C. Austin prefaced the public discussion with an explanation of the position of the town at this time relating to the hiring of a person to oversee the PW and T. Station functions of the town and the process by which the town arrived at the then current status in hiring. The Town Manager explained the background relating to the hiring process and the decision to hire one person to oversee both the public works and transfer station operations.

It was noted that the town does not have a formal hiring or dismissal process. Select documents from the Maine Municipal Association were used as guidance documents in the process. Late in the hiring process the town management discovered that the documents used for guidance were not comprehensive. The Town Manager found that an additional provision in state law that prohibits hiring a municipal official for a paid position while she/he is in office and for one year after she/he leaves office. The Town Manager sought legal counsel to affirm what was found and it was confirmed. The Board was updated as the process moved forward and when the additional provision in state law was discovered.

It was thought the matter about the hiring of a town official had been processed appropriately until the current meeting. Residents in the meeting expressed concern about the process and the results, expressing that the perception of the hiring process left questions in peoples' minds.

One person, Mr. William Bickford, expressed that the town would need more than one person hired to oversee both operations. Mr. Ronald Breton said the need for even one supervisor for so small a group of employees might be too many. Different people in the audience felt the best candidate was not chosen, though there were different people they thought should have been chosen.

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An additional sensitivity expressed by the audience related to the lack of a formal town written hiring and dismissal policy. Mr. George Studley added that formal job descriptions for all employees is needed in town.

After the long discussion, Select Board Chair Joann C. Austin asked the Board if they were ready to decide whether or not one person or two people were needed and whether or not they should hold a workshop about the development of suggested policies and job descriptions. Selectperson Neil Farrington advocated considering the matter for a month or two before deciding how to proceed. The Board will consider the issues again in the future.

- **Recycling Coordinator – Appointment of the Coordinator:** The Board did not act on this item and will possibly consider it at their next meeting.
Recycling Report - Update on Recycling Commodities Market) - MMA Municipal Solid Waste Policy Survey Results: There was not a report presented.
- **Transfer Station Committee – Mission/Deliverables Expected:** The Board did not take any action on the formation of a committee. They did discuss very briefly the mission of the committee should it be formed. Selectperson Irene L. Belanger said that she did not feel a committee needed to be formed at this time.
- **Committee/Organization Reports – Selectperson Belanger:** Selectperson Irene L. Belanger reported on the following:

RSU#18 – Irene noted a recent article in the newspaper about the students at Messalonskee High School. She also pointed out that she had recently sent to the SB a schedule of events to be held within the RSU. The minutes of meetings will be posted on the RSU's Web site going forward, with a one month delay in the posting.

K.V.C.O.G. – Irene said that she would be attending two meetings at the KVCOG tomorrow, Tuesday, November 18, 2014. The KVCOG Board meeting would be held in the morning and the CEDS meeting would be held in the afternoon. Irene is the Vice-Chair of the Board.

EC&D Committee – Irene announced that the EC&D Committee would be holding a winter carnival event possibly in February featuring, among other items, a vintage snowmobile display. She went on to note that the Committee would also be hosting a Christmas tree lighting on Sunday, November 30, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. at the town office.

Thurston Park II Committee – Irene reported about a recent Committee meeting at which a trail map was discussed.

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China Lake Outlet Stream Fish Passage Steering Committee – Irene reported that Jim Hart will be taking a new position out of Bangor and therefore will not be available much longer. She went on to note the progress in the effort to either remove dams in the outlet stream or to install fish lifts to allow alewives to migrate back into China Lake in the spring. Irene said that the Town of Vassalboro may be committing funds to the dam initiative, funds received in the harvesting of alewives in Vassalboro.

Presentation of Certificates – Irene presented the Town Manager with two certificates of achievements awarded recently at a MMA convention, one for effective meeting facilitation and another for evaluating municipal managers.

New Business:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Jonathan Vogel – Library Feasibility Committee Update:** It was noted that Mr. Jonathan Vogel would be at the next SB meeting with an additional update.
- **Municipal Appointments – TIF Committee – Irene L. Belanger and Joann C. Austin:** On a motion by Selectperson Amber McAllister, and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 5-0 to appoint Irene L. Belanger and Joann C. Austin to the TIF Committee.
- **General Assistance Ordinance Amendments – Acceptance:** On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington, and a second by Selectperson Robert MacFarland, the Board voted 5-0 to adopt and sign the ordinance amendments as recommended and presented.

Manager's Communications (Non-Action Items):

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Committees – Meetings and Updates: Thurston Park II TBD 2nd Thursday of the Month, Location, Town Office Meeting Room, China Historical Society Committee TBD, China Library Feasibility Committee, Fourth Wednesday of the Month in 2014, March 26, 6:30 P.M. in the town office meeting room, Economic and Community Development Committee, First and Third Thursday of the Month, Time 6:30 P.M., Location China Town Office Meeting Room.** The respective dates, times, and places of the meetings were announced.
- **Ball Field Well Drilling Project – Pump House Building and Other Site Development Projects – Quotes and Contractor Selections:** Selectperson Robert MacFarland asked for this item to be on the agenda for discussion. He was awarded some of the work associated with the well installation and pump house prior to being elected to the SB. He wanted this to be known and discussed by the Board before doing the work at this time. Bob said he would give up the contract if the Board felt it to be appropriate.

Bill Najpauer, the town's CEO, said that if there had not been delays getting the well drilled, the pump house would have been built before Bob was elected on November 4, 2014. On a motion

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by Selectperson Neil Farrington that there is not a conflict of interest in having Mr. MacFarland continue with the work on the pump house and a second by Amber McAllister, the Board voted 4-0-1 (MacFarland).

- **TIF Agreement Conversation Continued – Bill Najpauer and/or William Van Tuinen – Meeting of December 1, 2014:** Town CEO Bill Najpauer distributed a draft list of potential projects that could be included in China's TIF application to the State of Maine. Bill again explained the TIF program for those new to the discussion of the program. The TIF program relates to the expanded Central Maine Power Company power lines in China.

Bill noted that the TIF Committee should have a draft application ready by mid to late December 2014. It is intended that the Board will ask voters at the March 2015 Annual Town Business Meeting to approve the TIF program. On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 5-0 to appoint the Town Manager to the TIF Committee.

- **Household Hazardous Collection Day Summary:** The Town Manager provided the Board with a summary of the most recently held HHW collection day hosted by the Town of Winslow at the Town of Winslow PW garage. He provided the number of people who participated and the number of units processed and the cost to the town for the services. The Board accepted the report with thanks.

In other business, the Board signed condolence cards for the family of Mr. Charles Plumer and for the family of Gene Pierce. They also signed a certificate of appreciation for David Landry for his service to the town as president of the CLA and Chairperson of the CRLA for many years.

The Town Manager also said he was ready to choose between two applicants for a seasonal position driving a plow truck for the town. The Select Board approved the hiring of Jason Finley pending a passed drug test.

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 5-0 to appoint Bill Rancourt to the Emergency Preparedness Committee.

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amber McAllister", written over a horizontal line.

Amber McAllister, Secretary
China Select Board

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Assessors Meeting
11/17/2014

The Chair opened the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

1. Abatements: On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Amber McAllister, the Board voted 4-0-1 (Farrington) to accept and sign an abatement as presented. Copies will be on file at the town office.

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Robert MacFarland, the Board voted 5-0 to accept and sign the abatement as presented. Copies will be on file at the town office.

2. Adjourn

Adjourn: On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Robert MacFarland, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amber McAllister", written over a horizontal line.

Amber McAllister, Secretary
China Board of Assessors