

# TOWN OF CHINA

571 Lakeview Drive  
China, ME 04358



Telephone 207-445-2014  
Fax 207-445-3208  
E-mail chiname@fairpoint.net  
www.china.govoffice.com

## Select Board Meeting

Monday – 11/07/2011 – Town Office Meeting Room

7:00 P.M.

## Minutes

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7:00 pm. Board members present were Paul MacDonald, Peter Foote, Joann C. Austin (7:13 p.m.), Neil Farrington, and Irene L. Belanger. Others present were Thad, Nick, and Julia Barber, Steve Hughes, Charles H. Plumer, Mary Grow, and the Town Manager. Those present were led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag by Selectperson Neil Farrington.

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Paul MacDonald, the Board voted 4-0 to accept the minutes of the 10/10/2011 and 10/24/2011 Select Board meetings as presented

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Neil Farrington, the Board voted 4-0 to accept Payroll Warrant #27 for \$17,424.47, and Payables Warrant #28 for \$384,575.11 as presented.

## Unfinished Business:

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

### **Recycling Report - Neil Farrington:**

#### **Consensus - Coupon Sheet/Punch Card to Replace “Open – Fee Free**

**Transfer Station Day”:** The Board discussed for a second time the merits of an alternate option to the “open fee-free” day held annually at the transfer station. A punch-card or coupon system was offered as a suggestion. After much discussion the Board did not feel a final decision needed to be made at that time and decided to continue discussion at another meeting.

**Update on Commodities Market (Recycling Items):** Selectperson Neil Farrington updated the SB on the current market pricing on recycled commodities noting that the market is decreasing and appears to be heading lower in the months ahead. He cited the poor economy as a reason for the decreased in demand for recyclables.

### **Transfer Station Ordinance Review – SB Continued Discussions/Deliberation –**

**Mandatory Recycling Language:** The Board decided to discuss this topic at a future visioning session to be held in late November or early December.

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## New Business:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Spirit of America Awards – Selectperson Irene L. Belanger/Bruce Flaherty:** The Select Board honored three local men with Spirit of America Certificates recognizing their volunteer work in town. Board member Irene L. Belanger presented certificates to businessman Thadius Barber and retiring Selectperson Neil Farrington. Contractor Robin Tobey, the third honoree, was unable to attend the meeting.
- **Red Light Application – CVVFD, Joseph Labbe:** On a motion by Selectperson and a second by Selectperson, the Board voted 5-0 to accept and sign a red light application for Joseph Labbe.
- **Lien Processes and Waiver of Foreclosure:** On a motion by Selectperson, and a second by Selectperson, the Board voted 5-0 to authorize the Town Manager and Tax Collector to execute a Waiver of Foreclosure document associated with the Branch Mills Flour & Grain property owned by Steve and Christine Coombs and file it with the Kennebec County Registry of Deeds before the December 18, 2011 deadline. The Town Manager noted that he intends to wait until the last moment, hoping that the respective overdue taxes are paid.

Mr. Thomas Dinsmore, former owner of the Branch Mills Flour & Grain property was invited to an earlier SB meeting to talk about the dam in response to complaints from Branch Pond camp owners. The SB thought it would be too much at this time to become owners of the dam and mill building. They did not want to assume responsibility for the water level in Branch Pond and they did not have any information about the potential expense the town would incur for repairs to the mill.

## Manager's Report:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Committees: Implementation Committee – Wednesday, November 9, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Office Meeting Room, Library Services Committee – Meeting, Friday, November 18, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. in the Town Office (Back) Meeting Room, and Thurston Park II, Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the town office:** The respective committee meeting times, dates, and places were announced. Board Chairperson Peter Foote expressed concern about the direction the Implementation Committee is heading as members make suggestions for revision of ordinances. He said he fears the committee is moving toward more regulation and that, in his opinion, stricter ordinances will not be accepted by voters. Selectpersons Foote, Austin, and Belanger commended the Implementation Committee members for their hard work. It was noted that the drafts of the work remain preliminary documents and that the final draft will have to move to the Planning Board and Select Board before going to voters.

It was noted that the Library Services Committee would like to make a final report presentation to the SB at their December 5, 2011 meeting.

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- **Drug Take-Back Day and Household Hazardous Waste Day – Summaries:** The Town Manager noted that the Drug Take-Back Day realized approximately 17 pounds of medications or over the counter pharmacy purchases which was substantially less than realized in the previous year.  
  
The Town Manager also noted that it cost the town approximately \$1,053.93 plus some assistance with labor in the processing of the items. The town allocates an amount up to \$1,800 for this initiative.
- **Transfer Station Survey – Preliminary Findings:** The SB decided to include discussion of the findings at a visioning session to be scheduled in November or early December. A report and presentation of the findings to the SB should take place in late November or early December.
- **Vision Session Priorities – See the List on the Next Page for Reference:** The Town Manager noted that a list is included as an addendum to the SB agenda for the consideration and review as time permits during the regular SB meetings.
- **Maine Power Options Meeting – At the MMA Building on November 10, 2011:** It was noted that MMA will be hosting a Maine PowerOptions Member Meeting on the morning of November 10, 2011. This forum provides members an opportunity to learn about the newer programs in electricity supply offered by Maine PowerOptions which are geared to smaller communities in Maine. It also allows members to learn about competitive supply options and to see about the services offered by Maine PowerOptions' current supplier Constellation NewEnergy.
- **Emergency Services Road Access RSU #18/China Schools – Update:** The Town Manager said that he expects the Planning Board will issue a permit for the new access road at its November 15, 2011 meeting, barring unexpected developments. He went on to say that if a permit is issued, work should begin this fall.
- **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Tipping Fee – P.E.R.C. - \$73.20 per ton:** The Town Manager noted that the tipping fee at P.E.R.C. for the fourth quarter of the calendar year is \$73.20 and it was \$71.00 in the third quarter.

In other business the Board briefly discussed two other committees' work projects they anticipate seeing before final decisions are made. The Thurston Park II Committee is planning to apply for a Maine Trails grant and the Recreation Committee is seeking quotes to modify lighting output at the ball fields. After the ball field lights are turned off, people have a difficult time seeing their way to their automobiles.

The Town Manager said the heavy truck weights limit legislation is preceding through Congress and that the prospect of diverting heavy truck traffic to the highway looks promising.

On a motion by Selectperson Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Joann C. Austin, the Board voted 4-0 to adjourn at 8:37 p.m. (Selectperson Belanger Dismissed Earlier.)

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Respectfully submitted,

Joann C. Austin, Secretary  
China Select Board

## Visioning Meeting Follow-Up – Summary Sheet:

Public Officials Training - **Ongoing**

Public Access to China Lake – **Appraisal of The Cabins Property is Currently Being Pursued, Waiting for a Final Product**

Recycling

Regional Initiatives - **Ongoing**

Solid Waste Flow and Control Ordinance Revisions – Mandatory Recycling of Cardboard – **See Draft Wording – Mandatory Recycling of Cardboard**

Administrative Organizational Structure – Personnel – **Recommendation to be Included in the 2012-2013 Municipal Budget, (Building Code, SSSC Program, API, etc.)**

Recreational Options

Field Search – Photo Sent to SB – **Forested Area Near Ball Fields, Topo Issues?**

Causeway and SC Boat Landing Focus

Thurston Park/Gravel/Recreation (Additional Field)/Other – **Thurston Park II Committee and Other Considerations**

Village(s) Development – **Elderly/Senior Housing Considerations**  
Historical/Traditional

Economic Development

Elderly Housing – **Dennis Keller and Rick Hayden - Proposal**

Infrastructure/Capital Investment – Portable Classroom Usage – **Staging Area in Emergencies and Overnight Housing in Emergencies – Also Need to Continue to Pursue a Capital Investment Plan and Capital Improvement Plan**