

# TOWN OF CHINA

571 Lakeview Drive  
China, ME 04358



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## **Select Board Meeting**

**Monday – 12/19/2011 – 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, Steven Hughes, and Irene L. Belanger. Others present were Neil Farrington, Hugh Krajewski, Scott A. Pierz, Frank Soares, Brandon Kulik, Jeff McLaughlin, Tom and Deborah Dinsmore, Larry Rancourt, Tara Dinsmore, Monique Titcomb, Fred Titcomb, Tom Richards, Mike Gorman, Levi Krajewski, Mary Grow, and the Town Manager. Those present were led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag by Neil Farrington.

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Paul Mac Donald, the Board voted 5-0 to accept the minutes of the 12/05/2011 Select Board meeting as presented.

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Paul Macdonald, the Board voted 5-0 to accept Payroll Warrant #33 for \$20,061.82, and Payables Warrant #34 for \$110,862.38 as presented.

## **Unfinished Business:**

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

### **Recycling Report -**

**Update on Commodities Market (Recycling Items):** Recycling Coordinator Paul MacDonald noted that the town received additional funds from recycling and that the town anticipates more funds soon from recycled commodities that were sent to the wholesale market over the last few weeks. He went on to note the types and amounts the town has ready to send to market at the present time.

**Progress Report on Recycling Building and Compost Pad:** Selectperson MacDonald noted that the addition to the recycling building is almost complete; only the overhead doors have to be received and installed. Also, compost has been placed on the recently poured compost pad for processing.

- **China Historical Society – Meeting with Dale Fegel, Neil Farrington, Harold Charles, Robin Sabattus and Kelly Grotton:** Former Selectperson Neil Farrington reported on a meeting at which he and four other residents discussed reviving the China Historical Society. Neil reported that the groups' ideas include cataloging the holdings in the old town house museum; making a presentation and soliciting new Historical Society memberships at the March 2012 Annual Town Business Meeting; holding an open house at the restored one-room school house in Weeks Mills Village; and repairing the old town house roof. The Town Manager noted that the roof repairs are already in the planning stage.

Selectperson Joann Austin provided the attendees at the meeting with background information relating to the history of interactions between the Historical Society and the Town; specifically

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noting the fund-raising efforts of the HS and the understanding over time of how expenses might be shared in the operation and maintenance of the old town hall. She went on to suggest there is importance in noting the distinction between the separate entities.

## New Business:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Implementation Committee Informational Communication – Committee Representative:** Implementation Committee Chairperson Scott Pierz said the committee is looking for new members. He went on to note that the committee has redefined their immediate task, focusing mainly on revising ordinance provisions governing commercial development and multi-family housing development. They are attempting finish proposed revisions in time for a June 2012 vote.

The committee has decided to put on hold the proposals that proved to be controversial during 2011: namely the architectural standards for commercial buildings; historic district requirements for China Village, and additional land use districts. The ultimate goal of the committee, Pierz noted, was to make a shorter ordinance revision, from the initial 33 pages to less than 20 pages.

- **Levi Krajewski – Branch Mills Flour & Grain Building and Dam (Possibly Attending, Tom Dinsmore):** The Board decided not to discuss the Branch Mills dam because they learned that the owners, Steve and Christine Coombs, could not be present. Former dam owner, Tom Dinsmore, read an e-mail from the Coombs saying that Coombs intends to be in Maine in January to begin repair work on the mill support cribbing. Several Branch Pond landowners attended the meeting. There were a few comments about their concerns/frustrations that the repairs may not be done because they heard promises of repairs being done in the past. There was also an attempt to persuade the Select Board to set a meeting date in January with the Coombs at which a discussion on the future of the dam would be held. Board Chairperson Peter Foote declined to set a date for a meeting and did not allow the Branch Pond landowners to make points informally. He did offer them the use of the town office conference room to continue discussion among themselves.
- **Foreclosed Upon Properties – Proposed Action Plan:** On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Joann C. Austin, the Board voted 5-0 to accept the list and allow the former owners 60 days to redeem the properties; in the redemption of the properties it is meant that all taxes and costs are to be paid to bring the property to a “current” payment status.
- **2012-2013 China Municipal Budget Draft Presented to Select Board (Initial Deliberations Jan 2, 2011):** The Town manager planned to present the first draft of the proposed 2012-2013 municipal budget. He noted that he was still waiting for more information from “departments” and would soon mail a hard copy to the SB for discussion at their January 2, 2011 meeting. There was discussion about the process for receiving and processing of social service agency appropriation requests.

At this time the Board presented the town’s Assessing Agent, Gary Robbins, with a Certificate of Appreciation for his work over the years as the town’s Assessing Agent. They also gave him a small token of appreciation along with the certificate. Gary did provide the SB with a perspective on how much assessing agent services could cost the town in the next few years. He noted he felt the cost would go up significantly; he said his contract was favorable to the town because he

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liked to work in China and that the staff was exceptional, “all pulling the same direction”. He said that his services cost the town about \$350 per day for a projected 100 days of work and that a new contract could potentially cost the town from \$450 to \$600 per day.

- **Home Occupation Ordinance Standards – PB Delivery of Standards to the SB:** The Board briefly discussed the revised Home Occupation Ordinance that the Planning Board forwarded to them. Chairperson Peter Foote proposed that the Select Board discuss home occupation regulations at their January 2, 2012 meeting. After that, he said, both the Select Board and Planning Board could meet jointly, or he and Planning Board Chairperson Ron Breton could discuss any questions or concerns.

### Manager's Report:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Committees: Implementation Committee – Meeting Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 6:30 P.M. in the Town Office Meeting Room; Thurston Park II Committee – TBA:** It was noted that the only committee scheduling a meeting at this time is the Implementation Committee and they will be meeting on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the town office.
- **Transfer Station Survey Report – Susan Cottle – Will be Done at the Next Meeting:** It was noted that a summary of the survey will probably be reported to the Select Board at their next meeting.
- **Visioning Session Meeting – Follow-Up:** It is expected that a summary of the visioning session will be prepared soon and distributed to the Select Board for comment.
- **Economic & Community Development – Kyle Pierce – January Projected Date:** The Board will entertain a presentation from Ms. Pierce in January 2012.
- **Library Services Committee Recommendation – China Library Feasibility Committee:** The Town manager noted that the China Library Services Committee recommends that the SB establish a successor China Library Feasibility Committee after the March Annual Town Business Meeting. People interested in serving on the committee would be solicited at the Town Meeting. The Select Board accepted the CLSC recommendation and intends to appoint a CLFC in late spring.

On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann C. Austin, Secretary  
China Select Board

China Board of Assessors  
Monday 12/19/2011  
8:33 P.M.

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Agenda: The Chair opened the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

- I. **Abatement:** On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to accept and sign the abatement documents. A copy of the abatement is on file at the town office.

Adjournment: On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Paul MacDonald, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Joann C. Austin, Secretary  
China Select Board

Visioning Meeting Follow-Up – Summary Sheet 12/19/2010:

- Public Officials Training - **Ongoing Municipal Association Offerings**
- Public Access to China Lake – **Appraisal of The Cabins Property - Final Product Received – Move to Full Application and Appoint Committee, (China Lake Access Feasibility Committee).**
- Recycling
  - Regional Initiatives - **Ongoing**
  - Solid Waste Flow and Control Ordinance Revisions – Mandatory Recycling of Cardboard – and “Swap Shop or Free for Taking Items”, **See Draft Wording – Mandatory Recycling of Cardboard – Survey Consideration**
- Administrative Organizational Structure – Personnel – **Recommendation to be Included in the 2012-2013 Municipal Budget, (Building Code (Compliance to Standard), 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
- Library Services – Approval of Creation of Library Feasibility Committee and Public Forums
- Thurston Park/Gravel/Recreation (Additional Field)/Other – **Thurston Park II Committee and Other Considerations, e.g. Trails Grant**
- Village(s) Development – **Elderly/Senior Housing Considerations** Historical/Traditional
- Economic Development – **Kyle Pierce Presentation – Reinvigoration of Committee**
- Elderly Housing – **Dennis Keller and Rick Hayden - Proposal**
- Infrastructure/Capital Investment – Town Office Complex - Portable Classroom Usage, Utilities, Police Communication, Access Road, Digital Sign, – **Staging Area Emergencies and Overnight Housing in Emergencies – Also Need to Continue to Pursue a Capital Investment Plan and Capital Improvement Plan**
- Emergency Preparedness Committee – Overarching Organizational Structure – Voluntary Involvement of Emergency Services Groups and Other Interested Individuals.