

TOWN OF CHINA

571 Lakeview Drive
China, ME 04358



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Select Board Meeting

Monday – 02/24/2014 – Town Office Meeting Room

7:00 P.M.

Minutes

The Chair asked for a moment of silence for Joyce Cowing and Skip Baker.

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7:00 pm. Board members present were Paul MacDonald, Peter Foote, Joann C. Austin, Amber McAllister, and Irene L. Belanger. Others present were Ronald Breton, Bill Seekins, Judy Stone, Mary Grow, and the Town Manager. Those present were led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag by Paul MacDonald.

On a motion by Selectperson Amber McAllister and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to accept the minutes of the 02/10/2014 Select Board meeting as presented

On a motion by Selectperson Joan C. Austin and a second by Amber McAllister, the Board voted 5-0 to accept Payroll Warrant #45 for \$25,667.79 and Payables Warrant #46 for \$58,049.39 as presented. There was one concern about a NITCO invoice that was handled by the Town Manager before the meeting.

Unfinished Business:

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

Recycling Report -

Update on Commodities Market (Recycling Items) and Other Items: Select Board member and Recycling Coordinator Paul MacDonald provided information about current recycling commodity market pricing and information about the inventory of recyclable currently at the transfer station. He noted that the prices for commodities have remained steady for the past month with tin increasing by \$10 per ton. Paul noted that single stream recycling was netting negative \$10.00 per ton plus transportation. The annual conference on recycling is being held at the Samoset Resort in Rockport on April 28 and 29, 2014. Selectperson MacDonald noted the recent payment we received from the recycling of metals.

Paul noted that various recycling bins are available for China residents and that residents should call the town office or transfer station for details on availability and purchasing. He went on to note the success of China's recycling initiatives and pointed to the increases in per ton processing costs while the budget at the transfer station has decreased. He attributed the improved efficiency in operations to the recycling initiatives.

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- **RSU#18 Update, KVCOG, and Economic & Community Development Updates – Selectperson Irene Belanger:**

Economic and Community Development Committee: Selectperson Irene L. Belanger said the planned Valentine's dance was canceled because of bad weather. The Economic and Community Development Committee has instead scheduled a Spring Fling for the evening of Saturday, March 22, 2014. She went on to note the Committee intends to meet twice a month, the first and third Thursday evenings. The members intend to take over responsibility for the annual Community Days summer events.

RSU#18: Selectperson Irene L. Belanger reported that RSU#18 directors have begun work on the 2014-2015 school budget. One of the budget meetings will be held at the CMS on April 17, 2014.

KVCOG: Selectperson Irene L. Belanger noted that the next meeting of KVCOG would be on March 11, 2014

Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce: Selectperson Irene L. Belanger noted that the Chamber was hosting a public meeting with Governor LePage on March 6, 2014 at the Hampton Inn in Waterville from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

- **2014-2015 Municipal Budget and Annual Town Business Meeting Warrant – Acceptance and Signing:** On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Amber McAllister, the Board voted 5-0 to accept and sign the Warrant for the March 22, 2014 Annual Town Business Meeting. The Board agreed by unanimous consensus not to include the voting results on the Warrant as requested by a resident. They reasoned that there are multiple opportunities residents have to obtain that information and it was not the proper place to record the votes.

New Business:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Quit-Claim Deeds – Foreclosed Upon Properties:** On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Amber McAllister, the Board voted 5-0 to accept and sign the Quit-Claim deeds as presented. The Board appreciated that Julie Finley came to the meeting to notarize the documents.
- **Time-Warner Cable Contract Review:** Selectpersons Peter Foote and Paul MacDonald agreed to be included in the meeting when Shelly Winchenbach and the Town Manager meet to discuss the renewal of the cable contract. The date and time will be forthcoming. The Town Manager commented about the previous negotiations approximately 10 years ago.

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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, 6:30 P.M. in the town office meeting room, Economic and Community Development Committee, 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.

A presentation was given by Bill Seekins, Chairperson of the Thurston Park II Committee, to the Select Board regarding the progress that the committee has made in the Park. Mr. Seekins suggested that the Town of China close the China portion of the Yorktown Road to motorized vehicles from March 15 to May 1 annually. Bill noted the three Albion and China landowners north of the park endorse the closing. The goal is to protect road improvements made last summer. Foot traffic will not be prohibited.

Bill Seekins and committee member Judy Stone shared drafts of two documents they intended to post in kiosks at the park entrances. One document was a disclaimer warning park users of their responsibility for their own safety and the other was a list of park rules. These documents were adapted from similar documents used by managers of other Maine parks. There was a sensitivity in the discussions about whether or not there needed to be an issuance of a permit for overnight or group use or for fires in the park. The Select Board was asked for advice on the preparation of final drafts of the documents and to approve the finished product. On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 4-0-1(Foote) to close the road entering Thurston Park from March 15 to May 1 and conditioned upon the Town Manager affirming that the Board has the authority to close the road.

In other business:

The Board by consensus scheduled a visioning" session for Monday, March 17, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the town office meeting room. The Town Manager will send out the materials from the last session in 2013.

On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board accepted and signed the expression of recognition prepared for town employee Rebecca J. Hapgood for achieving 20+ years of employment with the Town of China. An additional token of appreciation will be given to Becky.

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The Board agreed by consensus to direct the Town Manager to attempt to obtain/make a final declaration of ownership of the land at the head of China Lake that was discontinued by the State of Maine. The Town Manager commented that a title search might be the proper route to take in the determination of that ownership beyond doubt.

Chair Peter Foote commented that he respectfully asks the Board members to respond to his e-mails when he asks for feedback on a given issue. He depends on the collective input of the Board in his position as Chair.

On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Amber McAllister, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joann C. Austin". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Joann C. Austin, Secretary
China Select Board