

**Town of China**  
**Minutes for the Annual Town Business Meeting**

Upon reaching quorum of 121 at 9:07 am, Town Clerk Rebecca Hapgood, called the meeting to order.

Article 1. On motion by Robert Batteese and second by Dolly Batteese, Richard Thompson Jr. was elected moderator with 5 votes.

After a motion by Ronald Breton and second by Scott Pierz with some discussion voted to defeat a motion to move Article 2 and Article 3 to the end of the warrant.

Article 2. On motion by Joann Austin and second by Irene Belanger voted to entertain a presentation up to 5 minutes each from the **China Comprehensive Plan Thurston Park II Committee** (Bill Seekins) and the **China Library Feasibility Committee** (Jonathan Vogel) representatives regarding the progress of proposed implementation of the China Comprehensive Plan as it relates to each respective Committee.

Article 3. On motion by Joann Austin and second by Amber McAllister voted to entertain a presentation up to 5 minutes from **FIRSTPARK** representative Brad Jackson.

Article 4. On motion by Irene Belanger and second by Joann Austin voted to put forth Article 4 to the legislative body to exceed the property tax levy limit of \$1,317,634.99 established for China by State Law (**LD#1**) in the event that the municipal budget approved under the following articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than the current property tax levy limit. (The request is driven by extraordinary circumstances outside the control of the municipal legislative body; in this particular case, the potential reduction in the traditional and expected State subsidies (Revenue Sharing, Homestead Exemptions, Excise Taxes on Commercial Vehicles, and the BETE program) to China.) The amount noted above will be the new core municipal commitment going forward.

*By written vote, Article 4 passed 96-18.*

Article 5. On motion by Irene Belanger and second by Robert Batteese voted to raise and appropriate \$373,150 for **Administration** and \$103,900 for **Administration Other** expenses.

Article 6. On motion by Irene Belanger and second by Robert Batteese voted to raise and appropriate \$2,363 for **Planning Board Expenses**, \$4,800 for **Maine Municipal Association Dues**, \$600 for **Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce Dues**, and \$6,917 for the **Kennebec Valley Council of Governments**; any remaining balance in the Planning Board budget at the end of the fiscal year to lapse to a Planning Board Account of the Reserve Fund, the funds in which may be used upon a majority vote of a quorum of the Select Board for Planning Board Operations;

said Planning Board Account to be capped at \$8,000.

- Article 7. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Sheldon Goodine voted to raise and or appropriate \$75,000 with \$15,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance for the **Municipal Capital and Equipment Account of the Reserve Fund** (established for the purpose of major capital repairs and purchasing and/or repairing vehicles to be used for snow plowing, grading, transfer station operations, and other public purposes), the funds in which may be used upon a majority vote of a quorum of the Select Board, and these appropriated funds to be combined with the funds presently in said Reserve Fund (\$92,968 as of 06/30/2013) and to be designated Municipal Capital and Equipment Account of the Reserve Fund (said purpose noted above).
- Article 8. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Sheryl Peavey voted to raise and appropriate \$47,500 for Contracted **Assessing** and \$12,500 for **Legal Services**; any remaining balance in the legal budget the end of the fiscal year to lapse into the Legal Account of the Reserve Fund, the funds in which may be used upon a majority vote of a quorum of the Select Board for legal services.
- Article 9. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Irene Belanger voted to raise or appropriate \$23,000 for **Computer Hardware and Software** for the Town Office.
- Article 10. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Leonard Goodine voted to raise and appropriate \$25,446 for **Police Services** and **Animal Control Officer Services** to include supplies and vehicle maintenance in support of services.
- Article 11. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Paul MacDonald voted to raise and or appropriate the Budget Committee's recommendation for the **Volunteer Fire Departments, China Rescue and PSAP (E-911 Call Answering) and Dispatch Services** to be allocated in the following manner; any remaining balance in any department at the end of the fiscal year to lapse into the Reserve Account for the Respective Department/Service in the Reserve Fund, the fund in which may be used upon a majority vote of a quorum of the Select Board; to be used for operating expenses only:

	Budget Committee Recommends:	
<b>South China VFD</b>	\$21,000	
<b>China Village VFD</b>	\$22,000	
<b>Weeks Mills VFD</b>	\$17,204	
<b>Weeks Mills VFD Building Reserve</b>	\$5,000	UDFB*

	SB shall consider Equity Position	
<b>China Rescue</b>	\$10,000	
	\$6,000	from
		Rescue Reserve
<b>PSAP/E-911 Calls</b>	\$19,500	
<b>Dispatching Service</b>	\$26,500	
<b>Totals:</b>	\$127,204	

- Article 12. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Dolly Batteese voted to raise and appropriate \$6,000 for the **Fire Department Capital Equipment Account of the Reserve Fund**, the funds in which may be used upon a majority vote of a quorum of the Select Board for fire departments' capital purchases or major capital repairs, e.g. SCBA Equipment, Capital Improvements/Repairs to Vehicles, etc.; the Select Board shall require equity positions associated with capital expenditures, singularly or collectively above \$2,500.
- Article 13. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Peter Foote voted to raise and appropriate \$239,245 for **Insurance and Unemployment Compensation Premiums** and \$15,982 for **Emergency Services Insurance**.
- Article 14. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Irene Belanger voted to raise and appropriate \$17,000 with \$5,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance for **payment on the debt (principal & interest) incurred on the purchase of the Town's China Rescue Vehicle**.
- Article 15. On motion by Rick Fischer and second by Leonard Goodine voted to raise and appropriate \$281,528 for **Solid Waste Disposal/China Transfer Station Operations**.
- Article 16. On motion by Charles Conway and second by Irene Belanger voted to raise and appropriate \$698,012 (\$59,000 from highway grant & \$639,012 from excise taxes) for **Road Maintenance**; highways, bridges & gravel roads, paving, and winter road maintenance and to further authorize the Select Board to expend a portion of the appropriated/raised amount prior to the beginning of the 2014/2015 fiscal year or carry-forward remaining amounts as of 06/30/2014 as they deem to be in the best interest of the Town of China.
- Article 17. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Jean Conway voted to raise and appropriate \$2,500 for **Street Signs** and \$7,000 for **Street Lights** (monthly/annual CMP kw/hr. fees).
- Article 18. On motion by Joann Austin and second by Anthony Pileggi voted to earmark the balance, after administration expenses, of the **Snowmobile Registration Tax Refund** from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to the China Four

Seasons Club. The cost allocated to administration is not to exceed \$3.00 per snowmobile.

Article 19. On motion by Dolly Batteese and second by Charles Plumer voted to raise and appropriate \$21,950 for **Recreation** and to have any remaining balance in the current budget lapse into the Recreation Account of the Reserve Fund, the funds in which may be used upon a majority vote of a quorum of the Select Board for Recreational Capital Needs/Activities/Programs said Recreation Account to be capped at \$15,000.

Article 20. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Leonard Goodine voted to raise and appropriate \$14,500 for the **Welfare Account**.

Article 21. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Leonard Goodine voted to raise and appropriate \$6,000 for the **China Historical Society** toward the cost of utilities and repairs for the Old Town Meeting House and for Historical Society Outreach Programs.

Article 22. After an extended discussion and on motion by Scott Adams and second by Kathy Brownell voted to raise and appropriate \$4,500 for the **South China Library and \$4,500 for the Albert Church Brown Library**.

Article 23. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Sheldon Bumps voted to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's request of \$12,863 for the following **Social Service and Non-Profit Agencies**:

	Budget Committee Recommends:
Family Violence	\$2,000
KVCAP Demand Response Transport	\$0
Spectrum Generations	\$2,276
Kennebec Behavioral Health	\$2,000
Children's Center	\$1,500
Sexual Assault Crisis & Support	\$1,437
Waterville Boys & Girls Club	\$1,000
Hospice Volunteers of Waterville Area	\$1,650
Healthy Hearts	<u>\$1,000</u>
	\$12,863

Article 24. On motion by Anthony Pileggi and second by Leonard Goodine voted to raise and appropriate \$6,982 for the **Kennebec Valley Humane Society**.

Article 25. On motion by Rick Fischer and second by Jason Fredette voted to raise and appropriate \$23,000 for the purpose of maintaining **Cemeteries** and for **Memorial Day** and \$950 for **Veterans Grave Marker expenses**; said money for grave marker expenses to be divided equally between the China and South China Legion Posts and to further authorize the Select Board to repurchase and resell

Cemetery lots within existing cemeteries as they deem to be in the best interest of the Town of China, said authority to continue unless rescinded by voters.

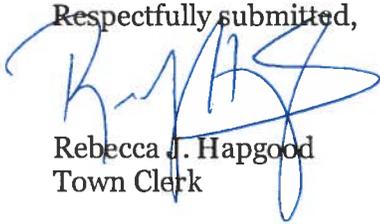
- Article 26. On motion by Joann Austin and second by Jean Conway voted to establish two (2) **Tax Payment Due Dates** to be September 30, 2014 and March 31, 2015 and to charge an **Interest Rate** of seven percent (7.0%) per annum after each tax payment due date, with interest to be calculated daily at the rate of 0.00019178082 for each day or fraction thereof that each payment is overdue; and to further see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to sell and convey by Warranty Deed or Quit Claim Deed tax acquired properties and to execute Waiver of Foreclosure documents as determined to be in the best interests of the Town of China, said authority to continue unless rescinded by voters, and to further authorize the tax collector or treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. Section 506.
- Article 27. On motion by Charles Conway and second by Leonard Goodine voted to appropriate from Unassigned Fund Balance an amount not to exceed \$55,000 for the purpose of using these funds as the required **matching funds in successful Grant Applications** and to further authorize the Selectmen to apply for and accept funds from the State of Maine, Federal Government, and any other duly authorized authority.
- Article 28. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Paul MacDonald voted to raise and appropriate \$30,000 for **Lake Restoration** expenses and to further authorize the Select Board to expend a portion of the raised/appropriated amount prior to the beginning of the 2014/2015 fiscal year as they deem to be in the best interest of the Town of China. (Any proposed expenditure to advance an interest in real property is to have prior Select Board approval.)
- Article 29. On motion by Robert Batteese and second by Irene Belanger appropriated an amount not to exceed \$45,000 from the overlay and or unassigned fund balance to serve as a **Contingency Fund** to be spent by the Select Board on unanticipated expenses and emergencies and to avoid overdrafts that may occur during this fiscal year.
- Article 30. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Irene Belanger voted to raise and or appropriate \$2,500 from Unassigned Fund Balance for the purpose of funding **China Community Days** events and to allow any remaining balance to lapse into the China Community Days account of the reserve fund at the end of the fiscal year; the funds in which may be used upon a majority vote of a quorum of the Select Board, and said appropriation to become available in the current fiscal budget year.
- Article 31. On motion by Dolly Batteese and second by Joann Austin voted to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$2,700 from Unassigned Fund Balance for the purpose of preserving the **Historical Records** in the Town of China.

Article 32. On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Joann Austin voted to raise and appropriate an amount not to exceed \$1072 for the purpose of compensating the **Town Health Officer** for services provided.

Article 33. On motion by Rick Fischer and second by Joann Austin voted to appropriate \$5,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance for the purpose of adding to the **Unfunded Accrued Compensated Balance Reserve Account in the Fund Balance/ Designated Fund Balance** to finance the unfunded accrued compensated balances of the Town.

On motion by Charles Plumer and second by Irene Belanger with meeting adjourned at 12:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Hapgood', is written over the typed name and title.

Rebecca J. Hapgood  
Town Clerk