

# TOWN OF CHINA

571 Lakeview Drive  
China, ME 04358



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## Select Board Regular Meeting

Monday – 04/17/2017

China Town Office Meeting Room

7:00 P.M.

## Minutes

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance at 7:00 p.m. Board members present were Irene L. Belanger, Jeffrey LaVerdiere, Neil Farrington, Ronald R. Breton, and Joann C. Austin. Others present were Dale Worster, Harlie Atchison, Frank Soares, Anita Smith, Elaine Philbrook, Mary Grow and the Town Manager. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag, led by the Chair Neil Farrington.

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Ronald R. Breton, the Board voted 5-0 to accept the minutes of the 04/03/2017 Select Board meeting as presented.

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Jeffrey LaVerdiere, the Board voted 5-0 to accept and sign China Payroll Warrant #51 for \$23,537.45 as presented and on a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Ronald R. Breton, the Board voted 5-0 to accept and sign Town Payables Warrant #52 for \$43,413.44 as presented.

## Unfinished Business:

- **Transfer Station Co-Coordinator's Conversation and Organization/Other Reports:**

Selectperson Irene L. Belanger reported the on the current events relating to the transfer station and other respective organizations.

- **TIF Funding – China Four Seasons Club – Frank Soares:** Four Seasons Club president Frank Soares provided the Board with information about the Club's intention to change the original plan to use the \$50,000 appropriation from China's TIF reserve fund approved by voters in November of 2016. He said that some of the proposed trail work was done at no charge by Coutts Brothers, Inc., so the Club would plan to improve additional trail mileage and to divert \$5,000 to replace the dock at its swimming beach to accommodate boats. Selectperson Ronald R. Breton questioned the legality of adding a dock replacement to a TIF project authorized by town voters. The Town Manager was asked to check out the legality issue.

Frank also said that Club contractors and volunteers use State guidelines for multi-use trails. He went on to note that trails are available for walking and horseback riding as well as use by four-wheelers and snowmobiles. Frank said the Club has gained State approval to take out a beaver dam on Hunter Brook that has flooded a section of trail.

- **June Ballot Items – Town Clerk and Registrar Hours:** On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to approve of the hours as recommended and presented. Copies of the respective documents are on file at the town office.
- **Proposals to be on the Ballot:** Selectperson Ronald R. Breton made a motion to include an Article on the June ballot regarding a ban on marijuana commercial sales and social clubs and Selectperson Irene L. Belanger seconded the motion. There was extensive discussion about the Article associated with marijuana sales and social clubs with Selectpersons Austin and

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LaVerdiere expressing concerns that the Article might be premature in going to the voters at this time. On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Jeffrey R. LaVerdiere to amend the motion to have language on the June ballot regarding a moratorium on the commercial sale of marijuana and the permitting of social clubs, the Board voted 2-3 (Breton, Farrington, Belanger). Selectperson Ronald R. Breton, after the discussion and motion to amend, made a motion to move the question and that was seconded by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger. The motion to move the questions was approved by a 3-2 (Austin, LaVerdiere) vote. The Board then voted 3-2 (Austin, LaVerdiere) to approve the initial motion.

On a motion by Selectperson Ronald R. Breton and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to approve an Article for the June ballot to appropriate funds to install a well and septic system for the emergency shelter (portable) at the town office.

## New Business:

- **Public Comment:** Resident Dale Worster asked the Board if they intended to separate the China Community Days Committee from the Economic Development Committee. He indicated that he would be happy to serve on the Economic Development Committee but not on the CCD Committee.

China Fire and Rescue Chiefs presented a preliminary proposal for distributing the \$40,000 voters approved appropriating at the March 2017 Annual Town Business Meeting for stipends for volunteer firefighters and rescue personnel. More conversations are expected for May, after each department has discussed the proposed draft plan. Selectpersons Ronald R. Breton and Neil Farrington received the plan on the morning of April 17. They said there was agreement that at least one Select Board member will attend meetings with the Chiefs, as a liaison between the Select Board and the services. A draft of the proposal was handed out to the Board.

- **Policies and Procedures:** The Board will continually review policies and procedures with the intent of updating any and all policies and procedures that need attention.
- **Anita Smith and Elaine Philbrook – China Town Forest at the Schools – Historical Accomplishments:** Anita and Elaine provided a presentation to the Board on the town forest at the China Middle School, providing molasses cookies to those fortunately present. They noted that the town is celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> year after its 1997 designation as a Maine Outstanding Tree Farm. The forest is open to residents of all ages for walking, bird-watching, and similar activities. It serves as a classroom for many children. Anita and Elaine explained that they use approximately 50 acres of the 75 acres the town purchased in 1984 for the primary school. Most all of the financial resources needed to support the forest activities have been raised through grants, donations, and a timber harvest.

They went on to note that Forest Field Day will be held on Friday, May 26, 2017, rain or shine. There will be a variety of activities for China elementary students and the general public. Also, on Saturday, October 14, 2017, Maine Project Learning Tree, the State division of the international environmental educational organization, will hold its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in China's forest.

The Board thanked Anita and Elaine for their many hours of volunteer service in the forest. Anita and

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Elaine plan to provide the Board with periodic updates on the forest related activities.

- **Appointments:** On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Joann C. Austin, the Board voted 5-0 to approve of and sign the appointment papers as presented. Copies of the appointments will be on file at the town office.

## Manager's Communications (Non-Action Items):

- **Committees – Meetings/Updates: Thurston Park II, Economic and Community Development Committee, Transfer Station Committee, Tuesday, May 02, 2017 at 8:30 A.M. in the Town Office, and TIF Committee, Monday, May 08, 2017 at 6:30 P.M. in the town office meeting room, and Emergency Preparedness Committee, TBA at 10:15 A.M. in the Town Office.** The respective dates, times, and places of the meetings were announced.
- **TIF Information/Conversations:** The Board agreed to have this item on the agenda for continued conversation and clarification.
- **Committee Vacancies:** The Town Manager noted that residents are welcome to volunteer to serve on various committees and emphasized that there were openings on the China for a Lifetime Committee.
- **Strategic Planning Session – Next Steps:** The Board will plan for another meeting soon and will be kept current on the progress of some initiatives.

In other business:

The Board agreed to schedule a short meeting on Thursday, April 27, 2017 to approve of and sign the Warrant, and associated documents, for the June ballot.

The Board had a conversation about LD 26 and how the reduction of Excise Tax revenues would create difficulties in the property tax relief efforts.

On a motion by Neil Farrington and a second by Selectperson Jeff LaVerdiere, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Irene L. Belanger, Secretary  
China Select Board