

TOWN OF CHINA

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Select Board Meeting

Monday – 06/26/2017 – 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, Neil Farrington, Ronald R. Breton, and Joann C. Austin. Others present were Tom Michaud, Jim Hart, Mary Grow and the Town Manager. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Ronald R. Breton, the Board voted 4-0 to accept and sign the minutes of the 05/31/2017 and 06/14/2017 Select Board meetings as presented.

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Ronald R. Breton, the Board voted 4-0 to accept China Payroll Warrant #61 for \$25,162.34 and CBI Payroll Warrant #62 for \$678.75 as presented. On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Joann C. Austin, the Board voted 4-0 to accept and sign Town Payables Warrant #63 for \$150,324.22 as presented. Selectperson Ronald R. Breton commented about end of year spending.

Unfinished Business:

- **Organization Reports/Transfer Station Coordinators/Other Reports - TIF Committee Progress/Thurston Park:**
Selectperson Irene L. Belanger reported the on the current events relating to respective organizations, e.g. reporting on the MRRA initiative to find outlets for the collection of textiles.
- The Town Manager noted the June 17 Thurston Park forestry walk sponsored by the Thurston Pak II Committee drew an interested group of people, mostly from other towns wanting to see what China is doing with the Park.

Tom Michaud reported for the TIF Committee that its members are focusing on replacing the Causeway Road Bridge. The Committee has one engineer's suggestions and are meeting with other engineers in the next three weeks. He went on to note that once plans are final, the Committee expects it will take several months to get necessary permits for the work. The next steps after the bridge replacement is parking. Tom also reported on a recent meeting of members of the TIF Committee with MDOT officials in Augusta.

The Board continued discussion on the potential purchase of land from Susan Bailey, delayed because of concerns about the ability to out-convey a piece of a larger parcel, on the Causeway Road, owned by Ms. Bailey and only discovered recently.

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The Town Manager said that TIF Committee member Frank Soares suggested seeking to acquire land on the other side of Lakeview Drive that could accommodate overflow boat-landing parking and four wheeler parking in summer months and snowmobile trail access parking in the winter months. Several people have cited recent congestion around the boat landing.

- **Foreclosed Upon Property:** On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 4-0 to provide an additional two weeks to allow Bangor Savings or the former owner to redeem the property by paying what would have been the total arrears amounts should the former owner have retained ownership of the property. The Town Manager is to report back to the SB at the next regular meeting.
- **June Ballot Questions Approved – Next Steps - Land Purchase:** It was reported that the property description has been given to the town's attorney for preparation of the transfer of the property to the town. Attorney Alton Stevens will prepare respective documents for processing and obtain appropriate signatures to transfer the property after payment. The Board agreed with the process of moving forward and the voters provided guidance at the June election.

New Business:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Policies and Procedures:** The Board will continually review policies and procedures with the intent of updating any and all that need attention.
- **Jim Hart – China Region Lakes Alliance:** China Region Lakes Alliance President Jim Hart reported on activities of his organization, the China Lake Association, and the Alewives Restoration Initiative. He went on to note the CRLA and CLA are cooperating on work to reduce phosphorous run-off into China Lake, Three Mile Pond and Webber Pond through the LakeSmart Program. The LakeSmart Program encourages shore land homeowners to meet water quality protection standards. The Youth Conservation Corps, overseen by the CRLA, plan and carry out shoreline improvement projects.

Mr. Hart commended the Kennebec Water District for supporting the effort this year, after a break in assistance last year because of disagreement over the value of alewives to water quality. He said that opening Maine streams to alewife migration is a state effort to encourage the return of small fish to lakes and to improve marine resources when alewives return from those lakes to the ocean. He also mentioned annual alewife festivals in Damariscotta and Benton, and income to the Town of Vassalboro from trapping and selling the fish as they enter Webber Pond from the Kennebec River.

- **Paving Bids – Acceptance of Low Bidder:** On a motion by Selectperson Ronald R. Breton and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 4-0 to accept the low bid of B&B Paving of Hermon, Maine. The Town Manager noted that references were checked before recommending the low bidder.
- **Pawnbroker License Renewal:** On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Joann C. Austin, the Board voted 4-0 to approve of and sign the license renewal application.

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- **Appointments – Broadband Committee, Revolving Loan Fund Committee, and Building Official:** On a motion by Selectperson Ronald R. Breton and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 4-0 to approve of and sign appointment papers for Paul Mitnik as a Building Official in the Town of China, Jamie Pitney to the China Broadband Committee, Amy Gartley and Dale Worster to the Revolving Loan Fund Committee, and Leanne Hanson to the China for a Lifetime Committee
- **Capital Equipment Consideration – Tandem Axle Plow Truck and One-Ton Plow Truck Replacements:** The Town Manager proposed replacing two town trucks and noted that if trucks are to be ready for the next winter season, the Select Board needs to purchase them soon to receive the replacements before snowfall. The Board plans to discuss this topic further at the July 10 meeting.

Manager's Communications (Non-Action Items):

- **Committees – Meetings/Updates:** 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, e.g. Budget Committee Position, Bicentennial Committee, and etc.:** The Board decided to advertise for a Budget Committee Secretary and for members of the Bicentennial Committee.
- **MOU – Emergency Services:** Chair Neil Farrington reported that representatives of all three fire departments and China Rescue have signed the Memorandum of Understanding describing implementation of a program to offset operating expenses incurred by all four departments for specific activities of volunteers that will result in compensation by stipends. It was noted that the departments are independent non-profit organizations registered with the State of Maine. The program begins with the new fiscal year July 1, 2017.
- **ID Sign Town Office and Driveway – Chair Farrington:** The Chair noted that people have said they cannot easily find the town office because it does not have an identifying sign. Board members agreed to continue discussing what kind of sign they might want at the next SB meeting.
- **SB Meetings in July – Historical Building/Old Town Office – Chair Farrington Historical Society: Building – Office Rental Area:** On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 4-0 to approve of the repairs to the old town hall basement meeting area. The voters approved of potentially leasing out the basement area to a non-profit in a past election.

Select Board Chair Neil Farrington wants to hold summer meetings of the Board in the old town hall historical museum on the main floor. The July 10 scheduled SB meeting will tentatively be held in the museum area.

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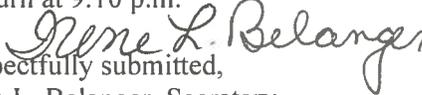
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- **Web Site Update – China Bicentennial – Chair Farrington:** On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Ronald R. Breton, the Board voted 4-0 to proceed with the update of the town's Web site. The Chair noted that it will be very helpful in promoting the "run-up" to the Bicentennial celebration in 2018. The last time the Web site was updates was in 2004.
- **Strategic Planning Session – Next Steps:** This item will continue to be discussed periodically during meetings of the Board.

In other business:

Selectperson Ronald R. Breton commented about someone who contacted him about the number of people on the Select Board in China and expressed that the members should be representing sections of China similar to the China Planning Board. Selectperson Irene L. Belanger said that she heard opposing views on that topic.

On a motion by Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Ronald R. Breton, the Board voted 4-0 to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.


Respectfully submitted,
Irene L. Belanger, Secretary
China Select Board