

TOWN OF CHINA



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Select Board Meeting

Monday – 07/24/2017 – Town Office Meeting Room

7:00 P.M. 08/07/2017 *DL*

Minutes

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance at 7:00 p.m. Board members present were Jeffrey LaVerdiere, Neil Farrington, Ronald R. Breton, and Joann C. Austin (Selectperson Irene L. Belanger had an excused absence). Others present were Richard Morse, Fred Glidden, Tom Michaud, Peter Caldwell, Tiffany Glidden, 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 Jeffrey R. LaVerdiere, the Board voted 5-0 to accept the minutes of the 07/24/2017 Select Board meeting as presented.

On a motion by Selectperson Jeffrey LaVerdiere and a second by Joann C. Austin, the Board voted 4-0 to accept and sign China Payroll Warrant #7 for \$22,310.89 as presented. On a motion by Selectperson Ronald R. Breton and a second by Selectperson Joann C. Austin, the Board voted 4-0 to accept and sign CBY/YCC Payroll Warrant #8 for \$8,599.50 as presented. On a motion by Selectperson Joann C. Austin and a second by Selectperson Ronald R. Breton, the Board voted 4-0 to accept and sign Town Payables Warrant #9 for \$894,609.12 as presented.

Unfinished Business:

- **Transfer Station Co-Coordinators' Conversation and Organization/Other Reports:** Select Board members heard about current events relating to respective organizations.

New Business:

- **Public Comment:** Tom Michaud had a brief conversation with the Board about a proposed new "fire pond" to be located on the Neck Road. The cost is estimated to be \$8000 and funding will be needed from the town. Selectperson Joann C. Austin noted the need for water resources in the Weeks Mills Village section of China.
- **Policies and Procedures:** The Board will continually review policies and procedures with the intent of updating any and all that need attention.
- **Emergency Services – Fred Glidden:** The Board and SCVFD treasurer Fred Glidden and Chief Richard Morse had a conversation about auditing requirements and submittal of invoices. Treasurer Fred Glidden submitted invoices dated in May and June of fiscal year 2016-2017 for payment in fiscal year 2017-2018. The invoices clearly indicated the goods/services were received in the 2016-2017 fiscal year. China's fiscal year ends on June 30 of any given year and the new fiscal year begins on July 1 of any given year. Mr. Glidden told the Select Board that he submitted several invoices dated in the previous fiscal year (2016-2017) for payment in fiscal year 2017-2018 with the 2017-2018 budgeted appropriation for the SCVFD. He said that he was told that the invoices could not be paid; they were bills from 2016-2017 and according to the town's auditor, the books for that year were closed and the appropriation for that year was completely spent. The processing of the invoices would have had to be accounted for in 2016-

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2017 and would have created an overdraft in the account.

The Town Manager noted that he had Mr. Glidden speak with the town's auditor for clarification and the town's auditor explained the accounting principles governing the respective accounting practice they are obligated to follow. The Town Manager went on to note that Mr. Glidden told the auditor that the goods/services were invoiced early and that some of the items were not received until after the beginning of the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The auditor asked Mr. Glidden to have the respective vendors correct their invoicing and present the items again for consideration. Mr. Glidden said he would produce the respective and amended invoices.

Mr. Glidden told the Board that the department had already paid two of the invoices from SCVFD funds that were raised through donations and other fundraisers and that he intended to invoice the town for reimbursement. It was again noted that the accounting principles would hold true over time.

Chief Richard Morse and Treasurer Fred Glidden noted that they had done this practice in the past, the Town Manager responded that the town's auditors may not have picked that up in that given year. He went on to note that auditors choose accounts arbitrarily to review and that not every transaction is reviewed and that would be the explanation relating to past years. Mr. Glidden went on to attack the Town Manager on a personal basis, e.g. How much the Town Manager is paid and how long he has served and that might be too long a period of service, while not providing any wrongdoing by the Town Manager. SCVFD Chief Morse did not have any comment about the SCVFD Treasurer's comments. Board members had emphatic and direct comments in contrast to Mr. Glidden's comments and also direct comments asserting that the comments by Mr. Glidden were inappropriate. The Board also supported the accounting procedures followed by the town Auditors, hired to do the audit. Mr. Glidden also made comments about the Town Clerk and her handling of past and current invoices presented for payment near the end of each fiscal year, e.g. "Becky leaves me out in the cold". Mr. Glidden referenced LD 150 and said that that legislation would allow the town to provide the emergency services departments to receive lump sum appropriations for a fiscal year. The Town Manager responded that the emergency services departments would also potentially be subject to audit under those conditions, that the budgets would need to be itemized under LD 150 legislation, and that the same auditing rules would not change and would apply for the respective departments.

The Chair of the Select Board suggested that Mr. Glidden, treasurer of the CVVFD, resubmit the invoices appropriately dated for consideration. Selectperson Ronald R. Breton expressed to Mr. Glidden that he thought the presentation was an attack on the Board and most of the comments were not connected to anything on the agenda and inappropriate. He went on to say, "I'm insulted" by the comments.

Manager's Communications (Non-Action Items):

- **Committees – Meetings/Updates:** The respective dates, times, and places of the meetings were announced.

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- **TIF Information/Conversations:** The Board agreed to have this item on the agenda for continued conversation and clarification.

Tax Increment Financing Committee member Tom Michaud provided the Board with a progress update on the replacement of the bridge on the Causeway Road. He told the Board that the Committee asked three engineering firms for designs for a replacement bridge. He hoped to have designs for presenting at the Board's August 21, 2017 meeting.

- **Committee Vacancies, e.g. Budget Committee Position, Bicentennial Committee, and etc.:** The Board Chair and the Town Manager repeated a request for volunteers for the vacant Budget Committee position, the 2018 Bicentennial Committee, and other town committees.
- **Historical Society Building Repairs Update and Rental Option:** The Board had a conversation about the options of renting the basement office area in the Old Town Hall to the Town Line Newspaper, a Maine non-profit. Select Board Chair proposed that the Board consider renting the office area to the Town Line Newspapers. There will be more discussion about this rental area at future SB meetings, nevertheless, the Board did reaffirm their intention to office to a non-profit organization. They directed the Town Manager to continue with the necessary repairs and maintenance of the old town hall office area.
- **Strategic Planning Session – Next Steps:** This appears on the agenda for potential discussion as other projects in the planning process mature.
- **Foreclosed Upon Property:** The Town Manager noted that there was not any further progress in discussions with the financing institution relative to how much they would consider to pay in what would have been "back taxes" on the respective property. The Board directed the Town Manager to move forward on the process of eviction if the prior owner is not able to redeem the property.
- **2017-2018 Municipal Tax Commitment:** The Town Manager said he hopes to be able to recommend the 2017-2018 tax rate at the next regularly scheduled SB meeting. The town is waiting to hear whether or not the State will approve China's TIF program application for an amendment to the original TIF approved in 2015. The amendment would extend the term of the program and also add the new Central Maine Power Company substation off Route #3 to the town's TIF program. Whether the value of the new substation is in the TIF program or the regular tax base will affect the rate recommended.

On a motion by Ronald R. Breton and a second by Selectperson Jeffrey R. LaVerdiere, the Board voted 4-0 to adjourn at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Irene L. Belanger, Secretary
China Select Board