

TOWN OF CHINA

571 Lakeview Drive
China, ME 04358



Telephone 207-445-2014
Fax 207-445-3208
E-mail chiname@fairpoint.net
www.china.govoffice.com

Select Board Meeting

Monday – 09/10/2012 – Town Office Meeting Room
7:00 P.M.

Minutes

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7:00 pm. Board members present were Paul MacDonald, Peter Foote, Steven Hughes, and Irene L. Belanger. Others present were Sheldon Bumps, Tina Sawlivich, Freda Bailey, Judy Hotham, Ronald Morrell, Elwood Ellis, Charles Clark, David Herard, Margaret Herard, Randy Geaumont, Tommy Alfieri, Justin Cerbarano, Mary Grow, and the Town Manager. Those present were led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag by Elwood Ellis.

The Chair, Peter Foote, asked for a moment of silence for the victims of the 09/11/2001 incident in New York City.

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Paul MacDonald, the Board voted 4-0 to accept the minutes of the 08/27/2012 Select Board meeting as presented.

On a motion by Selectperson Steven Hughes and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 4-0 to accept Payroll Warrant #16 for \$19,102.47, Payroll Warrant #17 for \$2,791.09 and Payables Warrant #18 for \$363,012.64 as presented.

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 reported on the volume of recyclables the town is producing and on the market pricing of recyclables currently. Paul noted that the prices for commodities has been going down and may continue downward for a while. The town does offset tipping fees in addition to receiving revenues from recycled products.
- **China Rescue:** The Select Board spent about an hour discussing with China Rescue members whether or not China Rescue should receive \$3,000 from last year's budget to be deposited into China Rescue's "memorial fund account" and used to reimburse for gasoline used by members on Rescue calls. China Rescue president Justin Cerbarano expressed that some token reimbursement is justified. He went on to say that "We are basically taking a loss to help the residents of this

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town.” He went on to say that a request was made in June for a lump sum amount from the town to be used for reimbursement to members. The town manager said that requests for funds should be accompanied by evidence of expenditure.

Select Board Chairperson Peter Foote said that the Select Board does not want to reimburse volunteers.

It was also noted that the China Rescue memorial fund had a balance in it of approximately \$3400. There was a suggestion that the memorial fund be used as a source to reimburse members. Members of Rescue noted that they respond to many more calls than other emergency service entities in town and that the expense for gasoline for members is substantial.

The Board decided to postpone any action on this matter until their September 24, 2012 regular meeting.

New Business:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Transfer Station Committee Presentation/Update – at the Next SB Meeting:** It was reported that the Transfer Station Committee will be meeting on September 19, 2012 and thereafter making a progress report to the Select Board at the SB meeting on September 24, 2012.
- **Petition to Withdraw From RSU#18:** Four members of a petition group presented the Select Board with their reasoning to withdraw from RSU #18, which is comprised of Oakland, Belgrade, China, Sidney and Rome schools. Ron Morrell, Judy Hothem, Freda Bailey, and Sheldon Bumps gave their reasoning for withdrawal. The reasons ranged from the disappearance of a greenhouse donated to China schools to not being able to determine if there had been realized monetary savings from joining RSU #18 and to asserted loss of control of the education system.

Elwood Ellis, vice-chairperson on the RSU #18 school committee, said there have been cost savings since the RSU had been created, citing specifically \$60,000 a year in transportation costs. He went on to state that under the RSU, China’s educational system is the best it has ever been. Mr. Ellis also said that in his opinion the minor frustrations are less important than doing well by the students.

Select persons Irene L. Belanger and Select Board Chair Peter Foote said they think China is getting a good deal under the RSU.

There were some professional disagreements about the costs and consequences of leaving RSU#18. The group representing the petition initiative asked for \$35,000 to proceed through the process of withdrawal to a vote. Selectperson Steven Hughes said the he personally is not prepared to ask the taxpayers of China to spend more money because of an assertion that China has lost its identity in the change. An additional unknown by the petitioners was a requirement that China would have to have a signed contract with a high school if it became an independent

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educational entity or merged with other towns without high schools. Sheldon Bumps stated that if the law really says that, he would change his mind about supporting withdrawal from the RSU.

The Select Board ended the discussion by asking the Town Manager to confirm the high school contract requirement before they return to the topic at the Board's September 24, 2012 meeting. Chairperson Peter Foote asked all involved, the petition group, the china representatives on the RSU school Board, and fellow Select Persons if they were fine with getting the information about the high school contract requirement and resuming discussion at the next regularly scheduled SB meeting. All agreed that it would be acceptable.

- **Randy Geaumont – MDOT – Variable Speed Spreaders and Salt Priority:** Because of time constraints, Mr. Geaumont asked about coming back at a later meeting to do his presentation. The Chair agreed and asked the Town Manager to invite Mr. Geaumont to a SB meeting that fits into his schedule.
- **MMA Annual Business Meeting – Voting Credentials:** On a motion by Selectperson Steven Hughes and a second by Selectperson Paul Macdonald, the Board voted 4-0 to appoint Irene L. Belanger as a voting delegate and Peter Foote as an alternate voting delegate at the MMA Annual Business Meeting in October.
- **Abatements:** This item will be reported about in the Assessors' Meeting minutes immediately below after the regular meeting minutes.

Manager's Communications (Non-Action Items):

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Committees: Implementation Committee – TBD, the Thurston Park II TBD, China Historical Society Committee TBD, Transfer Station Committee Wednesday, September 19, 2012 at 5:30 P.M. in the Town Office Meeting Room; and Lake Access Feasibility Committee, Friday September 14, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. in the Town Office Meeting Room:** The respective dates, times, and places of the respective meetings were announced.
- **Visioning Goals Reviewed – Accomplishments/Items Remaining:** The Board pledged to review the accomplishments over the last year and to reprioritize goals for the upcoming year.
- **RSU #18 Budget Voting Timeline:** It was announced that on September 20, 2012 the District Budget Meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. in the Messalonskee High School and that the Budget Validation Referendum will be held in the District towns on October 2, 2012.
- **Plowing Bids 2012-2014 – Contract Signing to be Scheduled for the Next Meeting:** The contracts are to be reviewed at the next SB meeting.

In other business: On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Steven Hughes, the Board voted 4-0 to nominate Neil Farrington to the Municipal Review Committee Board of Directors; the Town Manager announced an open house to be held at Mid State Machine; Steve Hughes communicated that Len LeGrand thanked the town for the annual monetary contribution to the Alford Center; it was announced that the China will participate in a

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Drug Take Back Day to be held at the China Transfer Station on September 29, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; it was also announced that the China Town Report received a Superior recognition by the Maine Municipal Association; and it was noted that the town has a certified third party inspector who will be willing to serve China in the respective permitting process.

On a motion by Selectperson Paul MacDonald and a second by Selectperson Steven Hughes, the Board voted 4-0 to adjourn at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann C. Austin, Secretary
China Select Board

Assessors' Meeting
09/10/2012
9:15 P.M.

Abatements: On a motion by Selectperson and a second by Selectperson, the Board voted 4-0 to approve of and sign the abatement forms as presented.

On a motion by Selectperson, and a second by Selectperson, the Board voted 4-0 to adjourn the Assessors' meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joann C. Austin".

Joann C. Austin, Secretary
China Board of Assessors