

TOWN OF CHINA

571 Lakeview Drive
China, ME 04358



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Select Board Meeting

Monday – 09/17/2012 – 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, Joann C. Austin, Steven Hughes, and Irene L. Belanger. Others present were July Hotham, Sheldon Bumps, Ron and Linda Morrell, Tina Sawlivich, Elwood Ellis, Charles Clark, Mary Grow, and the Town Manager. Those present were led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag by Town manager Daniel L'Heureux

On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Paul MacDonald, the Board voted 5-0 to accept the minutes of the 09/10/2012 Select Board meeting as presented.

Unfinished Business:

- **Public Comment:** There was not any public comment at this time.
- **Petition to Withdraw From RSU#18:** Selectperson Irene L. Belanger made a motion to put a question on the November ballot as presented with a recommendation of “No” by the Select Board. Selectperson Steven Hughes seconded the motion. The Board then discussed items related to the motion made by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger leading to the following action. Selectperson Irene L. Belanger made a motion to amend the previous motion adding the wording “with the approval of the China Select Board”. Selectperson Steven Hughes seconded the motion. The Board voted 5-0 on the motion to amend. The Board then voted 5-0 on the motion as amended.

Article: “Do you favor filing a petition for withdrawal with the board of directors of regional school unit #18 and with the Commissioner of Education, authorizing the withdrawal committee to expend, with the approval of the China Select Board, \$ 35,000 and authorizing the China Select Board to issue notes in the name of the Town of China or otherwise pledge the credit of the Town of China in an amount not to exceed \$ 35,000 for this purpose?”

The actions the Select Board took were derived pursuant to 20-A MRSA §1466 (2). The article according to statute is to specify a dollar amount to be raised to support legal and other withdrawal process costs.

During discussion of the petition process the Town Manager noted that the next step in the process is to schedule a meeting within the next week of the China Budget Committee, which must also make a recommendation on the proposed \$35,000

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expenditure. A public hearing on the ballot question is also required to be held at least ten days before the vote with at least a seven day notice of the hearing.

A main question remaining from the Select Board's September 10, 2012 meeting was whether the new plan a withdrawal committee would prepare is required to include a ten year contract with a high school. An inquiry by the petitioning group found out that the answer is yes. That type of contract obligates the contracting high school to accept China students who may be refused elsewhere for different reasons. It was also noted that if a high school cannot be found that will take the China students refused elsewhere, the withdrawal is not possible.

The Select Board had various reasons for recommending that voters not approve beginning the withdrawal process. Selectperson Irene Belanger noted that she has attended most all RSU#18 Board meetings and two of the petitioners' meetings said she thinks China benefits financially and educationally from RSU#18 membership. China Select Board Chair Peter Foote said that he agreed with that assessment and questioned whether or not the town has lost its identity in the larger organization as asserted by the petitioning group. He went on to say that the mindset has changed and that China and the other towns are looking at one another as partners. Pete also said that \$35,000 was a lot of money to spend on an initiative where there is not anyone in the petitioners' group who can tell him where they want this to go. RSU#18 school committee member Elwood Ellis noted that there have been financial benefits derived from joining RSU#18 and that there also have been substantial educational benefits derived which should be a major discussion topic, not just finances and other, what he described as, very minor issues.

Members on the Select Board did say that the RSU administration are aware of some concerns voiced regarding the integration of the China school system into the larger organization and have been working to resolve those issues.

Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, responded to concerns Judy Hotham said teachers have about a revised curriculum being required to implement, said it is a state-wide initiative, so changing organizational structure would be unlikely to alleviate the problem.

- **Warrant and Notice of Election – Regional School Unit #18 – Signing of Warrant:** On a motion by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger and a second by Selectperson Steven Hughes, the Board voted 5-0 to accept and sign the Warrant as presented. A copy will be on file at the China town office for public information.

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On a motion by Selectperson Paul MacDonald and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann C. Austin, Secretary
China Select Board

The Chair of the Board, Pete Foote, opened the Assessors' meeting at 6:44 p.m.

On a motion by Selectperson Steven Hughes and a second by Selectperson Irene L. Belanger, the Board voted 5-0 to accept and sign the Quit Claim deed as presented. This was a re-signing of a previous Quit Claim deed as the initial one was not ever filed by the relevant parties involved.

On a motion by Selectperson Paul MacDonald and a second by Selectperson Steven Hughes, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Joann C. Austin, Secretary
China Board of Assessors