

**Minutes for the Annual Town Business Meeting
March 23, 2013**

The meeting was called to order by Town Clerk Rebecca Hapgood once quorum of 121 was reached at 9:14 a.m.

Article 1. Richard Thompson was nominated and elected moderator with 7 votes.

At 9:15 Moderator Thompson opened the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Girl Scouts present. Then Representative Cotta and Senator Katz addressed the legislative body for a few minutes.

Article 2. On motion by Irene Belanger and second by Paul MacDonald voted to entertain a presentation up to 5 minutes each from the **CHINA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN THURSTON PARK II COMMITTEE, CHINA LAKE ACCESS FEASIBILITY COMMITTEE, AND CHINA LIBRARY FEASIBILITY COMMITTEE** representatives regarding the progress of proposed implementation of the China Comprehensive Plan as it relates to each respective Committee. Bill Seekins, Janet Preston and Jonathan Vogel each spoke for their respective committees.

Article 3. On motion by Irene Belanger and second by Paul MacDonald voted to entertain a presentation up to 5 minutes from **FIRSTPARK** representatives.

Article 4. On motion by Irene Belanger and second by Steven Hughes voted to put forth Article 4 to the legislative body to see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit to \$1,218,026.00 established for China by State Law (LD#1) in the event that the municipal budget approved under the following articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit. (The request is driven by extraordinary circumstances outside the control of the municipal legislative body; in this particular case, insurance traditional and expected **State subsidies** (Revenue Sharing, Homestead Exemptions, Excise Taxes on Commercial Vehicles and the BETE program) to China.) The amount noted above will be the new core municipal commitment going forward.

By written vote, Article 4 passed 90-14.

Article 5. On motion by Irene Belanger and second by Paul MacDonald voted to raise and appropriate \$366,193 for **ADMINISTRATION** and \$103,400 for **ADMINISTRATION OTHER** expenses.

- Article 6. On motion by Irene Belanger and second by Steven Hughes voted to raise and appropriate \$6,053 for **PLANNING BOARD EXPENSES**, \$4,700 for **MAINE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION DUES**, and \$6,917 for the **KENNEBEC VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**; any remaining balance in the Planning Board budget at the end of the fiscal year to lapse to a **PLANNING BOARD ACCOUNT OF THE RESERVE FUND**, the funds in which may be used upon a majority vote of a quorum of the Select Board for Planning Board Operations; said **PLANNING BOARD ACCOUNT** to be capped at \$8,000.
- Article 7. On motion by Fredrick Fischer and second by Irene Belanger voted to raise and or appropriate \$45,000 with \$10,000 from Undesignated Fund Balance for the **MUNICIPAL CAPITAL EQUIPMENT ACCOUNT OF THE RESERVE FUND (established for the purpose of purchasing and/or repairing vehicles to be used for snow plowing, grading, transfer station operations, and other public purposes)**, the funds in which may be used upon a majority vote of a quorum of the Select Board, **and these appropriated funds to be combined with the funds presently in said RESERVE FUND (\$138,909 as of 06/30/2012) and to be designated Municipal Capital Equipment Account of the RESERVE FUND** (said purpose noted above).
- Article 8. On motion by Irene Belanger and second by Paul MacDonald voted to raise and appropriate \$47,500 for **CONTRACTED ASSESSING** and \$11,500 for **LEGAL SERVICES**; any remaining balance in the legal budget the end of the fiscal year to lapse into the **LEGAL ACCOUNT of the RESERVE FUND**, the funds in which may be used upon a majority vote of a quorum of the Select Board for legal services.
- Article 9. On motion by Fredrick Fischer and second by Irene Belanger voted to raise \$23,000 for **COMPUTER HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE** for the Town Office.
- Article 10. On motion by Joann Austin and second by Christopher Mann voted to raise and appropriate \$23,248 for **POLICE SERVICES and ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER SERVICES** to include supplies and vehicle maintenance in support of services.
- Article 11. On motion by Robert Batteese and second by Fredric Hayden voted to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended amounts for **VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS, CHINA RESCUE and PSAP (E-911 CALL ANSWERING) and DISPATCH SERVICES**; any remaining balance in any department at the end of the fiscal year to lapse into the **RESERVE ACCOUNT FOR THE RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENT/SERVICE** in the

RESERVE FUND, the funds in which may be used upon a majority vote of a quorum of the Select Board and for operating expenses only:

	Amount Approved
South China VFD	\$ 21,000
China Village VFD	\$ 22,000
Weeks Mills VFD	\$ 16,600
Weeks Mills VFD	\$ 5,000 *
China Rescue	\$ 20,000
PSAP/E-911 Calls	\$ 19,000
Dispatching Services	\$ 25,000
	\$ 128,600

- Article 12. On motion by Irene Belanger and second by Neil Farrington voted to raise and appropriate \$6,000 for the **FIRE DEPARTMENT CAPITAL EQUIPMENT ACCOUNT OF THE RESERVE FUND**, the funds in which may be used upon a majority vote of a quorum of the Select Board for fire departments' capital purchases or major capital repairs, e.g. SCBA Equipment, Capital Improvements/Repairs to Vehicles, etc.; the Select Board shall require equity positions associated with capital expenditures, singularly or collectively above \$2,500.
- Article 13. On motion by Irene Belanger and second by Ronald Breton voted to raise and appropriate \$236,446 for **INSURANCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION PREMIUMS** and \$15,982 for **EMERGENCY SERVICES INSURANCE**.
- Article 14. On motion by Irene Belanger and second by Steven Hughes voted to raise and or appropriate \$17,000 with \$10,000 coming from Undesignated Fund Balance for **PAYMENT ON THE DEBT (PRINCIPAL & INTEREST) INCURRED ON THE PURCHASE OF THE TOWN'S CHINA RESCUE VEHICLE**.

- Article 15. On motion by Irene Belanger and second by Steven Hughes voted to raise and appropriate \$282,100 for **SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL/CHINA TRANSFER STATION OPERATIONS.**
- Article 16. On motion by Irene Belanger and second by Ronald Breton authorized the Select Board to enter into a **CONTRACT FOR A PERIOD OF NOT MORE THAN THREE YEARS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FOR THE DISPOSAL OF DEMOLITION AND DEBRIS FROM CHINA** on such terms and conditions as they deem to be in the Town's best interest, said authority to continue unless rescinded by voters.
- Article 17. On motion by Irene Belanger and second by Steven Hughes voted to raise and appropriate \$679,426 (\$63,000 FROM HIGHWAY GRANT & \$616,426 FROM EXCISE TAXES) for **ROAD MAINTENANCE**; highways, bridges & gravel roads, paving, and winter road maintenance and to further authorize the Select Board to expend a portion of the appropriated/raised amount prior to the beginning of the 2013/2014 fiscal year or carry-forward remaining amounts as of 06/30/2013 as they deem to be in the best interest of the Town of China.
- Article 18. On motion by Irene Belanger and second by Steven Hughes voted to authorize the Select Board to enter into a **CONTRACT FOR A PERIOD OF NOT MORE THAN THREE YEARS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FOR ROADSIDE MOWING OF THE STREETS AND WAYS IN THE TOWN OF CHINA** on such terms and conditions as they deem to be in the Town's best interest, said authority to continue unless rescinded by voters.
- Article 19. On motion by Irene Belanger and second by Steven Hughes voted to raise and appropriate \$2,500 for **STREET SIGNS** and \$7,000 for **STREET LIGHTS (Monthly/Annual CMP Kw/Hr. Fees).**
- Article 20. On motion by Irene Belanger and second by Steven Hughes voted to earmark the balance, after administration expenses, of the **SNOWMOBILE REGISTRATION TAX REFUND** from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to the China Four Seasons Club. The cost allocated to administration is not to exceed \$3.00 per snowmobile.
- Article 21. On motion by Irene Belanger and second by Steven Hughes voted to raise and appropriate \$21,950 for **RECREATION** and to have any remaining balance in the current budget lapse into the **RECREATION ACCOUNT OF THE RESERVE FUND**, the funds in which may be used upon a majority vote of a quorum of the Select Board for Recreational Activities/Programs said Recreation Account to be capped at \$15,000.

Article 22. On motion by Irene Belanger and second by Steven Hughes voted to raise and appropriate \$14,500 for the **WELFARE ACCOUNT**.

Article 23. On motion by Irene Belanger and second by Joann Austin voted to raise and appropriate \$6,000 for the **CHINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY** toward the cost of **UTILITIES** and **REPAIRS** for the Old Town Meeting House and for Historical Society **OUTREACH PROGRAMS**.

On motion by Scott Pierz and second by Dolly Batteese voted to take **Article 30** out of order due to Dr. Landry being on call and needing go to work.

Article 30. On motion by David Landry and second by Irene Belanger voted to raise and appropriate \$30,000 for **LAKE RESTORATION** expenses and to further authorize the Select Board to expend a portion of the raised/appropriated amount prior to the beginning of the 2013/2014 fiscal year as they deem to be in the best interest of the Town of China.

Article 24. On motion by Irene Belanger and second by Steven Hughes and then amended by Randall Downer and seconded by Peter Caldwell voted to raise and appropriate \$4,510 for the **SOUTH CHINA LIBRARY**. There was some discussion about adding Albert Church Brown Library to this Article at the meeting but Moderator Thompson ruled the attempt to expand the article to include a different library in town expands the scope improperly and was ruled out of order.

Article 25. On motion by Sheryl Peavey and second by Sheldon Bumps but voted down on the floor of the town meeting were the Budget Committee's recommendations for **SOCIAL SERVICE and NON-PROFIT AGENCIES**. On motion by Peter Foote and second by Joann Austin voted to reconsider Article 25. On motion by Paul MacDonald and second by Ronald Breton voted to raise and appropriate the following amounts for the respective **SOCIAL SERVICE and NON-PROFIT AGENCIES** as written and recommended by the Select Board.

Family Violence	\$	1,750
KVCAP Demand Response Transport	\$	545
Spectrum Generations	\$	2,276
Kennebec Behavioral Health	\$	2,500
Children's Center	\$	1,500

Sexual Assault Crisis & Support	\$	1,437
Waterville Boys & Girls Club	\$	1,000
Hospice Volunteers of Waterville Area	\$	1,650
Healthy Hearts	\$	1,000
	\$	13,658

Article 26. On motion by Paul MacDonald and second by Scott Pierz voted to raise and appropriate \$6,982 for the **KENNEBEC VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY**.

Article 27. On motion by Joann Austin and second to Irene Belanger voted to raise and appropriate \$22,000 for the purpose of maintaining **CEMETERIES AND FOR MEMORIAL DAY AND \$950 for VETERANS GRAVE MARKER EXPENSES**; said money for grave marker expenses to be divided equally between the China and South China Legion Posts and to further authorize the Select Board to **REPURCHASE AND RESELL CEMETERY LOTS** within existing cemeteries as they deem to be in the best interest of the Town of China, said authority to continue unless rescinded by voters.

Article 28. On motion by Joann Austin and second by Randall Downer voted to establish two (2) **TAX PAYMENT DUE DATES** to be September 30, 2013 and March 31, 2014 and to charge an **INTEREST RATE** of seven percent (7.0%) per annum after each tax payment due date, with interest to be calculated daily at the rate of 0.00019178082 for each day or fraction thereof that each payment is overdue; and voted to authorize the Selectmen to **SELL AND CONVEY BY WARRANTY DEED OR QUIT CLAIM DEED TAX ACQUIRED PROPERTIES and to EXECUTE WAIVER OF FORECLOSURE DOCUMENTS** as determined to be in the best interests of the Town of China, said authority to continue unless rescinded by voters, and authorized the tax collector or treasurer to **ACCEPT PREPAYMENTS OF TAXES NOT YET COMMITTED** pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. Section 506.

Article 29. On motion by Irene Belanger and second by Paul MacDonald voted to appropriate from Undesignated Fund Balance an amount not to exceed \$55,000 for the purpose of **USING THESE FUNDS AS THE REQUIRED MATCHING FUNDS IN SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATIONS** and to further authorize the Selectmen to **APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT FUNDS** from the State of Maine, Federal Government, and any other duly authorized authority.

*** Article 30 was taken up before Article 24.**

Article 31. On motion by Irene Belanger and second by Peter Foote appropriated an amount not to exceed \$45,000 from the overlay and or undesignated fund balance to serve as a **CONTINGENCY FUND** to be spent by the Select Board on unanticipated expenses and emergencies and to avoid overdrafts that may occur during this fiscal year.

Article 32. On motion by Irene Belanger and second by Paul MacDonald voted to raise and or appropriate \$2,500 from Undesignated Fund Balance for the purpose of funding **CHINA COMMUNITY DAYS** events and to allow any remaining balance to lapse into the **CHINA COMMUNITY DAYS ACCOUNT of the RESERVE FUND** at the end of the fiscal year; the funds in which may be used upon a majority vote of a quorum of the Select Board, and said appropriation to become available in the current fiscal budget year.

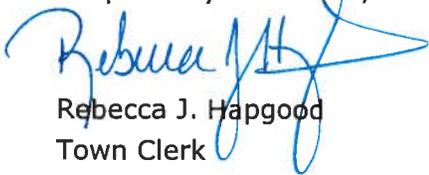
Article 33. On motion by Irene Belanger and second by Jean Conway voted to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$4,700 from Undesignated Fund Balance for the purpose of **PRESERVING THE HISTORICAL RECORDS IN THE TOWN OF CHINA.**

Article 34. On motion by Irene Belanger and second by Joann Austin voted to raise and appropriate an amount not to exceed \$1040 for the purpose of **COMPENSATING THE TOWN HEALTH OFFICER** for services provided.

Article 35. On motion by Irene Belanger and Peter Foote voted to appropriate \$5,000 from Undesignated Fund Balance for the purpose of **ADDING TO THE RESERVE ACCOUNT/DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE TO FINANCE THE UNFUNDED ACCRUED COMPENSATED BALANCES OF THE TOWN.**

On motion by Joann Austin and second by many unanimously voted to adjourn the town meeting at 12:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Rebecca J. Hapgood
Town Clerk