

*Annual Report
of the Municipal Officers
of the Town of China, Maine
for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015*



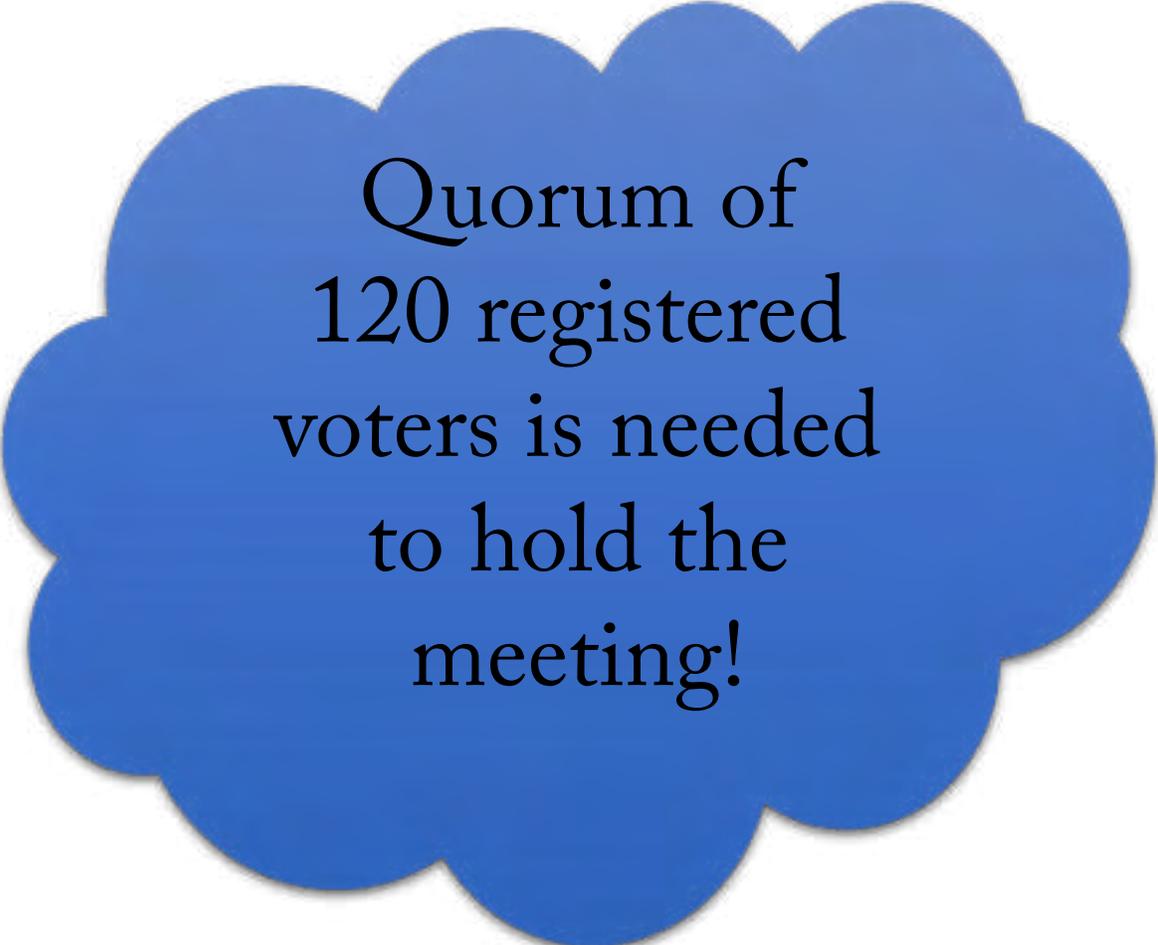
The year of the great PAYT debate

Annual Town Business Meeting

Saturday, March 26, 2016

9:00 a.m.

China Middle School



Quorum of
120 registered
voters is needed
to hold the
meeting!

**Social gathering begins at 8:30 a.m.
Light refreshments will be available**

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China's elves came through again this Christmas season. These former school employees participate in China's Christmas assistance program by wrapping gifts for local families. (L-R) Shirley Fitzgerald, Gail Perry, Wayne Bengtson, Irene West, Linda Poulin, Joann Tyler, Chris Deasy, Marion Chasteen, Connie Plumer, Sherry Spaulding and Sue Charles. Missing from photo is Gail Tilton.

Dedication

We are pleased to dedicate the Town Report this year to our own Mary Grow.



A unique characteristic and basic tenet of the democratic process is that citizens get to vote and that each citizen has the right to the life of their choosing. Hopefully voting happens after we do those things that keep us educated on important issues and after keeping elected officials aware of our points of view. The democratic process is a way of living that keeps our country strong. As citizens it is indeed critical that we understand what our elected officials are doing and how they are working to be accountable to voters' desires and to carry out the authority given to them effectively. Moreover it is important to teach the future generations about our heritage; a prerequisite for taking actions to sustain it. It also reminds us and provides the motivation and justification for active citizenship.

Informed citizens are necessary for a democracy to function properly. When citizens stay informed, they reinforce democracy and help to keep the government in check to ensure freedom of its people. Mary Grow has moderated town meetings and covered other meetings and events in China for the Morning Sentinel, Kennebec Journal and the Town Line newspapers. She has contributed historical information to bicentennial books published in 1974-75 and 1983-84. Mary Grow has been one constant, stable, continuous, and unceasing source of information for China residents for many, many years. It is for this, a reliable source of information in keeping the general public informed, alerting residents who might otherwise be unaware of new policies, laws, or changes in government, and other reasons that we are pleased to honor Mary Grow with this dedication. The viability of our democracy rests upon the ability to be kept well informed as citizens and Mary has devoted a good deal of her adult life assisting us in that process. We thank you Mary.

From the Town Manager To the Honorable Select Board and Citizens of the Town of China:

It is with utmost earnestness and professional respect that I submit to you the Annual Report of the Town of China for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015. The purpose of an Annual Report, along with other items of interest, is to provide residents/voters/visitors with information regarding the financial condition of the town at the close of any given fiscal year and to report on the operational aspects of the various town departments over the most recent fiscal year. The town of China financial statements include a section titled Management Discussion and Analysis. These are accounts from management that provide an analysis of the town's overall financial condition and results of operations. Management may note current accomplishments and continuing projects and noteworthy items to be dealt with by the town.

As the financial health of this community is of utmost importance to most residents, it seemed to me to be important to continue to report on China's financial condition in most of this year's report. The current year's financial statements reflect a continually improving financial condition. The town is "debt free" at this time and unrestricted reserves are at recommended and expected levels that should sustain the town during unpredictable or unfortunate fiscal circumstances. Modest reserve accounts in the fund balance have been established to minimize the need for borrowing over the long term. It is recommended that the town continue to appropriate funds to these reserve accounts. The net asset position of the town continues to increase, an additional indication of a town in good financial health and one with a consistent long term perspective. The focus on the long term has served the town well as the Select Board and administration have been conservative and responsible in fiscal stewardship. China is a growing municipality; growth has to be managed and understood from the perspective that there will be additional service demands from residents as this growth continues.

The town's relative financial position at any given time will ultimately determine what options it has in short, intermediate and long term action planning. It is understood that growing municipalities like China need to be focused strategically to anticipate fluctuations in the economy and also to understand that the demands of residents in this growth oriented town could need additional staff and capital considerations over time to accommodate that growth. There are an ample amount of studies that point to the increased demand for services as municipalities grow in population, particularly around the 3000 to 6000 population thresholds; additional police, fire, library services, community centers, cultural and recreational offerings are examples. The alternative is to not be prepared with all the accompanying issues.

The Select Board manages the town's finances through the Town Manager. The Board manages by involving strategic and operational components. Periodic review of the progress on each component continues throughout the year and has been a tradition for many years culminating in annual budget preparations and deliberations in the late winter of each year. Strategically, the finances are managed to accommodate the changes in the economy, the resulting changes in expenses and revenues and for short, intermediate and long term planning. Operationally, the Select Board attempts to put in place some clear financial goals, policies, and tools to implement the strategic plan. The Select Board is aware that any statement about the net financial position of the town necessarily should

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have a complimentary statement about other factors indicative of a healthy community financially. To that end, the town's property tax base is a stable one, the town's roads, culverts, and ditches are in good condition, and stationary and rolling equipment are also in good condition. The town's buildings are periodically inspected and are all in good condition. These fiduciary responsibilities are taken seriously by the Board and the administration.

In the financial statements, the town's basic functions are grouped and reported in multi-year reporting numbers. It has been noted that in the revenue numbers there is a level of sensitivity about the shift in the sources of revenues away from intergovernmental to other sources. Specifically, the stability of the source of funds from State revenue sharing continues to be monitored. The town will need to have a conversation about the sources of revenues and the reliability of each source over the longer term; not doing so will ultimately leave the town to depend solely on property taxation as the major source of funds. In the expense/revenue numbers overall, the actual expenses were under budget and the revenues were over budget for the year ending June 30, 2015. The town continues to look for additional efficiencies in all departmental budgets. The change in the net fiscal position is a positive one contributing to a healthier fund balance.

Governmental funds: The focus of the Town of China's governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the Town's financing requirements. In particular, the unreserved fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending.

As of the end of the current fiscal year, the Town of China governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances at June 30, 2015 of \$3.0 million. Approximately 46% of this total constitutes the unassigned fund balance, which is available for spending at the government's discretion.

The town has been diligent in trying to hold to a standard of having a balance in the undesignated/unassigned fund equal to two to three month's net expenditures or 15% of annual gross expenditures. The balance has been guided by public finance criteria obtained from many sources, Standard & Poor's, the Maine Municipal Bond Bank, the Maine Municipal Association, and Moody's Investor Service. With due diligence, the Select Board has managed to increase the undesignated/unassigned fund balance to a desirable level and at the recommended standard.

China does not any have debt obligations. In the near future it appears that that the town will continue operations without the need for debt obligations. The healthy undesignated/unassigned fund balance and reserve accounts in the fund balance will relieve pressures to incur debt obligations.

The general fund is the central operating fund of the Town of China, Maine. At the end of the current fiscal year the undesignated/unassigned fund balance of the general fund was \$1,380,382. As a measure of the general fund's liquidity, it may be useful to compare both unassigned fund balance and total fund balance to total fund expenditures.

This comparison of unassigned and total fund balances focuses on one of China's most significant funds and reflects on a trend of increased general fund equity and therefore liquidity. The

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comparison is also significant when considering reserve fund balances in that several of the capital needs in the future are anticipated by healthy reserve funds and unrestricted fund balance, allowing for accommodation of planned and unexpected circumstances by use of these funds if needed. Stewardship of taxpayer funds is very important to the town officials and officers.

The Town's general fund operating fund revenues: The revenue distribution in the town's financials reflects a high dependency on property tax revenues. It is important to note that the town's property tax base is relatively stable. Revenue growth limitations have always been a concern of small communities, including China. Intergovernmental revenues are subject to downward adjustment during tough economic times. Although it looks like the State economy has improved, the current administration is not favorably disposed to keeping long-standing agreements in place that would maintain traditional levels of intergovernmental sources of revenues. Other revenues will necessarily need to be considered more seriously if intergovernmental revenues and taxes are not available to accommodate circumstances. Preferably it would be good to have a more diverse group of revenue sources balanced progressively away from property taxes and intergovernmental revenues and toward revenues based on the premise that those who create expenses should pay for those expenses (user fees).

The Town's general fund operating fund expenditures: The distribution of expenditures over time has been consistent; the largest operating fund expenditures, administration, education, public works, administration, transfer station, and the county budgeted numbers equaling approximately ninety percent of the total. China's capital outlay is also significant in that a town must manage the capital infrastructure proactively. If not, there will be a tendency to incur indebtedness and for the infrastructure to deteriorate, or both. Resource allocation equitably is important yet very difficult as some expenses drive a budget more than others.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights: The General Fund balance has increased year-to-year by a significant amount, indicative of a strong liquidity position and the ability of town officials to implement timely and sound financial and operational decisions that are responsive and relational to economic and immediate fiscal demands. Capital assets are maintained in a strong condition and have been increasing over time. China does not have any long-term debt obligations. The financial management of the town is a major factor in the assessment of the town's financial condition and it has been strong management with low risk preferences.

Capital Assets: Capital assets net of depreciation continue to increase, though slowly. Capital assets are kept in good to excellent condition. The town's infrastructure is in good condition and is maintained on a scheduled basis over an 8-10 year period. It is annually reviewed and updated. Over the next year it is anticipated that one light duty truck with associated plowing equipment will need to be replaced. A stable and robust public works budget has enabled the town to maintain and to improve infrastructure over time. Reserve accounts in the fund balance are maintained and therefore available for capital asset maintenance and purchase without additional indebtedness.

Long Term Liabilities: Long-term liabilities have been eliminated and the town expects to hold this position into the foreseeable future. An excellent liquidity position with reserve accounts are

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indicative of the potential to continue this trend. It does not seem likely that there will be, in the foreseeable future, a circumstance that will demand a change in this best management practice of not having long-term liabilities.

Economic Factors and Next Year's Budgets and Rates: Currently, increases in the education and County budgets are anticipated, though there are not any specifics at this time. Even though the town also anticipates additional revenues resulting from traditional sources and increased valuations in town on the municipal side of the budget, it may not be possible to offset the increases in education and County expenses passed along to us, even with the additional noted revenue sources. The result of the increases in the education and County budgets may affect an increase in the tax rate. The municipal budget will not affect an increase in the mil/tax rate. The education budget remains the largest obligation of the town and is the largest significant driver of the mil rate. The education budget is produced by an independent RSU#18 (Regional School Unit) based in Oakland, Maine. "School Choice" for grades 8-12 and town busing contribute a significant cost to the town in educational obligations. It seems that this will continue into the future.

Digressing, a few of the forces that will drive actions by the town in the short term will include the following:

- Continuation of the pursuit of economic development initiatives financed by a Tax Increment Financing Program resulting from the CMP upgrade to the power-line in China;
- The possibility of a significant reduction in the intergovernmental revenues coming from the State;
- The expiration of a twenty year contractual agreement with 186 other municipalities in the disposal of municipal solid waste; and
- The implementation of a Pay-Per-Throw Program for the processing of Municipal Solid Waste.

Running government during sensitive economic and political times is challenging for a Select Board. The frustrations that citizens have expressed toward their federal and state government leaders all too often splash onto municipal leaders, too. Yet it is widely agreed that municipalities represent the most efficient, responsible, and accessible level of the inter-governmental system. Please rest assured that the policy setting and administrative personnel in China will always have the fundamental approach of serving residents in a conservative, efficient, and cost effective manner on the "front burner". A careful look at the financial information provided to you in the town report will affirm that China has not engaged in excesses.

You have sincere, passionate, and extremely dedicated employees working for the town. Their superior quality of work is evident when compared to their peers. I would like to personally and professionally thank all of the "team": Becky, Kelly, Julie, Jen, Paul, Gary, Shawn, Jason, Mary, Tim, Kevin, Ed, and Rick for their collective and spirited efforts to serve all of you. These unique individuals do indeed reflect all the enduring qualities that China represents. I would also like to personally thank every citizen in the town of China for the opportunity you have given me as your Town Manager.

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Personal and professional appreciation is extended to the Select Board, Budget Committee, our representatives on the RSU#18 School Board, RSU#18, the China Planning Board, the Fire Departments and China Rescue, all the volunteers, town employees, and the various chairs and committee members for their commitment, devotion, enthusiasm and cooperation in town matters. Their dedication, advice, collaboration, guidance and assistance have been invaluable.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel L'Heureux
China Town Manager

Select Board members



(L-R) Irene Belanger, Ronald Breton, Joann Austin,
Neil Farrington and Chair Robert MacFarland

Directory of Municipal Services

Town Office

571 Lakeview Drive
Phone (207) 445-2014
Fax (207) 445-3208
Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 4:00 pm
Saturday 8:00 am - 11:00 am
info@chinamaine.org
www.china.govoffice.com



Transfer Station

191 Alder Park Road
Phone (207) 445-3033
Monday, Wednesday, Friday and
Saturday
7:00 am - 5:00 pm



MUST obtain and present a transfer station sticker from the town office prior to entry. Stickers expire annually.

Cardboard recycling is **mandatory**.

Code Enforcement

Paul Mitnik
(207) 445-3540
hours vary-please call ahead
ceo@chinamaine.org

Assessors' Agent

William Van Tuinen
(207) 445-2014
Available by appointment
assessor@chinamaine.org



Elected Officials

Select Board

(Three members are elected in November of even number years while two are elected in the odd numbered years. Nomination papers are available in August. The five members can reside anywhere in China.)

- Joann C. Austin (2016)
- Irene L. Belanger (2017)
- Ronald Breton (2017)
- Neil Farrington (2016)
- Robert MacFarland (2016) - Chair

Planning Board

(Six members are elected to serve a two year term. Depending upon the position, some require residency in the District they serve. Nomination papers are available in August.)

- District 1 - James Wilkens (2017)
- District 2 - Toni Wall (2016)
- District 3 - Milton Dudley (2017)
- District 4 - Thomas Miragliuolo (2016)
- At-Large - Francis (Frank) Soares III (2016) - Chair
- Alternate At-Large - vacant (2107)

China's RSU #18 Directors

(Two member serve for three year terms. Members can reside anywhere in China. Nomination papers are available in August of the applicable year.)

- Robert Bennett (2016)
- Charles Clark (2018)

Budget Committee

(Seven members are elected to serve a two year term. Depending upon the position, some require residency in the District they serve. Nomination papers are available in August.)

- Chairman - Robert Batteese (2017)
- Secretary - Albert Althenn (2016)
- District 1 - vacant (2017)
- District 2 - Thomas Rumpf (2016)
- District 3 - Sheryl Peavey (2017)
- District 4 - Timothy Basham (2016)
- At-Large - Jonathan Vogel (2016)



Appointed Officials

Appeals Board

- Spencer Aitel (2019)
- Virginia Davis (2016)
- Michael Gee (2017)
- Anthony Pileggi (2018)
- Robert Fischer (2018)



Board of Assessment Review

- Harold Charles (2017)
- Sharon Johnson (2016)
- Dale Peabody (2018)
- Anthony Pileggi - Alternate (2016)
- Dwaine Drummond - Alternate (2018)

The following committee appointments are through June 30, 2016.

Capital Investment Committee

- Daniel L'Heureux
- Irene Belanger

Cemetery Committee

- Julie Finley
- H. Richard Norton
- Harold Charles
- Horace Stevens
- Daniel L'Heureux
- Elwood Ellis

Economic & Community Development Committee

- Lucas Adams
- Irene L. Belanger
- Nanci Rodrigue
- Donald Bassett
- Sonya Porter-Burrill
- Daniel L'Heureux
- Carlaine Bovio
- Joann C. Austin

If you are interested in serving on a committee, please let us know by sending us an email, calling or stopping by the office.

Appointed Officials

Emergency Preparedness Committee

- Ronald Morrell
- Stephen Nichols
- Francis Soares
- Harold Charles
- Daniel L'Heureux

Enhanced 9-1-1 Committee

- Kelly Grotton
- Daniel L'Heureux
- George "Webb" Shaw III
- Richard Morse
- Timothy Theriault



Enhanced Library and Community Service Committee

- Joann C. Austin
- Daniel L'Heureux
- Kathy Brownell
- Catherine McCormac
- Cheryl Baker
- Carole Johnson
- Louisa Barnhart
- Robin Sabattus
- Thomas Parent
- Naomi Homan
- Elwood Ellis

Wetlands Committee

- Victor Montminy
- Joann C. Austin
- Virginia Davis
- Irma Simon
- John Henninges
- David Simpson



Forestry Committee

- Daniel L'Heureux
- Elaine Philbrook
- Anita Smith
- Tim Basham
- Leslie R. French

Appointed Officials

Historical Preservation Committee

- Dwaine Drummond
- Irene Belanger
- Kelly Grotton
- Daniel L'Heureux
- Carlaine Bovio



Historical Society Committee

- Harold Charles
- Sueann Charles
- Neil Farrington
- Kelly Grotton
- Ronald Morrell
- Robert Bennett

Implementation Committee

- Daniel L'Heureux
- Irene L. Belanger
- Carlaine Bovio
- Virginia Davis
- Joann Austin
- Jamie Pitney
- Larry Rancourt
- Scott Rollins
- Francis (Frank) Soares III
- Carrol White III

Transfer Station Committee

- Francis Soares III
- Dale Worster
- Neil Farrington
- Irene Belanger
- Linda O'Connor

KRDA - Kennebec Regional Development Authority (FirstPark)

- Roger Poulin
- Joann Austin



Open Space Committee

- Joann C. Austin
- Irene L. Belanger
- Daniel L'Heureux
- Kyle McLaggan
- Jamie Pitney
- William Seekins
- Sheri Wilkens
- Francis (Frank) Soares III

Appointed Officials

Recreation Committee

- Rosalie Batteesse
- Rebecca Theriault
- Alton Hawk
- Rebecca Hapgood
- Scott McCormac
- Martha Wentworth



Road Committee

- Frederick Anderson
- Milford Thomas
- Dale Peabody
- H. Richard Norton

Tax Increment Financing Committee

- Stephen Nichols
- Daniel L'Heureux
- Joann C. Austin
- Irene L. Belanger
- Edward Fredrikson Jr
- Paul MacDonald
- Dale Worster
- H. David Cotta

Thurston Park II Committee

- Joann C. Austin
- Rosalie Batteese
- Irene L. Belanger
- James Booth
- Phillip DeMaynadier
- Leslie R. French
- William Seekins
- Judy Stone
- Timothy Theriault
- Trevy Bumps
- Kyle McLaggan
- Kevin McLaggan
- James Revil



Facilities Committee

- Daniel L'Heureux

Appointed Officials

Daniel L'Heureux	Town Manager, Tax Collector, Treasurer, Road Commissioner, Civil Emergency Preparedness Director, Agent to the Overseers of the Poor, Public Access Officer & Building Official Phone: 445-5020 email: danl@chinamaine.org
Rebecca Hapgood	Town Clerk, Registrar of Voters, Deputy Tax Collector and Deputy Treasurer Phone: 445-2014 email: becky@chinamaine.org
Paul Mitnik	Code Enforcement Officer & Plumbing Inspector, Building Inspector Phone: 445-3540 email: ceo@chinamaine.org
Christian Jandreau	Health Officer Phone: 445-2014 email: healthofficer@chinamaine.org
Peter A. Nerber	Animal Control Officer Phone: 993-2225
Peter E. Nerber	Animal Control Officer Phone: 993-2225
Neil Farrington	Co-Recycling Coordinator
Irene L. Belanger	Co-Recycling Coordinator
Timothy Theriault	Chief, China Village Volunteer Fire Department Phone: 968-2641 email: cvbfd@roadrunner.com
Geroge Shaw III	Chief, Weeks Mills Volunteer Fire Department Phone: 441-5070 email: webbshawssb@yahoo.com
Richard Morse	Chief, South China Volunteer Fire Department & Fire Warden Phone: 445-2948 email: danddmorse@fairpoint.net
George Studley	Deputy Fire Warden Phone: 968-2949



Legislative Delegation

State Senate District 24

Senator Roger Katz
3 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04330
Phone: 287-1505 or 485-2394
senroger.katz@legislature.maine.gov

State House District 55

Representative Timothy Theriault
2 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04330
Phone: 287-1400 or 649-4434
timothy.theriault@legislature.maine.gov

U. S. Senator Susan Collins

413 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone (207) 622-8414

U.S. Senator Angus King

359 Dirksen Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone (202) 224-5344

U. S. Representative Chellie Pingree

1st District (representing China)
2162 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone (202) 225-6116

U. S. Representative Bruce Poliquin

2nd District
426 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-6306

Senate District 24

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I am so grateful and thankful that you've selected me to represent you in the Maine Senate. I am honored that you've put your trust in me and I will continue to work tirelessly for the betterment of you and your neighbors, as well as for the great State of Maine. Please let me provide you with a recap of the first session of the 127th Legislature as well as my hopes for the second session, which began in January 2016.



The most important item on our to-do list is clear: our state needs more jobs at all levels of the pay scale, so it is our responsibility and my solemn promise to work to expand economic opportunity for all Mainers. To this end, my fellow legislators and I accomplished a great deal during the first session of the 127th Legislature.

We passed a biennial budget that ensured that more Maine families received a tax cut than did in the "largest tax cut in Maine history" in 2011. That same budget stopped taxes on military pensions, so those who have given all that a person can give can feel welcomed and at home in our state. We restructured portions of our welfare system, increasing funding for nursing homes, and put far more funding towards eliminating waitlists for services for brain-injured and intellectually disabled Mainers.

I'm really looking forward to watching how the significant changes we've already made will better the everyday lives of Mainers. I wanted to serve in the legislature because I believe that, while I'm here, I can have an impact on the direction of our district and state. Because of this belief, passing vital legislation (and, sometimes, stopping bad legislation) has remained one of my top priorities.

As you know, more changes are necessary. Next year, during the second session of the legislature, we need to make progress towards addressing the cost of energy in this state. There are a number of bills that have been proposed that would change the way our state's energy system works, and I look forward to putting my own energy into legislation that would lower your energy costs. I also believe that working to provide support to areas hard-hit by recent mill closings should be a focus of the 2016 session. Fighting the war of drugs here in Maine will also be a top priority for lawmakers. Several bills have been proposed that will aid officers in combating the drug epidemic taking place in Maine.

You have my humble and sincere thanks for allowing me to represent you in Augusta. Please feel free to contact me at 207-287-1505 or rkatz@lipmankatz.com if you have comments or questions, or if you would like assistance in navigating our state's bureaucracy.

Sincerely,

Roger Katz
State Senator

House District 55

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It is an honor to serve you as your State Representative for House District 79. After a challenging first session in 2015, I look forward to starting the second session well rested and energized.

During the first legislative session, the House of Representatives faced many important issues in regards to welfare reform. However, many of the suggestions that were brought forward by the Governor failed to make it through the House. I met with many people last summer and this is one of their top priority issues that was brought up more than I can even count. I want to ensure you that I will continue to support common sense welfare reforms that will better our state.



As many of you know, I serve on the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. Over the next few months our committee has been tasked with looking into the drug epidemic that is facing our state and how law enforcement can better serve the citizens of Maine.

To do this, I will be seeking your input regularly and want to hear from you with your comments and concerns. Please call me anytime at 968-2641 or email at Tim.Theriault@legislature.maine.gov to keep me updated on those concerns. If you would like to be added to my email update list, you can do so by emailing me directly with your request.

Thank you again, for giving me the honor of serving you in Augusta!

Sincerely,

Tim Theriault
1210 Lakeview Drive
China, ME 04358
Home Phone: (207) 968-2641
Tim.Theriault@legislature.maine.gov



At right: Mary Lockhart with her Spirit of America Award as presented at the Capitol building along with State Representative Tim Theriault

United States Senator

Dear Friends of China,

It has been a privilege to serve the State of Maine since being sworn into the U.S. Senate.

Much of my time in Washington this past year has been devoted to the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Select Committee on Intelligence. Protecting our homeland and the people of Maine from terrorism and violence remains one of my top priorities. Through my work on the Armed Services Committee, I was able to secure several provisions in the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act that benefit Maine. The legislation authorizes the construction of an additional DDG-51 Arleigh Burke Class Destroyer that could be built at Bath Iron Works and expands the HUBZone program to stimulate economic growth at former military installations like the former Brunswick Naval Air Station.

Returning control to teachers, school districts, and states has also been a primary concern of mine. I am encouraged that the Every Student Succeeds Act has become law. It eliminates the burdensome requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act and ensures access to a quality education for all students. A provision I helped author in the bill will give states the opportunity to pilot the use of their own proficiency-based assessments in lieu of federally-mandated standardized tests. Also included in the bill are several measures I secured to promote local input, fund education technology initiatives, and explore new strategies to increase student access to the internet outside of school.

Communities across Maine have taken bold action to improve their broadband connectivity, and I have been proud to foster federal support for these types of projects. My amendments to the Every Student Succeeds Act will promote the type of work already occurring in Washington County, where students who lack broadband access are able to check out mobile hotspots from their local libraries. Additionally, a bill I co-sponsored, the Community Broadband Act, helped pave the way for the FCC to enact rules protecting the ability of municipalities to invest in better broadband. I am excited by Maine's leadership on this important economic development issue and will continue to support local efforts in this area.

After extensive negotiations, the Senate passed a five-year transportation bill that will increase highway and transit funding in Maine and provide stability to improve our transportation infrastructure. The legislation contains provisions I cosponsored to cut red tape and improve predictability and timeliness by streamlining the federal permitting process for large infrastructure projects. Also incorporated in this bill are my provisions to relieve financial regulations on Maine's community banks and credit unions and to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank, a critical tool that supports communities and small business across the state.

Following my inquiries in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, the National Park Service has announced they will begin exploring strategies to allow park visitors to purchase electronic passes online and will pilot the program at Acadia National Park. These passes would improve access to our nation's most treasured landscapes and would generate resources for years to come.

United States Senator

I remain deeply engaged in preserving Maine's natural beauty and strengthening our outdoor recreation economy.

It is with solemn responsibility that I have focused my energy addressing the opioid epidemic in Maine. This work includes convening roundtables with a wide-range of health care and law enforcement professionals to combat addiction; introducing a proposal to safely dispose of excess prescription drugs; cosponsoring a Senate-passed bill that addresses mothers struggling with addiction and the alarming effect it has on newborns; cosponsoring the TREAT Act, which expands the ability of medical specialists to provide life-saving medication-assisted therapies for patients battling heroin and prescription drug addiction; and calling on the Commander of U.S. Southern Command to increase efforts to stop the flow of heroin at our southern border.

I like to think of Maine as a big small town – and in a small town, the leaders are accessible and eager to listen. In that spirit, I've made it a priority to stay connected with people from all over Maine who e-mail, write, and call with suggestions or questions. If I can ever assist in your interaction with a federal agency, or you have thoughts, concerns, or personal input on a matter that is currently before Congress I hope you will contact me, let me know where you stand, and engage in this critical part of democracy. Please call my toll-free line at 1-800-432-1599 or one of my offices: Augusta (207) 622-8292, Presque Isle (207) 764-5124, Scarborough (207) 883-1588, or Washington, D.C. (202) 224-5344. You can also write me on our website at www.king.senate.gov/contact.

As always, I am honored to represent the people of Maine and look forward to working with you for the betterment of our great state.

Sincerely,

Angus S. King, Jr
United States Senator

China 8th grade mothers pose in front of the Rocky Statue in Philadelphia while on the Heritage Tour during the Spring of 2015.



U. S. House of Representatives

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. I appreciate the opportunity to give you an update on my work in Maine and Washington. It continues to be a great honor to serve the people of Maine's 1st District in Congress.

Over the last year, I have introduced a number of bills to address the problems my constituents face. One of the most concerning issues is hunger. Nearly 50 million Americans don't have reliable access to enough food. At the same time, 40 percent of the food produced in the country goes to waste. That is why I introduced the Food Recovery Act, comprehensive legislation to cut food waste while providing more food to the people who need it.

The Safe and Affordable Drugs from Canada Act takes on another serious concern for Maine families—the high cost of prescription drugs. Just over the border in Canada, the same medications are available at half the price on average. My bill would lift a ban that prohibits consumers from importing those medications. Other bills I introduced touch on a number of issues, from helping veterans secure benefits to protecting our coastal economies. For more information on all my legislation, go to www.pingree.house.gov.

My seat on the House Appropriations Committee—which has a powerful role in setting federal funding levels—has also put me in a position to influence policies and programs that affect Mainers. A couple of examples from the last year include pushing to make Lyme disease a higher federal priority and working to protect funding for a program that has extended pre-school to hundreds of Maine children.

But not all my work takes place at the Capitol. Here at home, I had the chance to visit many communities to help celebrate their victories and discuss their concerns—critical feedback to take to Washington. And over the last year, my hard-working staff has helped hundreds of constituents on their issues with federal programs and agencies.

I hope the last year has been a good one for you and your family. As we head into another year of challenges and opportunities for our nation, I promise that your interests will continue to guide my work. Please contact my office if there's ever anything I can do for you.

Best wishes,

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Doris L. Young Scholarships

The Doris L. Young Scholarship was established in 1982 to award worthy students from China a scholarship to help with their college education. Applications are available at the China Town Office and on the web at www.china.govoffice.com. The following students were awarded a \$500 scholarship for the 2014-2015 school year.

Kristen Alberts	Grace Kilian
Luke Atchison	Jacob Marois
Sarah Basham	Evan Matteson
Tyler Belanger	Kelly McCormac
Aaron Bengtson	Marissa McKeil
Sandra Bizier	Carly McKeil
Hallee Breton	Logan Merrithew
Olivia Burke	Sonja Morse
Zachary Carey	Travis L. Pitre
Zachary Childs	Dominic Pizzo
Gage Currie	Jennifer Prescott
Corey Eastup	Morgan Prescott
Lydia Fletcher	Richard Preston
Sarah Fletcher	Shania Reed
Alec Gagne	Julie Riordan
Jake Gagne	Cameron Tibbetts
Jared Gartley	Rebecca Watson
Anthony Hotham	Brittany White
Samuel Jandreau	Thomas White

Please remember the Doris L. Young Scholarship is available to qualified students in good standing during all four years of college. Application deadline is May 1st, and you must reapply every year. This is only available to China residents.

Regional School Unit #18

Looking back at 2015 I want you to know that it has been a busy year for your Schools. These Schools are safe places, filled with wonderful staff working hard to prepare your children to be successful in life after high school wherever their paths may lead them. We work hard to have your children proficient in and having completed graduation requirements in eight curriculum areas (English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Social Studies, Visual and Performing Arts, Health and Physical Education, World Languages, and Career and Educational Development), and also that they have become Clear and Effective Communicators, Self-Directed and Lifelong Learners, Creative and Practical Problem Solvers, Responsible and Involved Citizens, and Integrative and Informed Thinkers. And something to be proud of, the 2015 Messalonskee High School Graduation rate was 92%, while our drop out rate was only 1.2%! These are some of the best results in Maine!

While the work of educating your children remains our core focus, my message this year is more about some of the challenges that RSU 18 faces. These challenges: increasing costs of educating students, receiving less funding for education from the state based upon how the funding formula works, slowly dropping student enrollments, and needing investments in our schools' facilities to keep them in good shape - schools that were built for larger student enrollments. These issues are difficult conundrums to solve and while not new, the RSU 18 Board of Directors is actively working on ways to address these challenges.

Education Funding & Spending in RSU 18. The cost of educating a student in RSU18 for 2015-16 was \$11,362 and is among the lowest per student cost in Central Maine. Looking at 2013-14 actual spending, Maine's per student spending was \$12,056, while for RSU 18, spending was only \$10,257 (\$ 1,799 less) per student and among the lowest in Central Maine. Even though RSU 18 per student costs are some of the lowest locally and across the state, the challenge is that RSU 18 now pays a larger share of the per student cost locally based upon how the Maine Educational Funding Formula works. So while RSU 18's budget is only up 2.74% from the budget of five years ago, educational revenues from the state have dropped by \$3.35 million (-21%). Rising property values in RSU 18 relative to other parts of Maine, coupled with a slowly declining student enrollment, are the principle reasons for this funding shift from the state. The RSU 18 Board of Directors is actively engaging with our communities to hear input in order to develop fiscally responsible school budgets while still providing for a quality education system.

Enrollments and Our Schools. This past July an enrollment study was completed and projected that in 2025 student enrollments are to be in the 2500-2600 range, down from 3,312 students in 2009, with our current enrollment being 2,906 as of October 1, 2015. Our schools are sized for a student enrollment of roughly 3,400 students. Messalonskee Middle School, our newest school turns 15 years old next year, and the "new" China Primary School is now 25 years old! Our schools are aging and are in need of repair to keep them in good shape, while they are also sized for a larger student population than we currently have (or are projected to have). Given these difficult budget times, it is a struggle to put adequate funding into RSU 18 spending plans to take care of this aging infrastructure!

Your RSU 18 Board of Directors is addressing this issue and in August formed a 30 member

Regional School Unit #18

community led Facilities Study Committee co-chaired by Richard Labelle of Rome and Mike Tracy of Oakland. The Board charged them with taking a comprehensive look at our schools and the issues we face, asking them to bring specific recommendations back to the RSU 18 Board of Directors. This group is now hard at work, and it is hard work, and expectations are for the Committee's recommendations to be presented to the RSU 18 Board later this year. Solving RSU 18's facility issues requires new and creative thinking if we are to continue offering the communities of RSU 18 a high quality, cost effective, educational system. There is still much work to do here, and you will be hearing more about this work as time progresses.

Your Board of Directors is actively working on the challenges facing RSU 18. They are an active, capable, and dedicated Board, whose service directly benefits the towns of Belgrade, China, Oakland, Rome, and Sidney. They do a wonderful job, and if you are out and about and happen to see them, please remember to thank them for their many hours of service on your behalf.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Sincerely,

Gary N. Smith
Superintendent of Schools



China Middle School's Lego Team "Made in South China" won First Place for programming at their first ever meet.

Erskine Academy

It has been an enterprising year of school improvement and increased and accelerated student achievement for Erskine Academy.

Last spring, our successful reaccreditation by the New England Association of Secondary Schools (NEASC) affirmed Erskine Academy's effective and efficient use of human and fiscal resources to implement the school's mission and long-held traditional values. We were commended by the Commission for our comprehensive and extensive programming to meet diverse student abilities, interests and needs; our well-maintained physical plant; our carefully cultivated, distinctive, and healthy school culture; and our commitment to the success of every student. Areas currently being strengthened by our improvement plan include: the professional and leadership development of our faculty; an ongoing analysis of student work and achievement data; and scheduling regular reviews and revisions of our curriculum.

As the State of Maine has legislated "proficiency-based" diplomas for all public school students, Erskine Academy has instituted its own system to enable students to exceed proficiency. Our approach is to analyze our current students' and recent graduates' achievement data and experiences to inform program improvements and enhancements. Recent developments and trends include: In our third year as a MELMAC Education Foundation school, we have increased students' preparedness and aspirations for continuing their education after high school, resulting in our 87% continuing education rate for a third consecutive year. We have reduced barriers to accessing higher education and once in college, our graduates require less remedial coursework than their public school peers. For fall 2014, we connected more students to the University of Maine at Augusta than any other high school. This fall, we were named by the University of Maine at Farmington as their top high school for students who graduate in four years with a degree.

Teachers' professional development has focused on ensuring that an Erskine Academy diploma signifies that its holder has met the academic and behavioral performance standards demanded by industry, the workplace and adulthood. In its fifth year, our Jobs for Maine Graduates (JMG) program has increased student exposure to various forms of higher education and vocational trades programs, and teaches essential work seeking, training and employment retention skills.

By valuing all students and believing they deserve a welcoming school and professional teachers who will build on their strengths, 20% of our students receive academic or special education support services to meet our learning standards. Orienting ourselves to our learners in this manner, for a fourth consecutive year, 98% of our students graduated high school in four years, one of the highest graduation rates in the state, and our dropout rate is less than 1%.

We continue to create the conditions to make our students more competitive for higher learning and marketable for the workplace by increasing relevance and rigor in our program of studies. Second only to its host school, Cony, we have the largest enrollment at the Capital Area Technical Center, where nearly sixty students will earn a certificate in a craft or trade. This past year, 142 students took at least one of our seventeen Advanced Placement courses, a 9% increase over the previous year; and we had 197 enrollees in one or more of our ten dual enrollment courses with local colleges. Both types of courses are taught here by our teachers, resulting in nearly two-thirds

Erskine Academy

of the graduating class earning college credits while in high school at a considerable savings in college tuition. Nearly 68% of our class of 2015 earned college credits while attending Erskine Academy, which we estimate to be the financial equivalent of approximately \$347,000.00 at the University of Maine tuition rate. It is for this achievement that we were recognized by the College Board and the University of Maine, and we were one of only seven Maine schools to be named America's Most Challenging High Schools for 2015 by the Washington Post.

With 590 students in grades nine through twelve, Erskine is the largest town academy in Maine to serve a nearly 100% local contingent, and one of few schools whose entire enrollment attends on a school choice basis. Our students continue to be drawn primarily from eight central Maine towns and humble, hard-working backgrounds to experience a school program that blends traditional values with contemporary programs and best practices to become the most academically and personally prepared young people in the region. To support this heritage, for a fifth time, we brought nearly 250 area sixth graders to our school for a program of early exposure to high school designed to build their confidence for doing high school work.

Pursuing excellence and our mission is a continuous and unyielding work in progress. With our institutional strengths now validated and a school improvement plan established, we are committed to adding value to the diploma and the high school experience. We will transition and transform with the times to do our very best for our students by providing quality educational experiences and the conditions to inspire them to their highest potential in school, at work, and within their communities.

We are grateful to our students, families, alumni and sending communities for their confidence in and support for Erskine Academy. Together, we create a school and legacy that adheres to what we know is right and good for our young people—preparation for quality living founded on scholarship, leadership, stewardship, and relationships.

Onward Erskine!

Michael McQuarrie
Headmaster



Sage Hapgood Belanger, a member of the Erskine Boys Freshman basketball team, prepares to drive to the hoop during a recent game.

Albert Church Brown Memorial Library

Completion of the Schoonover Community Room was the major event for the Albert Church Brown Memorial Library during the fiscal year July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. The ground-floor room is being used for library events and is also available for area organizations to hold regular or intermittent meetings and public events. It seats up to 50 people on new padded folding chairs. Audio-visual equipment is suitable for music, slideshows, videos and similar uses. Limited kitchen facilities are available for preparing coffee or tea and serving bring-your-own refreshments. More information is available by calling or visiting the library during library hours, which are Tuesdays and Thursday from 2 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon. The room was furnished and decorated with a generous grant from the Schoonover family, supplemented by monetary gifts and volunteer labor by members of the library's board of trustees and other local residents.

Despite the dislocations caused by refinishing walls and floors and rearranging the book collection, the library continued to lend out books and magazines most of the year, with only a short break after the wooden floor was refinished. Public programs were offered as the work schedule permitted, including guest speakers, the library association's annual meeting in the fall of 2014 and the annual holiday open house in December 2014. With the new community room, library trustees plan to host at least one public event a month. Announcements will be on the library's web site, www.acbrown.lib.me.us, and posted locally.

The library hosts a knitting group that meets every Tuesday afternoon and includes people doing other types of needlecrafts; a book group that meets one Sunday a month from September through May; and an intermittent crafting group whose members' products are offered for sale at events like the annual craft fair at China Middle School and the Christmas open house. These groups welcome new members.

All area residents are welcome to use the library. There is no charge to borrow books and magazines or to use the library's computers; a 10-cents-per-page fee for printing or copying helps cover the cost of ink and paper.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Grow, Librarian



South China Library

The South China Library has been a constant presence in our community for 185 years. The library is staffed primarily by volunteers. Our diverse collection includes fiction, non-fiction and large print books. We have a large Maine section, the historic Quaker collection, and hundreds of audiobooks and movies for all ages. Our lively children's room has everything from picture books to chapter books to resources for school projects.



Dr. Drew brought his reptiles and animals to the Summer Program at the library to everyone's delight.

Free programs include:

- Our wonderful summer reading program, coordinated by Katie Bailey. The 2015 theme was Every Hero Has a Story. Attendance averaged 20 children each week for programs presented by authors, musicians, and educators. Supported in part by the Oak Grove School Foundation.
- Youth Book Club for students ages 8 – 12. Meets often for activities, snacks, and book discussion.
- Book Club for adults. Meets each month for lively discussion. New members are welcome anytime, contact Cheryl at 445-2956 for more information.

The library is supported by fundraisers and book sales, donations from individuals, and the town of China. The library accepts donations of books and movies. Items not added to the collection are sold at book sales.

We thank Naomi Homan for her service, expertise, and vision as our Librarian in 2014 – 2015. Naomi has moved

Over 200 books were added to the library this year. 314 households have South China Library cards. If you have not visited the library recently, please come in, sign up for a free card, and enjoy!

You can view our catalog from any computer or mobile device. Go to our website www.southchinalibrary.org and click on Online Catalog to find your favorite author or books. Card holders can download free e-books and audiobooks from the Maine State Library.

Library Hours:

Wednesday
10:00 a.m. – Noon
and 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Phone: 445-3094
Located on Village St.
in South China

www.southchinalibrary.org

South China Library

on to enjoy retirement. Cheryl Baker now serves as Librarian.

Although our current 100+ year old building is treasured by the community, the size of our lot prohibits us from doing more to respond to present and future needs. Our goals for the future require us to find a new site. The process of exploring options for relocation has begun and will take some time. If you would like to join us in creating the future of the library, please visit the library or contact us by email: southchinalibrary@gmail.com

Thank you to our dedicated volunteers, from teens to retirees, for making every library visit enjoyable. Volunteers are needed. If you would enjoy volunteering for two or more hours per month, please contact us.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Dempster, President
South China Public Library Association



Animal Control

State Law requires all dogs over the age of 6 months be registered. You must provide a current rabies certificate when licensing your dog. If your pet has been spayed or neutered, a copy of the certificate must be provided to the clerk when registering. The fee for altered animals is \$6.00 and unaltered \$11.00.

Proper ID can prevent your pet from going to the pound! Numerous dogs are taken to the Humane Society in Augusta because of lack of identification. If a dog is at large and has its tags on its collar, the clerk at the town office can look up the tag number and the Animal Control Officer will be able to return the dog directly to its owner. If your pet is lost, please notify the town office. If someone finds a lost pet they will usually contact the town office and animal control.

To report a lost or found animal in China, you can call the Town Office at 445-2014.

ACO Contact Numbers:

Peter A. Nerber	530-0948
Peter E. Nerber	505-0981
Nerber Home #	993-2225 (if no answer, leave a message)

Complaints – 2015

Dogs at Large	28
Stray Cats	90
Dog Bites	5
Aggressive dogs	1
Chickens at Large	4
Cat bite	1
Welfare Check	12
Loose horses and cows	6
Goats and Pigs in road	4
Unlicensed Dog reminder	29
Rabbit at Large	1
Sheep at Large	1

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Finley
Deputy Clerk



Bonnie Beaulieu is waiting patiently for her dog license.

Kennebec County Sheriff's Office

The Kennebec County Sheriff's Office experienced many changes in 2015. Former Sheriff Liberty accepted a position at the Maine State Prison. We appreciate his 29 years of service and wish him the best. As an agency we will continue to offer the same quality service as has been provided in the past. Those services include the Law Enforcement Division, Corrections' Services, Civil Process, Court Security and Transport Division. We provide many regional assets to our communities including Drug Investigations, K-9, Dive Team, Sex Offender Registry, Veterans Advocacy, Accident Reconstruction and the Special Response Team.

In 2015 nineteen Deputy Sheriffs serving in the Law Enforcement Division both in full-time and part-time capacity responded to over 18,000 calls for service. There were 44,674 service entries into our data base. As a result deputies made 922 arrests, issued 722 traffic summonses, and responded to 580 motor vehicle accidents. Deputy Sheriffs also responded to 566 alarms, 128 domestic disturbances, and assisted other agencies 687 times. Deputies and Detectives made 934 drug seizures, of which 852 involved cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, or other opiates.

For emergencies, dial
9-1-1.
For non-emergencies,
contact the Sheriff's
Office at (207)623-3614

Our Civil Process deputies serve documents from a number of legal agencies, state agencies, lawyer's officers and other entities. In 2015, the four deputies served 7,826 documents or legal papers to the citizens of Kennebec County.

During the past year, our Correctional Facility managed 3,438 inmates, 110 more than last year. The offenses committed by defendants included everything from Burglaries to Homicides. Substance abuse and the proper treatment of citizens with mental illness continue to be two primary concerns at the Correctional Facility. With the help from many members of the Kennebec County delegation, we were able to secure funding for CARA (Criminogenic Addiction Recovery Academy) Program within the State biannual budget. CARA was delayed for several months because of the long delay in financing. We were still able to complete five CARA program courses reaching a total of 29 inmates with treatment.

Inmates at the Kennebec County Correctional Facility are asked to work and earn time off their sentences if applicable. Inmates who are considered to be a risk to the community work inside the facility cleaning and cooking, while others are supervised on outside projects. For every two days worked, one day is reduced from their sentence, resulting in a \$496,467 bed day savings to the citizens of Kennebec County. Throughout 2015, inmates worked 8,681 community service hours, valued at approximately \$65,102. Our inmates raised 55,225 pounds of produce for the inmate kitchen, area food pantries, churches, homeless shelters, schools and elder programs in 2015.

We are committed to providing innovative programs to reduce crimes, assist victims, and to provide

Kennebec County Sheriff's Office

enhanced public safety. We acknowledge the ever-growing opiate addiction problem and have committed to partnerships at the Federal, State and Local levels to combat this problem. Our approach is aggressive enforcement, education and treatment for those afflicted.

We will provide the 122,191 citizens of Kennebec County with progressive and professional services. I welcome any comments or suggestions which improve our service to the citizens of Kennebec County.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan P. Reardon Interim Sheriff, Kennebec County



Former Select Board member Amber McAllister and her daughter, Charli, pose during a recent visit to the town office.

China Village Volunteer Fire Department

During the past year, the China Village Volunteer Fire Department responded to 53 calls that included 10 structure fires in town, five wild land/brush fires, one vehicle fire, eight vehicle accidents, two downed wires or trees, four fire or carbon monoxide alarms, one oil spill, two smoke or odor investigations and 10 miscellaneous service calls. In addition, the Department provided five assists to China Rescue and responded to five mutual aid requests in neighboring towns.

Over the past few years we have reported that our number of active members has been in decline and we have now reached the point where a majority are age 50 and higher. Recent news articles have shown that this is both a statewide and national problem where volunteer fire departments are experiencing difficulty in recruiting, training and retaining a sufficient number of adequately trained firefighters. As a result, the 127th Maine Legislature established a Working Group to Develop Solutions to Meet the Needs for Municipal Volunteer Personnel. I served as one of the members of this group and we met three times during the fall of 2015. Our findings showed that demographic changes represented the largest barriers since most volunteers no longer work in their communities and are no longer available during daytime hours. In addition, changes in the family dynamic from single income to dual income families has continually grown thereby increasing demands on a person's time due to employment and family commitments. This all adds up to making it more difficult for someone to volunteer because of their lack of availability to effectively respond to calls.

Our group developed eight recommendations that will be considered during the Second Session of the 127th Maine Legislature. Most seek to provide financial incentives through a variety of means including creation of a Length of Service Award Program, allowing tax credits at the state or local level, and including municipal volunteers in state health programs. Other recommendations include developing regional training centers and



offering firefighting and rescue personnel courses at technical schools and community colleges. The big challenge, of course, will be to identify sources of funding to support any of these initiatives. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any suggestions or concerns about these issues.

You may have also read that our Department has initiated a long term planning effort to seek land and funding for a new fire station. We believe it is critical to maintain a station in the north end of town due to the size of China Lake creating a barrier that would seriously delay response times from a more central location. However, the original portion of our current

Department members:

- Timothy Theriault
- Robert Batteese
- Kevin Maroon
- William Rancourt
- George Studley
- Dale Worster
- Ben Loubier
- Scott Adams
- Edward Brownell
- Keith Waye
- Erasmo Gonzalez
- Joe Labbe
- Mike Brown
- Ron Morrell
- Chris Sylvester
- Danny McKinnis
- Matt Adams
- Sarah Batteese
- Bob Hall
- Stephen Labbe Jr
- Joe Mason

China Village Volunteer Fire Department

building is over 70 years old and the entire structure lacks many of the desired features of a modern station. Four of the truck bay doors are really too small to properly accommodate the height and width of newer trucks, and we lack an exhaust removal system that will likely be required in the near future. We also do not have room for decontamination showers, industrial washers to clean our turnout gear, and hose washing and drying equipment. In addition, it is doubtful if our septic system could handle the extra water load even if there were room for these items in the building.

Your tax monies continue to pay our normal operating expenses and we greatly appreciate all your past support. We have always relied on our fundraising efforts to cover special projects but we have come to the realization that costs for new buildings or trucks have skyrocketed to the point where it is no longer feasible to raise the necessary funds through raffles and barbecues. We will therefore be seeking assistance in writing grants and likely will be asking the Town to provide financial support in the form of loans or TIF monies.



A crowd gathered at the China Village Fire Department station for the annual chicken barbecue.

We will still be conducting our major fundraising activity which is our annual chicken barbecue that is usually held the first Saturday of July. We especially want to thank everyone who turned out this past year when we sold out of our 400 meals in less than an hour and ten minutes. We look forward to being as successful again this year and hope you will keep this exceptional noon-time meal in mind as we continue to replenish our department fund that is used for special projects and unexpected expenses not covered by our Town Operating Account.

I want to again stress that we would definitely like to recruit some younger members. If you have any interest in possibly becoming a firefighter, I encourage you to visit with us at any of our meetings that are always held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 P.M in the Village Station at 30 Causeway Road. You can also learn more about us by visiting our China Village Volunteer Fire Department Facebook page.

China Village Volunteer Fire Department

I want to close by offering my sincere thanks to all our members for their dedicated service to the Town, and to the members of China Rescue and the South China and Weeks Mills Fire Departments who work so closely with us on emergency responses and fire prevention activities. I also want to acknowledge that we greatly appreciate our neighboring departments who provide mutual aid whenever we call them to assist with major fires.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Theriault
Fire Chief



Firefighter Bob Hall and Chief Tim Theriault prepare to turn the chickens over during the annual barbeque.

South China Volunteer Fire Department

From July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 the South China Volunteer Fire Department responded to 61 alarms. This is a little over ½ as many as last year. They break down by type as follows: 8 structure, 2 chimney, 5 downed wires/trees in road, 6 vehicle fires, 23 auto accidents, 9 unfounded/false alarms, 2 mutual aid to neighboring towns for structure fires and other incidents, 2 smoke/odor investigation, 2 unattended burn, 1 hazmat, and 1 miscellaneous.

We currently have 26 active members.

Somerset County's PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point) answers our 911 calls, and the Waterville Communications Center provides dispatching services. This partnership continues to run very smoothly, and we are very happy with the service we receive. I am pleased that the Selectmen have listened to the advice of the Chiefs and renewed the contract last year, for a 3 year period.

There has been much talk lately about the recruiting, retention and training problems of volunteer fire departments across Maine. The Legislature even created a study commission to look into the matter and make recommendations. As usual, their solution is mostly to throw money at the problem. Some of their recommendations make sense and will not cost a lot, such as bell to bell workers comp coverage, and limits on liability for volunteers. However they also propose such costly things such as providing retirement benefits and health insurance benefits to volunteers, as well as the construction of a new regional training facility. Significantly their recommendations do not contain a provision to correct what I think is a major reason for the problem. As I have reported to you for many years, Maine Department of Labor regulations make it difficult for small town volunteer fire departments such as ours to stay in business and provide for the needs of our citizens. There are huge differences between small, all volunteer, departments like ours and those in the larger towns and cities that are paid, and often have at least some full time staff. However, most of the rules and attendant paperwork requirements that the State requires us to meet, do not recognize that difference.

Closer to home, we need to remember that China is a large town geographically and we are very fortunate that we have 3 separate fire departments that can cover this far flung territory. In addition, and even more importantly, it gives us a much larger personnel and apparatus resource to draw from when needed. To use a sports analogy, we have a much deeper bench than most towns. The automatic mutual aid response policy we have among all 3 departments works very well and makes less impactful an individual department's recruiting/staffing/resource problems. While I don't want to minimize the staffing issues of any

Department members:

- Richard Morse
- Robert Dowe
- Robert Cargill
- Donald Dowe
- Shawn Reed
- Glen Morse
- Mike Rocque
- Bill Bickford
- Nelson Glidden
- Larry Barden
- Cindy Senkbeil
- Fred Glidden
- Hans Arp
- JJ Wentoworth
- Sheldon Goodine
- Martin Britten
- Dean Sheaff
- Webb Shaw
- Shawn Stevens
- Kelly Keezer
- Greg Althenn
- Shayne Cargill
- Justen Quimby
- Jeff McLellan

South China Volunteer Fire Department

single department, we must look at it from a proper perspective. It is very important to keep this situation in mind when considering the staffing/organizational issues of China's Fire Departments and our fire protection situation as a whole. Volunteer fire departments, with all their issues, save Maine taxpayers billions of dollars every year over the paid, full time, municipal alternative. Maybe it is time for a thoughtful, comprehensive, and well considered discussion among a group of key individuals of this issue.

Our monthly in-house training program continues to be well attended and is working well. Many thanks to our volunteer instructors. We held several hands-on training sessions and participated in joint training with China Village, and Weeks Mills.

We again conducted a very successful fire prevention program at the China school(s) during Fire Prevention Week (our 29th annual). Thanks to Cindy Sienkiel for her leadership and to all the volunteers from the Town's three fire departments and China Rescue who helped make this a success. Thanks also to the staff at the school for their support of this program. We feel it helps to prevent fires.

We continued the practice of joint meetings with the China Village, Weeks Mills, and China Rescue departments. At our meetings we discuss current issues, joint operations, training, and equipment purchases. These meetings help us to provide better and more coordinated fire protection services to the town.



This year we purchased a heavy duty washing machine to wash firefighter protective clothing (called turnout gear). To remove carcinogens, washing turnouts should be done whenever they become contaminated with soot and other products of combustion. To prevent taking the contamination back to family members, turnouts should not be laundered at home. Cancer among firefighters is a major problem across the nation.

Last year, on a particularly cold night fire, we froze and broke some fittings on the front mount

South China Volunteer Fire Department

pump on Tanker 52. Unlike our other apparatus, it was not equipped with freeze protection. To prevent this problem in the future, we have installed a special type of heat tape on the pump. Thanks to Nelson and Fred Glidden for this work.

A major expense for the rest of this year and into next will be the replacement of all 16 of our carbon fiber SCBA breathing air tanks. These tanks have a definite shelf life and must be replaced in 2016. In spite of the shelf life problem, the upside of carbon fiber tanks is that unlike the older aluminum and steel tanks, they are extremely lightweight and take a great deal of weight off the backs of the firefighters using them.

We held our 36th annual Fireman's Auction in July and we thank the townspeople for their donations of goods and money and their bids at this fun event and fund raiser. We save up and use these funds for projects such as our recent purchase of Tanker 52, and to support unexpected expenses that are not covered in our regular operational budget.

I am also the Town Forest Fire Warden for China. Fire permits are required for all open burning year round. This year we instituted a free online burning permit issuing system. To obtain a permit simply type www.wardensreport.com into your browser and follow the simple instructions. It will let you get a permit after 9:00 AM (that is the time that the fire danger class is first available) on any day that the fire danger is less than Class 3 (HIGH). If you do not have a computer you can go to the Town office, and the girls will use the system for you. You can still contact me or George Studley as well.

Any member of the community who would like to join us should contact any department member concerning sponsorship. If you are unable to give your time as an active member you may be able to help us in other ways with your particular skill set, and you can still help a great deal by bidding at our annual auction or simply making a cash donation at any time.

I would like to close by expressing my thanks to all the members of the Department for the countless hours they volunteer every year to help their neighbors and keep our community safe.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard E. Morse
Fire Chief

FREE burning permits can be obtained online at www.wardensreport.com after 9:00 a.m. the day of the burn.



Weeks Mills Volunteer Fire Department

The members of the Weeks Mills Fire Department would like to thank the citizens of the Town of China for their support of all three Fire Departments and China Rescue. As volunteers we all have the same goal, to work as a team to get the job done in the safest and most efficient way possible. All the members thank you for your continued support in making sure we have the proper equipment to keep us safe and assure we go home to our families.

The final payment was made on the addition this year and we were able to put vinyl siding on the front of the building. This year we will continue to focus on training for the members and repairs to the original building to include structural repairs, siding and energy conservation measures. The department is working to replace Engine 72 (a 1990 Chevrolet - see picture below). This truck served us well but unfortunately necessary repairs far exceed the value of the truck.

All three Fire Departments and Rescue continue to meet jointly to discuss equipment needs, training as well as what's coming up in the future of Fire and Rescue. These meetings allow us to discuss tactics and procedures to better serve the town as well as surrounding communities with mutual aid.

Last year we responded to 43 calls, the breakdown is as follows: 4 structure fires, 6 brush fires, 1 car fire, 22 auto accidents, 3 false alarms, 3 rescue assists, 1 hazardous condition, and 3 severe weather. I would like to thank all the members of the Weeks Mills V.F.D. for their commitment to our department as well as all the members of China Fire and Rescue for their dedication to our town. I would also like to thank the families of all the Firefighters and Rescue members for your understanding and support.

Remember to change the batteries in your smoke detector twice a year, the best way to remember this is to change the batteries when you set your clocks ahead in the spring and back in the fall. If you have a fire, remember to get out, stay out, have a meeting place, make sure everyone is accounted for, and dial 911.

Weeks Mills V.F.D. meets on the first Thursday of the month @ 7:00 pm. Our door is always open for new members.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief George Shaw

Department members:

- Greg Althenn
- Kate Althenn
- Bill Bickford
- Norman Black
- Chris Booher
- Ray Chavarie
- Kevin Freeman
- David Herard
- Tom Michaud
- George Oliver
- Justin Quimby
- Webb Shaw
- Sally Sproul
- Tom Stephenson
- Chuck Stephenson
- Bill Van Wickler
- Al Wenzel



China Rescue

Drivers injured in traumatic vehicle accidents, a frightened mother with sick children, a loved one experiencing cardiac arrest or our elderly folks who have fallen, these are just a few of the people who look for help from dedicated volunteer members of China Rescue.

Our call volume fell in 2015, from 255 to 230. However missed calls are higher do to the lack of manpower. Rescue members are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We work together with the China Fire Departments, Delta Ambulance (our patient transporting agency), Maine EMS, Life Flight of Maine and all area hospitals. China Rescue is a paramedic-licensed first responder team that comes to your aid first, when precious minutes count.

Department members:

- Erasmo Gonzalez
- David Herard
- Webb Shaw
- Julie Chavez
- Joe Labbe
- Tim Theriault
- Danny McKinnis
- Thomas Alfieri

To continue high quality free emergency medical care members have provided residents and visitors since 1982, we depend on the continued good will of donors and the commitment from volunteers who come to us from all walks of life and every corner of the region. JOIN our team as a supporter or volunteer. Be part of a tradition of excellent emergency care.

If you are interested in more information, contact China Rescue Chief of Service David Herard at david19461@hotmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

David Herard
Chief of Service



The multipurpose room is full of interested voters

Emergency Preparedness Committee

Emergency preparedness starts with each individual and family. Businesses, schools and neighborhoods can also learn to be more resilient, more prepared to “weather the storm.”

For public officials, preparedness encompasses planning, training, exercise, public information and education, facilities and communication. For business owners it needs to include thinking about emergencies that could affect customer, supplier or employees.



School administrators need to include local responders and parents in their preparedness steps.

We can never foresee everything that will happen in an emergency. But by preparing, we develop a resiliency that will allow us to respond effectively and recover quickly.

Visit Maine Prepares. You'll find fact sheets, tips and news to help your family, school, business, community or service organization prepare for any emergency or disaster

The national Incident Management System, protocol of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, provides the foundation needed to ensure that people can work together when our communities need us the most. This system integrates “best practices” into a comprehensive, standardized framework that is flexible enough to be applicable across the full spectrum of potential incidents, regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity. Moreover, NIMS allows us to work together to prepare for, prevent, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of major incidents.

The proper preparedness for these types of emergencies is achieved and maintained through a continuous cycle of planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising, evaluating, and taking corrective action. Preparedness facilitates efficient and effective emergency management and incident response activities.

How are we doing in China? We will be continually attempting to work with the Maine Emergency Management Agency in coordinated ways to ensure that we have proper training and certifications relative to emergency preparedness circumstances. Though at times progress toward a fully implementable plan seems slow, China is resolutely moving in the right direction to have proper capital resources and personnel for proper emergency management. Progress has been made in many areas, though much more has to be completed over time for respective emergencies. The Town of China will ultimately need to have an overarching command structure in place to effectively handle most all of the anticipated types of emergencies. Patience, with proper financial resources, will prove to be a valuable ingredient.



Emergency Preparedness Committee

Municipalities may respond to various emergencies. The relatively less complex emergencies are traditionally responded to for the most part by personnel from local fire departments and rescue. They are also managed at the “local” level and handled in an efficient manner. In China we have a very robust and effective and responsive group of volunteer fire department and rescue personnel. We are eternally grateful for their professionalism and ability to handle local emergency situations. The respective entities in China are hereby noted and thanked for their collective efforts in being prepared for emergency situations; the China Village Volunteer Fire Department; the South China Volunteer Fire Department; the Weeks Mills Volunteer Fire Department; and China Rescue, Inc. We also extend appreciation to the City of Waterville Hazmat Team and also those who have volunteered on a personal basis in past emergency circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Morrell, Chairperson
China Emergency Preparedness Committee



South China Fire Department
Chief Dick Morse chats
with department member
Nelson Glidden during China
Community Days 2015 at the
display of the department's
truck Engine 53.

Delta Ambulance

Delta Ambulance, founded in 1972, is the leading provider of high quality, compassionate emergency services and medical transportation in central Maine. Our superior training, experience and state-of-the-art medical technologies set us apart from other ambulance services. We are pleased to be able to continue to provide emergency Paramedic response and care to the people of your community and to support your First Response Rescue at no cost to the community.

As a not-for-profit organization, we fund our operations solely by reimbursement for patient calls directly from the patient and the patient's insurance policy. This is possible in large part due to our economy of scale. We write off approximately 28% of our care annually as charitable giving to the uninsured, underinsured and in support of special community events.

Paramedic care is the highest level of Pre-Hospital care available. Our Paramedics exceed State Standards for recertification and respond with the latest medical technology available including 12 lead EKG and pharmaceutical interventions. Our care is reviewed in our Continuing Quality Improvement (CQI) program, which is recognized as a leading process in Maine.

Our support for your Rescue Services continues to include the offer of continuing medical/rescue education and on-scene replacement of used medical supplies at no cost. As always, if we can assist you with a project or answer any questions you may have, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We thank you for the opportunity to serve the people of China.

Respectfully,

Timothy A Beals
Executive Director
January 13, 2016
Bill McKenna
Director of Community Relations
207.861.4251
B.McKenna@DeltaAmbulance.org



In 2015, we responded to 229 911-calls. Of these, 38 calls were for assistance from patients who did not require or refused transport for hospital care. These patients were evaluated by our paramedics and received no invoice. Additionally, we also serve your community by regularly providing non-emergency care and transfer services for patients as well as standby for fire calls and special community events.

Our average response times, the time between our receipt of the call and our arrival, for delivery of paramedic care was 16.8 minutes for emergencies.

Cemetery Committee

There are 31 cemeteries in the town of China. Although there are a few private cemeteries, most are maintained by the town with a budget in 2015 of only \$23,600. Included in this amount is an annual appropriation for veterans markers and American flags.

The front of the fence at Branch Mills Cemetery has been sandblasted and repainted. The tomb at Branch Mills Cemetery has also been sealed. Horace Stevens repaired and cleaned the stones in several cemeteries.

A map of cemetery locations in China is available on our web site www.china.govoffice.com.

Cemetery lots are for sale in the China Village Extension, Branch Mills, Dirigo Friends, Deer Hill and Pleasant View Ridge Cemeteries. All purchases must be made through the Town Office. Contact Julie Finley at julie@chinamaine.org for information.

All lots are priced at \$500.00. Some lots are double lots and must be purchased that way.

Chadwick Hill Cemetery is not a town cemetery. For information on this cemetery, please call Richard Grimshaw at (207) 441-5019.

The Cemetery Committee is working on a final draft of updated cemetery ordinance. Once it is approved, a copy will be posted on our web site www.china.govoffice.com.

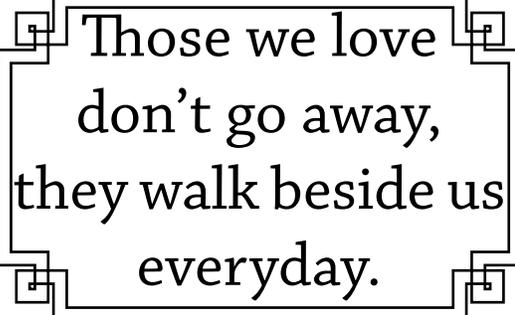
If you have any question or concerns about the cemeteries in China, please contact one of the members of the Cemetery Committee or the town office.

Horace Stevens	445-4312	
Richard Norton	660-6165	djnorton207@gmail.com
Harold Charles	968-2298	chinacharles@fairpoint.net
Julie Finley	445-2014	julie@chinamaine.org
Elwood Ellis	968-2507	bluesbro@roadrunner.com
Daniel L'Heureux	445-2014	danl@chinamaine.org

If you are interested in genealogy, please contact Kelly Grotton at the town office. Her email address is kelly@chinamaine.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Finley, Cemetery Committee member



Those we love
don't go away,
they walk beside us
everyday.

China Region Lakes Alliance

The CRLA was founded in 1995 by the Lake Associations of China Lake, Three Mile Pond, and Webber Pond, along with the Towns of Vassalboro, Windsor, and China, and the Kennebec Water District. The idea is to cooperate on common projects that are designed to protect and improve water quality in our member lakes. This pools resources and talent which saves time and money to the benefit of our community and lakes. Notably, the CRLA was the first regional lake alliance in the State of Maine. Now, there are five other regional lakes organizations in the State that are adopting the same models and rationale.

For the second year in a row, Webber Pond enjoyed clean, clear water quality in 2014 without an algae bloom. This is a remarkable turn-around in water quality coincides precisely with the opening of the fish ladder on Webber Pond in 2011 followed by the full restoration of sea-run alewife fishery to their historic habitat since then. To draw any other conclusion, would neglect the sad history of Webber Pond and be incongruous.

CRLA's top priority is to improve water quality in China Lake and is leading the effort to restore alewife. CRLA is working shoulder-to-shoulder with the Maine Rivers, the Sebasticook Region Land Trust, and the Maine Department of Marine Resources to develop plans on the Outlet Stream to reach our goal of unfettered fish passage into China Lake by December 31, 2018.

In the meantime, the Maine Department of Marine Resources has been stocking approximately 20,000 adult alewives into China Lake beginning in the Spring of 2014. To the right is a photograph of China Lake showing millions of plump juvenile alewife leaving the lake at the Outlet Stream dam. In comparison to other lakes, these are almost twice as size at the same stage of development. This is a consequence of the abundant food (organic matter) in the lake.



Maintaining gravel roads is a key component of water quality

In addition, CRLA runs the all-important Courtesy Boat Inspection Program to guard against Aquatic Invasive Species and Milfoil from invading our Lakes. It also administers the Youth Conservation Corp program to work with landowners to help address erosion issues caused by driveways, camp roads, culverts, and shoreline buffers.

China Region Lakes Alliance

CRLA would like to recognize Dave Landry, for his past leadership as he stepped down from the Board of Directors following 18 years of dedicated service. Dave is an extraordinary teacher and leads by example. He shared my experiences and lessons about ecology and teaching students about conservation and stewardship. We extend our best wishes and thanks to Dave!

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Hart, CRLA President
jimhart35@outlook.com
(207) 716-5754

What is LakeSmart?

LakeSmart is an education and reward program for lakefront property owners who maintain their homes in ways that protect lake water quality and property values.

What Does It Cost?

LakeSmart is the most cost-effective strategy that homeowners can use to protect their lake, their property's value and their recreational activities. We currently provide this invaluable service for free, but welcome you to join Maine Lakes or make a gift to the program.

How long does it take?

The LakeSmart visit takes less than an hour. You will be told right away whether you qualify for an Award or Commendation and you'll also receive information about lake-friendly land practices and relevant web links.

How Can I Participate?

Contact Maggie at Maine Lakes Society (207) 495-2301 or msshannon@mainelakessociety.org. She will connect you with one of our trained volunteers who will assess your property. He or she will come to your home, evaluate its ability to prevent run-off and inputs of pollution, and report back to you. During the evaluation you will be able to walk the property with the volunteer and you'll be given information on how to capture and infiltrate stormwater. LakeSmart is entirely voluntary, so you are free to take some of the recommended actions or not – it's completely up to you.

Midcoast Conservancy

Midcoast Conservancy is a land trust formed from merger of: Damariscotta Lake Watershed Association, Hidden Valley Nature Center, Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association, and Sheepscot Wellspring Land Alliance. We are continuing the good work of those organizations and building on their strong community ties. Our mission is to support and promote healthy lands, waters, wildlife, and people in the Midcoast through conservation, education, and recreation. Serving much of Waldo and Lincoln County, Midcoast Conservancy provides over 60 miles of publicly accessible trails, more than 75 annual programs designed to help people of all ages deepen their curiosity of the natural world, and 6,300 acres of conserved land open to the public for non-motorized recreation.



Recently, in your community and nearby, Midcoast Conservancy:

- Finalized two new conservation projects in Liberty totaling 84 acres, with over one mile of frontage along the Sheepscot River. Conserved lands in Freedom, Liberty, Montville and Palermo help sustain the health of the entire Sheepscot river system – which includes the southeast third of the town of China.
- Is expanding the network of publicly accessible trails in the area in partnership with Lake St. George State Park and the town of Liberty. Trails for non-motorized recreational use will showcase newly conserved properties along a beautiful stretch of the Sheepscot River and connect with a trail network at Lake St. George State Park. A section is scheduled to open in 2016.
- Partnered with community groups including RSU3 school district, Liberty Library, MOFGA,

Midcoast Conservancy

and Sebasticook Regional Land Trust to reach over 480 community members with 21 educational events held by Sheepscot Wellspring Land Alliance in 2015, including our first hike-a-thon beginning at Freedom Village Store and ending at Villageside Farm.

We are excited to continue to work with you to protect the land and water in China, and to provide opportunities for everyone to get outside to enjoy the beautiful place we call home. Midcoast Conservancy is looking to sustain and deepen connections with all the communities we serve. We invite you to volunteer or attend an event; learn more at www.midcoastconservancy.org. Please be in touch or stop by our new office at 36 Water St. in Wiscasset with any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Jody Jones, Executive Director
www.midcoastconservancy.org
(207) 389-5150



China Cemetery on Memorial Day
This cemetery is located on the Causeway Road

Thurston Park

Thurston Park was the focus of a lot of interest and activities in 2015. Here is a quick synopsis of some of the activities that took place during the year:

Maine Trails Program Safety and Education Grant – The town was the recipient of a small safety and education grant from the Maine Trails Program administered by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. Part of the grant was used to have safety signs made and to purchase the posts and hardware for installing signs at key locations in the park. Members of the Thurston Park Committee spent part of a day walking the trails to identify what signs were needed and locations for them. Due to changes in the time frame of the grant, the committee was not able to expend the entire amount originally awarded.

Trail work through China Four Seasons Club - The committee cooperated with the China Four Seasons Club on planning trail work that will allow the snowmobile trails maintained by the club to link up with the park trails. Initial work on opening up this link was begun in the fall. When completed, this link will allow riders from Albion, who already have access to the park's multi-use trails, to connect with the club trails and vice versa.

Trail identification, marking and clearing - During the summer, one of the committee members was able to lay out and flag the route for a new trail, the Deer Trail, near the south end of the park. Later volunteers cleared and marked the trail. Trail signs will be added this coming spring/summer. One section of the trail is very wet at certain times of the year. Enough cedar planking and poles will be needed to build bog bridging to span the area that is approximately 70 feet in length. If the materials can be obtained, committee members and volunteers stand ready to do the construction this summer.



Chamberlain cellar hole - before and after.

Eagle Scout Project - One exciting development at the park was a project conducted by one of the local Eagle Scout candidates. The project included cleaning up the trash, weeds and brush from around and inside the Chamberlain Cellar hole which is located at the picnic area in the center of the park. Once the area was cleaned up, the scout and his crew of volunteers and adult advisors built a rail fence around the cellar for safety and to create a more attractive setting. In addition, the scout researched the history of the dwelling that once stood there. This resulted in the development of an attractive sign that not only gives some historical background but also has a sketch of the house

Thurston Park

that once stood there. It is worth a visit to the park to pay a visit to the finished project.

Volunteer trail maintenance project - One of the park volunteers tackled a big trail repair job on the multi-use trail currently designated as "Trail 1". The volunteer used his own utility tractor with a backhoe to drain a very large mud hole and then fill in a portion to create a firm trail bed for ATVs and foot traffic.

China Middle School project - Two of the teachers and a group of students at the China Middle School were involved in the Lunder New Naturalist Program. After a visit to the park and a visit by one of the committee members, the students researched topics about wildlife and other features that they learned about. Their research was then turned into language for informational signs that will be installed at the park this spring.

T-shirt sales - The committee had a number of t-shirts made up with 'THURSTON PARK' and an attractive forest scene. The t-shirts were being sold as a fund raiser and as a way to increase the awareness of the park. T-shirts are still available for \$15 at the town office.

Erskine cross country team visit - Early in the fall, the Erskine Academy boys cross country team and their coach paid a visit to the park. They were met by the committee chair who introduced them to the trail network and laid out a suggested training route. The team then ran about 3.5 miles on the trails. After the workout, all the runners were enthusiastic about running there and expressed the desire to have more workouts there. The coach also was impressed with the trail network and plans to hold additional practices there in the future.

Opportunity to get cedar planks for bog bridging - One of the more active volunteers reported that he had been in contact with some loggers about obtaining cedar for use in building some bog bridging. He will be ordering cedar for use in his own business so he will notify the committee when he is able to get some. If the price is better than what we have paid in the past, then he would be willing to saw out the planks needed at no charge.

Grant writing - The Committee decided to start preparations to apply for a second Maine Trails Program construction grant in 2016. In order to do that they will begin the process this spring by starting to put together the information needed for the grant application. This includes gathering the letters of support needed, outlining the proposed trail work to be done and developing a budget for the work.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Seekins
Chairman

Recreation Committee

First let me thank the residents of China for their support of our committee and the services we provide; without your support, they would not be possible.

I would like to thank the men and woman of our military (past and present) for protecting our country!

2015 has been a very productive year for us. We have completed several projects that will help improve our recreational fields and programs. The equipment shed behind the north field backstop has been built to store our field irrigation equipment. The pump, tank and piping have been installed. We will be purchasing a hose reel system to automatically irrigate the fields as needed to ensure a healthy turf for the sports teams to play on. This should make the surfaces more appealing and safer for the players and their fans. We will have water access to the snack shack to make the operation easier for the staff of volunteers.

Thanks to all the volunteers who work with the sports teams within our community. Without your dedication these programs would not be as successful as they are.

The Recreation Committee would also like to acknowledge Dan L'Heureux and the Board of Selectman for their guidance and support over the years in our efforts to improve our sports fields, equipment and programs.

We also welcome two new members to the committee, Scott McCormac and Martha Wentworth.

Respectfully submitted,

Dolly Batteese
Chair



Wyatt Michaud and Landon DeCosta
are participating in recreation soccer.

Code Enforcement

I am your new Code Enforcement Officer, Plumbing and Building Inspector starting last June. It is good to be working back in my community in the beautiful Town of China with its wonderful people. In case you haven't met me yet, let me tell you a little about myself. I previously did the same duties in Manchester for four years; did a short stint in Readfield, and was Vassalboro's Code Officer and Plumbing Inspector for four years before that. Prior to that I worked at the Dept. of Environmental Protection as an Environmental Engineer for 25 years protecting and improving river water quality and retired from that job in 2005.



I have lived in Vassalboro at the same residence for 31 years, and reside with my wife, Enid, and our dog, Rosey, the talkative and greatly spoiled Siberian Husky. I am currently the alternate CEO, LPI, and Building Inspector for Vassalboro; have served previously in their Conservation Commission and Planning Board, and am currently a Sanitary District trustee. I have been a volunteer lake monitor of Spectacle Pond for Maine's VLMP for the past 10 years and more recently have also assumed land steward duties of KLT's new Seaward Mills project which is very near to my home.

My immediate goal for the job is to make the permitting and inspection process more friendly. I am willing to provide assistance to potential permittees whether it be building, plumbing, building code, or Planning Board. Feel free to visit me if you need help with the applications or any questions you may have, in general. I have taken over the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code plan review and inspection process. I firmly believe that responsibility should be with the Code Officer. I think I can make this process less painful and provide assistance so that your new home, addition, or garage is built to reliable standards and will be worth more when you are selling your home.

Please remember it is my job responsibility to enforce land use laws whether they be local or state. I am first to admit this is a portion of my job I do not like but without enforcement local ordinances would be useless. I think most of the time property owners in violation of laws do not know they have done anything wrong. If you are unfortunate enough to be one of the people on my enforcement list, please remember if I can get your immediate cooperation, I will go out of my

Code Enforcement

way to resolve the problem in a friendly manner usually without the use of monetary fines.

A summary of permits issued for 2015 is as follows:

Building Permits	127
Plumbing / Septic	66
CEO Permits	32
Total	225

In closing, when trying to find my way around town, I have noticed many properties do not have their numerical addresses displayed. This is more prevalent on the private Fire Roads where it can be more difficult to find a particular address. It is important to display your 911 address so it is visible from the road you live on. This makes it easier for emergency personnel or delivery people to find your home. If you have a medical emergency at your home, the arrival time of the emergency personnel can be critical. Your numerical address should be displayed on your mailbox, home, on a sign (no permit needed), or anywhere visible from the road. Please consider displaying your numerical 911-address if it is not currently displayed.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Mitnik,
Codes Officer
Local Plumbing Inspector
Building Inspector



China's 8th graders in the Spring of 2015 pose in front of the White House while on the Heritage Tour. (L-R) Nicholas Cates, Tony Jacobs, Sage Hapgood Belanger, Jacob Praul and Jack Tobey

Planning Board

Construction work planned or completed in China this year has been very slow. Only three new home permits were issued in 2015. The same slow growth can be found in the commercial arena. The Board issued nine conditional permits this year and one subdivision was approved. Most of these approvals have been modifications to existing businesses not major new construction. It has been reported that economy nationwide is recovering, however, this recovery does not appear to have spread into China's new construction.

The Board also experienced turnover in Board members. One member ran for the Select Board and won. Another Board member's term expired. No one ran for either vacancy. A number of months passed with two vacancies until a volunteer was found to fill one of those vacancies. The Board is looking at modifications to Town Ordinances to make it easier to help acquire and retain Board members.

Another challenge has been the turnover in Code Enforcement Officers. In the past two years the Town has had three CEO's. Paul Mitnik was hired earlier this year and is now fully involved in Town issues and assisting the Planning Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Soares, At-Large (Chairperson)

James Wilkens, District 1

Toni Wall, District 2

Milton Dudley, District 3

Thomas Miragliuolo, District 4

Vacant, Alternate-At Large



Planning Board members (L-R) Milton Dudley, Toni Wall, Jim Wilkens, Frank Soares and Tom Miragliuolo

Kennebec Regional Development Authority

The Staff, General Assembly, and the 24 member communities of the Kennebec Regional Development Authority are pleased to present this annual report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

Financial Overview

At fiscal year-end 2014-2015, KRDA's government funds reported a positive fund balance (equity) of \$127,648, an improvement of \$335,381 from the previous fiscal year. This is the first positive fund balance since 2001. Annual revenue distributions, to member communities totaled \$227,344. We reduced our long term debt principal by \$377,317. This included paying off the loan balance with Camden National Bank, in the amount of \$139,733. This was an unbudgeted expenditure (taking advantage of unanticipated revenues) which resulted in the annual expenditures exceeding revenues. We are still on target to pay off our long term debt in fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. The total long-term debt for the organization stands at approximately \$1,222,034. For investments, we have 2 CD's and a money market account at the Maine State Credit Union totaling \$203,796; a savings account with TD Bank totaling \$242,681 and; a CD with Skowhegan National Bank totaling \$187,898. These cash allocations represent designated funds toward a small operating reserve, and a growing infrastructure reserve. These funds could be used for future capital expenditures should the KRDA membership so decide at some point in the future. We project adequate cash flow for operations and debt service through the coming fiscal year without additional borrowing or increases in the municipal assessments which have remain unchanged since 2007.

Operations Overview

During FY 2014-2015, the organization began executing a long term operational plan for the development of the existing serviced lots on the park. The first phase – and main effort – of this plan, is to address the demand side of the park. The operating budget increased the marketing effort in order to “establish credibility with investment attraction.” The intent is to triple the marketing effort, over an 18 month window beginning in January 2015, and establish a greater density of leads, through our networking activities. Once this phase is completed, the operational plan will focus on addressing the supply side of the park – to incentivize developers to FirstPark both operationally and financially. Through this process, we hope to develop the remaining serviced lots (which total seven) by the time the debt service is paid off. If we are successful in this effort, this will help with the on-going effort to eventually position the KRDA so that it can operate independently at or about the time the existing long term debt is paid off. The organization will be actively exploring, identifying and securing additional forms of revenue to place the organization in a position to compete with other regions in the US and beyond.

From the Director's Desk....

The services of our lead generator, Research Consulting International (Montreal, Canada), have been exceptional in support of our networking approach. Their process placed us in front of thirty senior level decision makers of firms to tell our story about the competitive advantages of Central Maine. During the Fiscal Year, we had three firms achieve red carpet status – have followed up on our invitation – to see the value Central Maine has to offer. One firm has incorporated in the state, with plans to locate at FirstPark, when they ready to move over the border from Canada. The other two remain in play.

Kennebec Regional Development Authority

We have focused all of our networking efforts in Canada – from Halifax to Toronto. This effort has been financially supported with a grant from the Maine International Trade Center, in the amount of \$44,500. This grant is to reimburse some of our travel expenses through December 2017. Central Maine has a competitive value in these Canadian markets. We have intentionally targeted small emerging firms, which are planning their first phased expansion into the US. Supporting this effort, we have built a technical assistance team – from accounting to visas – to help hand hold these firms into our region. I intend to explore additional relationships with developers, some of whom may provide build out solutions for these forthcoming leads into FirstPark. Finally, I am scheduling my attendance at selectmen's/council meetings to listen and inform.

Brad Jackson
Executive Director
KRDA/FirstPark

Below is a word search with the 24 KRDA/FirstPark member municipalities included. If you need a hint on the names, please go to page 79. If you can complete the puzzle without looking at the hint, congratulations!!!



Transfer Station's Solid Waste Future

In just the past several years you might have noticed significant changes at the China Transfer Station: new equipment; an additional bay added to the recycling area; new dumping cans; and so forth. It seemed to me to be important to try to explain why these and other changes have taken place at this time. All the changes have resulted in the proposed transfer station budget for 2016-2017 being over \$20,000 less than the transfer station budget ten years ago.

For many years China, along with 186 other municipalities, has been party to a long term agreement to dispose of municipal solid waste (MSW) in Orrington, Maine at the Penobscot Energy Recovery Corporation facility that incinerates the MSW to produce electricity. Since 1991 the Municipal Review Committee, Inc. has represented those 187 municipalities that are part (minority) owners of the PERC facility. That agreement to send MSW to the PERC facility ends in 2018. From the beginning of the agreement and through the 2018 ending of the agreement, municipalities will have enjoyed extremely favorable rates (tipping fees) for the disposal of their MSW. The 187 municipalities are currently having conversations about the “next steps”, post 2018 options.

From 2011-2018 the processing costs (tipping fees) for MSW were programmed to increase by over 48%, from \$45/ton to \$67/ton, anticipating the end of the agreement and moving toward “market” rates for disposal of MSW and consequently to build up a reserve fund to provide good options to municipalities after 2018. You should soon hear a good deal about the deliberations of all municipalities relating to the post 2018 options for MSW disposal and will, in the current Annual Town Business Meeting, possibly vote to provide the Select Board with authority to choose an option for MSW disposal after the 2018 agreement.

As the Select Boards over the past several years have been able to anticipate the ending of the long term agreement currently in effect with the incineration of MSW at PERC, they have been taking actions to improve the efficiency of the operations at the China Transfer Station and therefore reduce the costs of operations. A recycling building with baling equipment has been added; a good deal paid for with grant funds. The diversion of MSW to recycling generates revenues on the commodities market and also diverts MSW from the stream that is transported to and processed at the PERC incinerating facility in Orrington, eliminating the transportation costs and processing (tipping fees) costs for the diverted products. The dumping cans were added to allow us to move product around ourselves with existing equipment and to eliminate “dumping” fees paid to others for moving the older cans around, something we were not able to do ourselves. We are happy to respond to any questions all of you might have about the changes/improvements to the transfer station please visit us any time.

One other significant item worth noting here is the recently discussed Pay-Per-Throw Program for MSW disposal. It is another initiative that is meant to stabilize the operational costs at the transfer station over the long term. Why is the Select Board considering such a program? Will it actually reduce/stabilize the transfer station budget? Will the flow through the transfer station with the additional focus on recycling be smooth? Will we have enough personnel hours to oversee the program integrity? The Select Board has announced public information sessions specifically to provide information about the program and to respond to residents' questions. Please attend one of the following information sessions scheduled as noted here:

Transfer Station's Solid Waste Future

Information Sessions to be held (dates/locations):

January 30th - 10:00 am China Middle School

February 27th - 11:00 am Seatons China Legion Hall

March 17th - 6:50 pm China Middle School

Cancelled

The Select Board and administration are always interested in your feedback. We are happy to have you visit.

Respectfully,

Dan L'Heureux
Town Manager



Pay Per Throw Discussion

In a Pay Per Throw (PPT) program, residents are charged for the amount of trash they dispose of. The idea is to provide residents with an incentive to recycle or reduce the amount of trash they produce. In most communities in the United States, households pay a flat rate for their trash collection/disposal, either through their property taxes or fixed, regular fees. Under PPT programs, residents aren't charged for what they put in their recycling bins, meaning only landfill-bound material incurs a charge. In PPT programs, residents are charged for each community-issued bag they dispose of.

As of this writing February 16, 2016, the Select Board has rescinded their earlier action to initiate a Pay Per Throw Program to a time uncertain in the future.



Transfer Station & Recycling Center

The Transfer Station & Recycling Center is run and staffed by Mary Adams, Kevin Rhoades, Tim Grotton, Edward Brownell and Richard Gauthier.

Recycling:

This year brought about some additions to our recycling operation. With the addition of a used baler we can now be competitive with the fluctuating markets by baling more products which produce a higher value than what it brings when shipped in loose form. Furthermore, our need for storing and re-handling bagged products (to be baled at a later time) minimizes with the additional baler thus saving time and labor and moves the commodities quicker. The cement pad at the end of the recycling building was covered and now houses the new baler as well as stores our baled products until the maximum tonnage is produced for greater revenue sale. You will also notice the replacement of the old blue dumpsters with new green dumping cans. We can now handle the emptying of the express cans by use of our own equipment eliminating the cost of an outside contractor. And lastly, for those of you who would normally choose to skip your recycling visit on a rainy day, we now have provided you with an awning on the front of the Recycling Center.

A new adventure was had by attendant, Kevin Rhoades, when he visited the primary school to give a presentation to a group of third and fourth graders on recycling. The children were eager to ask questions and enjoyed the presentation.

Although this year marked a decline in monetary value of recycled material, staff have been coordinating with the brokers and using the added equipment to produce a more cost effective means of handling the production and sales of YOUR recycling efforts!



Kevin Rhoades (Left) and Katy McCormac stand in front of CPS students during a presentation on recycling.

Thank you for recycling!

Transfer Station:

Once again this year we chose to participate in the Household Hazardous Waste Day organized and held by Kennebec Valley Council Of Governments of Waterville. A combined effort by KVCOG, Winslow Public Works and all of the participating towns provides many local residents a safe and convenient way of disposing of wastes which are unable to be brought to the local transfer stations or landfills. Watch for it again this coming year, 2016, as it generally takes place in the fall. We also added an E-Waste collection which was held in October right at our own transfer station. The town of Albion was invited to contribute to the cost thus allowing their residents to bring unwanted T.V.'s and computers as well. In the month of May we had our second year of having an On Site Shredding truck come to the transfer station where many China and Vassalboro residents got their paperwork shredded for free. The Town of Vassalboro contributed to the cost of the service. We held our annual Medication Drop Off Day at the same time.

Transfer Station & Recycling Center

Recycling Totals

Metal	60.59 ton	Tin Cans	6.03 ton
Cardboard	63.8 ton	Asphalt shingles	not recycled
Mixed paper	27.56 ton	Tires	not recycled
Newspaper	23.2 ton	Household glass	10.45 ton
#2 plastic	4.25 ton	Waste Oil	750 gallons
#1 plastic	1.31 ton	Compost	99.52 ton
#3-#7 plastic	6.03 ton	Brush	358.66 ton
Rigid plastic	3.91 ton	Demo wood	65.13 ton
Plastic bags	not recycled	Crushed & recycled asphalt, cement & porcelain	9.7 ton

Schools

RSU #18	5.49 ton
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Universal Waste Recycled Electronics

TVs & monitors	633 units	Computers & peripherals	165 units
PCB ballasts	10 units	Miscellaneous electronics	1237 lbs

Municipal Solid Waste Transferred Out

PERC	1313.94 ton
------	-------------

Mixed CDD (Construction Demolition Debris) transferred Out

Waste Management	256.56 ton
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Respectfully submitted,

Mary Adams, Transfer Station Attendant & Deputy Clerk
Kevin Rhoades, Transfer Station Attendant



Road Commissioner

China's road system consists of 43.66 miles of town owned roads and 32.17 miles of State owned roads. All work done on town roads is done according to a master plan that is reviewed, revised, and deliberated on annually by members of the Road Committee and administration. The town has benefited a great deal from the collective career experience of members of the Road Committee and town Highway Department; careers of people on the Road Committee that were directly involved with road surface composition testing, new construction, re-construction, paving, or grading of roads all over the State of Maine. It is not uncommon for members of our Highway Crew and Road Committee to oversee actual road overlay and reconstruction projects while in progress. These dedicated and passionate people often meet the paving crews at 6:30 am and leave the respective road site at dusk. It is a distinct pleasure working with all of them. Dale Peabody, our most recent addition to the Road Committee has superior institutional knowledge. Dale works for the MDOT and is a great addition to the "brain trust". He brings with him many years of experience dealing with highway systems and materials management.

The China Highway Department has three town employees, Gary Cummings, Shawn Reed and Jason Finley. The relatively strong condition of the roads in China is to a good extent a result of the efforts of these extremely professional, hardworking, capable, and dedicated employees. In China, there is not a better combination of volunteers and employees I know of, and I would like to express personal thanks for their combined contributions.

The town traditionally has a schedule of reconstruction and resurfacing for the upcoming summer and fall seasons. A comprehensive review of the relative condition of all roads is completed every two years using road surface maintenance software to make the road assessment project easier and more productive. These comprehensive road condition assessments and associated information gathered are uploaded into the software data base. The highway department staff and Road Commissioner and a member of the Highway Committee have taken classes in the use of the software and in the new road classification terminology. The final product has prepared the town for long term highway capital planning projects in the most effective and economical manner possible.

The tentative paving plan for the upcoming 2015 paving season includes consideration of reconstruction and resurfacing of an additional (final) mile of the Dirigo Road, and possible resurfacing on some of the following roads: Hanson Road, an additional 1 mile, Maple Ridge Road, Parmenter Terrace, a portion of the Bog Road, and the southerly side of the Parmenter Hill Road. There will be ditching, culvert replacement, and shoulder work included in the reconstruction and resurfacing projects. In addition to the town projects, the MDOT may engage in Light Capital Paving or Highway Preservation Paving projects on State roads/highways over the next year.

Over time highway maintenance component costs have risen quite rapidly, though we have had some relief recently with the decrease in petroleum costs. Paving, roadside mowing, sanding/salting/plowing of roads, the cost of sand and salt, and the cost of contracted services have trended upward over the past several years. For the last several years we have been going behind in our resurfacing program; traditionally we have resurfaced roads after 7-8 years and recently slid back to the 10-11 year schedule. At this time the State and nation have witnessed some significant and deserved relief from high petroleum prices. Hopefully we are able to "catch up" on the schedule as the town

Road Commissioner

receives sufficient revenues from associated highway related sources to be able to accommodate the schedule at lower asphalt pricing. These sources are the excise taxes residents pay on motor vehicles and the State aid for capital road improvement payments received annually.

A word about winter road maintenance: It seems to me to be important to pass along something about winter road maintenance and China's effort to more efficiently and effectively manage the effort to maintain safe roads during the winter months. You will note some information on the insert in the Town Report relating to: 1. The Pros and Cons of Sand on Ice and Snowpack, 2. Rock Salt scatter pattern when pre-wet with calcium chloride compared to a scatter pattern without being pre-wet with calcium chloride and 3. A cost comparison between a sand/salt dry mix application, a dry salt application, and a pre-wetted salt application on roads. You will also note in the comparative analyses in #3 that the sand/salt cost is \$100 per ton and that cost is broken down into various drivers of that cost estimate. Your town crew works diligently to create the safest road conditions for you. They attend seminars on best management practices for winter and summer road maintenance to learn the most current thoughts from experts in the field.

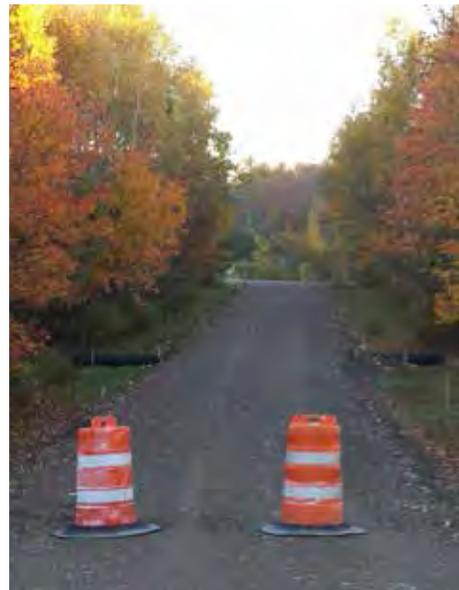
I sincerely hope all residents feel free to provide the town office with feedback; your input is appreciated. Public health, safety, and welfare continue to be of utmost concern in all projects undertaken.

In closing, it seems to me to be very important to maintain the infrastructure of a town and to proceed with appropriate design and quality work. More important to China specifically, about 84% of working residents travel out of town to work all hours of the day and night. Furthermore, we have over ten buses traveling on our roads during school days. Our goal may seem costly in the short term; however, with appropriate and comprehensive design approaches to road construction and efficient and effective proven methods of winter road maintenance, a town can realize the least expensive approach when incorporated into a long term strategy. Safety, and therefore quality of work, demands an appropriate level of funding.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel J. L'Heureux,
Road Commissioner

A new entrance to the town office was opened this Fall. It closed for the Winter. This Spring it will reopen and allow safer passage to the town office office from the Alder Park Road without having to use the dangerous Lakeview Drive entrance.



Town Clerk

China's Town Clerk and Deputy Clerks are primarily responsible for the care and preservation of municipal records. The clerks record China's births, deaths and marriages. Many of the new records are being kept electronically through the State of Maine's DAVE system. As of this writing, we are issuing current death and birth records via the electronic system. Marriages are not yet kept electronically. Other duties include issuing hunting and fishing licenses; registering ATVs, snowmobiles, boats, motor vehicles, trailers, and dogs; assisting with genealogy requests; conducting elections and related functions; administering and recording oaths and many, many other duties as they arise.

As always, we are here to help you with any questions you may have. Please feel free to call or email us. If we don't know the answer, we will figure out how to get you to someone that knows.

The following pages contain the records of deaths and marriages from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. As a note, the Town Clerk recorded 40 births for this time period.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Hapgood, Town Clerk



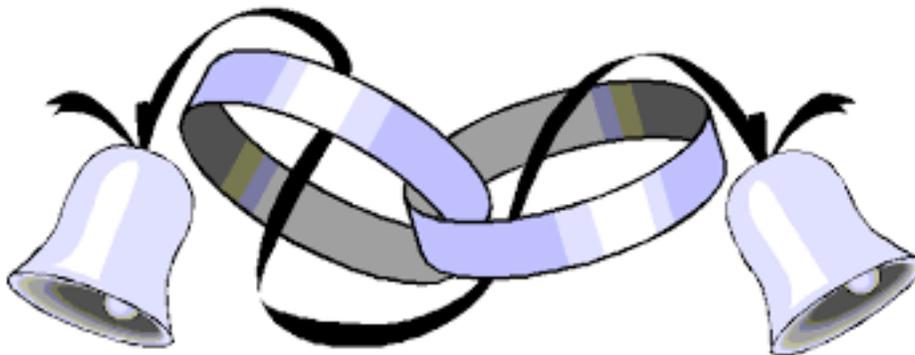
Town Office Clerks
(L-R: Back) Kelly Grotton, Mary Kay Adams and Jennifer Chamberlain
(L-R: Front) Becky Hapgood and Julie Finely

Town Clerk



Marriages

Jonathan P. Litchfield	Brandy V. Litchfield	July 3, 2014
Colby J. Foster	Jennifer L. Nantel	July 5, 2014
Jack H. Nelson	Mary B. Forcier	July 10, 2014
Mark A. Bragg	Morgan S. Goodine	July 12, 2014
Wanda L. Hoffman	Lori L. Witham	July 19, 2014
Nicholas J. Kamenos	Brittany L. Hill	July 19, 2014
Brian R. Ellis	Lauran E. Fuller	August 23, 2014
Terri L. Pelletier	Paula A. Pelletier	August 25, 2014
Christopher T. Hahn	Kimberly A. Patnode	August 29, 2014
Sean F. Hutchinson	Shannon M. Lyons	September 6, 2014
Robert A. Peavey	Meagen M. Peavey	September 7, 2014
James C. Glendenning	Nikole L. Duguay	September 27, 2014
Steven W. Bossie	Kelly J. Keezer	September 27, 2014
Xavier A. Fonseca	Elizabeth A. Fortin	October 4, 2014
Adam T. Warren	Michelle M. Adams	October 11, 2014
Arthur J. Turmelle	Kristen M. Colby	October 11, 2014
Robert L. Michaud	Tracie E. Grant	October 18, 2014
Thomas A. Morin	Andrea L. Henry	November 9, 2014
Herbert J. Ashby	Maria F. Thompson	March 14, 2015
Charles E. Lowell	Barbara J. Bickford	March 14, 2015
Justin N. Easter	Kristen J. Simoneau	March 26, 2015
James J. Morris	Cynthia A. Howard	May 2, 2015
James A. Hart	Cynthia C. Masiero	May 23, 2015
Dawn M. Holt	Jennifer M. Morris	May 24, 2015
James D. Veneziano	Kaitlyn P. Petrone	June 13, 2015



Deaths

Linda Ayer	September 6, 2014
Jean Danforth	October 8, 2014
Floyd Kierstead	October 24, 2014
John Lohnes	October 26, 2014
Charles Plumer	November 2, 2014
Kenneth Trombley	November 2, 2014
Gene Pierce	November 3, 2014
Elizabeth Bumps	November 20, 2014
Dewayne Gould	December 3, 2014
Alice Foren	December 25, 2014
Madeline Hamilton	December 28, 2014
Terry Hoag	January 31, 2015
Erik Lapointe	February 13, 2015
Chauncey Lancaster	February 26, 2015
Thomas Power	April 5, 2015
Clayton York, Sr.	April 21, 2015
John Keene	May 8, 2015
Sheldon Bumps	June 11, 2015
Darlene Lankist	June 19, 2015
Erica Hamel	June 30, 2015

Another year has passed
As I read these names and reflect upon time
I miss those we have lost
Each was unique
Each left a lasting memory
Never to be forgotten
I smile with the memories
While still shedding a tear

Assessors' Agent

For most of the following programs, the application must be submitted to the Assessors' Agent by April 1st. Applications and additional information are available at the town office or at www.china.govoffice.com in Assessing under the Town Departments section of the web site.

2016 Homestead Exemption – If you did not file for the Homestead Exemption in 2015 or prior years, you must apply prior to April 1, 2016 to be eligible in 2016. If you have filed the homestead exemption application in the past, you do not need to reapply unless your home ownership status has changed.

Veteran Exemption for Real Estate Taxes – If you are aged 62 or older, or an un-remarried spouse of a deceased veteran who would have been 62 by April 1, 2016; you or your deceased spouse served during a federally recognized war period; or if you are a veteran who receives federal funds for total disability, and you have a primary residence in China, you may be eligible for the veteran's exemption.

Landowner Tax Relief Programs – There are three programs for which you might be eligible. The programs are: The Maine Tree Growth Tax Law, Farm Classification Law, and The Open Space Tax Law. As the laws for these programs are quite detailed, please contact the assessors' agent at 445-2014 for more information.

Ownership and Address Updates Requested – To avoid errors in tax billing, please notify the Town Office when selling or transferring any property. Also, please notify the staff of any change in your mailing address.

Programs Directly Administered Through the State:

State of Maine Business Personal Property Tax Reimbursement – If you purchased or transferred taxable business property to a Maine location after April 1, 1995, you may be eligible for the Maine Property Tax Reimbursement Program (BETR). **Note - The Governor has proposed a change to this exemption. More information can be found at www.maine.gov.

China's Assessing Agent is **William Van Tuinen**.

All correspondence should be directed to kelly@chinamaine.org or by phone at (207) 445-2014.

Unpaid Taxes

Account	Name	Year	Principal Due	
636	Barber Investments, LLC	2014	6,258.95	
696	Barber Investments, LLC	2014	2,309.54	
2832	Barber Investments, LLC	2014	306.53	*
3681	Barber Investments, LLC	2014	3,427.70	*
3395	Barber, Darlene Marie	2014	296.95	*
3185	Batista, Suzete	2014	1,896.56	*
3192	Boynton, Daniel W Jr & Melanie J	2014	457.53	
3192	Boynton, Daniel W Jr & Melanie J	2013	427.23	*
359	Boynton, Peter H & Pauline A	2014	369.95	
2731	Bragg, Steven	2014	173.65	
2731	Bragg, Steven	2013	162.15	*
1567	Branch Mills Flour and Grain	2014	1,153.64	
1567	Branch Mills Flour and Grain	2013	1,077.24	*
2154	Brewster, Dorothy	2014	417.47	**
619	Brown, Hilda	2014	1,014.72	
619	Brown, Hilda	2013	947.52	*
1515	Bryant, Amy L	2014	601.99	*
1410	Clark, Glenn A	2014	1,466.20	*
1047	Clowes, Barry H	2014	293.91	
2253	Collins, Joyce Ann & Cary &	2014	3.58	*
615	Cook, Michael O & Roderick, Michael	2014	742.92	*
615	Cook, Michael O & Roderick, Michael	2013	630.22	*
1546	Coombs, Stephen H & Christine	2014	13.59	*
1955	Crockett, Jeffrey M	2014	551.15	
1955	Crockett, Jeffrey M	2013	514.65	*
2717	Cunningham, Matthew J & Angela	2014	684.03	**
2717	Cunningham, Matthew J & Angela	2013	638.73	*
2857	Cunningham, Shawn D & Patty J	2014	1,561.34	**
2857	Cunningham, Shawn D & Patty J	2013	1,323.34	*

as of 1/28/2016

* - paid in full

** - partial payment

Unpaid Taxes

Account	Name	Year	Principal Due	
2517	Curtis, Fred & Terry	2014	1,001.13	
2517	Curtis, Fred & Terry	2013	934.83	*
2884	Cyrus, John P & Deborah L	2014	522.46	**
2394	Daigneault, Darrin	2014	1,684.85	
824	DeMaio, Janice D	2014	2,458.28	**
824	DeMaio, Janice D & Paul A, Jr	2013	1,896.55	*
286	Dennison, Betty Jo	2014	496.79	
286	Dennison, Betty Jo	2013	125.95	*
1386	Dillenbeck, John S	2014	2,310.30	**
1386	Dillenbeck, John S	2013	2,157.30	*
1580	Downie, Jon M & Franklin A	2014	1,351.45	
1580	Downie, Jon M & Franklin A	2013	989.58	*
572	Dupont, David Jr	2014	838.05	
572	Dupont, David Jr	2013	782.55	*
2971	Elian, Mark	2014	1,513.02	**
2971	Elian, Mark	2013	851.17	*
2324	Epick, Alexander	2012	7.38	
2324	Epick, Alexander	2011	7.14	
454	Estes, Duane C & Tina M	2014	1,253.30	
1903	Estes, Duane S Heirs Of	2014	1,448.09	**
1903	Estes, Duane S Heirs Of	2013	1,431.15	*
2952	Estes, Michael Anthony	2014	295.96	*
3411	Farrington, Carleton B	2014	410.72	
3411	Farrington, Carleton B	2013	383.52	*
3716	Feyler, Melanie	2014	95.13	
2882	Fletcher, John L Sr & Alice M	2014	788.22	
2882	Fletcher, John L Sr & Alice M	2013	736.02	*
3497	Fortin, Chelsea	2014	32.71	*
3400	Galbraith, John D & Mark C	2013	439.92	*

as of 1/28/2016

* - paid in full

** - partial payment

Unpaid Taxes

Account	Name	Year	Principal Due	
3400	Galbraith, Mark C	2014	471.12	*
3215	Glidden, Avery	2014	176.67	*
3263	Glidden, Avery	2014	323.89	*
1377	Glidden, Avery & Lisa	2014	201.58	
1375	Glidden, Avery K & Lisa	2014	194.79	*
1376	Glidden, Avery K & Lisa	2014	135.14	*
1547	Glidden, Avery K & Lisa	2014	6.79	*
1554	Glidden, Avery K & Lisa	2014	6.79	*
1558	Glidden, Avery K & Lisa	2014	67.19	*
3211	Glidden, Jesse N	2014	1,185.35	*
3211	Glidden, Jesse N	2013	1,106.85	*
3580	Glidden, Jesse N	2014	163.08	*
3580	Glidden, Jesse N	2013	152.28	*
828	Glidden, Lisa Baker & Avery K	2014	1,419.40	*
1332	Glidden, Mahlon S Heirs of	2014	283.88	*
1332	Glidden, Mahlon S Heirs of	2013	265.08	*
1712	Grant, Scott A	2014	661.38	*
1712	Grant, Scott A	2013	633.09	
1712	Grant, Scott A	2012	687.57	**
1712	Grant, Scott A	2011	143.67	*
1005	Haskell, Gary L & Katherine	2014	1,399.13	**
982	Haskell, Rita K	2014	761.04	
3500	Hersey, Joyce & Herbert	2014	385.06	
2249	Hicks, Richard & Kammy	2014	2,314.39	**
594	Hisler, Colleen E & Randolph A	2014	807.85	
594	Hisler, Colleen E & Randolph A	2013	497.69	*
595	Hisler, Colleen E & Randolph A	2014	339.75	
595	Hisler, Colleen E & Randolph A	2013	316.47	*
2609	Hotham, Judith A	2014	1,579.46	

as of 1/28/2016

* - paid in full

** - partial payment

Unpaid Taxes

Account	Name	Year	Principal Due	
3057	Jackson, George E & Pamela A	2013	6.53	*
2776	Julia, Dawson & Kellie	2014	30.20	*
3048	Julia, Dawson & Kellie	2014	182.71	*
269	Kringle, Kris Donald f/k/a Audet, Donald &	2014	1,310.70	**
3392	Lacasse, Leslie	2014	246.13	
3392	Lacasse, Leslie	2013	242.52	*
2697	Leclerc, Michelle M	2014	339.75	
1514	Lee, Barry & Melinda	2014	1,624.76	*
1514	Lee, Barry & Melinda	2013	1,254.90	*
2820	Lee, Robert E Jr	2014	1,082.67	*
2820	Lee, Robert E Jr	2013	812.16	*
2887	Lemar, Peter & Grace	2014	1,783.31	
1639	Levesque, William & Kathy	2014	560.21	**
1639	Levesque, William & Kathy	2013	523.11	*
2241	Liberty, Raymond A	2014	4.02	*
2159	Litchfield, Jonathan	2014	1,274.44	*
2159	Litchfield, Jonathan	2013	1,190.04	*
2159	Litchfield, Jonathan	2012	196.87	*
2346	Lord, E William III & Kathleen Mae	2014	973.19	
2347	Lord, E William III & Kathleen Mae	2014	5.28	
2171	MacDonald, Bruce F	2014	1,784.82	**
2171	MacDonald, Bruce F	2013	1,666.62	*
2790	Madore, Frances & Michael D	2014	1,249.21	*
575	Martin, Janice A	2014	385.58	*
2772	Martin, Richard K Sr	2014	448.47	
2773	Martin, Richard K Sr	2014	267.27	
1010	Mayberry, Barbara & Dina M	2014	1,277.46	
3425	Mayo, Jeramy J	2014	197.39	
1358	Mayo, Ronald Timothy	2014	862.25	

as of 1/28/2016

* - paid in full

** - partial payment

Unpaid Taxes

Account	Name	Year	Principal Due	
3452	McAlister, Alfred, Pers Rep	2014	241.60	
3454	McAlister, Alfred, Pers Rep	2014	185.73	
3455	McAlister, Alfred, Pers Rep	2014	182.71	
1875	McIntyre, Richard W Jr & Marie A	2014	8.16	*
2523	McKeil, Carl C	2014	2,082.29	
2521	McKeil, John	2013	190.35	
2521	McKeil, John	2012	195.57	
2521	McKeil, John	2011	189.21	
2641	McPhee, Vicki J	2014	833.52	*
871	Meador, Sandra Jean	2014	318.15	*
285	Merrill, Clayton Sr	2014	49.83	
285	Merrill, Clayton Sr	2013	46.53	
285	Merrill, Clayton Sr	2012	47.97	
40	Moore, Daniel L & Dwayne L	2014	804.83	
40	Moore, Daniel L & Dwayne L	2013	751.53	*
638	Morgan, Darell & Candace	2013	578.10	*
2335	Morton, Amy Life Estate	2014	1,913.17	**
2335	Morton, Amy Life Estate	2013	1,786.47	*
1394	O'Connor Association	2014	850.13	
1394	O'Connor Association	2013	793.83	*
1395	O'Connor Association	2014	1,875.42	
1395	O'Connor Association	2013	1,751.22	*
112	Osborne, Marie E	2014	922.61	*
562	Ouellette, Daniel E	2014	753.49	
562	Ouellette, Daniel E	2013	579.51	*
563	Ouellette, Daniel E	2014	330.69	
563	Ouellette, Daniel E	2013	397.62	*
717	Ouellette, Daniel E	2014	199.32	
717	Ouellette, Daniel E	2013	186.12	*

as of 1/28/2016

* - paid in full

** - partial payment

Unpaid Taxes

Account	Name	Year	Principal Due	
3526	Ouellette, Daniel E	2014	1,580.97	
3526	Ouellette, Daniel E	2013	1,476.27	*
1002	Page, Keith A & Dorothy	2014	490.75	
1002	Page, Keith A & Dorothy	2013	378.11	*
638	Parisien, Karen	2014	770.10	
2301	Parisien, Karen A	2014	143.45	
3168	Parisien, Michael A & Karen	2014	2,875.04	*
3168	Parisien, Michael A & Karen	2013	2,171.84	*
2301	Parisien, Michael A & Karen A	2013	133.95	*
1357	Parsons, Marcus & Diana	2014	385.05	
1357	Parsons, Marcus & Diana	2013	359.55	*
3672	Pelkey, Morgan	2014	214.42	
2709	Pellerin, Daniel B	2014	256.70	
2709	Pellerin, Daniel B	2013	239.70	*
3081	Proctor, Debora	2014	102.68	
472	Quimby, Janet	2014	1,109.85	**
472	Quimby, Janet	2013	1,036.35	*
268	Reed, Diane	2014	1,306.15	
268	Reed, Diane	2013	1,219.65	*
1276	Rice, Donald Kevin	2014	2,379.76	**
1276	Rice, Donald Kevin	2013	2,222.16	*
3104	Risbara, Candita M	2014	460.55	*
961	Rodrigue, Nanci L & Jacob S	2014	1,317.32	**
2397	Roy, Andrew J & Linda J	2014	1,327.29	*
3608	Sawlivich, Jessica L	2014	261.23	**
102	Severance, Alice	2014	582.86	
477	Severance, Alice	2014	2,465.83	**
3094	Shaw, Ann T	2014	531.52	*
3094	Shaw, Ann T	2013	496.32	*

as of 1/28/2016

* - paid in full

** - partial payment

Unpaid Taxes

Account	Name	Year	Principal Due	
2630	Small, Kathy	2014	513.40	
2630	Small, Kathy	2013	141.76	*
2631	Small, Michael A & Linda C	2014	44.06	*
229	Snell, Elizabeth Jane	2014	1,008.69	*
1727	Snow, Jennifer	2014	2,120.04	
1727	Snow, Jennifer	2013	1,979.64	*
3515	St. Laurent, Leon A, Heirs of	2014	718.76	
3515	St. Laurent, Leon A, Heirs of	2013	737.43	*
98	Strout, Gloria, Pers Rep	2014	4,178.17	
98	Strout, Gloria, Pers Rep	2013	1,687.39	*
316	Suga, Linda C	2014	354.85	
316	Suga, Linda C	2013	331.35	*
3057	TD Bank, NA	2014	1,695.73	*
3428	The David O Holyoke Revocable Trust	2014	1,073.61	*
2692	Theriault, Norma J	2014	1,197.43	
2692	Theriault, Norma J	2013	1,118.13	*
2943	Tracy, Tara	2014	104.19	**
2943	Tracy, Tara	2013	111.39	*
3252	Turner, Ken P	2014	2,518.68	*
3252	Turner, Ken P	2013	2,244.23	*
2313	Turner, Susan	2014	643.59	**
1544	Van Haagen, Michelle D	2014	724.80	*
1858	Venuti, James J	2014	2,382.78	**
1858	Venuti, James J	2013	2,224.98	*
1859	Venuti, James J	2014	126.84	**
1859	Venuti, James J	2013	118.44	*
2663	Vortriede, Valerie	2014	2,242.35	*
2663	Vortriede, Valerie	2013	2,093.85	*
2718	W W Properties, Inc	2014	4,845.59	

as of 1/28/2016

* - paid in full

** - partial payment

Unpaid Taxes

Account	Name	Year	Principal Due	
2718	W W Properties, Inc	2013	4,385.10	*
1245	Wells Fargo Bank, NA Trustee	2014	1,045.78	
3020	Wentworth, James	2014	1,235.18	
2912	Willette, Norma & Conary, Craig	2014	434.88	**
1860	Yocz, Irene	2014	234.05	*
1860	Yocz, Stanley & Irene	2013	1.02	*
1861	Yocz, Irene	2014	2,307.28	*
1861	Yocz, Stanley & Irene	2013	10.05	*
3312	York, Chris & Renee	2014	114.76	
3312	York, Chris & Renee	2013	107.16	*
2351	Young, Alan D	2014	181.20	
2351	Young, Alan D	2013	169.20	*
2348	Young, Alan Duane	2014	957.34	**
2348	Young, Alan Duane	2013	893.94	*

as of 1/28/2016

* - paid in full

** - partial payment



China Middle School boys in a soccer match against Vassalboro in the Fall 2015.

Unpaid Taxes

Personal Property

Acct	Name	Year	Balance Due	Year	Balance Due
236	Blinds by Design	2014	52.85		
244	Buckshot Powersports	2014	128.35		
412	Dick Willette	2014	604.00		
110	Dirigo Machine, Inc.	2013	142.41	2012	124.23
		2011	337.96	2010	343.64
		2009	326.60	2008	284.58
		2007	517.70	2006	567.60
499	Dollar Deals	2014	188.75		
181	Fieldstone Quick Stop	2014	3,020.00		
448	Fred and Larry's Disposal Service	2014	37.75	2013	35.25
		2012	30.75	2011	29.75
409	Glidden, Jesse	2013	177.66	2012	214.02
469	Green Bean Coffee Shop	2014	86.07		
440	Hayes Recycling	2014	37.75		
326	J&J Builders	2014	75.50	2013	70.50
		2012	61.50		

as of 1/28/2016

* - paid in full

** - partial payment

Unpaid Taxes

Personal Property

Acct	Name	Year	Balance Due	Year	Balance Due
409	Jessie Glidden Auto Repair	2011	103.53		
248	Legacy Home Improvement	2014	48.94	*	
404	M.A. Haskell Fuel Co, LLC	2014	8,161.55	**	
466	Maxim Enterprises LLC	2014	37.75		
63	Ouellette Sand & Gravel Inc	2014	1,432.99	2013	493.50
		2012	1,882.48		
430	Pierce, Kyle	2014	37.75		
350	South China Learning Center	2014	10.57		
298	Strout Builders	2014	75.50	2013	70.50
422	Top of the Line Drywall	2014	15.10		
382	Tropical Sensations 2 Tanning Salon	2014	114.76		
268	Windy Ridge Farm	2014	519.44	2013	22.35

as of 1/28/2016

* - paid in full

** - partial payment

Abatements

Real Estate

<u>Taxpayer</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Page, Stephen M	\$424.31
Carter, Donald Jr & Esther	\$67.95
China, Town of	\$7.55
China, Town of	\$203.85
Lemar, Dennis	\$84.60
Lemar, Dennis	\$90.60
Snell, Elizabeth Jane	\$0.00
Pomelow, Heather/Mitchell, Heather	\$0.00
Mathieu, Joseph G & Ann-Natasha, Trustees	\$132.88
Moran, William J, Edward F & Louise	\$0.00
Warren, Mark	\$151.00
Whitaker, Colby L & Judith M	\$90.60
Roy, Lucien	\$110.23
Dillenbeck, Richard V & John S & Golden,	\$362.40
Fitch, Ralph A Jr.	\$84.60
Fitch, Ralph A Jr.	\$90.60
Mike's Car Wash Inc	\$1,295.58
Stevens, Horace	\$0.00
Stevens, Horace	\$0.00
Wachusett Properties Inc	\$279.35
Wachusett Properties Inc	\$274.82
Wachusett Properties Inc	\$285.39



Santa Claus (aka Kris Kringle) is taking a minute to find out what Irene Belanger wants for Christmas at the 2015 Tree Lighting

Abatements

Real Estate

<u>Taxpayer</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Wachusett Properties Inc	\$298.98
Wachusett Properties Inc	\$309.55
Wachusett Properties Inc	\$289.92
Wachusett Properties Inc	\$298.98
Wachusett Properties Inc	\$286.90
Wachusett Properties Inc	\$295.96
Wachusett Properties Inc	\$286.90
Wachusett Properties Inc	\$298.98
Wachusett Properties Inc	\$297.47
Wachusett Properties Inc	\$298.98
Erskine Academy	\$1,926.76
Goode, Alexander G	\$446.96
Voelpert, Carl	\$564.74
Brown, Michael L	\$262.74
Love, Brian L & Sue Ellen	\$289.92
Fredrikson, Dianna	\$16.61

Personal Property

<u>Taxpayer</u>	<u>Amount</u>
CLYNK	\$146.47
Bangor Coca-Cola	\$190.26
Blane Casey Building Contractor, Inc	\$495.28
GW Services Inc d/b/a Glacier Water	\$52.85
M.A. Haskell Fuel Co, LLC	\$7,919.75



Nanci Rodrigue's grandson, Jamison, is seeing what Santa has for him

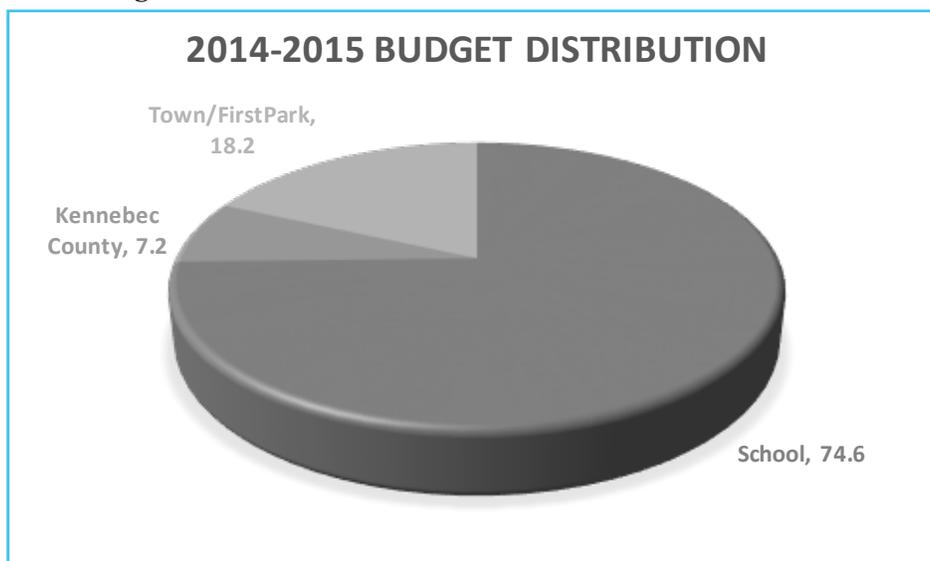
Budget Committee

The China Budget Committee was created by action taken on a warrant article during the 1947 Town Meeting. At that time, the residents voted to formalize a seven-member committee that would be elected annually at future town meetings. In June 2006, the ordinance was amended to require elections during the November written ballot. A listing of the districts and current membership is provided later in this report.

The Budget Committee originally reviewed the recommendations of both the Select Board and the China School Committee. However, the 2007 School Administrative Reorganization Law changed the process for approving what is now the RSU #18 budget so the committee only reviews the municipal revenues and expenditures. This has greatly reduced the committee's workload.

All meetings are open to the public and anyone with suggestions is welcome to attend or make their feelings known to individual members. While the members of the committee are generally not financial experts, they come from a wide range of professions to volunteer their experience for the benefit of the entire town. During their deliberations, the group examines past year expenditures, anticipates trends for both the coming year and the long term future, looks at projected revenues and then relies on a healthy dose of common sense to make recommendations on the next year's spending requests.

The Budget Committee only had to meet two times to review the 2016-2017 Municipal Budget. The members were very pleased to see that the Select Board had closely examined each of the proposed expenditures. With the exception of an increased cost of insurances that was balanced out by a reduction in the transfer station budget, they recommended either the same level of funding as in previous years or only small increases based on past experience and anticipated needs. The Budget Committee also noted that if voters approve Article 5 and the corresponding articles where Tax Increment Financing (TIF) revenues are recommended, these actions will again reduce the amount of money needed to be raised from property taxes. The Committee therefore felt comfortable in supporting the Select Board's position on all the warrant articles for the March 26th Business Meeting.



Budget Committee

The revised Budget Committee Ordinance established four districts from which four members must be selected while the Chairperson, Secretary and one additional member must be elected from the town at-large. Each member serves a two-year term and current membership is as follows:

Chairperson from the town at-large:	Robert Batteese - Term expires 2017
Secretary from the town at-large:	Albert Althenn - Term expires 2016
Member at-large:	Jonathan Vogel - Term expires 2016
District 1:	Vacant - Term Expires 2017
District 2:	Thomas Rumpf - Term Expires 2016
District 3:	Sheryl Peavey - Term Expires 2017
District 4:	Timothy Basham - Term Expires 2016

In closing, I want to express my appreciation to all the members for their dedicated service to our community. I also want to point out that some of our members have been elected on write-in ballots and do not always have the time to attend all our meetings. If you have any interest in serving on the Budget Committee, please seriously consider taking out nomination papers come the November election.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert I. Batteese, Jr.
Chairperson

ANSON		OAKLAND
BENTON		PALMYRA
CANAAN		PITTSFIELD
CHINA		READFIELD
CLINTON		ROME
CORNVILLE		SIDNEY
FAIRFIELD		SMITHFIELD
FARMINGDALE		SOLO
GARDINER		STALBANS
HARTLAND		STARKS
MANCHESTER		WATERVILLE
NORRIDGEWOCK		WINSLOW

In Remembrance - Mr. Sheldon L. Bumps



The Select Board, Administration and Town Office wish to acknowledge the passing of **Mr. Sheldon L. Bumps** in this Town Report. Sheldon, a lifelong resident of town, made commitments to improve the Town of China in many ways; he was a United States Air Force veteran, a member of the China Village Volunteer Fire Department, an avid supporter and fan of local athletics and was very active in town affairs. He was a husband, father, grandfather, and friend to so many.

Sheldon, you will be missed!

Auditors' Report & Financials



Independent Auditors' Report

**To the Board of Selectmen
Town of China
China, Maine**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of China, Maine, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2015, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of China, Maine, as of June 30, 2015, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Auditors' Report & Financials

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management's Discussion and Analysis on page 3, the Schedule of the Town's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability on page 40, the Schedule of Town Contributions on page 41, and the Notes to the Schedules on page 42 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Town of China, Maine's basic financial statements. The introductory section, combining and individual nonmajor financial statements and other schedules are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements.

The combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Implementation of New Accounting Standards

As disclosed in Note A to the financial statements, the Town of China implemented GASB Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions – an amendment of GASB Statement No. 27*, and GASB Statement No. 71, *Pension Transition for Contributions Made Subsequent to the Measurement Date – an amendment of GASB Statement No. 68*, during the fiscal year 2015.


Professional Association

Portland, Maine
November 05, 2015

Auditors' Report & Financials

Management's Discussion and Analysis

Town of China, Maine

As management of the Town of China, Maine, we offer readers of the Town's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the Town for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015. The Town's financial performance is discussed and analyzed within the context of the accompanying financial statements and disclosures following this section.

Financial Highlights

- The Town's assets exceeded liabilities by approximately \$5.9 million as of June 30, 2015, compared to approximately \$5.7 million (before a prior period adjustment) as of June 30, 2014.
- The Town's governmental funds General Fund Balance was \$2.0 million as of June 30, 2015, compared to \$1.9 million as of June 30, 2014.
- Historical and prospective analysis and dynamics of a municipality can portray information surrounding municipal management's framework for decision making. It usually can be a benchmark to determine if the municipality is meeting its stated objectives in its strategic plan. The increase in town assets and increase in the General Fund Balance informs us of an improved financial position.

Overview of the Financial Statements

The Management's Discussion and Analysis introduces the Town's basic financial statements. The basic financial statements include three components: (1) government-wide financial statements, (2) fund financial statements, and (3) notes to the financial statements. The Town also includes in this report supplemental information to the basic financial statements.

Government-wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements include a Statement of Net Position and a Statement of Activities. These statements provide information about the activities of the Town as a whole and present both a long-term and short-term view of the Town's finances. Financial reporting at this level is similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies.

The Statement of Net Position includes all assets and liabilities, with the difference reported as net position. Over time, increases or decreases in the Town's net position is one indicator of whether its financial health is improving or deteriorating. Evaluation of the overall economic health requires other non-financial factors, such as changes in the Town's property tax base and the condition of the Town's roads as well as many others.

The Statement of Activities reports the current year change in net position. This statement includes all of the current year's revenues and expenses regardless of when cash is received or paid.

- Governmental activities: Most of the Town's basic services are reported here, including public works, general administration, public safety and solid waste operations. Taxes, fees, fines, and state and federal grants finance most of these activities.

Auditors' Report & Financials

Management's Discussion and Analysis - Continued

Town of China, Maine

Financial Analysis of the Town as a Whole - Government-wide Financial Statements

The following schedule is a summary of the statement of net position for the years ended June 30, 2015 and 2014:

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>		
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Change</u>
Current and other assets	\$ 3,809,478	\$ 3,699,582	\$ 109,896
Capital assets	<u>2,907,429</u>	<u>2,803,543</u>	<u>103,886</u>
Total Assets	<u>6,716,907</u>	<u>6,503,125</u>	<u>213,782</u>
Deferred outflows related to pensions	<u>25,972</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,972</u>
Total Deferred Outflows	<u>25,972</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,972</u>
Long-term liabilities	406,576	408,931	(2,355)
Other liabilities	<u>366,144</u>	<u>353,271</u>	<u>12,873</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>772,720</u>	<u>762,202</u>	<u>10,518</u>
Deferred inflows related to pensions	<u>90,045</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>90,045</u>
Total Deferred Inflows	<u>90,045</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>90,045</u>
Net investment in capital assets	2,557,897	2,375,466	182,431
Restricted	1,016,644	976,163	40,481
Unrestricted	<u>2,305,573</u>	<u>2,389,294</u>	<u>(83,721)</u>
Net Position	<u>\$ 5,880,114</u>	<u>\$ 5,740,923</u>	<u>\$ 139,191</u>

Comparative data is not available for the year ending June 30, 2014 related to deferred outflows, deferred inflows and net pension liability due to the pension accounting change required by GASBS No. 68 and 71. (See Note H.)

- Is China better or worse off as a result of the year's activities? The current year's activities reflect a substantial increase in the net position of the town, an indicator that the town's financial health is improving in the current year and over time. Considered with the town's stable tax base, and the good condition of town roads and other infrastructure, the overall health financial health assessment is good for China. It seems appropriate to suggest continuation of the current policies to continue to improve on the town's net position going forward. Net assets of the town governmental activities increased by 2.4 percent, \$5,880,114 compared to \$5,740,923. Unrestricted assets, the part of net assets that can be used to finance day-to-day operations without constraints established by debt covenants, enabling legislation, or other legal obligations changed from a \$2,389,294 surplus at 06/30/2014 to a \$2,305,573 surplus at 06/30/2015.

Auditors' Report & Financials

Management's Discussion and Analysis - Continued

Town of China, Maine

The following schedule is a summary of the statement of activities for the years ended June 30, 2015 and 2014:

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>		
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Change</u>
Revenues:			
Program revenues:			
Charges for services	\$ 109,864	\$ 124,003	\$ (14,139)
Operating grants and contributions	69,326	72,760	(3,434)
General revenues			
Taxes	6,529,705	5,977,936	551,769
Intergovernmental	270,060	259,372	10,688
Investment	20,957	91,932	(70,975)
All others	34,733	139,987	(105,254)
Total Revenues	<u>7,034,645</u>	<u>6,665,990</u>	<u>368,655</u>
Expenses:			
Administration	795,655	816,319	(20,664)
Protection	220,179	220,617	(438)
Public works	727,092	546,190	180,902
Solid waste operations	249,129	316,334	(67,205)
Community services	104,462	107,894	(3,432)
Education	4,189,415	3,677,653	511,762
Recreation	29,200	19,522	9,678
County tax	372,515	376,046	(3,531)
Interest on long-term debt	(247)	1,707	(1,954)
Capital outlay	58,765	93,856	(35,091)
Total Expenses	<u>6,746,165</u>	<u>6,176,138</u>	<u>570,027</u>
Change in Net Position	<u>\$ 288,480</u>	<u>\$ 489,852</u>	<u>\$ (201,372)</u>

- All of China's basic services are reported above with appropriations mostly derived from property taxes, intergovernmental appropriations and charges for services. This report focuses on how money flows into and out of those funds and the balances at year-end that are available for spending. You will note above that the majority of increased revenues comes from taxes and that the majority of increased expenses is driven by increased education costs. Municipal expenditures have remained relatively stable over time and have not contributed to the increase in the mil rate. The municipal budget has achieved a high degree of efficiency in operations because of a long term perspective in budgeting.

Auditors' Report & Financials

Management's Discussion and Analysis - Continued

Town of China, Maine

- The town's total revenues, excluding special items, increased by 5.5 percent, \$368,655. The total cost of all programs and services, except education, was virtually stable with not any new programs added this year. Even with this low growth in expenditures the town was able to cover this year's costs.

Financial Analysis of the Town's Funds - Fund Financial Statements

Governmental funds. The focus of the Town of China, Maine's governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the Town's financing requirements. In particular, unreserved fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year.

As of the end of the current fiscal year, the Town of China, Maine governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances at June 30, 2015 of \$3.0 million. Approximately 45% of this total constitutes unreserved and undesignated fund balance, which is available for spending at the government's discretion.

- The town's unreserved and undesignated fund balances are very healthy based on recommended ratios from entities knowledgeable about financial best management practices, e.g. bond rating agencies (Standard and Poor's) and multi-municipal organizations (International City/County Management Association and the Maine Municipal Association).
- The town's financing requirements have been a topic of conversation in financial planning sessions over time. Sufficient liquid resources are available for spending if the need arises. A long term perspective on operational and capital needs has proven to be beneficial. The town does not have any long-term indebtedness relating solely to municipal operations.

The general fund is the central operating fund of the Town of China, Maine. At the end of the current fiscal year the unassigned fund balance of the general fund was \$1,380,382. As a measure of the general fund's liquidity, it may be useful to compare both unreserved fund balance and total fund balance to total fund expenditures.

- All of the town's basic services are reported in the general fund. The financials measure cash and all other financial assets that can be readily converted to cash. The information noted should help you determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the town's programs. The ending fund balance for China is indicative of a very strong financial position in both reserved and unreserved balances.
- The town maintains a highly liquid position, with cash on hand and other assets that are readily converted to cash. The town's unreserved fund balance has been steadily increasing over the past few years and has become a greater percentage when compared to total fund expenditures. The increase in this percentage indicates that the town is able to sustain itself if unforeseen circumstances present financial demands over a certain period of time.

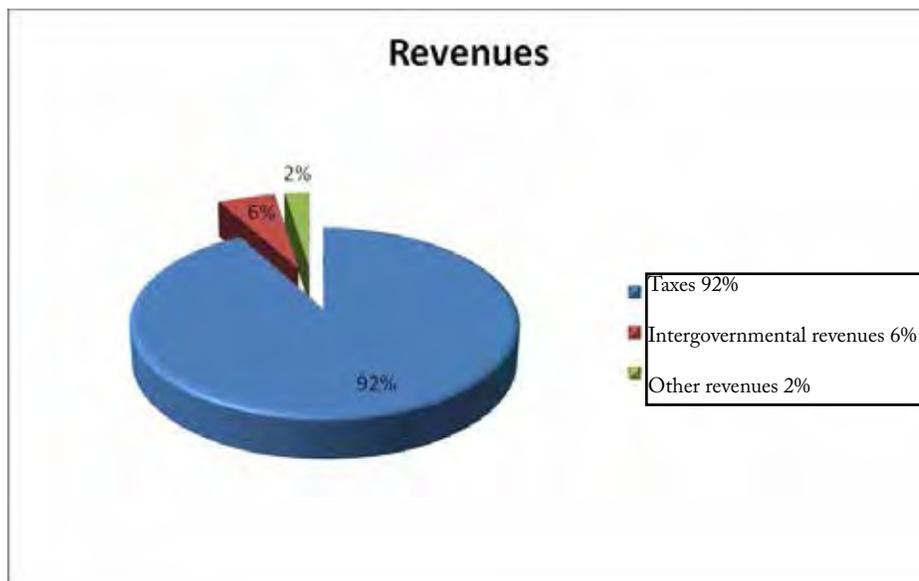
Auditors' Report & Financials

Management's Discussion and Analysis - Continued

Town of China, Maine

- From an additional perspective and at the end of the current fiscal year, the town of China maintains the recommended and appropriate ratio of unassigned fund balance to total/gross operational expenditures. This is a result of a proactive management approach to municipal finance. Continuing to be mindful of the need for sufficient funds in this part of the general fund will serve the town positively over time.

The Town's general fund operating fund revenues were as follows:



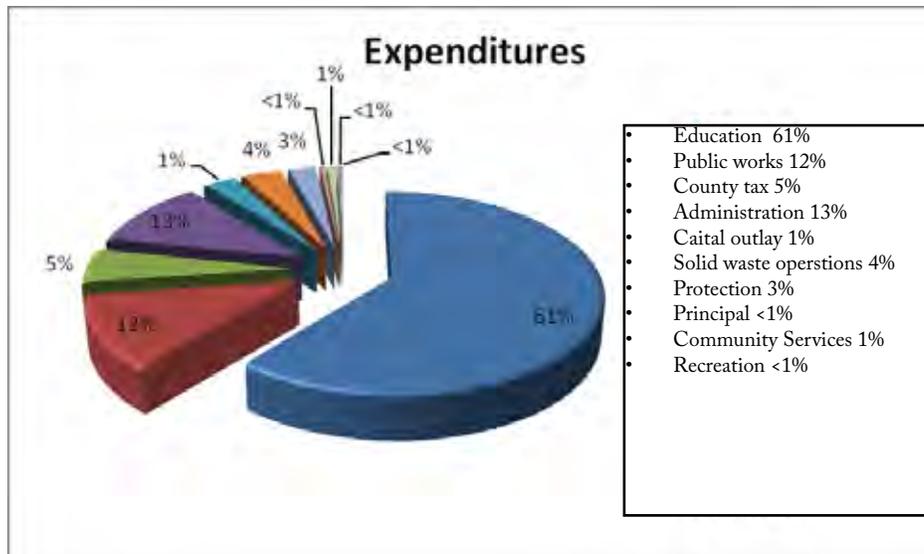
- As you note here, the main/largest revenue source for China, and for most municipalities, is the property tax. A broader based design of revenue sources or an adjusted balance away from property taxes and toward other revenues would be a positive step and deserving of consideration by voters and policy setters and administration going forward.
- Credit ratings are based on how diverse and stable a tax base is in a given municipality. Intergovernmental revenues are not very dependable and so too are "other revenues" subject to local political circumstances; local governing Boards may not be able to implement fee based structures for services provided.
- The town maintains a relatively low mil rate and has strived to balance the need for additional demanded services with the resources provided through the various revenue sources available.

Auditors' Report & Financials

Management's Discussion and Analysis - Continued

Town of China, Maine

The Town's general fund operating fund expenditures were as follows:



You will note here that the highest expense categories are education, administration, public works and the county tax. The education assessment is one derived from an independent Regional School Unit #18 and has been the single highest expense for decades. Recently the education budget has increased and been the sole reason for the mil rate increasing. The municipal budget has been stable for the last few years, decreasing as a percentage of the total tax bill for the last two years and becoming less of a financial burden to property owners.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

- Appropriations (expenditures) were in line with the final budget amounts. The most significant positive variances occurred in the town's transfer station budget and administration line items, where the programs promoting the increase in recycling resulted in a reduction in the tipping fees for the disposal of MSW and a shift in the scope of work of the administrative staff realized reduced overall wages.
- On the other hand, resources available for appropriation were \$155,573 above the final budgeted amount. Increases in intergovernmental funding and higher than expected motor vehicle excise tax collections accounted for most of the increase.

Auditors' Report & Financials

Management's Discussion and Analysis - Continued

Town of China, Maine

- The town's general fund is a healthy one best financial management practices have been observed by the town's elected officials. Budgetary review is done periodically by the town's Budget Committee and Select Board.

Capital Assets

- At the end of the current fiscal year, the town had significant amounts of funds invested in a broad range of capital assets, including public works equipment, transfer station equipment, police and fire department equipment and buildings and roads, etc. Please see the following breakdown in capital assets from 2014 year end to 2015 year end, net of depreciation. This year's ending amount represents a net increase of \$103,886, or 3.7 percent over last year.

- **Table – Capital Assets at Year-end
(Net of Depreciation, in Thousands)**

2014	2015
\$2,803,543	\$2,907,429

This year's major additions included the purchase of a new snow plowing vehicle and an addition to the town's transfer station recycling building.

- The town's fiscal-year 2016 capital budget calls for it to spend another \$175,000 for capital projects, principally for the replacement of a plow truck and digital sign for the town office. The town does not plan to issue debt to finance these items; on the contrary, it intends to use money in the reserve accounts in the fund balance. More detailed information about the town's capital assets is presented on page 19 of these financial statements.

Long Term Liabilities

- The greater amounts of long term liabilities reported in these financial statements are associated with the relationship with RSU#18 when the entity was formed and include a bond and note payable, capital lease obligations, and accrued interest payable. The long term liabilities associated with the RSU#18 relationships are also listed as receivables to the town from the RSU#18.
- The town, other than those items noted immediately above, has long term liabilities for accrued compensated balances and net pension liability associated with employees and benefits.

Auditors' Report & Financials

Management's Discussion and Analysis - Continued

Town of China, Maine

Economic Factors and Next Year's Budgets and Rates

- The town's elected and appointed officials considered many factors when setting the 2016 fiscal-year budget, tax rates, and fees that will be charged for the for the business-type activities. The education and county budgets are, to a great extent outside of the local official's influence though have a propensity to impact the tax rate.
- Municipal expenditures have remained stable for the last few years as a result of increased efficiencies in operations. Infrastructure maintenance and improvements have been considerations in budget deliberations.
- Municipal revenues have mostly been dependent on the property taxes and motor vehicle excise taxes. A broader base of revenues would serve the town positively if officials considered alternative sources. Intergovernmental revenue flows have not been reliable for the past few years and will have to be covered by property tax increases if the intergovernmental revenues are further decreased.
- Material items either having been realized or to be anticipated are:
 1. The town has been successful with a 20 year Tax Incremental Financing District and Development Program driven by a substantial power-line improvement/upgrade, during the 20 year period the town is projected to allocate \$5.2 million to economic development projects;
 2. A Municipal Solid Waste Agreement matures in 2018 and a new Agreement will have to be negotiated for post 2018 disposal of MSW and that is currently being considered;
 3. The town has continually been mindful of capital maintenance and improvement and has endeavored to support a capital improvement/replacement account in the fund balance and anticipates a substantial allocation to that account in the upcoming budget to remain current in the capital improvement/replacement cycles.
 4. Looking ahead, the town is well positioned financially without any China municipal indebtedness and the town does not anticipate the need for indebtedness in the financing of capital or projects. Conservative fiscal policies with a long term planning perspective have served the town well over the years. Emergency service needs for building and site development and equipment replacement will be a topic of conversation in the years ahead. Appropriate consideration will be given to the financing of any initiatives.

Contacting the Town's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, customers, and creditors with a general overview of the Town's finances and to show the Town's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact the Town Office at 445-2014 and ask for the Town Manager or e-mail the Town Manager at danl@chinamaine.org. Citizens are welcomed to visit with the appropriate staff on any financial matters.

Auditors' Report & Financials

Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance (1 of 4) Budget and Actual - General Fund

Town of China, Maine

For the Year Ended June 30, 2015

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual (Budgetary Basis)	Variance Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
Revenues				
Taxes:				
Property taxes	\$ 5,708,131	\$ 5,708,131	\$ 5,698,504	\$ (9,627)
Excise taxes	695,500	695,500	812,046	116,546
Interest and costs on taxes	24,000	24,000	29,155	5,155
Total Taxes	<u>6,427,631</u>	<u>6,427,631</u>	<u>6,539,705</u>	<u>112,074</u>
Intergovernmental:				
State revenue sharing	142,000	142,000	157,283	15,283
Road assistance	59,000	59,000	54,200	(4,800)
Homestead reimbursement	98,520	98,520	98,520	-
Tax reimbursements and relief	4,962	4,962	11,091	6,129
General assistance	3,000	3,000	-	(3,000)
Lake projects	-	-	3,166	3,166
RSU debt and capital lease funding	73,904	73,904	73,904	-
Total Intergovernmental	<u>381,386</u>	<u>381,386</u>	<u>398,164</u>	<u>16,778</u>
Other Revenues:				
Interest on investments	13,500	13,500	7,444	(6,056)
Permits and fees	44,500	44,500	47,813	3,313
Miscellaneous revenues	12,950	12,950	39,864	26,914
Solid waste revenues	59,500	59,500	62,050	2,550
Total Other Revenues	<u>130,450</u>	<u>130,450</u>	<u>157,171</u>	<u>26,721</u>
Total Revenues	<u>6,939,467</u>	<u>6,939,467</u>	<u>7,095,040</u>	<u>155,573</u>

Auditors' Report & Financials

Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance (2 of 4) Budget and Actual - General Fund

Town of China, Maine

For the Year Ended June 30, 2015

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual (Budgetary Basis)	Variance Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
Expenditures				
Administration:				
Administrative payroll costs	\$ 373,150	\$ 373,150	\$ 361,875	\$ 11,275
Administrative expenses	106,600	106,600	101,005	5,595
Planning Board expenses	2,363	2,363	776	1,587
Association dues	12,317	12,317	11,913	404
Assessing	47,500	47,500	29,018	18,482
Computer costs	23,000	23,000	13,333	9,667
Legal services	12,500	12,500	5,535	6,965
Insurance and benefits	239,245	239,245	240,462	(1,217)
Total Administration	816,675	816,675	763,917	52,758
Protection:				
Constable services	25,446	25,446	25,446	-
Fire departments	65,204	65,204	64,882	322
China rescue squad	16,000	16,000	12,111	3,889
Health officer	1,072	1,072	105	967
E-911	19,500	19,500	19,500	-
Dispatching	26,500	26,500	26,500	-
Emergency services insurance	15,982	15,982	14,053	1,929
Total Protection	169,704	169,704	162,597	7,107
Public Works:				
Road maintenance	698,012	698,012	747,782	(49,770)
Street signs	2,500	2,500	692	1,808
Street lights	7,000	7,000	7,264	(264)
Cemeteries	23,000	23,000	31,339	(8,339)
Total Public Works	730,512	730,512	787,077	(56,565)
Solid Waste Operations	281,528	281,528	246,218	35,310

Auditors' Report & Financials

Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance (3 of 4) Budget and Actual - General Fund

Town of China, Maine

For the Year Ended June 30, 2015

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance
	Original	Final	(Budgetary Basis)	Positive (Negative)
Expenditures - continued				
Community Services:				
General assistance	\$ 14,500	\$ 14,500	\$ 14,640	\$ (140)
Social service agencies	12,863	12,863	12,863	-
China Historical Society	6,000	6,000	5,456	544
South China Library	4,500	4,500	4,500	-
Albert Church Brown Library	4,500	4,500	4,500	-
K.V. Humane Society	6,982	6,982	6,982	-
Memorial Day/Veteran's markers	950	950	950	-
Total Community Services	50,295	50,295	49,891	404
Education:				
RSU Assessment	4,219,455	4,219,455	4,219,455	-
Capital lease obligations	58,138	58,138	58,138	-
Total Education	4,277,593	4,277,593	4,277,593	-
Recreation:				
General recreation	21,950	21,950	21,950	-
China community days	2,500	2,500	2,500	-
Total Recreation	24,450	24,450	24,450	-
Total County Tax	407,662	407,662	406,913	749
Debt service:				
Principal	32,367	32,367	32,367	-
Interest	399	399	399	-
Total Debt Service	32,766	32,766	32,766	-

Auditors' Report & Financials

Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance (4 of 4) Budget and Actual - General Fund

Town of China, Maine

For the Year Ended June 30, 2015

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance
	Original	Final	(Budgetary Basis)	Positive (Negative)
Expenditures - continued				
Special Projects:				
Equipment replacement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
One Room School House	-	-	3,704	(3,704)
Oakland Super Park	39,035	39,035	37,923	1,112
Contingency	45,000	45,000	45,000	-
Docks	-	-	202	(202)
Project Learning Tree	-	-	157	(157)
Grant expenses	55,000	55,000	4,221	50,779
Total Special Projects	<u>139,035</u>	<u>139,035</u>	<u>91,207</u>	<u>47,828</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>6,930,220</u>	<u>6,930,220</u>	<u>6,842,629</u>	<u>87,591</u>
Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	9,247	9,247	252,411	243,164
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Operating transfers out	(30,000)	(30,000)	(30,000)	-
Transfer to assigned fund balances	(86,000)	(86,000)	(86,000)	-
Utilization of unassigned fund balance	156,200	156,200	-	(156,200)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	40,200	40,200	(116,000)	(156,200)
Revenues and Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Uses	\$ 49,447	\$ 49,447	136,411	\$ 86,964
Budgetary fund balance at beginning of year			<u>1,441,422</u>	
Budgetary Fund Balance at End of Year			<u>\$ 1,577,833</u>	

Auditors' Report & Financials

Schedule of Valuation, Assessment and Collection of Taxes

Town of China, Maine

For the Year Ended June 30, 2015

Valuation

Real estate	\$	370,199,700
Personal property		<u>7,822,200</u>
Total Valuation	\$	<u>378,021,900</u>

Assessment

Valuation x Rate - $\$378,021,900 \times 0.01510$	\$	5,708,131
Supplemental taxes		<u>-</u>
Total Assessment Charged to Collector	\$	5,708,131

Collections and Credits

Cash collections	\$	5,549,830
Tax abatements and adjustments		<u>19,384</u>
Total Collections and Credits		<u>5,569,214</u>

2015 Taxes Receivable - June 30, 2015 **\$ 138,917**

LD #1 (Enacted 2005); Municipal Spending Limitations Component

Municipal officials continue to attempt to make local budgets more transparent and therefore easier to understand. Policy makers, voters, and taxpayers should be able to discern the financial health of local governments. There are initiatives underway whereby municipal budgets will be obligated to include a standardized chart of accounts so that comparative analyses can be made more easily between municipalities with similar demographics. With these attempts to simplify things there remain other factors that persist in imposing confusing systems on local governments; LD#1 seems to be one of those complicated systems.

Overview: The goal of LD#1 was to: focus attention on the year-to-year growth of the property tax commitment that relates to municipal spending; create a formula that is flexible to the needs of each municipality and allows for the growth in property tax commitment over time; makes certain that the municipality's legislative body is aware of the proposed limitation on the growth in commitment; authorizes the local legislative body to exceed the limit in response to special financial circumstances or increase the limit as a home rule decision; and to provide an opportunity for the electorate to challenge the decision of a town to exceed or increase the growth allowance.

There are three steps in calculating a municipality's "property tax levy limit." First, calculate the property tax levy that is being limited by this system, called the core municipal commitment and originally established for the 2006 budget and adjusted to date by growth factors. Second, calculate the "growth factor," which is a percentage of allowable growth that is applied to the adjusted core commitment. Third, adjust the established limit, if necessary, by a net new funds calculation and or by a proposed change in response to special circumstances.

For China, the calculation of the 2016 municipal spending limitation is as follows:

Core Municipal Commitment	\$1,475,097.00
(Multiplied by Growth Limitation Factor 1.0753)	
Allowable Growth Subtotal	\$1,586,152.45
Deductions (Net New Funding)	
Increases and Decreases in State Subsidies**	\$ 0.00
Increase by Home Rule Authority**	
Property Tax Levy Limit (Core Going Forward)	<u>\$1,586,152.45</u>

** Extraordinary circumstances outside the control of the municipal legislative body: insurance projected reduced State subsidies to China, e.g. reductions to Revenue Sharing, Tree Growth, Local Road Assistance, Homestead Exemptions, and the BETR program, and the assessment from FirstPark. The Maine State Legislature, as this document goes to print, has been contemplating a further and substantial reduction in Revenue Sharing and other property tax relief programs to municipalities for 2016/2017. This is the sole reason, if at all needed, for having a Warrant Article on the ballot addressing the LD#1 property Levy Limit.

Warrant for Annual Town Business Meeting

Town of China

Warrant for the Annual Town Business Meeting

To Julie Finley, a resident of the Town of China, County of Kennebec and State of Maine:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of China qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to assemble at the China Middle School in said Town of China on Saturday, the 26st day of March, A.D. 2016 at 9:00 o'clock in the morning to elect a moderator to preside at said meeting and to vote on town issues.

Article 1. To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

Recognition of Public Officials – Speaking opportunities

Article 2. Shall the town entertain a presentation up to five minutes each from the **China Comprehensive Plan Thurston Park II Committee** and the **Tax Increment Finance Committee** representatives regarding the progress of their respective committees?

Select Board Recommends: YES

Article 3. Shall the Town entertain a presentation up to five minutes from **FIRSTPARK** representatives?

Select Board Recommends: YES

Warrant for Annual Town Business Meeting

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to exceed the 2016 property tax levy limit of \$1,559,453.52 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 the current property tax levy limit. (The request would only be driven by voter approved increases in the proposed budgetary numbers and extraordinary circumstances outside the control of the municipal legislative body; in this particular case, the potential reduction in the 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.

Select Board Recommends: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Article 5. **Tax Increment Financing (TIF):** Shall the voters of the Town of China vote to:

1. Authorize the Select Board to appropriate funds in the 2016-2017 fiscal year and thereafter from the Development Program Fund (TIF Fund) to be used as a source of funds for expenditures later approved in these Warrant Articles and as also noted immediately below for the following purposes?

***TIF Generated Revenue Items:

Administration:	\$6,000.00
FirstPark:	\$37,923.00
CRLA:	\$15,000.00
China Community Days:	\$2,500.00
Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce Dues:	\$650.00
Bi-Centennial Events Coordinator	\$5,000.00

and

2. Authorize the Select Board to appropriate an amount up to \$50,000.00 in the 2016-2017 fiscal year and thereafter from the Development Program Fund (TIF Fund) for planning, engineering, maps, document preparation, administrative and legal expenses, etc. associated with economic development projects to be proposed by the Select Board to the voters for acceptance.

Select Board Recommends: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Warrant for Annual Town Business Meeting

Article 6. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and or appropriate for **Administration** and **Administration Other** expenses.

Select Board Recommends:

Administration - \$377,129 *** (\$6,000 from TIF generated revenues)

Administration Other - \$102,600

Budget Committee Recommends:

Administration - \$377,129 *** (\$6,000 from TIF generated revenues)

Administration Other - \$102,600



Article 7. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and or appropriate for **Planning Board Expenses, Maine Municipal Association Dues, Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce Dues,** and 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 \$8,000.00.

Select Board Recommends:

Planning Board Expenses - \$2,363

Maine Municipal Association Dues - \$4,800

Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce Dues - *** (\$650 from TIF generated revenues)

Kennebec Valley Council of Governments - \$6,917

Budget Committee Recommends:

Planning Board Expenses - \$2,363

Maine Municipal Association Dues - \$4,800

Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce Dues - *** (\$650 from TIF generated revenues)

Kennebec Valley Council of Governments - \$6,917



Article 8. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and or appropriate for the **Municipal Capital and Equipment Account of the Reserve Fund** (established for the purpose of major capital repairs and 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.

Select Board Recommends: \$120,000 (\$90,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance)

Budget Committee Recommends: \$120,000 (\$90,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance)



Warrant for Annual Town Business Meeting

Article 9. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Contracted **Assessing** and **Legal Services**; any remaining balance in the legal budget at 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.

Select Board Recommends:

Assessing Services - \$47,500

Legal Services - \$10,000

Budget Committee Recommends:

Assessing Services - \$47,500

Legal Services - \$10,000

Article 10. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Computer Hardware and Software** for the Town Office.

Select Board Recommends: \$23,000

Budget Committee Recommends: \$23,000

Award Presentation(s)

Article 11. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Police Services** and **Animal Control Officer Services** to include supplies and vehicle maintenance in support of services.

Select Board Recommends: \$28,980

Budget Committee Recommends: \$28,980

Warrant for Annual Town Business Meeting

Article 12. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and or appropriate for the **Volunteer Fire Departments, China Rescue and PSAP (E-911 Call Answering) and Dispatch Services** to be allocated in the following manner; 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 fund in which may be used upon a majority vote of a quorum of the Select Board; to be used for operating expenses only:

	Amount Requested:	Select Board Recommends:	Budget Committee Recommends:
South China VFD	\$21,000	\$21,000	\$21,000
China Village VFD	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000
Weeks Mills VFD	\$22,400	\$16,400 \$6,000 UDFB* SB shall consider Equity Position	\$16,400 \$6,000 UDFB* SB shall consider Equity Position
China Rescue	\$18,350	\$13,000 \$5,350 From Rescue Reserve	\$13,000 \$5,350 From Rescue Reserve
PSAP/E-911 Calls	\$24,994	\$24,994	\$24,994
Dispatching Service	\$27,079	\$27,079	\$27,079
Totals:	\$135,823	\$135,823	\$135,823
* from Undesignated/Unassigned Fund Balance			

Article 13. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate 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.

Select Board Recommends: \$6,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$6,000

Warrant for Annual Town Business Meeting

Article 14. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and or appropriate for **Insurance and Unemployment Compensation Premiums and Emergency Services Insurance.**

Select Board Recommends:

Insurance and Unemployment Compensation Premiums - \$297,087 (\$10,000 from Unrestricted Fund Balance)

Emergency Services Insurance - \$17,174

Budget Committee Recommends:

Insurance and Unemployment Compensation Premiums - \$297,087 (\$10,000 from Unrestricted Fund Balance)

Emergency Services Insurance - \$17,174

Article 15. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Solid Waste Disposal/China Transfer Station Operations.**

Select Board Recommends: \$271,413

Budget Committee Recommends: \$271,413

Article 16. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and or appropriate 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 2016/2017 fiscal year or carry-forward remaining amounts as of 06/30/2016 as they deem to be in the best interest of the Town of China.

Select Board Recommends: \$719,994 (\$54,200 from highway grant & \$665,794 from excise taxes)

Budget Committee Recommends: \$719,994 (\$54,200 from highway grant & \$665,794 from excise taxes)

Article 17. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Street Signs and Street Lights** (monthly/annual CMP kw/hr. fees).

Select Board Recommends:

Street Signs - \$2,500

Street Lights - \$7,000

Budget Committee Recommends:

Street Signs - \$2,500

Street Lights - \$7,000

Warrant for Annual Town Business Meeting

◆

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote 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.

Board Recommends: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

◆

Article 19. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate 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 capital needs/activities/programs; said Recreation Account to be capped at \$15,000.

Select Board Recommends: \$23,950

Budget Committee Recommends: \$23,950

◆

Article 20. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Welfare Account**.

Board Recommends: \$16,000

Budget Committee Recommends: \$16,000

◆

Article 21. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **China Historical Society** toward the cost of utilities and repairs for the Old Town Meeting House and for Historical Society outreach programs and the **One Room School House** toward the cost of utilities and repairs.

Select Board Recommends:

China Historical Society - \$6,000

One Room School House - \$3,000

Budget Committee Recommends:

China Historical Society - \$6,000

One Room School House - \$3,000

Warrant for Annual Town Business Meeting

Article 22. To see if the voters will vote to raise and appropriate \$4,500 for the **South China Library** and \$4,500 for the **Albert Church Brown Memorial Library**.

Select Board Recommends:

- South China Library - Yes**
- Albert Church Brown Memorial Library - Yes**

Budget Committee Recommends:

- South China Library - Yes**
 - Albert Church Brown Memorial Library - Yes**
-

Article 23. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the following **Social Service Agencies**:

	Select Board Recommends:	Budget Committee Recommends:
Family Violence	\$2,000	\$2,000
KVCAP Demand Response Transport	\$545	\$545
Spectrum Generations	\$2,276	\$2,276
Kennebec Behavioral Health	\$1,000	\$1,000
Children's Center	\$1,500	\$1,500
Sexual Assault Crisis & Support	\$1,437	\$1,437
Dioceses Human Relations Center	\$200	\$200
Hospice Volunteers of Waterville Area	\$1,650	\$1,650
American Red Cross	\$500	\$500
Healthy Hearts	\$500	\$500
The Life Flight Foundation	<u>\$750</u>	<u>\$750</u>
	\$12,358	\$12,358

and further to see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the following **Non-Profit Agencies**:

	Select Board Recommends:	Budget Committee Recommends:
MPBN	\$100	\$100
The Town Line	<u>\$3,000</u>	<u>\$3,000</u>
	\$3,100	\$3,100

Warrant for Annual Town Business Meeting

Article 24. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Kennebec Valley Humane Society**.

Select Board Recommends: \$7,087

Budget Committee Recommends: \$7,087



Article 25. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the purpose of maintaining **Cemeteries** and for **Memorial Day and Veterans grave marker expenses**; said money for grave marker expenses to be divided equally between the China and South China Legion Posts.

Select Board Recommends:

Cemeteries - \$24,600

Grave Marker Expenses - \$950

Budget Committee Recommends:

Cemeteries - \$24,600

Grave Marker Expenses - \$950



Article 26. To see if the Town will vote to establish two (2) **Tax Payment due dates** to be Friday, September 30, 2016 and Friday, March 31, 2017 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 to further see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board 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 to further authorize the tax collector or treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. Section 506, and to further authorize the Select Board to appropriate funds from Overlay to offset abatements granted throughout the fiscal year.

Select Board Recommends: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES



Warrant for Annual Town Business Meeting

Article 27. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Unassigned 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.

Select Board Recommends: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES



Article 28. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and or appropriate 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 2016/2017 fiscal year as they deem to be in the best interest of the Town of China. (Any proposed expenditure to advance an interest in real property is to have prior Select Board approval.)

Select Board Recommends: \$25,000 *** (\$15,000 From TIF generated revenues)

Budget Committee Recommends: \$25,000 *** (\$15,000 From TIF generated revenues)



Article 29. To see if the Town will appropriate an amount not to exceed \$45,000 from the overlay and or unassigned 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.

Select Board Recommends: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES



Article 30. To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise and or appropriate 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.

Select Board Recommends: \$2,500 *** (From TIF generated revenues or Unassigned Fund Balance)

Budget Committee Recommends: \$2,500 *** (From TIF generated revenues or Unassigned Fund Balance)



Warrant for Annual Town Business Meeting

Article 31. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$2,700 from Unassigned Fund Balance for the purpose of preserving the **Historical Records** in the Town of China.

Select Board Recommends: YES
Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Article 32. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate an amount not to exceed \$1,121 for the purpose of compensating the **Town Health Officer** for services provided.

Select Board Recommends: YES
Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Article 33. To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate from Unassigned Fund Balance for the purpose of adding to the **Unfunded Accrued Compensated Balance Reserve Account in the Fund Balance/Designated Fund Balance** to finance the unfunded accrued compensated balances of the Town.

Select Board Recommends: \$5,000 (From Unassigned Fund Balance)
Budget Committee Recommends: \$5,000 (From Unassigned Fund Balance)

Article 34. To see if the Town will vote:

1. to authorize the Town to continue as a member of the Municipal Review Committee, Inc. (“MRC”), organized as a Maine nonprofit corporation and acting as a regional association pursuant to Title 13-B and Title 38 of the Maine Revised Statutes, as amended (and specifically Section 1304-B(5-A) of Title 38) for the purposes of managing and facilitating solid waste disposal;
2. to adopt, ratify and confirm the Restricted Articles of Incorporation and the Restated Bylaws of the MRC in substantially the form on file with the Town Clerk and posted as part of this Warrant;
3. to authorize the Select Board on behalf of the Town to execute and deliver a Municipal Joinder Agreement with the MRC in substantially the form on file with the Town Clerk and posted as part of this Warrant (the “Municipal Joinder Agreement”) pursuant to which the Town will become a Joining Member of the MRC (as defined therein) and deliver its municipal solid waste for disposal

Warrant for Annual Town Business Meeting

to a waste management facility being developed by Fiberight, LLC and/or its affiliates (collectively, "Fiberight") in Hampden, Maine, or other waste disposal facility;

4. to authorize the MRC to take certain actions on behalf of the Town as set forth in the Municipal Joinder Agreement; and

5. to authorize a majority of the Select Board or their duly authorized designee or designees to execute and deliver the Municipal Joinder Agreement on behalf of the Town and to execute and deliver on behalf of the Town in conjunction therewith such other documents and to take such further actions as they may deem necessary or appropriate in order to effect the transactions contemplated by the Municipal Joinder Agreement.

Select Board Recommends: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Explanation: By voting to approve this Article you will be delegating discretionary authority to the Select Board on whether or not to contractually enter into the above noted instruments, the ultimate decision determined by the Select Board to be considered to be in the best interests of the Town of China. The initial term of the agreement(s) would be 15 years with five 5-year options at option of Joining Member.

Article 35. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for a Bicentennial Coordinator for the purpose of organizing and coordinating events to celebrate China's 200 year anniversary of incorporation as a municipality?

Select Board Recommends: \$10,000 *** (\$5,000 from TIF generated revenues and \$5,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance)

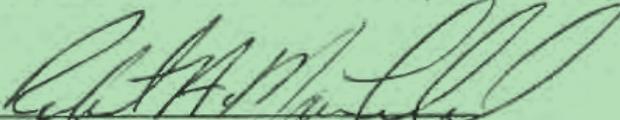
Budget Committee Recommends: \$10,000 *** (\$5,000 from TIF generated revenues and \$5,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance)

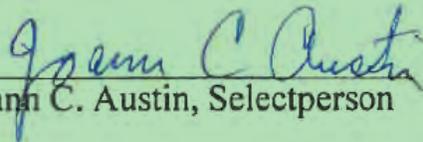
Article 36. To see if the town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into negotiations with the Town of Palermo for the purposes of **ENTERING INTO A LONG TERM AGREEMENT TO ACCEPT MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE AND CONSTRUCTION DEMOLITION AND DEBRIS, RECYCLABLES, AND OTHER AGREED UPON ITEMS** from the Town of Palermo; agreement to be under such terms and conditions as the Select Board may deem to be in the best interests of the Town of China

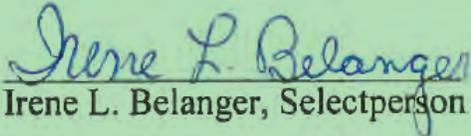
Select Board Recommends: Yes

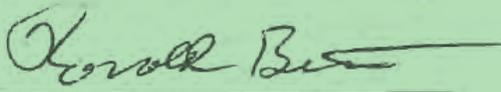
Warrant for Annual Town Business Meeting

Given under our hands this 8th day of February, AD 2016


Robert A. MacFarland - Chairperson


Joann C. Austin, Selectperson


Irene L. Belanger, Selectperson


Ronald Breton, Selectperson

Neil Farrington, Selectperson

Election Timeline for November 8, 2016

- August 15, 2016 – nomination papers will be available for 3 Select Board, 3 Planning Board and 4 Budget Committee positions. A minimum of 25 registered China voters signatures on the nomination papers is needed to allow a candidate's name to appear on the ballot.
- September 24, 2016 – nomination papers are due in by 11am.
- November 8, 2016 – election – polls open 7am to 8pm. Location TBD.

Ode to Town Meeting

*There is one day in March that your calendar should say
This is the place I need to be on this day
On March 26th, be there on time
The meeting will start precisely at nine
There will be coffee and goodies and plenty of fun
Come a little early and get yourself some
Wake up early and bring your family and friends
When you come to town meeting, the fun never ends!*

Written by ~ Julie Finley 2016

*We hope to see you all on
March 26th
at China Middle School
at 9a.m.*



China Transfer Station

191 Alder Park Road - (207) 445-3033



Reduce - Reuse - Recycle

Important Information

Town Office (207) 445-2014

Open Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Fax for insurance (207) 445-3208

Email for insurance or general information: info@chinamaine.org

Transfer Station (207) 445-3033

Open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

MUST have a valid sticker or pass to enter!

China Middle School (207) 445-1500

China Primary School (207) 445-1550

RSU 18 Superintendent's Office (207) 465-7384

China Food Pantry (207) 968-2421

China Post Office (207) 445-2230

China Village Post Office (207) 968-2623



Fog over Oliver's fields - submitted by Stacy Oliver