

*Annual Report
of the Municipal Officers
of the Town of China, Maine
for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016*



Welcome
Palermo
to the
China Transfer Station

Annual Town Business Meeting

Saturday, March 25, 2017

9:00 a.m.

China Middle School

**Quorum of 126 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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Dedication

Each year the Town of China Town Report is dedicated to individuals or groups of individuals who have made significant contributions to the town. There are many people who are deserving of the Town Report dedication. This year the Town Report is dedicated to several people who have made and continue to make an impact on the day to day activities of residents of the Town of China, the town's highway and transfer station employees.



Left to Right - Ed Brownell (1 year), Kevin Rhoades (4 1/2 years), Tim Grotton (3 1/2 years) and Mary Tisdale (6 years).

(The current transfer station budget is lower than it was 13 years ago.)

Left to Right - Jason Finley (2 years), Shawn Reed (almost 18 years), Gary Cummings (almost 18 years), and Kevin Rhoades 4 1/2 years).



At times and under such real pressures when it appears their jobs seem incredibly challenging; for the highway group tackling snow storms similar to the one of February 12-14, 2017 and during the paving season when temps are in the 90 degree plus range when asphalt is in the 300 degrees

plus range and for the transfer station group working outside in the cold winter for many, many days and interacting with hundreds of town residents with high expectations/demands, they do not complain, they maintain good morale, a high level of professionalism, have firm resolve and discharge their duties. These are a group of very unassuming but highly capable individuals who are unselfish in their focus, feeling good about serving you. They contribute to all aspects of maintaining the community of China, their service being critical in retaining China's small town character and spirit.

We applaud them; their dedication is quietly and confidently apparent in all that they accomplish. Their collective deeds seem heroic.



Public service must be more than doing a job efficiently and honestly. It must be a complete dedication to the people and to the nation.

Margaret Chase Smith

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

It is with earnestness and professional respect that we submit to you the Annual Report of the Town of China for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016

The purpose of an Annual Report is to inform citizens/voters of 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, while attempting to point out what might be anticipated in the coming year or two.

The town of China has a Town Meeting, Selectpersons, Town Manager form of governance, pursuant to 30-A M.R.S.A. § § 2631 et seq.). In this form of government, the legislative and executive functions remain divided; **the town meeting continuing as the legislative body, determining what laws should govern the town and the monies to be spent.** The Select Board is the executive body with a single chief administrator, the manager, who supervises daily operations. About thirty percent of municipalities have this form of governance.

The town's financial statements reflect, at a certain date in time, on the financial performance of this form of governance structure. The town's current statements, when viewed historically, reflect a trend of a continually improving financial condition, e.g. China does not have any long-term debt and unrestricted reserves have reached recommended and expected levels that should sustain the town through unpredictable or unanticipated fiscal circumstances. Financial resources in established reserve accounts in the town's fund balance are significant and have minimized the need for borrowing over the long-term. The net asset position of the town continues to increase, also indicative 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 ability to provide the added services demanded, if planned for, is dependent on a town's relative financial position going forward. 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 will need additional staff and capital considerations over time to accommodate that growth. Studies (Brookings Institution report, Charting Maine's Future), provide evidence that municipalities with populations between 2,500 and 6,500, demand more services from their respective leaders. Additional police, fire, first responder, and recreational offerings are examples of those needs/demands. To oblige those demands, a municipality necessarily has to anticipate the needs and build additional capacity into its staff and infrastructure. 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. Strategically,

continued...

the finances are managed to anticipate and accommodate the changes in the economy and the resulting changes in projected expenses and revenues. 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 have a complimentary statement about other factors indicative of a healthy community financially. The complimentary statements would look like this: 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.

It has been noted that in the revenue numbers there might be some sensitivity relating to the shift in the sources of revenues away from intergovernmental to other sources. Specifically, the stability of the sources of funds from State revenue sharing and State aid to education are questionable. The town will need to have a conversation about the available sources of revenues and the reliability of each source over the longer term.



The chart above informs us that the main source of revenue for China, and most municipalities, is the property tax. Although the town's property tax base has remained relatively stable over time, it is important that we are mindful that a broader based design of revenue sources or an adjusted balance in the current revenue metric for China away from property taxes and toward other revenue sources could have positive property tax relief results for China and might be deserving of strong consideration by voters and policy setters and administration going forward. There are

continued...

not abundant examples of municipal leaders who make steadfast attempts to balance out revenue sources; e.g., having those responsible for causing an expense to pay for the expense.

Credit ratings are based on many variables, one being a diverse and stable tax base in a given municipality. Intergovernmental revenues are all too often uncertain and so too are “other revenues”, which are subject to leadership and local political circumstances. Local governance may not be able to apply or implement or increase 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 seen in the chart on the previous page.

In the expense numbers, it should be noted that there are assessments to the town that are not within the direct control of the Select Board or administration. The County, Education, and FirstPark assessments to China are determined by independent entities though have a direct impact on taxes. The operational expenses under the control of the Select Board and administration have increased minimally over the last several years, approximating the inflation rate. The town has not exceeded the voter approved LD#1 spending limit for several years. The town continues to look for additional efficiencies in all departmental budgets. Stewardship of taxpayer funds is very important to the town officials and officers.

The distribution of expenditures over time has been consistent, the largest operating fund expenditures, 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 or for the infrastructure to deteriorate. Resource allocation equitably is important yet very difficult as some expenses drive a budget more than others.

Economic Factors and Next Year's Budget and Rates: Local, state, and national economic conditions appear to be improving, though slowly. We are anticipating revenues to be higher in the coming year; enough to cover expenses that are within the control of the Select Board and administration. Building permit revenues indicate an improvement in economic activity locally and accordingly an additional increase in the town’s tax base. Health insurance premiums and emergency services expenses are demands that will need to be accommodated and will be with the anticipated increase in revenues.

The voter approved Tax Increment Financing District created by Central Maine Power Company’s Maine Power Reliability Program enhancements to infrastructure in China has added financial resources to a ‘Development Fund Reserve Account’ earmarked for economic development projects. There are currently voter approved trails projects for China being financed by the TIF funds. There are additional initiatives to be financed by TIF funds that will go before voters for approval consideration at the Annual Town Business Meeting in March of this year, 2017. They relate to Causeway Road recommended improvements, Thurston Park projects, a Revolving Loan Fund program, and an Alewives Restoration Initiative for China Lake.

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At this time, it seems to me to be appropriate to echo something from a previous Town Manager's report, which is, running government during sensitive economic and political times is challenging for a Select Board. The frustrations that citizens may express 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 the excesses that cause troublesome economic conditions.

You have some inspiring, sincere and dedicated employees working for the town. I would like to personally and professionally thank Gary, Shawn, Jason, Mary, Tim, Kevin, Ed, Paul, Jen, Julie, Kelly, Becky and our police officers, Mike Tracy, Tracey Frost, Adam Sirois, Jerry Haynes and Rick Stubbart for their great energy. I would also like to personally thank the Select Board and every citizen in the town of China for the opportunity you have given me as your Town Manager.

Personal and professional appreciation is additionally extended to the Select Board, the 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, and assistance have been invaluable.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel L'Heureux
China Town Manager

Select Board members



(Left to right) - Irene Belanger, Jeffrey LaVerdiere, Joann Austin, Ronald Breton and Chairman Neil Farrington

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, Tuesday, 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 (2018)
- Irene L. Belanger (2017)
- Ronald Breton (2017)
- Neil Farrington (2018) - Chair
- Jeffrey LaVerdiere (2018)

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) - Chair
- District 2 - Toni Wall (2018)
- District 3 - Milton Dudley (2017)
- District 4 - Thomas Miragliuolo (2018)
- At-Large - Thomas V. Michaud (2018)
- Alternate At-Large - Ralph Howe (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.)

- Dawn Castner (2019)
- 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 - Vacant (2018)
- District 1 - Kevin Maroon (2017)
- District 2 - Thomas Rumpf (2018)
- District 3 - Sheryl Peavey (2017)
- District 4 - Timothy Basham (2018)
- At-Large - Valerie Baker (2018)



Appointed Officials

Appeals Board

- Spencer Aitel (2019)
- Virginia Davis (2021)
- Michael Gee (2017)
- Anthony Pileggi (2018)
- Robert Fischer (2018)
- Lisa Kane (2020)
- Dale Worster (2020)



Board of Assessment Review

- Harold Charles (2017)
- Sheri Wilkens (2019)
- Dale Peabody (2018)
- Anthony Pileggi - Alternate (2019)
- Dwaine Drummond - Alternate (2018)

The following committee appointments are through June 30, 2017.

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
- 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
- Alan Hollander
- William Rancourt



Enhanced 9-1-1 Committee

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

Police Services Committee

- Joann C. Austin
- Daniel L'Heureux
- David Giampetruzzi
- Robert MacFarland



Forestry Committee

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

Road Committee

- Frederick Anderson
- Dale Peabody

Transfer Station Committee

- Francis Soares III
- Irene Belanger
- Mark Davis
- Paul Lucas
- Dwaine McKenney (Palermo)
- Lawrence Sikora
- Cheryl York (Palermo)

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

KRDA - Kennebec Regional Development Authority (FirstPark)

- Irene Belanger
- Joann Austin (Alternate)



Open Space Committee

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

Appointed Officials

Recreation Committee

- Rosalie Batteesse
- Rebecca Theriault
- Todd Dunn
- David Crommett
- Scott McCormac
- Martha Wentworth
- Brian Plato



Tax Increment Financing Committee

- Stephen Nichols
- Daniel L'Heureux
- Joann C. Austin
- Irene L. Belanger
- Dale Worster
- H. David Cotta
- James Wilkens
- Robert Mac Farland
- Amber McAllister
- Francis (Frank) Soares
- Amy Gartley
- Thomas V. Michaud

Facilities Committee

- Daniel L'Heureux
- Irene Belanger



Appointed Officials

Thurston Park II Committee

- Joann C. Austin
- Rosalie Batteese
- Irene L. Belanger
- James Booth
- Phillip DeMaynadier
- Leslie R. French
- Timothy Theriault
- Trevy Bumps
- Kyle McLaggan
- Kevin McLaggan
- James Revil
- Steve Nelson
- Sonia Nelson
- Sheri Wilkens
- Christain Wilkens
- Jeanette Smith
- Kristina To



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, Health Officer Phone: 445-3540 email: ceo@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
George Shaw III	Chief, Weeks Mills Volunteer Fire Department Phone: 441-5070 email: webshawssb@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 15

Senator Roger Katz

3 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 287-1505 or 485-2394

senroger.katz@legislature.maine.gov

State House District 79

Representative Timothy Theriault

2 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 287-1440 or 968-2641

tim.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 15

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

First, let me thank you for the great honor of representing you in the Maine Senate. I feel lucky every day I walk into the State House and I try hard to be the best possible voice I can for the citizens of China.



We in Maine have very real challenges in front of us and, despite a contentious relationship between the Governor and the Legislature; I believe we are up to it. How can we do a better job solving the opioid crisis which affects so many families? How can we properly fund our public schools and do so in a way which relieves the pressure on local property taxes? How can we make Maine a more friendly state in which to invest and create jobs? How can we most intelligently implement the will of the voters legalizing the recreational use of marijuana? How can we best reform our antiquated tax system to make us more competitive? These are among the most important issues we are facing this year.

I also hope we will turn our attention to Maine's growing demographic crisis: The fact is that we are the oldest state in the country and getting older. A shrinking workforce means we will find it harder to attract investment and new jobs to our beautiful state. For me, one of the solutions is to do all we can to become a welcoming state for those who have the "American dream" and want to work. I do not care if they come from New Hampshire, Indiana, Poland, or Burundi – motivated "new Mainers" can help us grow a brighter economic future. Stay tuned and let me know your thoughts.

I end as I began – thanking you for allowing me to represent you in the Capitol.

Best regards,

Roger J. Katz
State Senator

Senator Roger J. Katz
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
(207) 287-1505

House District 79

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you for electing me to a second term as your State Representative. It truly is an honor to serve District 79 in this capacity.

Legislative leadership has appointed me to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. As a lifelong hunter and fisherman, this is a great honor to be serving on a committee that is designed to preserve our State's long heritage of sportsman. It is something I have truly enjoyed over the years and I want to make sure our outdoor heritage is well-kept during my tenure on this committee. As matters before the State and Local Government Committee are important to the folks living in the towns of District 79, I will be monitoring the issues before that committee and seek your input on them as well.

Also, I have submitted a bill that will help provide some funding to the clean-up of China Lake. I look forward to getting all of the different parties together to work on this to help better one of the greatest natural resources our community has to offer.

One of the most rewarding components of the job is being able to help constituents when they get bogged down attempting to navigate the bureaucracy of various government programs and agencies. Feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance in any way. The best way to contact me is via e-mail, at Tim.Theriault@legislature.maine.gov, or by phone at 207-968-2641. I do a weekly State News Update via e-mail which many people find to be useful for learning about state issues that affect their personal and business lives. I would love to add you to the newsletter list, and of course you may unsubscribe at any time.

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

Sincerely,

Tim Theriault
State Representative



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

United States Senator

Dear Friends:

It is an honor to represent Maine in the United States Senate. I am grateful for the trust the people of our State have placed in me and welcome this opportunity to share some key accomplishments. Growing our economy by encouraging job creation remains a top priority. The tax relief bill enacted during this last Congress contains provisions I authored to provide small businesses with the certainty that they need to invest, grow, and, most important, hire new workers. The 2017 National Defense Authorization Act includes a provision the Maine delegation worked together to champion requiring that military recruits be provided with athletic footwear made in America, as is required for other equipment and uniform items whenever possible. This is a great victory for our troops and for the 900 skilled workers at New Balance factories here in Maine.

Maine's contributions to our national security stretch from Kittery to Limestone. As a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, I successfully advocated for critical funding for projects at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and \$1 billion towards the construction of an additional ship that will likely be built at Bath Iron Works. This funding will strengthen the Navy and our national security, and the additional destroyer will help meet the Navy's goal of a 355-ship fleet.

Maine's growing population of older individuals creates many challenges. That's why, as Chairman of the Senate Aging Committee, my top three priorities are fighting fraud and financial abuse directed at our nation's seniors, increasing investments in biomedical research, and improving retirement security.

The Aging Committee's toll-free hotline (1-855-303-9470) makes it easier for senior citizens to report suspected fraud and receive assistance. Last May, a call to the hotline helped lead to the arrest of a national crime ring targeting seniors, and in June I worked to secure the humanitarian release of a Maine senior who had been imprisoned in Spain after being victimized by an international drug smuggling scam.

The Aging Committee also released an extensive report detailing the findings of our bipartisan investigation into the abrupt and dramatic price increases for prescription drugs whose patents expired long ago.

I advocated strongly for the \$2 billion increase in funding for the National Institutes of Health to advance research on such diseases as diabetes and Alzheimer's. I also championed and authored portions of the 21st Century Cures Act that will further support biomedical innovation and make significant reforms to our mental health system.

The Senate also took steps in the past year to combat the nation's heroin and opioid epidemic by passing the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA), which I was proud to cosponsor. CARA is a monumental step forward in our effort to address the devastating addiction crisis affecting countless families and communities across the country and right here in Maine.

A Maine value that always guides me is our unsurpassed work ethic. In December 2016, I cast my

United States Senator

6,236th consecutive vote, continuing my record of never missing a roll-call vote since my Senate service began in 1997.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve China and Maine in the United States Senate. If ever I can be of assistance to you, please contact my Augusta state office at (207) 622-8414 or visit my website at www.collins.senate.gov. May 2017 be a good year for you, your family, your community, and our state.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



U. S. House of Representatives

Dear Friend,

I hope this letter finds you well. It's a privilege to share an update on my work to represent you and your family in Washington and in Maine.

As always, the interests of my constituents are what guide my work. There are many things I could talk about in that regard. But I want to focus here on one issue of particular importance—economic development. Having good-paying jobs allows future generations to make this wonderful state their home. With that goal in mind, I'm working to address Maine's economic challenges and capitalize on its opportunities.

One such opportunity is agriculture, where Maine is bucking national trends. The average age of our farmers is actually going down while acreage in cultivation is going up. Consumer demand for local food is driving that growth. I've been successful in reforming federal policies to help farmers and processors meet that demand. My work will continue this year as Congress reauthorizes the Farm Bill.

I'm also working to support jobs in our coastal communities. Last year, I helped block Sweden's proposed ban on the export of Maine lobsters to the European Union. I also introduced legislation to lift unnecessary regulations on seafood exporters and invest in working waterfront infrastructure.

On the House Appropriations Committee, I'm defending federal programs that support jobs throughout Maine. These programs invest in worthy projects that are beyond the reach of private, municipal, or state resources. In our state, they provide loans to small businesses, clean polluted sites for redevelopment, find new marketable uses for Maine's natural resources, build broadband infrastructure, and much more.

Aside from economic development, advocating for Maine veterans is one of my highest priorities. With Congress' current agenda, I'm also fighting to defend Medicare and Social Security, protect clean air and water, and ensure that our communities have the resources to address hunger, homelessness and lack of health care access.

Just as important as my policy work in Washington is what my office does to help individuals in Maine. Every year, my staff helps hundreds of constituents who have issues with federal agencies or programs. Please call my Portland office at (207) 774-5019 for assistance. It's an honor to serve you.

Take care,

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

United States Senator

Dear Friends of China,

Since being sworn into the Senate in 2013, I have made it my mission to address at the federal level the most important issues facing our great state. Working closely with my colleagues in the Maine Congressional Delegation, we've been able to successfully secure a number of legislative victories that support our state's economy, our rich traditions, and the hardworking people I am proud to represent.

In an increasingly polarized Congress, my goal as an Independent is to put partisanship aside, build consensus and further common-sense solutions to address the needs of the American people. To this end, I have co-founded the Former Governors Caucus, a group of former state executives who are frustrated with legislative gridlock and eager to find bipartisan solutions. And as always, I aim to bridge the partisan divide by hosting barbeque dinners in Washington with colleagues ranging from Ted Cruz to Elizabeth Warren. If you know a person's children, then you see them as a mother or father and not a rival vote, and working to further personal dialogue and build relationships can lay the foundation for successful legislation.

One of the accomplishments of which I am most proud is the legislative victory that protects our college students and their families from an expensive hike in student loan interest rates. In 2013, as students faced a significant spike in interest rates that would have taken thousands of dollars out of their pockets, I brought together colleagues from across the political spectrum to broker compromise legislation called the Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act. Thanks to this bill, students will save \$50 billion over the next 10 years by lowering their interest rates, which means that a student in Maine will now save between \$3,000 and \$6,000 over the life of their loan.

Being an Independent in the Senate has allowed me to make calls and vote on policies that are best for Maine, but it has also made it possible to play key roles in finding simple solutions and legislative fixes that make good commonsense to both parties. Of course, much of what we do in the Senate doesn't happen on the Senate floor, or even in committee. Instead, it involves working across all levels of government to ensure the State of Maine receives attention and support from the federal government.

Take, for example, the opioid and heroin epidemic devastating communities across our state. While Congress has passed legislative solutions aimed at expanding access to medical treatment, I've also pressed for other changes that can be accomplished more quickly and make a more immediate difference in Maine. For example, I successfully urged the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to increase the number of patients to whom a doctor can provide medication-assisted treatment, and in 2015 brought the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy to Brewer to meet directly with Mainers and hear their stories. I've also engaged law enforcement – including the Drug Enforcement Agency – to crack down on the production of opioids and work to limit their diversion. Together, Senator Collins and I helped pass the Northern Border Security Review Act to combat drug and human trafficking along our border with Canada.

While the opioid epidemic is certainly our biggest public health crisis, job loss in Maine is still our

United States Senator

number one economic problem and that's why we need to focus on bringing good paying jobs back to Maine and protecting the ones we still have. As a member of the Armed Services Committee, I teamed up with Senator Collins and Representative Poliquin to successfully secure a provision in the defense bill that can help domestic shoe manufacturers like New Balance. The three of us also worked together with the Department of Commerce to establish an Economic Development Assessment Team, known as an EDAT, to assist Maine's forest industry in the wake of several mill closures. We have an incredible spirit of innovation and ingenuity in Maine and I believe finding ways to invest in that spirit will reignite Maine's forest products sector and our economy. Part of our economic path forward must also include expanding access to high-speed broadband, which can help connect our businesses and communities to information and economic opportunities.

As a member of the Senate Armed Services and Intelligence Committees, I work to keep Maine and our nation safe. Part of that important work means continuing to work for funding for the construction of Navy ships that will be used to protect American interests across the globe. We all know that "Bath Built is Best Built," which is why I've fought to authorize funding for Navy ships built at BIW. The best way to preserve peace is by deterring war through unassailable strength, and to do that we must support our shipbuilders and our brave service members and invest in our military. I strive to meet this solemn responsibility every day as a member of these committees, which is why I hardly ever miss a hearing and take great care in overseeing the agencies sworn to keep us safe. Armed Services Chairman John McCain called me "one of the most serious and hard-working members" of the Committee, and that's a humbling compliment from a true American hero.

As always, please call or write me with thoughts or concerns with matters currently before Congress, or if you need assistance navigating a federal agency. As a public servant, it is critical to me to listen and learn from you, which is why staying connected with people from all over our beautiful state remains a top priority for my work in the Senate. Please call my toll-free line at 1-800-432-1599 or one my offices: Augusta: (207)622-8292, Bangor: (207)945-8000, 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.

It is an honor and a privilege serving the people of Maine in the Senate, and I look forward to working with you in our search for a more perfect Union.

Sincerely,

Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

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 2015-2016 school year.

Luke Atchison
Sarah Basham
Christina Belanger
Tyler Belanger
Jasmine Bickford
Madison Bodine
Hallee Breton
Marissa Chamberlain
Daniel Constanzer
Emmett deMaynadier
Treva deMaynadier
Samantha Dowe
Kiley Drummond
Corey Eastup
Lydia Fletcher
Jared Gartley
Alyssa Gartley
Grace Kilian
Jacob Marois
Evan Matteson

Kelly McCormac
Shayla Pillow
James Poulin
Richard Preston
Cameron Reed
Shania Reed
Emma Robertson
William Robertson
Tyler Rollins
Simon Rollins
Lane Shorey
Laramie Shorey
Elana Smith
Victoria Studholme
Cameron Tibbetts
Rebecca Watson
Brittany White
Thomas White
Katherine Wight

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 scholarship is only available to China residents.



Regional School Unit #18

Readiness! Each and every day, this is what your public schools are doing for your children. Teachers, support staff, and the administration of RSU 18 are working hard preparing your children to be ready for their next steps in life after public school. Whether that be college, the military, or the workplace, these efforts begin in pre-kindergarten. These efforts, reflected in the table below, show RSU 18's graduation and dropout rates for the past few years and also show the results prior to when RSU 18 was formed back in July 2009. This is something we can be proud of as RSU 18 far exceeds state graduation and national graduation rates.

RSU 18 Graduation & Drop Out Rates		
<u>Year</u>	<u>Graduation</u>	<u>Drop-Out</u>
2015-16	94%	1.3%
2014-15	91%	1.2%
2013-14	88%	2.0%
2012-13	94%	1.0%
2008-09	84%	2.7%

But our efforts do not end there. While graduation rates and test scores are crucial indicators of achievement and success, we know very well that overall student success is determined by much more than a single test score. Many schools across the country now look at other key indicators to determine a student's READINESS to be successful for *college, careers and life* after their public school experience. Some examples of these indicators include: taking an advanced placement course, completing certain math courses, regular attendance, community service, participating in co-curricular activities, learning to persevere and that failure is a part of the learning process are just a few examples. For additional information about "Redefining Ready", please visit www.RedefiningReady.org. This past fall RSU 18 elementary, middle, and high school teachers and administrators presented at the Maine School Management Fall Conference specifically on the many things happening in RSU 18 from kindergarten to high school each and every day that get our students ready for college, careers and life. At the end of this presentation, there was a great round of applause. Many school districts from across the state stayed afterwards asking and wondering how we have incorporated these things into our schools. To me the answer this is easy and it is that our staff is focused on Every Student in Every School, Each and Every Day. It is hard work but it pays handsome dividends!

Our work on this front is not done. Our District goals for this school year are to continue raising the bar on student achievement, growing and developing our staff, and further developing the strong culture that exists in our schools. While it seems simple, focusing on these core fundamentals is what truly successful companies and organizations do. Stay tuned for more good news from RSU 18. We are achieving these academic successes while still being fiscally responsible to the five communities of RSU 18. The current school year's budget is \$34.6 million, only \$800,000 more than the 2009-10 budget of \$33.8 million. This represents an increase of 2.4% over the last eight years or 0.3% per year, well below the inflation rate of 1.3% covering the same time period.

Your Board of Directors is a dedicated and talented group and their collective efforts directly benefit the towns of Belgrade, China, Oakland, Rome, and Sidney. They do a wonderful job, and

Regional School Unit #18

if you are out and about and happen to see them, please thank them for their continued service on your behalf.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Sincerely,

Gary N. Smith
Superintendent of Schools



Erskine Academy

It has been another enterprising year for Erskine Academy, your high school of choice that combines the very best of private school education with the democratic ideal of a quality education for all.

In our 134th year, and following our reaccreditation by the New England Association of Secondary Schools (NEASC), who commended our commitment to the success of every student, we continued our efforts to improve our school, expand opportunities for learning, accelerate student achievement, and produce even better results. A few facts about Erskine Academy today are a testament to our vitality and the value of our educational experience:

- With 590 students in grades nine through twelve, we are the largest town academy in Maine to serve a nearly 100% local student body on a 100% school choice basis
- A 13:1 professional teacher to student ratio
- A virtual 100% percent graduation rate
- A dropout rate less than one percent
- Of 140 graduates in 2016, 80% were accepted to some form of higher or continuing education (now a four-year trend), many to highly selective colleges and universities
- Average SAT scores for our class of 2016 are 33 points greater than the state average
- For a second consecutive year, we are one of seven Maine high schools to make the Washington Post's list of America's Most Challenging High Schools, a distinction based on the number of Advanced Placement courses and tests taken by our students.

Although we have experienced an increase in private-pay and international students, we remain fully committed to our town-funded students by admitting all students from our eight sending towns that have successfully completed the eighth grade and can benefit from our programs. To maintain this local heritage, for the seventh time we hosted nearly 250 area sixth graders for an early exposure to high school program designed to build their familiarity with and confidence for doing high school work.

Staffed by three teachers and two educational technicians, Erskine's Special Education program educates and provides specialized support to students eligible for such services through Individual Education Plans (IEP). 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 assistance or Special Education services to support their learning.

In our fourth year as a MELMAC Education Foundation school, we have increased students' preparedness and aspirations for continuing their education beyond high school, reduced barriers to accessing their higher education, and significantly reduced their need to take required remedial coursework once in college.

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 sixth year, our Jobs for Maine Graduates (JMG) program has increased student exposure to various forms of higher education and vocational trades programs and has taught essential work seeking, training, and employment retention skills. With

Erskine Academy

60 students pursuing a certificate in a work craft or trade, our enrollment at the Capital Area Technical Center is second only to its host Cony High School.

This past year, 132 students took at least one of our seventeen Advanced Placement courses, and 253 students were enrolled in one or more of our nine dual enrollment courses with local colleges taught here by our teachers; nearly two-thirds of the graduating class earned college credits while in high school and saved considerable college tuition expenses.

Through our International Student program and club, we have diversified our campus and helped our students gain understanding and develop interpersonal skills for living more globally and interdependently in a culturally diverse and “shrinking” world.

Regardless of differences in residence, prior learning, interests, abilities, or personal circumstance and backgrounds, all of our students matter and belong. All who attend here will 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.

Erskine began the 2016-17 school year by accepting, and winning, WGME 13/Fox 23’s School Spirit Challenge, an eight-week food and fund drive to benefit Good Shepherd Food Bank of Maine and our local food pantries. In spearheading this effort, we maintained a strong presence in our communities and provided a critical community service. More important, we collected 84,474 pounds of food, the equivalent of 70,395 meals for the food insecure, exceeding by several thousand pounds the combined amounts raised by the second and third place high schools. Not only did we engage our community in problem-solving, we significantly affected hunger in Maine. Through this important initiative, we put Erskine’s values for stewardship, leadership, and relationships to work in a substantial way.



Erskine Academy students pose the WGME 13/Fox 23’s School Spirit Challenge Cup.

Erskine Academy reflects proudly and appreciatively on its 134 years of progress and performance. Since our founding in 1883, Erskine Academy has been doing many things effectively and successfully. As any enduring organization has done over time, we have remained true to our mission while evolving to meet new demands of an ever-changing world. Because there is no

Erskine Academy

limit to what we can do, pursuing excellence and implementing our mission is a continuous and unyielding work in progress.

We give heartfelt appreciation to our alumni and others who believe strongly enough in our values and results to give their time, talents, and financial donations to supplement our state-set tuition rate. Your investment permits us to invest in programs and enhancements beyond what can be supported through tuition alone, makes us a stronger and higher performing school better fit for the times, and raises the expectations we have for ourselves.

We are grateful as well to our students, families, 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 and aids them in constructing a sturdy, worthy, and satisfying adulthood.

In closing, thank you China residents for sustaining high school choice for your young people and families, an opportunity for learning that is available to only 3% of Maine students, despite two-thirds of Maine voters agreeing that school choice programs should be open to all. And to the families who have exercised that choice to attend Erskine Academy, entrusting us with the intellectual and personal development of your children humbles and honors us. In partnership with you, we look forward to more new challenges and accomplishments in the year ahead.

Onward Erskine!

Michael McQuarrie
Headmaster

Erskine Sophomores (L-R in blue)
Garrett Keezer, Tony Jacobs and
Nicholas Cates are playing defense
during a recent game.



Albert Church Brown Memorial Library

Isaac Asimov. Gerry Boyle. Barbara Taylor Bradford. Lee Child. Barbara Delinsky. Sarah Dessen. Louise Erdrich. Doris Kearns Goodwin. Sarah Graves. Ernest Hemingway. Beth Kendrick. Stephen King. John McPhee. Debbie Macomber. Elisabeth Ogilvie. Ann Perry. Douglas Preston. Nora Roberts. John Sandford. Amy Tan. E. B. White. Stuart Woods.

Some of your favorite authors listed there? If so, you should stop by the Albert Church Brown Memorial Library and see if we have any of their books you've not read. We have lots of other offerings, too – fiction, science fiction, non-fiction, mysteries; a room full of children's books, from board books on up; and another room with Maine authors and books about Maine.

The library is open from 2 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays. There is no charge for a borrower's card, in-town or out-of-town. Computers are available for public use; our wifi is accessible indoors or outdoors from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. The knitting group and book group are always glad to have new members.

Library programs, held approximately monthly in our Schoonover Community Room, are advertised in local media and on our sandwich board out front (except when the sandwich board is covered in snow). The community room, which seats up to 50 people and has audio-visual equipment suitable for slideshows, videos and similar uses, is also available for area organizations' meetings or public programs.

For more information about library activities, please call 968-2926 during library hours or visit us online at www.acbrown.lib.me.us.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Grow
Librarian

Below - The owl was courtesy of the Chewonki Foundation. 92 people were in attendance for the presentation.



Above - crafts made by library volunteers to raise funds to support the library at the China Craft Fair.



Left - Maine author Mark Leslie speaks about his book "True North: Tice's Story"

South China Library

The South China Library is free and open to all, and is operated by volunteers. Our collection includes Maine books, many large-print books, the newest popular fiction and non-fiction, 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. As of July 2016, 443 households had an active library card. If you have not been to the library recently, please stop in for a visit.

Our programs include the Summer Reading Program, Youth Book Club, and the Book Club for adults. The Summer Reading Program, coordinated by Katie Bailey, is our most popular program, serving 20 – 30 children per week. Children and adults crowd into our children's room to learn and be entertained by scientists, musicians, authors, and performers. After the program, children choose their books for the week.

The library is supported by fundraisers and book sales, donations from individuals, and the town of China. Money from the town is used to buy books, support our children's programs, and help with utility costs. The children's programs are also supported by the Oak Grove School Foundation.

Future plans: in June 2016, the library purchased the Abel Jones property in South China. The historic home, built in 1815, is the birthplace and boyhood home of Rufus M. Jones, a well-known Quaker philosopher and educator. The buildings and land offer many possibilities for the relocation and expansion of the library and use of community green space. We will move forward in 2017 to plan the expansion, starting with accepting the portable classroom offered to the library by the town, and generously approved by voters at the November election. The portable classroom plus an addition will give us affordable and accessible library space soon, including more space for books, computers, programs, and bathroom facilities!

Special thanks to Librarian Cheryl Baker and all of our dedicated volunteers for making every library visit enjoyable. Volunteers are needed. If you would like to volunteer for two or more hours per month, please contact the library.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Dempster, President
South China Public 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 at 247 Village St.
in South China

www.southchinalibrary.org

South China Library



These photos highlight a few of the great programs the South China Public Library hosted in the summer of 2016 - Photos by Katie Bailey



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! The Town of China has a contract with Kennebec Valley Humane Society in Augusta to take our stray animals. 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 – 2016

Dogs at Large	45
Stray Cats	25
Dog Bites	6
Aggressive dogs	4
Pigs at Large	5
Welfare Check	6
Loose horses	2
Unlicensed Dog reminder	39
Barking Dogs	3
Summons	11
Rabies check	1
Dogs hit by car	5

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Finley
Deputy Clerk



Lucy Glusker, a Bernise Mountain dog, stopped by the office to visit.

China Police

The department is uniquely designed to provide the town with aspects of community policing that focus on local issues that State Police and Kennebec Sheriff may not have time to provide. This is reflected in the high number of property and business checks, traffic stops, and assistance calls we handled last year.

Although officers patrolled some in April, this was used primary as a way to get familiar with the town and the streets. True patrol work was initiated in May. As the citizens of town have become more aware of the existence of the town police force, we have been receiving more requests for assistance. We have also gained the use of technology such as the Black Cat Radar which allows is to look at potential trouble spots and modify our patrols to address issues.

As a department, we are always striving to improve. The department has started a direct email address chinamainepolice@gmail.com and we are looking at a bigger social media presence. We are working closely with other town departments and with the schools. We have a fantastic working relationship with KSO and State Police and we have assisted each other multiple times. We have also worked closely with MDEA on drug investigations and this relationship will continue into 2017. Officers also worked closely with the China Days committee and are looking forward to that next year.

Officers:

- Michael Tracy
- Tracey Frost
- Adam Sirois
- Rick Stubbert
- Jerry Haynes

Future focus for the China Police Department will include a residence check program, A citizens police academy program, continued focus on traffic safety and increasing opportunities for citizens in town to connect with their police officers. We are proud to serve the citizens of the Town of China and look forward to continuing to do so in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Sergeant Tracey R. Frost



China's new cruiser purchased with a grant from the Stephen & Tabitha King Foundation

China Police

China Police Call Analysis 2016

Business checks	151
Property checks	58
Traffic stops	87
Citizen traffic complaint	3
Citizen assist	3
Business alarm	1
Bad check complaints	2
Community policing	8
Neighborhood dispute	1
Traffic accident	4
Assist other agency	8
Assist rescue/fire	2
Assist motorist	10
Paperwork service	1
VIN verification	1
Trespass complaint	3
Illegal gunfire	3
Property dispute	1
Disorderly conduct	1
Suspicious activity	2
Domestic dispute	1
Assist Code Enforcement	1
Search warrant	1
Stolen motor vehicle	1
Criminal mischief	1
Arrest	1
Feral animal complaint	2
Illegal dumping	1
Welfare checks	2
Abandoned vehicle complaint	1
Recover stolen property	1
Total number of incidents:	363

Kennebec County Sheriff's Office

The Kennebec County Sheriff's Office is pleased to make the following report regarding the services we provided to the people of Kennebec County in 2016. These services include the Law Enforcement Division, Corrections' Services, Civil Process, Court Security and Transport Division. We provided 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 2016 nineteen Deputy Sheriffs serving in the Law Enforcement Division both in full-time and part-time capacity responded to over 16,000 calls for service. As a result deputies made 920 arrests, issued 665 traffic summonses, and responded to 537 motor vehicle accidents. Deputy Sheriffs also responded to 616 alarms, 174 domestic disturbances, and assisted other agencies 771 times. Deputies and Detectives made 81 drug seizures, of which most were opiate related.

Our Civil Process deputies serve documents from a number of legal agencies, state agencies, lawyers' offices and other entities. In 2016, the four deputies served 7,076 documents or legal papers to the citizens of Kennebec County.

During the past year, our Correctional Facility managed 3,212 inmates, 226 less 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 the 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 three CARA program courses helping 29 inmates with the treatment and recovery process.

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 \$451,077 bed day savings to the citizens of Kennebec County. Throughout 2016, inmates worked 10,069 community service hours, valued at approximately \$75,523. Our inmates raised 25,020 pounds of produce and gleaned 10,075 pounds of produce for the inmate kitchen, area food pantries, churches, homeless shelters, schools and elder programs in 2016.

In December, renovation construction began in the former indoor recreation yard of the correctional facility. The renovations will increase the capacity of the facility by 21 beds. This will allow us to house inmates that are currently boarded at other correctional facilities. Within 18 months the cost of the renovations will pay for itself, as we will not be paying boarding fees to other facilities.

We are committed to providing innovative programs to reduce crimes, assist victims, and to provide enhanced public safety. We acknowledge the ever-growing opiate addiction problem nationwide and have committed to partnerships at the Federal, State and Local levels to combat this problem.

Kennebec County Sheriff's Office

Our approach is aggressive enforcement, education, treatment and recovery for those afflicted with this horrible addiction.

Another problem facing law enforcement throughout our great nation is distracted driving. Highway fatalities and serious injuries have soared as a result of individuals using electronic devices when operating a motor vehicle. Please do not be a statistic or make others a statistic because of carelessness.

As your Sheriff, and moving forward in 2017, my focus will be exclusively on the people of Kennebec County and my fellow employees within the Sheriff's Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Mason, Sheriff

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

China Village Volunteer Fire Department

During the past year, the China Village Volunteer Fire Department responded to 72 calls that included five structure fires in town, eight wild land/brush fires, two vehicle fires, fifteen vehicle accidents, five downed wires or trees, ten fire or carbon monoxide alarms, one smoke or odor investigation and thirteen miscellaneous service calls. In addition, the Department provided five assists to China Rescue and responded to eight mutual aid requests in neighboring towns.

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. In the future, we will likely be seeking assistance in writing grants and also asking the Town to provide more financial support.

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 just an hour. 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.

Department members:

- Timothy Theriault
- Robert Batteese
- Kevin Maroon
- William Rancourt
- George Studley
- Dale Worster
- Benjamin Loubier
- Scott Adams
- Edward Brownell
- Keith Waye
- Erasmo Gonzalez
- Joseph Labbe
- Michael Brown
- Ronald Morrell
- Christopher Sylvester
- Danny McKinnis
- Matthew Adams
- Sarah Batteese
- Robert Hall
- Stephen Labbe Jr
- Joel Nelson
- Haley Norris

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

South China Volunteer Fire Department

From July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 the South China Volunteer Fire Department responded to 71 alarms. This is 10 more than last year. They break down by type as follows: 4 Chimney, 4 downed wires/trees in road, 1 vehicle, 28 auto accidents, 13 unfounded/false alarms, 7 mutual aid to neighboring towns for structure fires and other incidents, 3 smoke/odor investigation, 1 unattended burn, 2 assist to Rescue, 9 forest/brush/grass, and 1 miscellaneous.

We currently have 24 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.

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. Please keep this in mind as you talk with our elected representatives.

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. Volunteer fire departments save Maine taxpayers billions of dollars every year over the paid, full time, municipal, alternative.

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 30th 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

Department members:

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

South China Volunteer Fire Department

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 replaced all 16 of our carbon fiber SCBA breathing air tanks. It was a major expense, but they will last 15 years. Carbon fiber tanks, unlike the older aluminum and steel tanks, are extremely lightweight and take a great deal of weight off the backs of the firefighters using them.

We joined with China Village, Weeks Mills, and Albion to purchase a Fit test machine, and needed software. This shared unit allows us to conduct SCBA breathing mask fit tests right in our station as part of our State required annual SCBA refresher training.

Thanks to a Homeland Security Grant we received from the County EMA, we now have a standby generator at the station which comes on automatically to power the station when the power goes out as it did in December. Our share of the cost-shared grant came from savings accrued from our annual fundraising auction. We can now be fully operational during a power outage which is when many emergencies occur.

We held our 37th 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 the standby generator at the station, 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. Last 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. The system 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.



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

South China Volunteer Fire Department

Any member of the community that 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



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 of 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.

We are working on renovations to the building and continue to train every month. The department is still working to replace Engine 72 (a 1990 Chevrolet). We found a replacement for Engine 72, but unfortunately it was sold by the time we were able to contact the seller. Since then, the prices on fire trucks have increased. We are continuing to look for a reasonably priced truck that will be able to serve the town for a long time. We would like to thank Dan L'Heureux and the Select Board for their continued support with this matter.

All three Fire Departments and Rescue have a joint meeting 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 82 calls, the breakdown is as follows: 16 structure fires, 27 auto accidents, 4 chimney fires, 11 false alarms, 2 rescue assists, 22 other. I would like to thank all the members of the Weeks Mills V.F.D. for their commitment and dedication to the department and 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 at 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
- Justen Quimby
- George Shaw
- Sally Sproul
- Tom Stephenson
- Chuck Stephenson
- Bill Van Wickler

China Rescue

Drivers injured in traumatic vehicle accidents, a frightened mother with sick children, a loved one experiencing cardiac arrest, a family member in distress from a drug overdose or an elderly neighbor who has fallen; these are just a few of the people who look for help from dedicated volunteer members of China Rescue.

Our call volume in 2016 rose to 276. However missed calls still occur due to the lack of manpower. Last year we missed 32 calls. These **volunteer** 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.

In order continue high quality free emergency medical care that 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.

China Rescue through Delta Ambulance will be putting on a First Responders class in March, April or May in conjunction with Palermo and Windsor. Please contact us immediately if you are interested in attending the training when it is held.

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

Respectfully submitted,

David Herard
Chief of Service

Department members:

- Erasmo Gonzalez
- David Herard
- Webb Shaw
- Julie Chavez
- Joe Labbe
- Norman Black
- Danny McKinnis
- Thomas Alfieri



Emergency Preparedness Committee

We continue to work with the Maine Emergency Management Agency in coordinating how to properly train and certify for emergency preparedness circumstances in the Town of China. China is determined to move in the right direction to have the proper capital resources and personnel for good emergency management. In the past few years progress has been made in many areas, though much more still has to be completed over time in preparing for as many contingencies as possible. We are working so that the Town of China will have an overarching command structure in place to effectively handle most of the anticipated types of major emergencies. Proper financial resources, good planning and training will prove to be a valuable ingredient. Two components of training are practice and repeated live or mock drills.



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

Municipalities have to respond to various emergencies. The less complex emergencies are traditionally responded to for the most part by personnel from our own local fire departments and the rescue squad. In China we fortunate to have a very active, effective and responsive group of volunteers in all three of our fire departments and China Rescue. We are thankful for their professionalism and ability to handle local emergency situations. However there is an ongoing need for new trained volunteers and retention of existing emergency personal. Your friends and neighbors make up the following agencies that serve you and help save lives and property in China: the China Village Volunteer Fire Department; the South China Volunteer Fire Department; the Weeks Mills Volunteer Fire Department; China Rescue, Inc., China Police Department (Part-Time Officers Mike Tracy, Tracey Frost, Adam Sirois, Jerry Haynes and Rick Stubbett) and Delta Ambulance Services. In addition we want to extend appreciation to the City of Waterville Hazmat Team and all of the surrounding fire and emergency departments that respond when called upon for mutual aid, the list is too long to note here. We as a town are very privileged to have such good neighbors.

China's 911 calls go to Somerset (County) Communications, which is China's Public Service Answering Point, then Waterville Communications dispatches emergency services (fire and first responder and Delta Ambulance and China Police). Central Maine Regional Communications Center dispatches any Rural Patrol, Kennebec Sheriffs and Maine State Police Officers.

We would be assisted in any major emergency by Maine Emergency Management Agency – Bruce Fitzgerald, Director and Kennebec Emergency Management Agency – Sean Goodwin, Director. They also are a great resource for training



Emergency Preparedness Committee

and emergency management materials and supplies.

Dan L'Heureux, as Emergency Management Director (EMD), has aggressively pursued the necessary training for Emergency Management and this should be noted and appreciated. He has completed the following courses through the "Emergency Management Institute": Communications, Communications and Information Management, NIMS Resource Management, Multiagency Coordination System, National Incident Management System Introduction, Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents, Intermediate ICS and Advanced ICS.

Regional School Unit 18 developed, under the leadership of Sgt. Tracy Frost, Emergency Preparedness Plans for both China Primary and China Middle Schools and are implementing the plans. The Emergency Preparedness Committee is currently working with RSU 18 by reviewing their plans for emergencies. The committee and the Town Manager, who is our EMD, are working to facilitate presentations, trainings and drills to bring together the school personnel and fire and rescue members. The committee also wants to work with any entity that has a significant number of people gathered in one place in China, such as businesses, youth camps and Erskine Academy, to review their plans and implement joint training with our emergency services.

Thank you to our committee for their time, input and participation.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Morrell, Chairperson
China Emergency Preparedness Committee

In order to increase emergency response time, **PLEASE** make sure your 911 number is **POSTED** and **VISIBLE** at all times and from all directions!

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 technology sets us apart from other ambulance services.

We are pleased to be able to provide emergency paramedic care to the people of your town and to continue supporting your first response rescue at no cost to the community. As a regional not-for-profit organization, we continue to fund our operations solely by reimbursement directly from the patient and the patient's insurance. This is possible due to our economy of scale. A significant portion of our patient charges, annually, are written off as charitable giving to the uninsured and underinsured. Additionally, we continue to support community events throughout our coverage area.

In 2016 (January 1 – December 31), we responded to 305 911-calls. Of these, 48 calls were for assistance from patients who did not require hospital care. These patients were evaluated by our paramedics and received no charge for service. We also serve your community by regularly providing non-emergency care and transfer services for patients as well as standby for fire calls.

Our average response time, the time between our receipt of the call and our arrival, for delivery of Paramedic care was 15.3 minutes for emergencies.

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 continuing medical/rescue education and on-scene replacement of medical supplies used on the call, all at no cost to the town.

As always, if we can assist you with a project or answer any questions, 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
Bill McKenna
Director of Community Relations
207.861.4251
B.McKenna@DeltaAmbulance.org

Cemetery Committee

There are 31 Cemeteries in the town of China. Although there are a few private cemeteries, most are maintained by the town.

A map of cemetery locations in China is available on 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 ordinances. Once it is complete a copy will be posted on 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

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Finley

It takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, and a day to love them, but it takes an entire lifetime to forget them.

—Anonymous

Do not stand at my grave and cry

I am not there.

I did not die.

—Anonymous

China Lake Association

The China Lake Association is a proactive organization whose primary mission is to protect, preserve and enhance water quality for China Lake. Here are some of the things we accomplished in 2016:

One of the three greatest accomplishments the China Lake Association achieved last year was its coordination between our LakeSmart Program and the China Region Lakes Alliance (CRLA) and its Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). LakeSmart's goal is to reduce non-point source pollution (i.e. phosphorus) from storm water runoff by planting vegetated buffers along the lake's shoreline. The CRLA, using funds the CRLA appropriated through the Town of China, provided the YCC's services and worked with the China Lake Association to operate a local LakeSmart Program for China Lake's shorefront property owners. Marie Michaud and her team of LakeSmart volunteers led the way. Marie and her team visited a number of properties to evaluate and discuss options with owners to improve their shorelines with buffers to slow down and treat storm water before it enters the lake. Plants and materials were purchased under the LakeSmart Program and the work and labor was done by the YCC staff. Marie has done a superb job and should be applauded for her effort and energy for jump-starting LakeSmart last year, and she has much more planned for LakeSmart in 2017. She is currently looking for more volunteers to assist in LakeSmart assessments. A special thank you goes to Maggie Shannon for helping out by sharing her experience as the Maine Lakes Society's LakeSmart Program Director.



The 2016 winners of the annual poster contest

Also, the China Lake Association continued its outreach and education for students at the China Middle School. Students got motivated through the annual poster contest and, with the help of Marie Michaud teaming up this year with Mr. Frank Richards (President of the Webber Pond Association), students learned about alewives and the Alewife Restoration Initiative (ARI). Mr. Richards addressed China Middle School students in the classroom, and then the students went on a field trip to Webber Pond to see and experience the "alewife run" up close and in-person. The China Lake Association supports the Alewife Restoration Initiative and many of our members have made generous donations through our funding campaigns, raising over \$22,000 for the Alewife Restoration Initiative so far. In addition, the China Lake Association made a long-term

China Lake Association

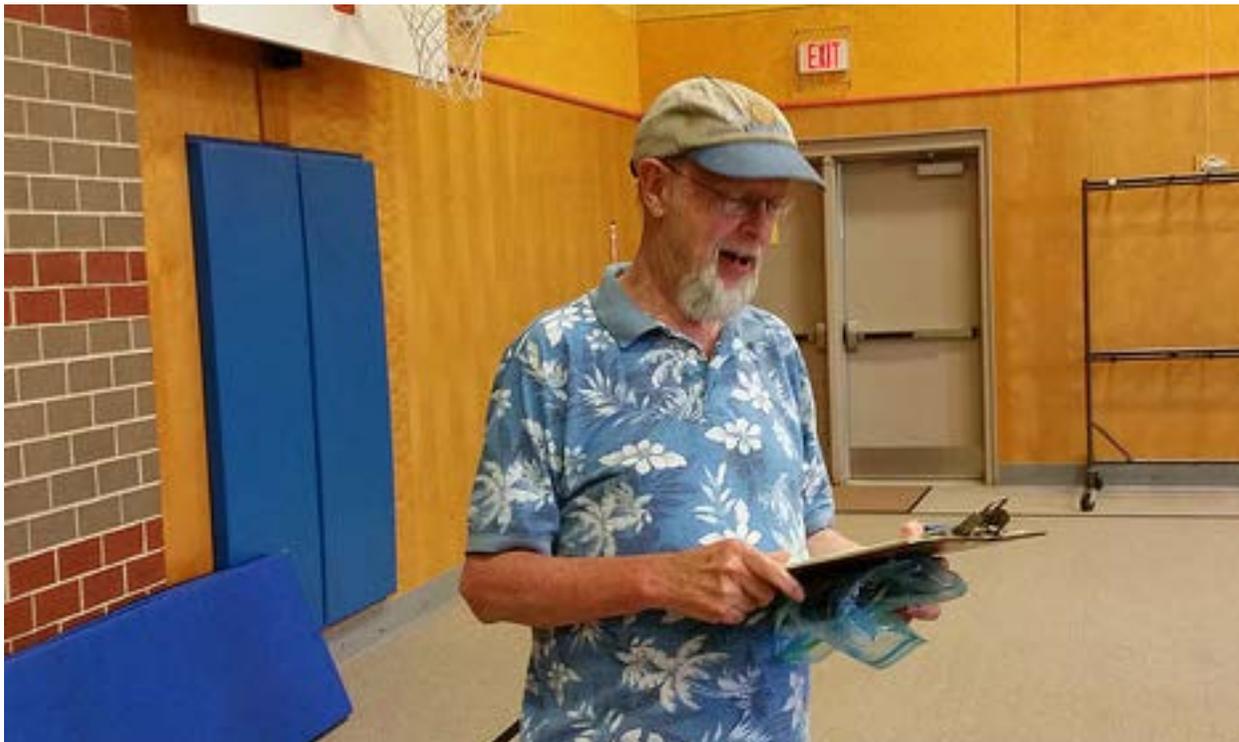
pledge dedicating \$15,000 toward the Alewife Restoration Initiative over a three year period, with our organization making its final \$5,000 installment in 2016. In just about a year our organization and individual members contributed over \$27,000 to restore the alewife run to China Lake. The alewives are believed to aid in promoting water quality in China Lake as they ingest and remove phosphorus material when they mature and leave the lake and return to the ocean, similar to what people have witnessed in Webber Pond and Three Mile Pond.

Finally, the China Lake Association has revived our organization's Facebook page thanks to one of our newest Board of Director members, Elaine Philbrook. Go to your favorite web-browser and type in China Lake Association Facebook and click on the link. Along with Elaine's efforts, our web master, Geoff Hargadon, has been keeping up with the China Lake Association webpage. Go to <http://chinalakeassociation.org/> for the latest news about our organization, sign up for an assessment or volunteer for LakeSmart, or find out how to make your donation to the Alewife Restoration Initiative.

In closing, thanks to everyone who contributed to our summer newsletter, to our organization's Board of Directors and Officers for their support, and to the loyal China Lake Association membership.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Pierz, President
China Lake Association



Bob O'Connor is announcing the annual loon count numbers at the meeting.

China Region Lakes Alliance

The CRLA was formed in 1995 by the Lake Associations from China Lake, Three Mile Pond, and Webber Pond, along with the Towns of Vassalboro, Windsor, and China, and the Kennebec Water District. The purpose was to cooperate on common projects to protect and improve water quality in our member lakes. This pooled resources and talent, which saves time and money to the benefit of our communities and lakes. CRLA was the first regional lakes alliance within the State of Maine. Now, there are five others.

Among the noteworthy events this year involved an organizational change whereby the Kennebec Water District withdrew from the CRLA. KWD cited its opposition to the alewife restoration work on China Lake and CRLA support for it. KWD does not share the view that water quality improvements seen on Webber Pond and Three Mile Pond were attributable to alewife.

The rest of CRLA Board, however, are convinced that the improvements coincide with the alewife reintroduction. On Three Mile Pond, CRLA cleared a ¼ mile section of impaired waterway on the Seaward Mills Stream and fix perched culvert (see below) in order to see whether they helped.

It worked! Three Mile Pond enjoyed improving water quality that coincides with the reintroduction.



CRLA Youth Conservation Corp
Seaward Mills Stream perched culvert mitigation
at Whitehouse Road

‘When God closes a door, he opens a window’. Such was the case with CRLA following KWD’s resignation, too. The Town of Vassalboro, a founding member as well, stepped up and awarded CRLA a \$ 150,000 grant to support the alewife restoration on China Lake, which more the filled the hole left by KWD. Nonetheless, CRLA wishes to maintain good relations and open dialogue

**A Lake is the Product of its Watershed...And the People
Who Care for it**

China Region Lakes Alliance

with KWD as there are plenty of areas of common ground remaining.

And, for the fifth year in a row, Webber Pond enjoyed clean, clear water quality in 2016 without an algae bloom. This is a remarkable feat and again coincides with the opening of its fish ladder on Seven Mile Stream.

Therefore, CRLA's top priority is remains 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 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, hopefully before the end of this decade. In the meantime, the Maine Department of Marine Resources stocked approximately 25,000 adult alewives into China Lake beginning in the spring of 2016 for the third consecutive year.

CRLA other core programs are strong, too. The Courtesy Boat Inspection Program is managed by CRLA to guard against aquatic invasive species and milfoil from infesting 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. This year the CRLA YCC teamed-up with the China Lake Association to implement the LakeSmart program to help mitigate issues associated with stormwater and impervious surface. The following photographs capture a handful of the projects.



Beams and mulch installed by the YCC on steep banking on Fire Road 7.



YCC worker, Sage Hapgood-Belanger, shovels mulch while planting a buffer on shoreline of China Lake. All five Junipers in this photograph were planted by the YCC.



China Region Lakes Alliance



Left: YCC workers shovel crushed stone into a wheelbarrow for a project on Fire Road 18.



Right: Mallory Chamberlain of YCC crew is spreading out crushed stone to slow water flow entering the lake to control erosion.

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 Marie Michaud (207) 242-0240. Marie or one of the trained volunteers 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

We were established in January 2016 from the merger of Damariscotta Lake Watershed Association, Hidden Valley Nature Center, Sheepscot Valley Conservation Organization and Sheepscot Wellspring Land Alliance. We specialize in conserving land and clean water for all and getting people outside and enjoying all that Maine has to offer. We merged so that we could create a deeper impact within the heart of the midcoast region: from the headwaters of the Sheepscot River to the bay and the entire Damariscotta Lake watershed.

Recently, in your community and nearby, Midcoast Conservancy:

- Was able to purchase a 23-acre property on Turner Ridge Road. in Somerville which will expand the Palermo Preserve, in memory of Cecil Brann, a life-long resident of Somerville who died in 2013. Cecil's heirs donated a generous bargain sale to Midcoast Conservancy, allowing the property to be conserved.
- Continues to expand 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, to open in 2018, 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.
- Held our Goosepecker Trekker hike-a-thon in October, which began at Freedom Mill and ended at Villageside Farm after over 40 hikers traversed a section of the Hills to Sea Trail.
- Continued Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association's 22-year water quality monitoring program sampling the Sheepscot River and tributaries.
- Established an Outdoor Adventure & Learning hub in Liberty that will provide equipment and instruction for biking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and more; all at no cost to the Sheepscot Headwaters communities of Midcoast Conservancy.



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 Street in Wiscasset with any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Jody Jones, Executive Director

Thurston Park II Committee

The Thurston Park II Committee was very productive this year and went through some major changes. Bill Seekins, one of the original members and driving force for the development of Thurston Park, retired from the committee in May. We had several new and returning board members join. New officers were elected and took their new positions in July.

Secretary:	Jeanette Smith
Education and Outreach:	Christian Wilkens
Road Committee Liaison:	Irene Belanger
Access and Security:	Steve and Sonia Nelson
Resource Coordinator:	Sheri Wilkens
Sign Project Manager:	Ron Maxwell
Trail Crew Manager:	currently unfilled
Forestry Committee Liaison:	Judy Stone

Thurston Park continues to be quite popular with several people using the park for hiking, biking, running, hunting, snowmobiling and riding ATV's. The park is not only popular with town residents, but also many seasonal residents, residents from local towns, and visitors from all over the country!

Erskine Academy sent a group of students to the Thurston Park for their annual Day of Caring. The kids were enthusiastic and completed several tasks under the guidance of four of the committee members. One crew worked on the trail to the pond clearing windfalls and trimming back branches to make the trail easy to navigate. Another crew installed the signs the China Middle School created in their project along the Esker Trail. These signs explain geological features and information about wildlife in the park. A third crew worked on cleaning up the picnic area and removing stumps and large debris that might be hazardous when mowing or bushwhacking the area. A final crew installed new signs for the new Deer Trail that was marked last year. This involved using the post hole digger and putting in large posts with the new wooden signs.



Erskine Academy's Day of Caring volunteers take a break from working in Thurston Park to pose.

Thurston Park II Committee

Some concerns were raised by residents at a Select Board meeting regarding logging in the park. The committee along with members of the Forestry Committee attended a Select Board meeting and discussed these concerns. Morten Moesswilde, the District Forest Manager from the Maine Forestry Service Forest Policy and Management Division, attended the meeting as well giving an excellent presentation on what constitutes a good forestry plan. He noted the only thing lacking at Thurston Park was an ongoing relationship with a forester. After reviewing the 2007 Forestry Plan, the committee decided we needed to interview possible foresters and develop an ongoing relationship and a good working plan for carrying out logging activities in the future. Two foresters were interviewed by a few members of the Thurston Park II Committee and the Forestry Committee. These interviews were carried out during a walk through in the park with each of them. After discussion, the committee decided on Harold Burnett of Two Trees Forestry. This was presented to the Select Board and given the go ahead. Mr. Burnett will be reviewing the area east of the Yorktown Road and make recommendations for harvesting and maintenance activities.



Volunteers from Erskine Academy's Day of Caring are helping Steve Nelson remove debris.

Ongoing work on the trails continued throughout 2016. Committee members met and worked on different areas of the trail early in the year. Materials were obtained for bog bridging on the Deer Trail and work was begun in the fall. This should be completed this spring so the trail will be ready for use this summer. Plans for future trails are also being considered and hopefully will be brought to reality in 2017.

The biggest concern facing Thurston Park at this time is the difficult access and road maintenance. A significant amount of work was done on the road previously, but run off has caused more problems and now access on this road is limited. A typical passenger car would have difficulty with this road. In reviewing possible grant monies, we were unable to find any that would cover such an issue. After discussion with Dan L'Heureux, the committee decided to put in an application for TIF funding. We have put together a request for \$40,000 which would be used for road repair of a more permanent nature for both the north and south entry points to the park. The committee would also like to see the addition of a composting toilet in the park as well. We are hoping to receive this funding so everyone can access the park and enjoy it.

The committee has not been able to find someone to mow the picnic area. We have discussed this

Thurston Park II Committee

with the town manager Mr. L'Heureux and hope to come up with a solution. Meanwhile, the area has been cleaned up and made safe for mowing or bushwhacking.

The committee is also working on several ideas for activities in the park including a 5K run/walk this summer in conjunction with China Community Days. We are also looking at grants for the future to help with the development of more trails and a possible group camp site near the Deer Trail for use by the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

The committee is always looking for volunteers. Opportunities include serving on the committee, helping with scheduled work days, assisting with fund raising activities, and assistance with grant writing.

The committee wishes to thank Bill Seekins for his hard work over the years in the development and implementation Thurston Park. He has been a guiding light in creating a refuge for all the town residents to enjoy!

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Smith, Secretary
Thurston Park II Committee



The bog at Thurston Park

Town Forest at the China Schools

The year 2017 marks the 20th anniversary of the forest at the China Schools being recognized as the Outstanding Maine Tree Farm. For over 20 years, the forest has continued to focus on its mission of teaching the community about sustainable forestry and being a place of public enjoyment. We are known across the state as an outstanding example of a community forest and nature education. All this is done with volunteers, grants and support from our community. It is something China residents can all be proud of.

Students at China Primary and Middle Schools continue to use the forest for a wide variety of learning opportunities. Our outdoor classrooms provide focus areas for students to learn about forest and pond habitats, forestry methods, wildlife, and the Maine environment. In October 2016, we created a new monarch butterfly outdoor classroom adjacent to the primary school playground. Students planted milkweed seeds and are awaiting spring for the plants to sprout and butterflies to arrive.

For the past several years, we have held summer day camps and family-friendly events. Day camp themes include pond life, junior naturalist, birds and bugs and wildlife. Family events include building fairy houses and toad homes, star-gazing, nature walks, learning about forest animals, pond studies and more. We co-hosted a fun family event with Inland Hospital. We hosted several local schools, homeschool groups, and environmental groups for tours and field trips. We continue to expand our outreach to the greater-China community as part of our mission.



Erskine Academy Day of Caring Senior volunteers stop to rest for a minute while helping at the Town Forest

We continue to work on maintenance projects, funded by grants. Erskine Academy seniors help each year during their Day of Caring. We are grateful for all our volunteers who generously donate their time to repair structures, replace bridge boards and railings, trim trees, clear trails and rototill

Town Forest at the China Schools

gardens. Without this help, we would not have such a special place for all to enjoy. Volunteers are always needed and there are always jobs to do. In 2017, we need to replace the roof on the Reading Tree. We are currently searching for grant funds to cover these costs.

This year will be a busy year for us and **YOU** are invited to join in the fun.

In May, we will hold our biannual “Forest Day” for all our preK-8th grade students. Volunteer presenters and helpers are needed. If you have a nature-related interest, we’d love to hear from you. We have several maintenance projects to work on and would love to add a few more trails this summer. We need to update our forest management plan and consider harvesting in some areas to promote sustainable forestry growth.



Students listen to a presentation by Anita Smith at the Reading Tree

In October 2017, we will be hosting the 40th Anniversary Celebration for Maine Project Learning Tree. This family-friendly event will be open to anyone who wants to learn more about our forest and how Maine is a leader in nature education.

Visit our Facebook page at China School’s Forest – China Maine for updates. We can be contacted through the China Town Office or at chinaschoolsforest@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Smith

Recreation Committee

First let me thank the residents of China for their support of our committee and the services we provide. We also want to express our appreciation to Dan L'Heureux and the Select Board for their guidance and support so we may continue to improve our sports fields, equipment and programs.

Maintenance and operation of China's two ball fields accounts for the largest portion of our budget. We are pleased to report that the hose reel was purchased and the irrigation system was put into operation. This was especially important considering the long stretches of dry weather experienced this past summer. The fields were watered several times in order to ensure a more healthy turf and prevent injuries to the many athletes enjoying their favorite sports. We did find that additional modifications will be needed to function more efficiently. We did, however, find it necessary to pay for a town employee's time to operate the system. This additional expense plus the need to purchase new fencing and make repairs to the dugouts is part of the reason that we are seeking an additional \$2,050 in our town appropriation.

We hope you realize that our fields are utilized by a large number of children playing youth baseball, softball, football and soccer. In addition, there is a high level of interest in the adult softball league. During the winter months, we also support a youth basketball program at the China Schools. We want to recognize all the dedicated coaches and other volunteers who freely provide their services to make these sporting activities available. We certainly think they make our community a more friendly and healthy place to live.

In closing, new members have joined our committee. I want to thank David Crommett, Todd Dunn, Scott McCormac, Brian Plato, Becky Theriault, and Martha Wentworth for their service.

Respectfully submitted,

Dolly Batteese
Chair



Kelsie Dunn (left) and Johanna Jacobs (above) participate in China's rec soccer program

Code Enforcement

Another year has passed. I have been working in China 1 ½ years now and enjoy working here with its friendly people. I have recently taken on the position of Health Officer, along with my duties of Code Enforcement, Plumbing Inspector and Building Inspector. I have found that undertaking these responsibilities in a town with so much water frontage is indeed a challenge! You have a beautiful town and something to be proud of.

The permits issued for 2016 was up 22% from 2015. There were seven new stick built homes permitted and two manufactured homes permitted. A summary of permits issued during my tenure are as follows:

	2015	2016
Building Permits	127	158
Plumbing / Septic	66	80
CEO Permits	32	40
Timber Harvest	13	13
Total	238	291



Elgen geotextile sand filter septic system installed by Robin Tobey.

As your building inspector, I am required to follow the state mandate for the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code. If you have a new residential or commercial building, addition, garage, or deck, you will be subject to this code. I do not typically apply the code to sheds, although, technically, a shed should be built to standards. Inspections are required for all phases of foundations, framing, insulation and occupancy. The building permit application has been changed so that the application becomes the permit; similar to the state application forms for plumbing and septic systems. As a result, you will receive your permit immediately after it is issued. A list of all the required inspections will be checked off on your building permit. Please remember that I need 24 hours notice for all inspections and the inspections are a step procedure in which the work may only continue after approval of each step. Also you should not move into your new home or

Code Enforcement

addition until I issue a certificate of occupancy.

A building plan application which must be filled out for all new homes, major additions, and garages which will result in easy compliance of all the inspections. This is an agreement over how the building will be constructed. These will shortly be posted on the Town's website where you will be able to download them. As long as your contractor follows this agreement you will have nothing to worry about. Your contractor typically fills out these forms and I approve them.

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

In closing, I will ask that those property owners with water frontage should contact me prior to any clearing of trees or vegetation, earthmoving, or construction activities within 250 feet of the water body or wetland. The land use regulations here are stricter than other parts of town and asking me about something before doing it could make things easier for both of us.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Mitnik

Codes Officer, Local Plumbing Inspector, Building Inspector, Local Health Officer



Paul Mitnik, CEO, LPI, BI & LHO

Planning Board

Once again, the Planning Board experienced board member openings and unfilled positions in 2016. The vacant alternate at-large position and at-large position were just filled by a Select Board appointment after several months. Ralph Howe will fill the alternate at-large seat until the November 2017 elections. Thomas V. Michaud was appointed to the vacant at-large position until November 2018.

The Planning Board reviewed 13 permits in 2016. One was a timber harvest permit and two were subdivision modifications. All three permits were approved. There were 10 Conditional Use permits reviewed by the Board. Four were new businesses and six were modifications to existing businesses. Of the ten applications presented to the Planning Board, nine permits were approved. One permit was not approved and went to appeal.

During 2016, the Planning Board evaluated and recommended updates to Chapter 2 of the Land Use Ordinance. During the review process, it was determined that some updates were necessary to China's Land Use Ordinance to keep abreast of new State of Maine regulations, to correspond with State guidelines, or to clarify confusing language. The Planning Board's recommended changes were rejected by voters in November 2016. The Planning Board is committed to working diligently to meet the new challenges needed to strengthen the Town's Land Use Ordinance and will continue to move the Town forward in a fair and respectful manner for all citizens of the Town of China.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Frank Soares for his service and leadership on the Planning Board. Best of luck in the future, Frank!

Respectfully submitted,

James C. Wilkens, Planning Board Chair

Planning Board Members

- District 1 - James Wilkens
 - District 2 - Toni Wall
- District 3 - Milton Dudley
- District 4 - Thomas Miragliuolo
- At-Large - Thomas V. Michaud
- Alternate At-Large - Ralph Howe

Kennebec Regional Development Authority

Financial Overview

At fiscal year-end 2015-2016, KRDA's government funds reported a positive fund balance (equity) of \$463,980, an improvement of \$336,332 from the previous fiscal year. This is the second consecutive positive fund balance since 2001. Annual revenue distributions, to member communities totaled \$245,460. We reduced our long term debt principal by \$234,824. 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 \$987,210. For investments, we have two CD's and a money market account at the Maine State Credit Union totaling \$205,186; a savings account with TD Bank totaling \$248,952 and; a CD with Skowhegan National Bank totaling \$218,157. 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 2015-2016, the organization continued executing (on the 2nd year) on 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 sustained the marketing effort in order to "establish credibility with investment attraction." The intent is to surge the marketing effort, through June 2017 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....

At the end of the FY we succeeded in securing a 2nd federal grant fund to support our marketing efforts. This activity has leveraged the marketing "surge" currently in place which is intended to last two funding cycles. The federal funding support initiates the prospect of establishing a self-funded marketing program by the time we complete paying off the existing debt service. These federal funds and municipal support will be substituted by commission and sponsorship activity in time. If we can achieve this goal sooner, it will provide allow us to shift the existing municipal support to developing buildings on the park and support the 2nd phase of the operational plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Jackson
Executive Director
KRDA/FirstPark

Transfer Station & Recycling Center

The Transfer Station & Recycling Center has seen a few changes this year. The China Select Board entered into negotiations in 2016 with the Palermo Select Board to allow Palermo residents to use China's facilities for municipal solid waste, demolition & debris and recycling. With the Town of Palermo residents joining on January 1, 2017, China has worked to improve the efficiency of the transfer station to promote our primary goal of increased recycling. The Transfer Station & Recycling Center is currently operated by Mary Kay Tisdale, Tim Grotton, Kevin Rhoades and Ed Brownell. As a community, we are excited and pleased to have our neighboring town join in our solid waste disposal and widespread recycling efforts. We have enjoyed the collaboration and cooperation with our neighboring municipality along with the ultimate goal of providing the convenience of China's location compared to Palermo's previous arrangement.

Transfer Station:



Due to the breakdown of the pavement in areas of the roadway leading through several locations of the Transfer Station & Recycling Center, new pavement replaced the deficiencies. Some of the damage may have occurred through normal traffic and winter plowing wear and tear. With the requirement for heavy equipment to process and remove various stockpiles of debris which is transferred from the facility, additional deterioration occurs. Piles of demolition wood, brush and metal must be removed regularly. Fortunately, the town is capitalizing on the profit generated from the bulk metal while the brush generally provides a credit toward the cost of removing the demolition wood. Additionally, the pavement in front of the Recycling Center was removed and replaced for the purpose of creating a slight valley to improve the flow of water while eliminating it from coming into the building. The water flow was a safety concern as the water would freeze in the winter virtually causing a hazardous "ice rink" in the large bay of the Recycling Center.

The "Free for Taking" area remains an active topic for improvement and efficiency. A shed was purchased in 2015 and placed for the collection of reusable goods to aid in keeping some of the items (such as clothing and dishes) away from the hopper (MSW disposal) area and into a cleaner environment. Approval was given this year by the Select Board to further the improvement of the area by building a larger, more user friendly building. A cement pad has been poured and the driveway extended to the location where the new building will be constructed. These improvements will provide more space for items, be handicapped accessible and will be further away from the Transfer Station building in order to decrease the congestion at the hopper area.

Recycling Center:



With the constant fluctuation of commodity pricing, we have managed to continue to receive revenue from the loads of processed recycled material shipped to brokers and directly to mills. Although some of the materials, such as the #3-#7, have had a span of zero value, we are able to use the value of other material, processed at its maximum worth which is generally in a baled form, to cover transportation costs, receive revenue and eliminate the tipping fee for those "zero valued" materials if thrown into the hopper for disposal. Cardboard, which in the recycling industry is referred to as OCC, continues to be a valuable

Transfer Station & Recycling Center

material as the price per ton has risen this year. We began baling the mixed paper to increase the value by approximately \$20.00 per ton. Newspaper is also holding well, and we have begun baling it this year to capture an even greater revenue ranging from \$55.00 per ton to \$87.50 per ton versus \$20.00 per ton in loose form. Pricing is affected by full loads of the same product versus sending a mixed load of material or a partial load of the same material combined with another town's same material depending on the space and needs of the Recycling Center.

We want to extend our gratitude to those of you who have and continue to support our recycling efforts in China. Please remember that cardboard recycling is mandatory. Staff is always available to help assist you and answer any questions you may have.

Please pick up an updated 2017 (light blue) Transfer Station sticker at the town office. They are required to be displayed to enter the transfer station per the ordinance.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kay Tisdale
Transfer Station Attendant
Deputy Clerk



Transfer Station & Recycling Center

Recycling Totals

Metal	81.69 ton	Tin Cans	8 ton
Cardboard	72.62 ton	Asphalt shingles	not recycled
Mixed paper	46.07 ton	Tires	not recycled
Newspaper	40.15 ton	Household glass	14.55 ton
#2 plastic	5.71 ton	Waste Oil	825 gallons
#1 plastic	1.42 ton	Compost	34.56 ton
#3-#7 plastic	6.92 ton	Brush	not recycled
Rigid plastic	not recycled	Demo wood	not recycled
Plastic bags	not recycled	Crushed & recycled asphalt, cement & porcelain	6.7 ton

Schools

RSU #18 4.97 ton

Universal Waste Recycled Electronics

TVs & monitors	5.33 ton	Computers & peripherals	.36 ton
PCB ballasts	.02 ton	Miscellaneous electronics	.06 ton

Municipal Solid Waste Transferred Out

PERC 1225.99 ton

Mixed CDD (Construction Demolition Debris) Transferred Out

Waste Management 385.32 ton

Reduce - Reuse - Recycle

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 good condition of the roads in China (in the summer and winter months) is to a good extent a result of the efforts of these extremely professional, hardworking, capable, and dedicated employees. From November 30 to approximately March 20, Gary, Shawn, Jason and Kevin are "on call" twenty-four hours a day, every day of the week to be ready to plow and sand/salt the roads in China. In my judgment, there is not a better combination of employees I know of, and I would like to express personal thanks for their combined contributions.

The town traditionally has a schedule of resurfacing for the summer and fall seasons. A comprehensive review of the relative condition of all roads is completed every two years using road surface management software to make the road assessment project easier and more productive. These comprehensive road condition assessments and associated information gathered are uploaded into a 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 2017 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 from Route 3 northerly for one mile; Bog Road from the Pleasant View Ridge Road westerly for one half mile; Parmenter Terrace; Achorn Lane, 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. The MDOT will begin an initiative on Route 3 to install rumble strips as a safety measure for the motoring public.

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

Road Commissioner

upward over the past several years. For some time, 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 receives sufficient revenues from associated highway related sources to be able to accommodate the schedule with these lower asphalt prices. These revenue sources are the excise taxes residents pay on motor vehicles and the State aid for capital road improvement payments received annually.

A continuing conversation 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. The following is a note to China residents from one of our outstanding employees in the Highway Department.

To the Residents of the Town of China:

The guys at the town garage have started a salt-priority test route in China. Included in this test area are from the transfer station to Route 3, the Dirigo Road, Weeks Mills Road and Vassalboro Road. The roads named are on two separate designated plow routes on the southerly end of town. This salt-priority test is done to increase safety and reduce costs. It is my opinion that this will not totally replace using sand, as sand is one of the useful tools in our tool box. Moving forward, it is my intention and the intention of my co-workers that this new application will improve road conditions during and after snow events. Safety is the number one concern of the highway crew for drivers and China residents.

Sincerely,
Gary Cummings

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.

Road Commissioner

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 summer and 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



Thank you to all 2,522 voters who participated in the November 2016 Presidential Election. China had an estimated 82% voter turnout. Thank you to our highly skilled election workers for your dedication and desire to follow all election laws. Your commitment to an orderly election is appreciated!!



Bicentennial Celebration 2018

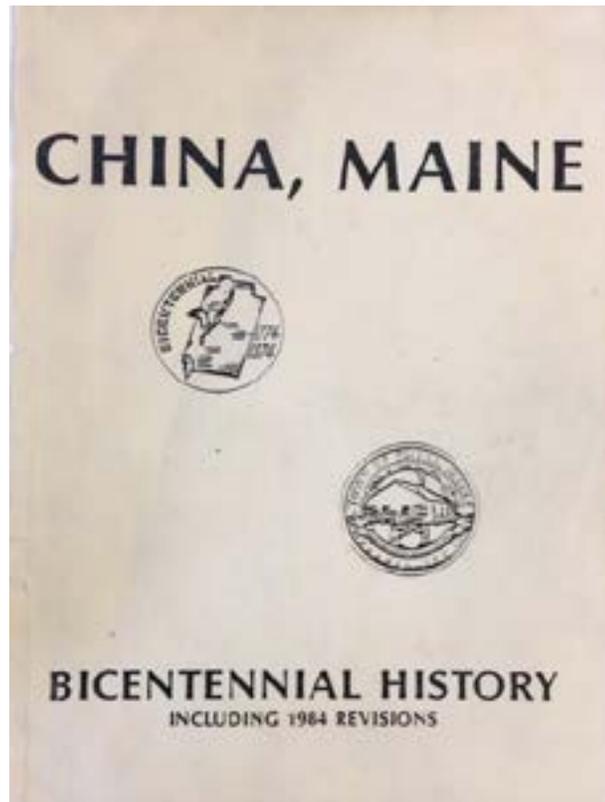
The town is gearing up for the 2018 bicentennial celebration. We are currently looking for volunteers to help make this celebration happen. Please stop by the town office, send us an email at info@chinamaine.org or call us at (207) 445-2014. No experience necessary; just a willingness to provide some guidance for the celebration.

For those that are unfamiliar on February 5, 1818, China was incorporated and encompassed parts of Harlem, Fairfax and Winslow.

China's voters had originally chosen the town name of Bloomville. At that time Maine was part of Massachusetts and in those days Boston, the legislative seat, was a week's journey by horse and wagon. Harlem's representative was not allowed to use the name Bloomville. With hometown sentiment 200 miles away and no telephone or telegraph, it was entirely up to him to present a new name. As the hymn "China" was a great favorite of his, he presented that name.

Neil Farrington, President of the China Historical Society, is actively seeking historic properties to be included in a local history synopsis. Please contact him at (207)462-4321 or by email at peachclassof68@gmail.com.

The town has recently acquired the copyright to China, Maine Bicentennial History (shown below). We are looking to convert this to a digital version and update it to the current year.



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. Marriage licenses are now as of January 1, 2017 processed and filed 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.

The following pages contain the records of deaths and marriages from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. As a note, the Town Clerk reports 46 births for this time period.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Hapgood, Town Clerk



Did you know...

Title 30-A Chapter 101 Subsection 2006 of the Maine State Statutes states - A person may not use or display an imitation, likeness, imprint, representation, facsimile or copy of a seal of a municipality except by written permission of the municipality from the municipal clerk. A municipality may file an action in Superior Court applying for an order to enjoin a person from using or displaying the municipal seal in violation of this section. A violation of this section is a Class E crime.

Marriages

Jason Bryant Prosser	Nicole Anne Prosser	July 10, 2015
Seth David Dolinsky	Katie Elizabeth Thiboutot	July 18, 2015
Timothy Wayne Fletcher, Jr	Christina Marie Varanelli	August 8, 2015
Lionel Eugene Martin	Naomi Lynn Poland	August 15, 2015
Jayson Lee Mortimer	Liz Marie Hebert	August 15, 2015
Daniel Milton McKinnis	Rebecca Lynne Miller	August 15, 2015
Alexander Francis Soucy	Christina Marie Dickens	August 16, 2015
Ryan David Rairdon	Hilary Amelia Walker	August 17, 2015
Roger Baer	Emily Katherine Muller	September 1, 2015
Darrin James Wood	Jaime Frances Constanzer	September 5, 2015
Perley Michael Chabot	Tara Knapp Adams	September 5, 2015
Scott Louis Armand Wilson	Deidra Lynn Plummer	September 5, 2015
Tristan Fernando Russell	Alyssa Josephine Audie	September 12, 2015
Joseph R. Studholme	Lea Greta Kendall	September 12, 2015
Joshua Scott Shepherd	Kate Emma Spice	September 20, 2015
Justin Gregory Wyman	Donna Sue Helen Wenk	September 24, 2015
Christopher Carl Bartlett	Kimberly Helen James	October 3, 2015
Nicholas Wayne French	Amber Lynne Morris	October 15, 2015
Benjamin Patrick Poulin	Erica Lynne Boynton	October 17, 2015
Michael Anthony Calvino	Robin Joyce Leahy	October 17, 2015
Christopher Michael Hinkley	Cynthia Marie Hoffman	October 24, 2015
Timothy Orman Sanborn	Joaquim Jose Silva	January 9, 2016
Christopher Mark Conklin	Ashley Elizabeth Bennett	April 24, 2016
Michael Roy Saucier	Jessica Marie Breton	June 11, 2016



Deaths

Patience-Anne Williams Lenk	July 24, 2015
Glenita Jenny Libby	July 25, 2015
Joshua Michael Salois	July 26, 2015
Gregory Alan Martin	August 9, 2015
Kenly David Poulliot, Jr.	August 10, 2015
Marion D. Fuller	August 15, 2015
Jean A. Topar	August 15, 2015
Joseph H. Mason	August 20, 2015
Antonina Mary Smithson	August 23, 2015
Haydee McRoberts	August 24, 2015
Kenneth Edward Hagen	August 29, 2015
Lawrence Spaulding Brown, Sr.	September 1, 2015
Jacqueline Eunice Carney	September 4, 2015
Delbert Franklin Brann, III	September 13, 2015
Laura Margaret Pierce	September 14, 2015
Kevin Lee Shockley	September 15, 2015
Williston Mosher	September 20, 2015
Norma Jean Young	September 26, 2015
Dorothy M Hoogeveen	October 11, 2015
Ashley Nicole Rideout	October 18, 2015
Mary Lou Mosher	October 18, 2015
Margaret A. Wallis	October 25, 2015
Bernadette Shields	October 28, 2015
Avis E. Pelton	November 25, 2015
Joyce E. Gray	January 4, 2016
Nancy E. Bona	January 12, 2016
Richard James Sears, II	January 16, 2016
Richard Edmund Dowe	February 3, 2016
Merle A. Jackson	February 10, 2016
Lorraine M. Poulin	March 11, 2016
Marjorie Eleanor Carney	March 17, 2016
Darwin C. Sharrow	April 18, 2016
Terry Lawrence Shockley, Sr.	April 22, 2016
Susan Sandra Giles	April 23, 2016
Benjamin T. Watts, Sr.	May 2, 2016
Dianne B. Higgins	May 3, 2016
Richard Gordon Coultres	May 16, 2016
Melissa M. Catlin	May 17, 2016
Asa Jim Baxter	May 18, 2016
Roy M. Dow, Jr.	May 29, 2016
Tori Lee Roddy	June 1, 2016
Randall A. French	June 1, 2016

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 website.

2017 Homestead Exemption – If you did not file for the Homestead Exemption in 2016 or prior years, you must apply prior to April 1, 2017 to be eligible in 2017. 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, 2017; 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 or Maine Revenue Services, Property Tax Division 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

Real Estate

Acct	Name	Year	Amount Due	Year	Amount Due		
2977	Althenn, Daniel H	2015	\$ 850.39				
189	Althenn, Russell C & Patricia	2015	\$ 637.04				
188	Althenn, Russell C & Patricia	2015	\$ 903.69				
1389	Andrews, J M Heirs	2015	\$ 213.93				
728	Arp, Hans & Tamara	2015	\$ 675.94			*	
636	Barber Investments, LLC	2015	\$ 6,794.95	2014	\$ 7,031.71	*	
696	Barber Investments, LLC	2015	\$ 3,228.20	2014	\$ 2,594.69	*	
2832	Barber Investments, LLC	2015	\$ 113.63				
3185	Batista, Suzete	2015	\$ 2,073.22			*	
3653	Bickford, William	2015	\$ 165.47			**	
549	Bickford, William H & Annette	2015	\$ 4,825.79				
3621	Bickford, William H & Annette	2015	\$ 1,330.14				
195	Boucher, Ryan R	2015	\$ 60.50				
3192	Boynton, Daniel W Jr &	2015	\$ 564.48	2014	\$ 586.20	*	
359	Boynton, Peter H & Pauline A	2015	\$ 456.23	2014	\$ 476.33	*	
2731	Bragg, Steven	2015	\$ 252.70	2014	\$ 259.12	**	
1567	Branch Mills Flour and Grain	2015	\$ 1,349.55	2014	\$ 1,356.48	*	
2154	Brewster, Dorothy	2015	\$ 1,641.92	**	2014	\$ 448.97	*
125	Britten, Martin & Traci	2015	\$ 2,381.50				
3667	C.J. Investment Holdings, LLC	2015	\$ 787.38			*	
348	Carney, Marjorie E	2015	\$ 784.31				
1410	Clark, Glenn A	2015	\$ 1,623.74			*	
1047	Clowes, Barry H	2015	\$ 654.92				
612	Cook, Steven P & Paula E	2015	\$ 1,210.62			*	
1955	Crockett, Jeffrey M	2015	\$ 656.54	2014	\$ 683.32	*	
2717	Cunningham, Matthew J &	2015	\$ 792.22	**	2014	\$ 814.63	*
2857	Cunningham, Shawn D & Patty	2015	\$ 1,792.16		2014	\$ 1,175.03	*
2517	Curtis, Fred & Terry	2015	\$ 1,150.86	**	2014	\$ 1,194.21	*
1716	Cushman, Robert F & Colin & Ryan	2015	\$ 415.88				

as of 1/27/2017

* - paid in full

** - partial payment

Unpaid Taxes

Real Estate

Acct	Name	Year	Amount		Year	Amount	
			Due			Due	
2884	Cyrus, John P & Deborah L	2015	\$	415.05			
2394	Daigneault, Darrin	2015	\$	3,173.28	2014	\$	1,888.37 *
3384	Davis, Bernard E	2015	\$	108.92			
824	DeMaio, Janice D	2015	\$	2,690.27 **	2014	\$	2,374.71 *
286	Dennison, Betty Jo	2015	\$	591.92			
1386	Dillenbeck, John S	2015	\$	2,538.44 **	2014	\$	2,622.03 *
1457	Dixon, June & Waugh, Dana	2015	\$	1,626.84			
1931	Dodge, James S, Wayne L & Dodge, Glenn (heirs) & Dodge, Sherwood (heirs)	2015	\$	536.22 *			
1580	Downie, Jon M & Franklin A	2015	\$	1,519.16	2014	\$	1,575.37 *
3042	Drouin, Thomas & Bernadette	2015	\$	349.65			
3142	Dudley, Bruce A & Evelyn A	2015	\$	536.36 *			
572	Dupont, David Jr	2015	\$	969.93	2014	\$	1,007.28 *
2971	Elian, Mark	2015	\$	1,685.52 **	2014	\$	724.13 *
2324	Epick, Alexander	2013	\$	8.30	2012	\$	69.44
		2011	\$	78.03			
454	Estes, Duane C & Tina M	2015	\$	997.80			
1903	Estes, Duane S Heirs Of	2015	\$	1,622.54	2014	\$	1,675.26 *
2952	Estes, Michael Anthony	2015	\$	390.01			
3411	Farrington, Carleton B	2015	\$	506.32 **	2014	\$	527.93 *
3716	Feyler, Melanie	2015	\$	209.09	2014	\$	172.22 *
2882	Fletcher, John L Sr & Alice M	2015	\$	916.63	2014	\$	952.13 *
619	Fletcher, Rosemary	2015	\$	1,318.11			
3497	Fortin, Chelsea	2015	\$	386.78 *			
2883	French, Ivan A & Vicki S	2015	\$	932.81			
2689	Gallant, Heather	2015	\$	1,595.08 **			
1377	Glidden, Avery & Lisa	2015	\$	142.83 *			
1084	Glidden, George N	2015	\$	1,906.83 *			
1317	Goodwin, James & Randi	2015	\$	1,741.07 *			

as of 1/27/2017

* - paid in full

** - partial payment

Unpaid Taxes

Real Estate

Acct	Name	Year	Amount		Year	Amount	
			Due			Due	
1712	Grant, Scott A	2013	\$ 864.28		2012	\$ 550.84	**
1756	Hall, Emily Ives	2015	\$ 228.75	*			
1226	Hamilton, David & Glenda	2015	\$ 3,939.94	*			
1005	Haskell, Gary L & Katherine	2015	\$ 1,111.54	*			
3500	Hersey, Joyce & Herbert	2015	\$ 609.69	*			
2103	Hewey, LeeAnne M	2015	\$ 269.36				
594	Hisler, Colleen E & Randolph	2015	\$ 924.69		2014	\$ 760.62	*
595	Hisler, Colleen E & Randolph	2015	\$ 423.93	**	2014	\$ 342.92	*
3072	Holyoke, Thomas A, Heirs of	2015	\$ 1,217.09				
1720	Holyoke, Thomas, Heirs of	2015	\$ 824.55				
2609	Hotham, Judith A	2015	\$ 1,750.14		2014	\$ 1,814.72	*
540	James, William R	2015	\$ 848.76				
2776	Julia, Dawson & Kellie	2015	\$ 151.01				
3048	Julia, Dawson & Kellie	2015	\$ 314.16				
269	Kringle, Kris Donald	2015	\$ 2,035.87	**			
	f/k/a Audet, Donald & Linda						
3323	Labelle, Tina M	2015	\$ 144.46				
3392	Lacasse, Leslie	2015	\$ 317.32		2014	\$ 345.80	
931	Lapierre, Christopher & Jo-Ann	2015	\$ 4,199.89				
2697	Leclerc, Michelle M	2015	\$ 423.93		2014	\$ 455.88	*
2820	Lee, Robert E Jr	2015	\$ 1,225.15				
2887	Lemar, Peter & Grace	2015	\$ 1,992.23				
1085	Letourneau, A Lorraine & J	2015	\$ 1,392.47				
1639	Levesque, William & Kathy	2015	\$ 666.24	**	2014	\$ 697.07	*
1681	Luczko, Kevin L & Tiffany C	2015	\$ 1,621.18	**			
2171	MacDonald, Bruce F	2015	\$ 1,995.70	**	2014	\$ 2,074.04	*
1010	Mayberry, Barbara & Dina M	2015	\$ 1,440.01	*	2014	\$ 1,499.98	*
3425	Mayo, Jeramy J	2015	\$ 858.47		2014	\$ 281.89	*
1358	Mayo, Ronald Timothy	2015	\$ 1,020.66	*			
3452	McAlister, Alfred, Pers Rep	2015	\$ 331.87		2014	\$ 353.75	*

as of 1/27/2017

* - paid in full

** - partial payment

Unpaid Taxes

Real Estate

Acct	Name	Year	Amount		Year	Amount	
			Due			Due	
3454	McAlister, Alfred, Pers Rep	2015	\$	272.10	2014	\$	285.44 *
3455	McAlister, Alfred, Pers Rep	2015	\$	268.87	2014	\$	282.10 *
2523	McKeil, Carl C	2015	\$	2,293.20			
2521	McKeil, John	2013	\$	224.14	2012	\$	304.44
		2011	\$	318.29			
646	McLaggan, Lisa & Ronald K	2015	\$	783.07 *			
871	Meader, Sandra Jean	2015	\$	163.07			
285	Merrill, Clayton Sr	2015	\$	53.31	2014	\$	122.10
		2013	\$	121.75	2012	\$	129.61
40	Moore, Daniel L & Dwayne L	2015	\$	934.40	2014	\$	970.52 *
2335	Morton, Amy Life Estate	2015	\$	2,111.99	2014	\$	2,136.63
1394	O'Connor Association	2015	\$	969.91 **	2014	\$	1,007.68 *
1395	O'Connor Association	2015	\$	2,066.75 **	2014	\$	2,142.22 *
1396	O'Connor, Robert F	2015	\$	1,538.88 *			
104	O'Connor, Stacy A	2015	\$	1,448.07			
562	Ouellette, Daniel E	2015	\$	850.38 **	2014	\$	907.21 *
563	Ouellette, Daniel E	2015	\$	436.85 **	2014	\$	445.85 *
717	Ouellette, Daniel E	2015	\$	280.16 **	2014	\$	300.48 *
3526	Ouellette, Daniel E	2015	\$	1,769.52 **	2014	\$	1,822.88 *
57	Oyler, Diane L	2015	\$	1,263.93 *			
1002	Page, Keith A & Dorothy	2015	\$	591.94	2014	\$	622.97 *
3442	Paradis, Lisa	2015	\$	93.02 *			
638	Parisien, Karen	2015	\$	638.96			
2301	Parisien, Karen A	2015	\$	213.93	2014	\$	232.18 *
1357	Parsons, Marcus & Diana	2015	\$	485.33	2014	\$	506.00 *
3672	Pelkey, Morgan	2015	\$	273.69	2014	\$	304.23 *
290	Pierce, Scott & Kyle	2015	\$	1,029.69 *			
291	Pierce, Scott & Kyle	2015	\$	3,050.51 *			
835	Pierce, Scott A & Kyle P	2015	\$	1,893.89 *			

as of 1/27/2017

* - paid in full

** - partial payment

Unpaid Taxes

Real Estate

Acct	Name	Year	Amount Due	Year	Amount Due	
854	Pierce, Scott A & Kyle P	2015	\$ 144.47 *			
472	Quimby, Janet	2015	\$ 1,267.17	2014	\$ 1,300.44	
268	Reed, Diane	2015	\$ 1,464.22	2014	\$ 1,525.25	*
1276	Rice, Donald Kevin	2015	\$ 2,606.27	2014	\$ 2,699.88	*
3104	Risbara, Candita M	2015	\$ 563.47			
1363	Rountree, Gail	2015	\$ 789.00			
2397	Roy, Andrew J & Linda J	2015	\$ 494.32 *			
1927	Rumpf, Thomas & Laurie	2015	\$ 1,206.37 *			
2483	Salo, Linda Anne & Michaud, Debra Jayne & McKeil Carl Chester &	2015	\$ 407.47 *			
3608	Sawlivich, Jessica L	2015	\$ 339.93 **	2014	\$ 356.02	*
102	Severance, Alice	2015	\$ 684.00	2014	\$ 711.93	*
477	Severance, Alice	2015	\$ 2,704.83 *	2014	\$ 1,383.22	*
2630	Small, Kathy	2015	\$ 591.92	2014	\$ 30.77	
1727	Snow, Jennifer	2015	\$ 2,341.37	2014	\$ 2,425.86	*
3729	St. Amand, Heather Strout & Mark	2015	\$ 385.16			
3515	St. Laurent, Leon A, Heirs of	2015	\$ 842.33	2014	\$ 862.31	*
316	Suga, Linda C	2015	\$ 440.08	2014	\$ 459.62	*
1335	Suntrust Mortgage, Inc	2015	\$ 709.80 *			
1828	Tenney, Rhonda J	2015	\$ 1,094.00 **			
2943	Tracy, Tara	2015	\$ 175.16 *	2014	\$ 145.20	*
2313	Turner, Susan	2015	\$ 2,181.44	2014	\$ 692.02	
1858	Venuti, James J	2015	\$ 2,615.98	2014	\$ 2,622.45	*
1859	Venuti, James J	2015	\$ 196.16 **	2014	\$ 206.82	*
2663	Vortriede, Valerie	2015	\$ 2,003.81			
2718	W W Properties, Inc	2015	\$ 5,244.16	2014	\$ 5,428.87	*
3020	Wentworth, James	2015	\$ 1,388.31 *	2014	\$ 1,440.24	*
2912	Willette, Norma & Conary, Craig D	2015	\$ 564.51	2014	\$ 584.97	*

as of 1/27/2017

* - paid in full

** - partial payment

Unpaid Taxes

Real Estate

Acct	Name	Year	Amount Due		Year	Amount Due	
1043	Woodbury, Ronald	2015	\$ 64.79	*			
3312	York, Chris & Renee	2015	\$ 231.71	**	2014	\$ 200.44	*
1551	York, Clayton	2015	\$ 68.55	*			
2348	Young, Alan Duane	2015	\$ 624.45	*			

as of 1/27/2017

* - paid in full

** - partial payment



Dixie Szabo and Warden David Ross of China pose in front of the Operation Game Thief trailer at the Youth Fishing Derby during China Community Days

Unpaid Taxes

Personal Property

Acct	Name	Year	Amount Due		Amount Due	
402	32 General Store	2015	\$ 436.59	*		
535	Annettes Daycare	2015	\$ 40.39			
129	B&P Garage	2015	\$ 405.45	**		
514	Birch-Knoll Enterprises, LLC	2015	\$ 32.31			
236	Blinds by Design	2015	\$ 56.53		2014	\$ 58.48
244	Buckshot Powersports	2015	\$ 145.38		2014	\$ 142.02
224	Central Machine Inc	2015	\$ 1,637.97			
76	China Area Wash & Dry	2015	\$ 542.96	*		
90	China Lake Auto Sales	2015	\$ 403.84			
412	Willette, Dick	2014	\$ 164.48			
499	Dollar Deals	2015	\$ 403.84		2014	\$ 205.52
181	Fieldstone Quick Stop	2015	\$ 3,704.02		2014	\$ 3,341.80
448	Fred and Larry's Disposal Service	2015	\$ 40.39		2014	\$ 41.78
		2013	\$ 41.51		2012	\$ 38.40
		2011	\$ 39.26			
203	French, Leslie H	2015	\$ 2,019.20			
204	French, Leslie R	2015	\$ 16.16			
409	Glidden, Jesse	2015	\$ 202.22			
469	Green Bean Coffee Shop	2015	\$ 88.85		2014	\$ 95.24 **
526	Hamilton, George	2015	\$ 80.77			
536	Howe, Linda / Bio Renewable Fuels	2015	\$ 403.84			
294	Innovative Workspace	2015	\$ 30.69			
414	John Boivin's Plumbing and Heating	2015	\$ 80.77	*		
351	Labelle Family Daycare	2015	\$ 11.02			
248	Legacy Home Improvements	2015	\$ 52.00	*		
379	Levesque Construction Company	2015	\$ 19.85			
293	Nelson Farris Building Const.	2015	\$ 40.39	*		
63	Ouellette Sand & Gravel Inc	2015	\$ 2,243.73		2014	\$ 1,585.69
		2013	\$ 581.11			

as of 1/27/2017

* - paid in full

** - partial payment

Unpaid Taxes

Personal Property

Acct	Name	Year	Amount Due		Amount Due
430	Pierce, Kyle	2015	\$ 82.17		
348	Rocnet Data Designs	2015	\$ 13.49		
282	Shear Techniques	2015	\$ 105.00		
350	South China Learning Center	2015	\$ 17.77	2014	\$ 11.70
474	The Milkhouse	2015	\$ 80.77		
338	Tom Jones Soil Testing &	2015	\$ 16.16		
382	Tropical Sunsatons 2 Tanning	2015	\$ 108.22	2014	\$ 126.54
306	Wachusett Properties	2015	\$ 307.32	**	

as of 1/27/2017

* - paid in full

** - partial payment



Santa Claus greeted kids and dogs at the China Community Days Annual Tree Lighting event.

Abatements

Real Estate

Name	Account	Amount
Backofen, Richard & Shirley	1561	\$ 570.96
Randall, Clifford	1935	\$ 56.16
Page, Gordon P, Sr & Deborah L	686	\$ 90.48
Starrett, David A	925	\$ 3,940.56
Michaud, Nicholas & Alyssa	1719	\$ 1,012.44
Leaning Elm Trust, Geoffrey Hargadon, Trustee	900	\$ 544.44
Gilman, Judith	2332	\$ 492.96
McKeil, John	2521	\$ 190.35

Personal Property

Name	Account	Amount
DISH Network, LLC	215	\$ 349.44
D & B Logging	286	\$ 1,170.00



If you haven't taken a trip down Park Lane, then you haven't spotted the flamingos, geese and alligator lurking in the swampy area off the road. Please be careful not to touch or feed the animals!

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 2017-2018 Municipal Budget. The members were pleased to see that the Select Board had closely examined each of the proposed expenditures and generally recommended either the same level of funding as in previous years or only small increases based on agency requests or 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 Budget Committee did have a serious discussion over Article 20 that is a new request asking if the Town will vote to appropriate an amount to not exceed \$40,000 from the Undesignated Fund Balance for the purposes of Compensating Emergency Services Personnel for Time and Service as described in a Select Board Policy to be developed by the Board as they deem to be in the best interest of the Town of China. While there was some concern about appropriating funds before knowing how they would be utilized, the members unanimously voted to support the article as a means to start addressing a critical lack of volunteers especially during week day hours. The Committee therefore felt comfortable in supporting the Select Board's position on all the monetary warrant articles for the March 25th Business Meeting.

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: **Vacant** - Term expires 2018
- Member at-large: **Valerie Baker** - Term expires 2018

Budget Committee

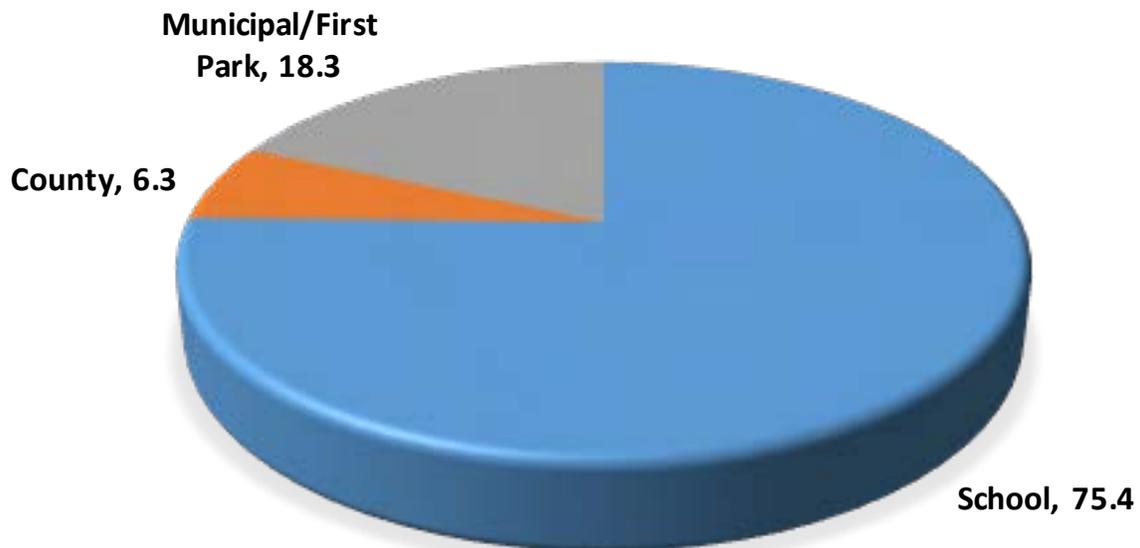
- District 1: **Kevin Maroon** - Term Expires 2017
- District 2: **Thomas Rumpf** - Term Expires 2018
- District 3: **Sheryl Peavey** - Term Expires 2017
- District 4: **Timothy Basham** - Term Expires 2018

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 the Secretary position is currently vacant and is open to anyone from the town at large. 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

2015-2016 BUDGET DISTRIBUTION



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, 2016, 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, 2016, 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

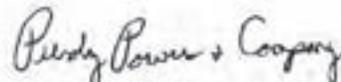
Required Supplementary Information

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.


Professional Association

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, 2016. 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 \$6.0 million as of June 30, 2016, compared to approximately \$5.9 million as of June 30, 2015.
- The Town's governmental funds General Fund Balance was \$2.0 million as of June 30, 2016, compared to \$2.1 million as of June 30, 2015.

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

Fund Financial Statements

A fund is an accountability unit used to maintain control over resources segregated for specific activities or objectives. The Town uses funds to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance related laws and regulations. Within the basic financial statements, fund financial statements focus on the Town's most significant funds rather than the Town as a whole. Major funds are separately reported while all others are combined into a single, aggregated presentation. Individual fund data for nonmajor funds is provided in the form of combining statements in a later section of this report.

The Town has the following fund types:

- Governmental funds are reported in the fund financial statements and encompass essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, the focus is different with fund statements reporting short-term fiscal accountability focusing on the use of spendable resources during the year and balances of spendable resources available at the end of the year. Since the government-wide focus includes the long-term view, comparisons between these two perspectives may provide insight into the long-term impact of short-term financing decisions. Both the governmental fund balance sheet and the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances provide a reconciliation to the government-wide statements to assist in understanding the differences between these two perspectives.

Notes to the Financial Statements

The accompanying notes to the financial statements provide information essential to a full understanding of the government-wide and fund financial statements. The notes to the financial statements begin immediately following the basic financial statements.

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, 2016 and 2015:

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>		
	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>Change</u>
Current and other assets	\$ 3,896,809	\$ 3,809,478	\$ 87,331
Capital assets	<u>2,844,639</u>	<u>2,907,429</u>	<u>(62,790)</u>
Total Assets	<u>6,741,448</u>	<u>6,716,907</u>	<u>24,541</u>
Deferred outflows related to pensions	<u>73,101</u>	<u>25,972</u>	<u>47,129</u>
Total Deferred Outflows	<u>73,101</u>	<u>25,972</u>	<u>47,129</u>
Long-term liabilities	388,721	406,576	(17,855)
Other liabilities	<u>333,407</u>	<u>366,144</u>	<u>(32,737)</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>722,128</u>	<u>772,720</u>	<u>(50,592)</u>
Deferred inflows related to pensions	<u>96,577</u>	<u>90,045</u>	<u>6,532</u>
Total Deferred Inflows	<u>96,577</u>	<u>90,045</u>	<u>6,532</u>
Net investment in capital assets	2,579,003	2,557,897	21,106
Restricted	1,243,243	1,016,644	226,599
Unrestricted	<u>2,173,598</u>	<u>2,305,573</u>	<u>(131,975)</u>
Net Position	<u>\$ 5,995,844</u>	<u>\$ 5,880,114</u>	<u>\$ 115,730</u>

- You will note above that not only has the total asset position increased, though marginally, the net position of the town's finances has increased also. Complimentarily, the long-term liabilities and other liabilities have decreased a strong indication of the fiscal health of the town. The town is in a growing phase and taking a long-term perspective in preparing for all scenarios going forward, predictable and unexpected. The highly liquid restricted and unrestricted assets position the town in a fiscally strong position and will drive a stable mil rate over the long term.

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, 2016 and 2015:

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>		
	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>Change</u>
Revenues:			
Program revenues:			
Charges for services	\$ 128,739	\$ 109,864	\$ 18,875
Operating grants and contributions	64,903	69,326	(4,423)
General revenues			
Taxes	7,096,149	6,529,705	566,444
Intergovernmental	285,292	270,060	15,232
Investment	13,602	20,957	(7,355)
All others	<u>77,008</u>	<u>34,733</u>	<u>42,275</u>
Total Revenues	7,665,693	7,034,645	631,048
Expenses:			
Administration	834,561	795,655	38,906
Protection	208,982	220,179	(11,197)
Public works	1,151,933	727,092	424,841
Solid waste operations	321,172	249,129	72,043
Community services	96,578	104,462	(7,884)
Education	4,445,541	4,189,415	256,126
Recreation	29,711	29,200	511
County tax	376,230	372,515	3,715
Interest on long-term debt	(1,738)	(247)	(1,491)
Capital outlay	<u>86,993</u>	<u>58,765</u>	<u>28,228</u>
Total Expenses	7,549,963	6,746,165	803,798
Change in Net Position	<u>\$ 115,730</u>	<u>\$ 288,480</u>	<u>\$ (172,750)</u>

- This summary of activities informs us that the town has increased its net position consistently over the long-term, positioning the town in a preferred financial condition to weather all contingencies. Revenues have been sufficient to cover all expenses with an additional amount to contribute to the net position of the town.
- The two significant changes in expenses were in public works and education. The public works change can be attributed to the voters approving of expenditures prior to the beginning of a new fiscal year to take advantage of competitive pricing offerings in the highway pavement program. Paving vendors offer preferred pricing to those municipalities allowing them to pave early in the spring/summer paving cycle, sometimes doing the paving before a new fiscal year begins. The change in education expenditures reflects conditions and circumstances outside the municipal officers' direct control and are affected by intergovernmental transfers from the State to the town.

Auditors' Report & Financials

Management's Discussion and Analysis - Continued

Town of China, Maine

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, 2016 of \$3.2 million. Approximately 41% 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 quite healthy by most standards and by best management practices suggested by bond rating companies and multi-municipal organizations responsible for rating municipalities on financial health.
- The town's financing requirements have been a topic of conversation in financial planning sessions over a long time. Sufficient liquid resources are available for spending if the need arises. A continued long-term perspective on operation and capital needs has proven to be very beneficial to China. The town is without any long-term indebtedness relating solely to municipal operations and capital programs.

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 \$1,317,975. 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.

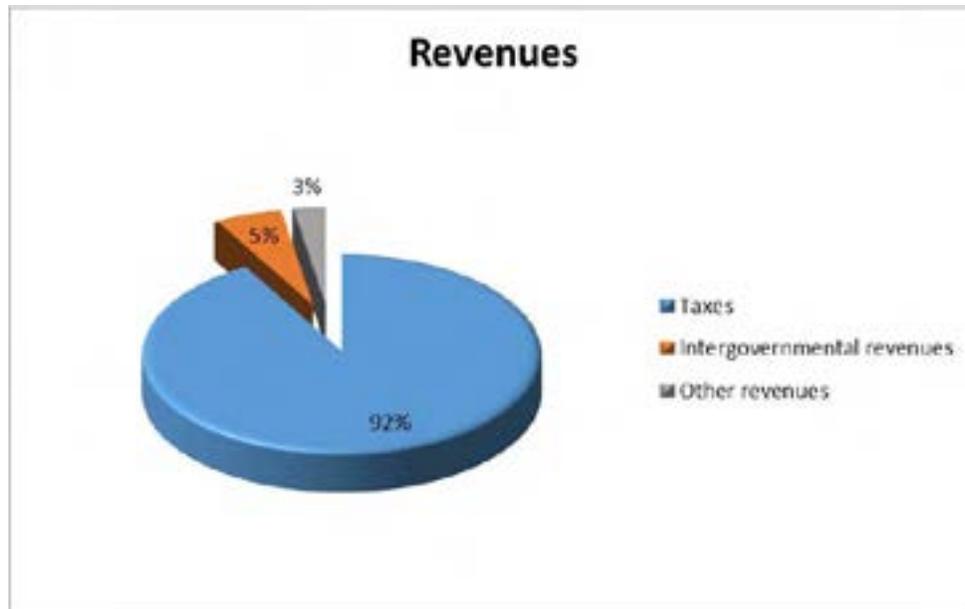
- The ratio between the unrestricted fund balance and the total fund balance remains quite stable over time, over 40%. Both balances are quite robust compared to any similar town. The town maintains a highly liquid position financially, with cash on hand and other financial assets that are readily converted to cash. China would be able to sustain financial operations 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

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



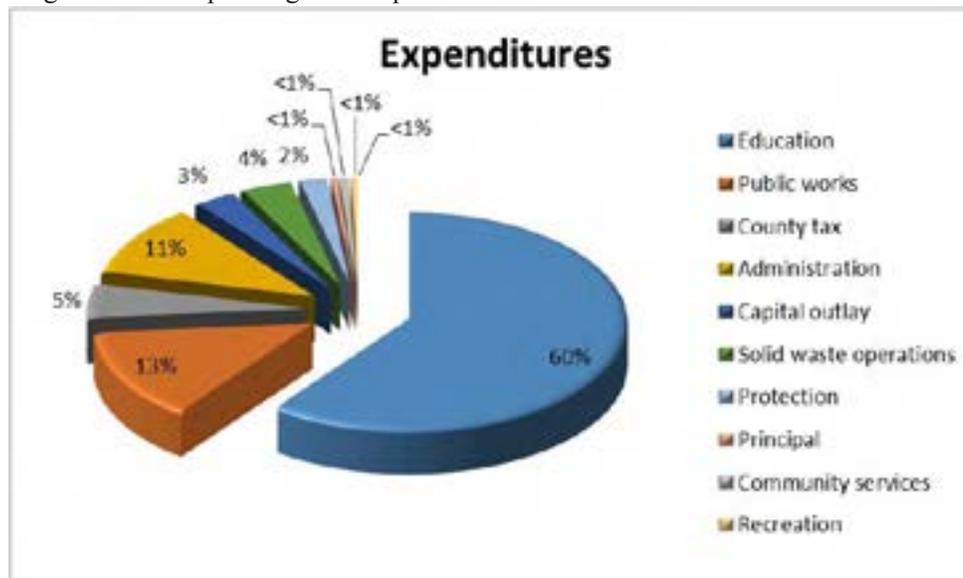
- The chart informs us that the main source of revenue for China, and most municipalities, is the property tax. China needs to be mindful that a broader based design of revenue sources or an adjusted balance in the current revenue metric for China away from property taxes and toward other revenues would have positive results for China and should be deserving of strong consideration by voters and policy setters and administration going forward. It is seldom that municipalities find real leaders who will make a steadfast attempt to balance out revenue sources, having those responsible for causing an expense to pay for the expense.
- Credit ratings are based on many variables, one being a diverse and stable tax base in a given municipality. Intergovernmental revenues are all too often uncertain and so too are "other revenues" which are subject to questionable leadership and local political circumstances. Local governance may not be able to apply or 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 in this chart.

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 in the graph above that the highest expense categories are education, administration, public works and the county tax. The RSU#18 is an independent regional school unit which assesses China for education costs for its student population and based on a State school funding formula. Additional local assessments are also paid by the towns making up RSU#18 on an “additional local share” formula. The single most significant driving force of mil rate increases is the education assessment.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

- Expenditures associated respected appropriations were in line with the final budget amounts. The most significant positive variances occurred in the town's administration, Protection, and capital budgets. Administration efficiencies were realized in the scope of work changes for office staff; the town was without local police protection resulting from the resignation of the acting police officer; and capital outlays were below funds appropriated resulting in additions to the capital reserve. The most significant negative variance was in the public works budget resulting from expenditures approved by voters of funds appropriated and authorized to be spent prior to the new fiscal year to gain pricing advantages in the road paving budget.
- The town realized available revenue resources above those revenues budgeted by over \$203,000. Revenues over budget amounts from intergovernmental sources and higher than expected/budget excise taxes on motor vehicles accounted for the bulk of the differences. The conservative approach in budgeting is highly recommended by financial institutions observing best management practices.

Auditors' Report & Financials

Management's Discussion and Analysis - Continued

Town of China, Maine

- The town's general fund is a healthy one and consistent with elected officials' goals over the long term. 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 realized significant balances in a broad range of reserve fund accounts, to include transfer station compactor replacement, fire department equipment and capital improvement, lake access land purchase, accrued compensation, and legal expenses. The net capital assets amount, net of accumulated depreciation, has been a robust number over time. It is imperative that the town is to be mindful of the annual and accumulated depreciation numbers and to apply best financial management practices to plan ahead in capital improvements and replacements by accumulating reserve funds that accommodate the long-term planning.

In the current fiscal year, the town purchased snow plowing equipment, purchased dumping cans for the transfer station, and expended significant amounts for paving of roads. The town has not issued debt in any purchases and does not anticipate that debt instruments will be needed for the foreseeable future. More detailed information about the town's capital assets can be found elsewhere in this audit.

For 2017 it is anticipated that the town will consider whether or not to replace an additional plowing vehicle with associated plowing equipment. The town will also continue with an aggressive pavement program established many years ago. A review and refinement of a Capital Improvement Plan will be undertaken.

Long Term Liabilities

- The amounts of long term liabilities reported in these financial statements are, for the most part, associated with China's relationship in RSU#28 when the entity was formed and include bond and notes payable, capital lease obligations, and accrued interest payable. The long-term liabilities associated with RSU#18 are also listed as receivables to the town from RSU#18.
- The town's other long term liabilities, other than those noted immediately above, are for accrued compensated balances and net pension liability associated with employees and benefits. Long-term planning has enabled the town to finance capital improvements/purchases from an equipment and capital reserve account in the Fund Balance and should continue to fund the account into the future.

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 appointed and elected officials consider many variables when in budget deliberations. The County and education budgets are outside of local officials' direct influence though both have a propensity to affect the mil rate in a given community.

Municipal expenditures have remained reasonably stable for several years, driven by improvement in efficiencies in operations in several department areas. Infrastructure capital maintenance, replacements/purchases, and improvements have served the town well and will continue to have a positive impact on a stable mil rate. Reserve accounts in the Fund Balance have allowed officials to be proactive in meeting town capital needs.

Municipal revenues have been and will continue to be property taxation and excise taxation dependent with intergovernmental revenue transfers have not been reliable of recent times and will have to be offset by property taxation if reduced. A broader revenue base would serve the town positively if officials considered alternative sources.

Material items that will either continue to be realized or to be anticipated in the next year include:

1. Annual TIF appropriations for economic development initiatives: The annual TIF appropriations, traditional and new initiatives, continue to provide a metric for economic development through the budget process to voter approval. A TIF Committee has been reviewing, and will continue to review, projects associated with the redevelopment of the Causeway Road, Trails maintenance, and a Revolving Loan Fund for business development.
2. A new CMP upgrade of a sub-station on Route #3 will provide the town with an additional to submit a TIF application for certain economic development priorities in China.
3. The maturing of a municipal solid waste agreement between the town and PERC will expire in 2018 and a new agreement will commence with Fiberight for the disposal of municipal solid waste for China.
4. The Town of China has entered into an agreement with the Town of Palermo to accept MSW from Palermo for a town contribution for capital expenses and for a per bag disposal cost for users, in addition to user fees for items received other than MSW.
5. The town has continually been mindful of capital maintenance and improvement and has been striving to support a capital improvement/replacement account in the fund balance and anticipates a substantial allocation to that account in the coming budget sessions to maintain a robust capital improvement/replacement cycle.
6. Looking forward, 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 perspective have served the town well over the years. Future emergency services needs

Auditors' Report & Financials

Management's Discussion and Analysis - Continued

Town of China, Maine

- for building and site development and equipment replacement will be a topic going forward. Appropriate consideration will be given to the financing of any initiatives.
7. A new survey of the demographics in China has been completed in anticipation of the appointment of a committee to look into the needs of the China population to be able to "age in place, that is, to live in China if desired for a life time.

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. 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, 2016

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual (Budgetary Basis)	Variance Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
Revenues				
Taxes:				
Property taxes	\$ 6,206,257	\$ 6,206,257	\$ 6,185,289	\$ (20,968)
Excise taxes	703,500	703,500	861,038	157,538
Interest and costs on taxes	25,000	25,000	29,822	4,822
Total Taxes	<u>6,934,757</u>	<u>6,934,757</u>	<u>7,076,149</u>	<u>141,392</u>
Intergovernmental:				
State revenue sharing	142,000	142,000	173,569	31,569
Road assistance	54,200	54,200	54,768	568
Homestead reimbursement	98,891	98,891	98,891	-
Tax reimbursements and relief	7,822	7,822	12,833	5,011
General assistance	3,000	3,000	-	(3,000)
RSU debt and capital lease funding	75,341	75,341	75,341	-
Total Intergovernmental	<u>381,254</u>	<u>381,254</u>	<u>415,402</u>	<u>34,148</u>
Other Revenues:				
Interest on investments	12,500	12,500	8,470	(4,030)
Permits and fees	44,500	44,500	57,091	12,591
Miscellaneous revenues	19,950	19,950	24,437	4,487
Solid waste revenues	57,000	57,000	71,647	14,647
Total Other Revenues	<u>133,950</u>	<u>133,950</u>	<u>161,645</u>	<u>27,695</u>
Total Revenues	<u>7,449,961</u>	<u>7,449,961</u>	<u>7,653,196</u>	<u>203,235</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, 2016

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual (Budgetary Basis)	Variance Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
Expenditures				
Administration:				
Administrative payroll costs	\$ 361,427	\$ 361,427	\$ 359,714	\$ 1,713
Administrative expenses	105,100	105,100	103,452	1,648
Planning Board expenses	2,363	2,363	2,021	342
Association dues	11,717	11,717	11,428	289
Assessing	47,500	47,500	34,290	13,210
Computer costs	23,000	23,000	23,000	-
Legal services	12,500	12,500	4,893	7,607
Insurance and benefits	274,138	274,138	259,650	14,488
Total Administration	837,745	837,745	798,448	39,297
Protection:				
Constable services	28,881	28,881	12,503	16,378
Fire departments	64,750	64,750	61,539	3,211
China rescue squad	18,950	18,950	10,977	7,973
Health officer	1,094	1,094	513	581
E-911	20,449	20,449	20,450	(1)
Dispatching	27,079	27,079	27,079	-
Emergency services insurance	15,982	15,982	14,991	991
Total Protection	177,185	177,185	148,052	29,133
Public Works:				
Road maintenance	697,010	697,010	968,591	(271,581)
Street signs	2,500	2,500	616	1,884
Street lights	7,000	7,000	8,586	(1,586)
Cemeteries	23,600	23,600	23,610	(10)
Total Public Works	730,110	730,110	1,001,403	(271,293)
Solid Waste Operations	273,074	273,074	274,174	(1,100)

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, 2016

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance
	Original	Final	(Budgetary Basis)	Positive (Negative)
Expenditures - continued				
Community Services:				
General assistance	\$ 14,500	\$ 14,500	\$ 15,226	\$ (726)
Social service agencies	13,758	13,758	13,758	-
China Historical Society	6,000	6,000	6,000	-
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	6,882	100
Memorial Day/Veteran's markers	950	950	950	-
Total Community Services	51,190	51,190	51,816	(626)
Education:				
RSU Assessment	4,477,406	4,477,406	4,477,406	-
Capital lease obligations	59,576	59,576	59,576	-
Total Education	4,536,982	4,536,982	4,536,982	-
Recreation:				
General recreation	23,950	23,950	23,950	-
China community days	-	-	2,500	(2,500)
Total Recreation	23,950	23,950	26,450	(2,500)
Total County Tax	376,230	376,230	376,230	-
Debt service:				
Principal	34,455	34,455	34,455	-
Interest	-	-	-	-
Total Debt Service	34,455	34,455	34,455	-

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, 2016

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual (Budgetary Basis)	Variance Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
Expenditures - continued				
Special Projects:				
Equipment replacement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
One Room School House	-	-	890	(890)
Oakland Super Park	-	-	-	-
Contingency	45,000	45,000	45,000	-
Docks	-	-	308	(308)
Project Learning Tree	-	-	38	(38)
Town line	3,000	3,000	3,000	-
Transfer station dump cans	-	-	20,220	(20,220)
Grant expenses	55,000	55,000	3,690	51,310
Total Special Projects	<u>103,000</u>	<u>103,000</u>	<u>73,146</u>	<u>29,854</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>7,143,921</u>	<u>7,143,921</u>	<u>7,321,156</u>	<u>(177,235)</u>
Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	306,040	306,040	332,040	26,000
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Operating transfers out	(293,212)	(293,212)	(296,475)	(3,263)
Transfer to assigned fund balances	(86,000)	(86,000)	(86,000)	-
Utilization of unassigned fund balance	160,090	160,090	-	(160,090)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>(219,122)</u>	<u>(219,122)</u>	<u>(382,475)</u>	<u>(163,353)</u>
Revenues and Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Uses	\$ 86,918	\$ 86,918	(50,435)	\$ (137,353)
Budgetary fund balance at beginning of year			<u>1,577,833</u>	
Budgetary Fund Balance at End of Year			<u><u>\$ 1,527,398</u></u>	

See accompanying independent auditors' report.

Auditors' Report & Financials

Schedule of Valuation, Assessment and Collection of Taxes

Town of China, Maine

For the Year Ended June 30, 2016

Valuation

Real estate	\$	389,874,900
Personal property		<u>7,959,700</u>
Total Valuation	\$	<u>397,834,600</u>

Assessment

Valuation x Rate - \$397,834,600 x 0.01560	\$	6,206,220
Supplemental taxes		<u>7,661</u>
Total Assessment Charged to Collector	\$	6,213,881

Collections and Credits

Cash collections	\$	6,046,395
Tax abatements and adjustments		<u>8,227</u>
Total Collections and Credits		<u>6,054,622</u>

2016 Taxes Receivable - June 30, 2016 **\$ 159,259**

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

Municipal officials 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. A standardized chart of accounts would allow comparative analyses of budgets between municipalities with similar demographics. With any attempt to simplify things, there remain other factors that persist in imposing confusing systems on local governments; LD#1, it could be argued, 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 2017 municipal spending limitation is as follows:

Core Municipal Commitment	\$1,586,152.45
(Multiplied by Growth Limitation Factor 1.0393)	
Allowable Growth Subtotal	\$1,620,740.04
Deductions (Net New Funding)	
Increases and Decreases in State Subsidies**	\$.00
Increase by Home Rule Authority**	
Property Tax Levy Limit (Core Going Forward)	\$1,620,740.04

** 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, continues to consider further and substantial reductions in Revenue Sharing and Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes and other property tax relief programs to municipalities for 2017/2018. This is the sole reason, if at all needed, for having a Warrant Article on the ballot addressing the LD#1 property Levy Limit. *It does not seem possible to exceed the LD#1 Tax Levy Limit this year.*

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 25th day of March, A.D. 2017 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 **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

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to exceed the 2017 property tax levy limit of \$1,620,740.04 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

Warrant for Annual Town Business Meeting

greater than the current property tax levy limit. The request would 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 Shall the voters of the Town of China adopt the amendment to the Town's "Central Maine Power/China Lake Tax Increment Financing District and Development Program", said amendment to be known as the "**First Amendment Central Maine Power/China Lake Tax Increment Financing District and Development Program**" in accordance with the Resolution approved by the Board of Selectmen on February 16, 2017 attached hereto, and adopt the Development Program for such District as presented to the Annual Town Business Meeting?

Select Board Recommends: YES
Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Note: An attested copy of the Resolution and an attested copy of the Amendment to the town's "Central Maine Power/China Lake Tax Increment Financing District and Development Program" titled "First Amendment Central Maine Power/China Lake Tax Increment Financing District and Development Program" with amendments/revisions has been posted together with this warrant and is hereby incorporated into this warrant by reference. Copies are available from the town office or at www.china.govoffice.com.

Article 6. **Tax Increment Financing (TIF):** Shall the voters of the Town of China vote to authorize the Select Board to appropriate funds in the 2017-2018 fiscal year 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:	\$8,000
FirstPark:	\$38,169
CRLA:	\$15,000
China Community Days:	\$2,500
Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce Dues:	\$500
Bi-Centennial Events Coordinator:	\$5,000

Select Board Recommends: YES
Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Warrant for Annual Town Business Meeting

Article 7. **Tax Increment Financing (TIF):** Shall the voters of the Town of China vote to authorize the Select Board to appropriate an amount up to \$50,000.00 in the 2017-2018 fiscal year 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

Article 8. **Tax Increment Financing (TIF):** Shall the voters of the Town of China vote to authorize the Select Board to appropriate an amount up to \$750,000.00 in the 2017-2018 fiscal year from the Development Program Fund (TIF Fund) current balance and potential revenues, if necessary, over three years, July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2020, for the purpose of **Improvements to the Causeway Road** to further environmental and pedestrian and vehicular traffic safety improvements, recreational offerings, and economic development goals in china.

Project cost estimations-	
Constructing parking areas:	\$60,800
Engineering cost estimate:	\$85,000
Upgrade to boat launch:	\$46,750
Installation of sheetpile/bulkheads or concrete bulkheads along lake shoreline:	\$330,000
Bridge #3065 Integrity/Assessment: rating, load rating analyses, possible replacement or adding pedestrian walkway attachments:	\$227,450

Select Board Recommends: YES
Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Article 9. **Tax Increment Financing (TIF):** Shall the voters of the Town of China vote to Authorize the Select Board to appropriate an amount up to \$25,000.00 in the 2017-2018 fiscal year from the Development Program Fund (TIF Fund) for the Funding of a **Revolving Loan Fund Program** to maximize private sector investment and create employment opportunities in China; assist in upgrading the appearance of existing

Warrant for Annual Town Business Meeting

businesses; help expand existing businesses; promote local ownership of businesses; and to assist and promote start-ups, and further to authorize the Select Board to contract with the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments for the administration and oversight of the program operations and processing?

Select Board Recommends: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Article 10. **Tax Increment Financing (TIF):** Shall the voters of the Town of China vote to authorize the Select Board to appropriate an amount up to \$20,000.00 in the 2017-2018 fiscal year from the Development Program Fund (TIF Fund) for the **Alewives Restoration Initiative**, said initiative being provided oversight and administration services by the China Lake Association.

Select Board Recommends: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Article 11. **Tax Increment Financing (TIF):** Shall the voters of the Town of China vote to authorize the Select Board to appropriate an amount up to \$40,000.00 in the 2017-2018 fiscal year from the Development Program Fund (TIF Fund) for **Thurston Park Trail and Thurston Park Entrance Improvements?**

Select Board Recommends: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Article 12. 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 - \$384,261 *** (\$8,000 from TIF generated revenues)

Administration Other - \$103,100

Budget Committee Recommends:

Administration - \$384,261 *** (\$8,000 from TIF generated revenues)

Administration Other - \$103,100

Warrant for Annual Town Business Meeting

Article 13. 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 - \$500 *** (\$500 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 - \$500 *** (\$500 from TIF generated revenues)
Kennebec Valley Council of Governments - \$6,917

Article 14. 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: \$150,000 (\$100,000 from Unrestricted Fund Balance)

Budget Committee Recommends: \$150,000 (\$100,000 from Unrestricted Fund Balance)

Article 15. 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

Warrant for Annual Town Business Meeting

Budget Committee Recommends:
Assessing Services - \$47,500
Legal Services - \$10,000

Article 16. 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: \$24,000
 Budget Committee Recommends: \$24,000

Award Presentation(s)

Article 17. 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: \$34,980
 Budget Committee Recommends: \$34,980

Article 18. 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	\$17,370	\$17,370	\$17,370

Warrant for Annual Town Business Meeting

China Rescue	\$20,950	\$13,000 \$7,950 From Rescue Reserve	\$13,000 \$7,950 From Rescue Reserve
PSAP/E-911 Calls	\$29,105	\$29,105	\$29,105
Dispatching Service	\$27,079	\$27,079	\$27,079
Totals:	\$137,504	\$137,504	\$137,504

Article 19. 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: \$20,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$20,000

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$40,000 from the Unrestricted Fund Balance for the purposes of **Compensating Emergency Services Personnel for Time and Service** as described in a Select Board policy to be developed by the Board as they deem to be in the best interest of the Town of China.

Select Board Recommends: Yes
Budget Committee Recommends: Yes

Article 21. 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** and to further authorize the establishment of an Unemployment Account in the Reserve Fund in which to deposit the \$10,000 to be appropriated from the Unrestricted Fund Balance for the purpose of funding Unemployment claims.

Select Board Recommends:
Insurance and Unemployment Compensation Premiums - \$319,187
(\$10,000 from Unrestricted Fund Balance) and YES (to the establishment of an Unemployment Account in the Reserve Fund)

Warrant for Annual Town Business Meeting

Emergency Services Insurance - \$18,874

Budget Committee Recommends:

Insurance and Unemployment Compensation Premiums - \$319,187

(\$10,000 from Unrestricted Fund Balance) and YES (to the establishment of an Unemployment Account in the Reserve Fund).

Emergency Services Insurance - \$18,874

Article 22. 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: \$307,591

Budget Committee Recommends: \$307,591

Article 23. 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 2017/2018 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: \$741,473

(\$54,200 from highway grant & \$687,273 from excise taxes) and YES (on further authorizing the Select Board).

Budget Committee Recommends: \$741,473

(\$54,200 from highway grant & \$687,273 from excise taxes) and YES (on further authorizing the Select Board).

Article 24. 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 - \$7,200

Budget Committee Recommends:

Street Signs - \$2,500

Street Lights - \$7,200

Warrant for Annual Town Business Meeting

Article 25. 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 26. 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: \$26,000

Budget Committee Recommends: \$26,000

Article 27. 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 28. 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; the **One Room School House** toward the cost of utilities and repairs; and the **Red Storage/Barn** toward the cost of repairs.

Select Board Recommends:

China Historical Society - \$6,000

One Room School House - \$1,000

Red Storage Garage/ Barn - \$2,000

Budget Committee Recommends:

China Historical Society - \$6,000

Warrant for Annual Town Business Meeting

One Room School House - \$1,000
Red Storage Garage/Barn - \$2,000

◆

Article 29. 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 30. 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	\$1,545	\$1,154
Spectrum Generations	\$2,276	\$2,276
Kennebec Behavioral Health	\$1,000	\$1,000
Children's Center	\$1,500	\$1,500
Sexual Assault Crisis & Support	\$1,515	\$1,515
Dioceses Human Relations Center	\$500	\$500
Hospice Volunteers of Waterville Area	\$1,650	\$1,650
American Red Cross	\$1,000	\$1,000
	\$12,986	\$12,986

◆

Article 31. 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:
Healthy Hearts	\$500	\$500
The Town Line	\$3,000	\$3,000
The Life Flight Foundation	\$750	\$750
	\$4,250	\$4,250

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Article 32. 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 33. 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 - \$25,600
Grave Marker Expenses - \$950
Budget Committee Recommends:
Cemeteries - \$25,600
Grave Marker Expenses - \$950



Article 34. Shall the voters of the Town of China vote to repeal the **Town of China Cemetery Administration and Maintenance Ordinance** effective March 2, 1985, and further shall a new Ordinance entitled “**Town of China Cemetery Administration and Maintenance Ordinance**” be enacted?

Select Board Recommends: YES

Note: An attested copy of the full text of this ordinance has been posted together with this warrant and is hereby incorporated into this warrant by reference. Copies are available from the town office or at www.china.govoffice.com.



Article 35. To see if the Town will vote to establish two (2) **Tax Payment due dates** to be Friday, September 29, 2017 and Friday, March 30, 2018 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

Warrant for Annual Town Business Meeting

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

Article 36. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Unrestricted 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 37. 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 2017/2018 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: \$30,000 *** (\$15,000 From TIF generated revenues)

Budget Committee Recommends: \$30,000 *** (\$15,000 From TIF generated revenues)

Article 38. To see if the Town will appropriate an amount not to exceed \$55,000 from the overlay and or Unrestricted 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 39. 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

Warrant for Annual Town Business Meeting

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 Unrestricted Fund Balance)

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

Article 40. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$2,700 from Unrestricted Fund Balance for the purpose of preserving the **Historical Records** in the Town of China.

Select Board Recommends: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Article 41. 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 42. To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate from Unrestricted 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 Unrestricted Fund Balance)

Budget Committee Recommends: \$5,000 (From Unrestricted Fund Balance)

Article 43. 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 and further to see if the town will vote to move the remaining balance in the Bicentennial Coordinator line item in the current fiscal year 2016-2017 into a **Bicentennial Account** in the Reserve Fund for said Coordinator services?

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Select Board Recommends: \$10,000 *** (\$5,000 from TIF generated revenues and \$5,000 from Unrestricted Fund Balance) and YES (to move the remaining balance into a Bicentennial Account in the Reserve Fund).

Budget Committee Recommends: \$10,000 *** (\$5,000 from TIF generated revenues and \$5,000 from Unrestricted Fund Balance) and YES (to move the remaining balance into a Bicentennial Account in the Reserve Fund).

Article 44. Shall amendments to the ***Town of China Solid Waste Flow Control Ordinance*** be enacted?

Select Board Recommends: YES

Transfer Station Committee Recommends: YES

Note: An attested copy of the full text of this Ordinance with amendments/revisions has been posted together with this warrant and is hereby incorporated into this warrant by reference. Copies are available from the town office or at www.china.govoffice.com.

Article 45. Shall amendments to the ***Town of China Solid Waste Disposal Ordinance*** be enacted?

Select Board Recommends: YES

Transfer Station Committee Recommends: YES

Note: An attested copy of the full text of this Ordinance with amendments/revisions has been posted together with this warrant and is hereby incorporated into this warrant by reference. Copies are available from the town office or at www.china.govoffice.com.

Article 46. Shall amendments to the ***Town of China Land Development Code***, “Mandatory Shore Land Zoning Changes Chapter 2, Land Use Ordinance, Section 5, Subsections I, J, K, L, and M” be enacted?

Select Board Recommends: YES

Note: An attested copy of the full text of this Ordinance with amendments/revisions has been posted together with this warrant and is hereby incorporated into this warrant by reference. Copies are available from the town office or at www.china.govoffice.com.

Article 47. Shall amendments to the ***Town of China Land Development***, “Non-conforming Existing Structures, Lots and Uses Chapter 2, Land Use Ordinance, Section

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2, Subsection C (VII and VIII and additions of footprint and deletions of floor area in other areas of Section 2)” be enacted?

Select Board Recommends: YES

Note: An attested copy of the full text of this Ordinance with amendments/revisions has been posted together with this warrant and is hereby incorporated into this warrant by reference. Copies are available from the town office or at www.china.govoffice.com.

Article 48. Shall amendments to the ***Town of China Land Development Code***, “Seasonal Conversion Chapter 2, Land Use Ordinance, Section 2, Subsection E (VI)” be enacted?

Select Board Recommends: YES

Note: An attested copy of the full text of this Ordinance with amendments/revisions has been posted together with this warrant and is hereby incorporated into this warrant by reference. Copies are available from the town office or at www.china.govoffice.com.

Article 49. Shall amendments to the ***Town of China Land Development Code***, “Exemptions to Clearing and Vegetative Removal Standards, Chapter 2, Land Use Ordinance, Section 5 (K), (New Subsection)” be enacted?

Select Board Recommends: YES

Note: An attested copy of the full text of this Ordinance with amendments/revisions has been posted together with this warrant and is hereby incorporated into this warrant by reference. Copies are available from the town office or at www.china.govoffice.com.

Article 50. Shall amendments to the ***Town of China Land Development Code***, “Timber Harvesting in Shore Land District Chapter 2, Land Use Ordinance, Section 5 (O), (Renumbered Section R)” be enacted?

Select Board Recommends: YES

Note: An attested copy of the full text of this Ordinance with amendments/revisions has been posted together with this warrant and is hereby incorporated into this warrant by reference. Copies are available from the town office or at www.china.govoffice.com.

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Article 51. Shall amendments to the *Town of China Land Development Code*, “Functionally Dependent Water Uses K Chapter 2, Land Use Ordinance, Section 5 K (Subsection VI), (Renumbered N due to added sections)” be enacted?

Select Board Recommends: YES

Note: An attested copy of the full text of this Ordinance with amendments/revisions has been posted together with this warrant and is hereby incorporated into this warrant by reference. Copies are available from the town office or at www.china.govoffice.com.



Article 52. Shall amendments to the *Town of China Land Development Code*, “Conditional use Standards Chapter 2, Land Use Ordinance, Sections 6B (VII)” be enacted?

Select Board Recommends: YES

Note: An attested copy of the full text of this Ordinance with amendments/revisions has been posted together with this warrant and is hereby incorporated into this warrant by reference. Copies are available from the town office or at www.china.govoffice.com.



Article 53. Shall amendments to the *Town of China Land Development Code*, “Signs Chapter 2, Land Use Ordinance, Section 5, Subsection J (Renumbered M) (Everything except subsection h)” be enacted?

Select Board Recommends: YES

Note: An attested copy of the full text of this Ordinance with amendments/revisions has been posted together with this warrant and is hereby incorporated into this warrant by reference. Copies are available from the town office or at www.china.govoffice.com.



Article 54. Shall amendments to the *Town of China Land Development Code*, “Miscellaneous Chapter 2, Land Use Ordinance, all other; Section 2 (C) (II), Section 2 (C) (VI), Section 5 (A) a, and Section 5 (A) a (xii)” be enacted?

Select Board Recommends: YES

Note: An attested copy of the full text of this Ordinance with amendments/revisions has been posted together with this warrant and is hereby incorporated into this warrant by reference. Copies are available from the town office or at www.china.govoffice.com.



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Article 55. Shall amendments to the *Town of China Land Development Code*, “Chapter 11, Definitions” be enacted?

Select Board Recommends: YES

Note: An attested copy of the full text of this Ordinance with amendments/revisions has been posted together with this warrant and is hereby incorporated into this warrant by reference. Copies are available from the town office or at www.china.govoffice.com.

Article 56. To see if the Town will vote to authorize and direct the Select Board or its duly authorized designee or designees as a representative of the Town to:

1. Exercise the “Put Option” described in the Sixth Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of **Penobscot Energy Recovery Company, Limited Partnership**; and
2. Execute and deliver on behalf of the Town such documents, and to take such further actions, as the Board of Selectmen or said designee(s) may deem necessary or appropriate in order to exercise the above-described Put Option and to assign the Town's limited partnership interests to **Penobscot Energy Recovery Company, Limited Partnership** as contemplated thereby.

Select Board Recommends: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Explanatory Note: This article authorizes and directs the Board of Selectmen to exercise a Put Option described in the Sixth Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Penobscot Energy Recovery Company, Limited Partnership. (the "PERC Partnership Agreement"). By exercising this Put Option, the Town is electing to require that the Penobscot Energy Recover Company, Limited Partnership ("PERC") repurchase the Town's limited partnership interest in PERC on the terms described in Section 9.3 of the PERC Partnership Agreement in exchange for a cash payment equal to the Town's proportionate share of One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000), which represents the agreed upon aggregate value of all limited partnership interests held by the Town and other similarly situated municipal members of the Municipal Review Committee.

Warrant for Annual Town Business Meeting

Given under our hands this 20th day of February, AD 2017

Neil Farrington - Chairperson

Joann C. Austin, Selectperson

Irene L. Belanger, Selectperson

Ronald R. Breton, Selectperson

Jeffrey R. LaVerdiere, Selectperson

Ode to Town Meeting

*Town Meeting time is near
And the town's legislative body has plenty to accomplish
We are anxious to gather
To make decisions for China's future and
To spend time with neighbors
Contemplating what's best for our town
Your input is part of the process
No question is trivial
No thought is unimportant
Let your voice be heard
Mark your calendar
For your presence is requested
at China Middle School
at 9a.m.
on the 25th day of March 2017.*



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

*(Please note we are now **open on Tuesday**
and **closed on Wednesday.**)*

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

MUST have a valid **2017** 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

Erskine Academy (207) 445-2962

China Food Pantry (207) 968-2421

China Post Office (207) 445-2230

China Village Post Office (207) 968-2623

Albert Church Brown Memorial Library (207) 968-2926

South China Library (207) 445-3094

Free burning permits at www.wardensreport.com



These eagle photos were taken by retired China teacher Elaine Philbrook near her home on China Lake.

