



**Town of China Minutes for the Annual Town
Business Meeting
Election Format, June 14, 2022**

Article 2. Shall the Town vote to appropriate the following revenues in the amounts listed below to reduce the property tax assessment for fiscal year 2022/2023?
Passed with 613 yeas and 57 nays.

Non-Property Tax Revenue	
Excise Taxes	\$ 975,000.00
Revenue Sharing	\$ 535,000.00
Interest Income	\$ 47,500.00
Transfer Station Revenue	\$ 149,500.00
FirstPark	\$ 26,100.00
Other Town Revenue	\$ 203 300.00
Total Estimated Revenue 2022-2023	\$ 1,936,400.00

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to appropriate up to \$230,534 from assigned fund balance and up to \$152,790 from unassigned fund balance to meet expenses and emergencies that occur during fiscal year 2022/2023.
Passed with 578 yeas and 104 nays.

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$872,895 for Administration and \$25,000 for Accrued Compensation expenses.
Passed with 437 yeas and 244 nays.

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$82,575 for Boards and Committees expenses.
Passed with 487 yeas and 188 nays.

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,484 for Association Dues, the sum of \$16,000 for Welfare and the sum of \$11,332 for Social Services expenses.
Passed with 543 yeas and 139 nays.

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$157,985 for Assessing expenses and \$30,000 for Legal expenses.
Passed with 470 yeas and 207 nays.

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$16,995 for Animal Control expenses, the sum of \$34,000 for Police expenses and \$42,057 for Dispatch expenses.

Passed with 561 yeas and 103 nays.

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$166,755 for Fire and Rescue Services expenses.

Passed with 615 yeas and 52 nays.

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$638,755 for Transfer Station expenses and appropriate demolition debris revenues received above estimated amounts in FY 2021/2022 to offset overages in the FY 2021/2022 demolition debris tipping expense account and authorize the assignment and transfer of the funds from the bulk storage tank carry forward of \$11,461 and transfer station furnace carry forward of \$2,700 to the transfer station capital reserve account.

Passed with 485 yeas and 181 nays.

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,449,745 for Public Works expenses with an estimated \$52,000 in revenue received from the State of Maine's Local Road Assistance Program.

Passed with 493 yeas and 173 nays.

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$92,000 for Community Support Organizations expenses.

Passed with 478 yeas and 187 nays.

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$49,500 for Cemetery Care expenses.

Passed with 564 yeas and 101 nays.

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from undesignated fund balance \$88,290 for Contingency expenses and any amounts unexpended during FY 2021/2022 will be credited to the appropriate assigned or unassigned fund balance.

Passed with 523 yeas and 137 nays.

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$265,000 from tax increment (TIF) revenues for expenditure in accordance with that Program.

Passed with 476 yeas and 184 nays.

Article 16. For Articles 2 through 15, shall the Select Board be authorized to expend a portion of the appropriated/raised amount prior to the beginning of the 2022/2023 fiscal year or carry forward remaining amounts from 2021/2022 to the 2022/2023 budget as the Select Board deems prudent, and shall the Select Board be authorized to place unexpended funds as they deem in the best interests of the Town in related reserve accounts or reserve accounts they deem should be established, the funds from which may be used upon a majority vote of a quorum of the Select Board?

Passed with 544 yeas and 128 nays.

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote that if any article herein does not pass, the amounts appropriated in FY 2021/2022 for the subject article shall be deemed adopted for FY 2022/2023.

Passed with 507 yeas and 164 nays.

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all money received from the State for snowmobile registrations to the China Four Season Club, for the maintenance of their network of snowmobile trails, on condition that those trails be open in the snow season to the public for outdoor recreation purposes, after administration expenses of not more than \$1.00 per snowmobile.

Passed with 603 yeas and 73 nays.

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to establish two (2) Tax Payment due dates to be Friday, September 30, 2022 and Friday, March 31, 2023, and to charge an Interest Rate of four percent (4%) per annum after each tax payment due date, at the daily rate of 0.0001096 for each day, or fraction thereof, the payment is overdue.

Passed with 572 yeas and 102 nays.

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector or Treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed, pursuant to 36 M.R.S. § 506.

Passed with 604 yeas and 68 nays.

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to raise and/or appropriate \$15,000 from Overlay to offset tax abatements and applicable interest granted throughout the year.

Passed with 553 yeas and 115 nays.

Article 22. To 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, except that the Select Board shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S. § 943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s).

Passed with 556 yeas and 92 nays.

Article 23. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to apply for, accept, and expend, without further action by Town Meeting, money from the State, federal or other governmental units or private sources which becomes available during the year, and to authorize the Select Board to accept, and/or expend on behalf of the Town, any and all unconditional gifts of any type of property; and to further authorize the Select Board to appropriate from TIF grant match funds any required match for approval of such grants throughout the year.

Passed with 530 yeas and 120 nays.

Article 24. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to use the proceeds of any payment on insurance claims for damages occurring to the Town owned real and personal property and to have the funds allocated to the municipal department whose property was damaged.

Passed with 592 yeas and 59 nays.

Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to negotiate and execute multi-year contracts of not more than five years, including but not limited to, contracts or agreements in the following areas: auditing, equipment purchasing, leasing and maintenance and roadside mowing.

Passed with 560 yeas and 90 nays.

Article 26. To see if the Town of China (Town) will vote to change the eligibility guidelines it set as of March 5, 1977 for membership in the Town's Participating Local District plan (P0235) as follows:

The Town votes to:

- A) Allow membership in the Maine Public Employees Retirement System's Participating Local District Plan to the Town's employees who work more than 35 hours per week, 52 weeks per year effective July 1, 2022. The Town previously only provided coverage to full-time employees working 40 hours or more per week, 52 weeks per year.
- B) Allow its newly eligible employees (ie. Those working more than 35 hours per week but less than 40 hours per week, 52 weeks per year) who elect to join MainePERS, to purchase prior service credit for employment with the Town before July 1, 2022 upon the employee's full payment of all associated costs. The Town of China will not participate in the purchase of prior service, and so employees are responsible for paying the full liability associated with this service.
- C) Continue to exclude all other employees from participation including; temporary and seasonal employees, election workers, elected officials and officials appointed for a fixed term from participating.

D) Authorize Rebecca J. Hapgood, Town Manager, to sign the clarified Amended Agreement between the Town and the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.
Passed with 553 yeas and 98 nays.

Article 27. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to sell the 2017 Ford Explorer police cruiser and use the revenue received to offset the 2022-2023 municipal budget.

Passed with 612 yeas and 44 nays.

Article 28. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to request bids, negotiate, trade, sell and/or purchase municipal vehicles, machinery and equipment as deemed to be in the best interest of the town.

Passed with 601 yeas and 75 nays.

Article 29. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to dispose of town- owned personal property with a value of \$3,000 or less, under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.

Passed with 596 yeas and 78 nays.

Article 30. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$20,000 from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA funds) received by the Town from the federal government for the following project: Emergency generator for the old town hall and replacement emergency generator for the town office.

Passed with 553 yeas and 118 nays.

Article 31. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$38,000 from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA funds) received by the Town from the federal government for the following project: Emergency 911 signs for every residence.

Passed with 499 yeas and 171 nays.

Article 32. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$33,000 from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA funds) received by the Town from the federal government for the following project: Digital sign to be located at the South China Fire Department fire station and used by the town and fire departments.

Passed with 389 yeas and 283 nays.

Article 33. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$16,200 from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA funds) received by the Town from the federal government for the following project: Provide premium pay to eligible municipal workers.

Passed with 454 yeas and 216 nays.

Article 34. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$5,000 from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA funds) received by the Town from the federal government for the following project: Senior events and activities.

Passed with 542 yeas and 133 nays.

Article 35. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$20,000 from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA funds) received by the Town from the federal government for the following project: Portable digital sign for speed control and community announcements.

Passed with 354 yeas and 303 nays.

Article 36. To see if the Town will vote to repeal the School Budget Ordinance adopted in 1998.

Passed with 508 yeas and 130 nays.

Article 37. To see if the town will enact an ordinance entitled Large Scale Solar Facilities Moratorium Ordinance.

Failed with 285 yeas and 369 nays.

Article 38. To see if the town shall vote in favor of approving the 2022 update to the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

Passed with 546 yeas and 103 nays.

Kelly Grotton, Moderator, closed polls at 8:00pm, with a total voter participation of 690 consisting of 147 absentee votes while 543 voted on Election Day.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela Nelson, Town Clerk