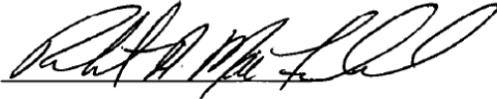
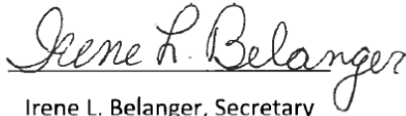


2019 ANNUAL TOWN BUSINESS MEETING WARRANT
FOR THE
TOWN OF CHINA, MAINE

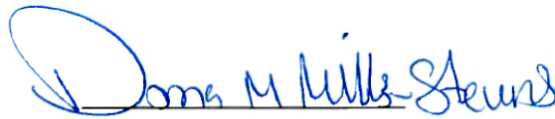
Given under our hands this 19 day of FEB, 2019 as the Board of Selectmen.



Robert A. MacFarland, Chairman

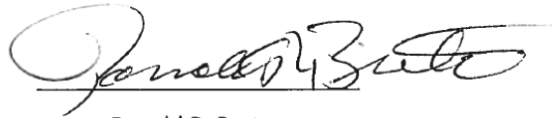


Irene L. Belanger, Secretary



Donna M. Mills-Stevens

Jeffrey R. LaVerdiere



Ronald R. Breton

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 6th day of April, A.D. 2019, 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 elect a moderator to preside at said meeting.

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

Recognition of Public Officials

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to exceed the 2019-2020 property tax levy limit of \$1,711,513.00 established for China under 30-A M.R.S. § 5721-A, 7.A.

Select Board Recommends: **YES** with a vote of **4** ayes/ **0** nays

Budget Committee Recommends: **YES** with a vote of **7** ayes/ **0** nays

[FOR ARTICLES 3 THROUGH 28, PLEASE REFER TO THE "ANNUAL BUDGET" INCLUDED IN THE TOWN REPORT]

Article 3. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and or appropriate for **Administration** and **Administration, Other** expenses.

Select Board Recommends with a vote of **4** ayes/ **0** nays

Administration: \$473,081.00

Administration, Other: \$213,126.00

Budget Committee Recommends with a vote of **6** ayes/ **0** nays

Administration: \$473,081.00

Administration, Other: \$213,126.00

Article 4. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and or appropriate for **Boards and Committees** expenses.

Select Board Recommends with a vote of **4** ayes/ **0** nays

Boards and Committees: \$44,163.00

Budget Committee Recommends with a vote of **6** ayes/ **0** nays

Boards and Committees: \$44,163.00

Article 5. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and or appropriate for **Association Dues** expenses.

Select Board Recommends with a vote of **4** ayes/ **0** nays

Association Dues: \$14,517.00

Budget Committee Recommends with a vote of **6** ayes/ **0** nays

Association Dues: \$14,517.00

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

Select Board Recommends with a vote of **4** ayes/ **0** nays:

Assessing: \$115,965.75

Budget Committee Recommends with a vote of **6** ayes/ **0** nays

Assessing: \$115,965.75

Article 7. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and or appropriate for **Legal** expenses.

Select Board Recommends with a vote of **4** ayes/ **0** nays

Legal: \$20,000.00

Budget Committee Recommends with a vote of **6** ayes/ **0** nays

Legal: \$20,000.00

Article 8. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and or appropriate for **Police and Animal Control** expenses.

Select Board Recommends with a vote of **4** ayes/ **0** nays

Police and Animal Control: \$91,498.00

Budget Committee Recommends with a vote of **7** ayes/ **0** nays

Police and Animal Control: \$91,498.00

Article 9. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and or appropriate for **Fire and Rescue Services** expenses.

Select Board Recommends with a vote of **4** ayes/ **0** nays

Fire and Rescue Services: \$171,199.00

Budget Committee Recommends with a vote of **6** ayes/ **0** nays

Fire and Rescue Services: \$181,499.00

Article 10. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and or appropriate for **Transfer Station** expenses.

Select Board Recommends with a vote of **4** ayes/ **0** nays

Transfer Station: \$498,705.00

Budget Committee Recommends with a vote of **6** ayes/ **0** nays

Transfer Station: \$498,705.00

Article 11. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and or appropriate for **Public Works** expenses.

Select Board Recommends with a vote of **4** ayes/ **0** nays

Public Works: \$1,196,746.00

Budget Committee Recommends with a vote of **6** ayes/ **0** nays

Public Works: \$1,196,746.00

Article 12. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and or appropriate for **Welfare** expenses.

Select Board Recommends with a vote of **4** ayes/ **0** nays

Welfare: \$16,000.00

Budget Committee Recommends with a vote of **6** ayes/ **0** nays

Welfare: \$16,000.00

Article 13. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and or appropriate for **Social Services** expenses.

Select Board Recommends with a vote of **4** ayes/ **0** nays

Social Services: \$12,808.00

Budget Committee Recommends with a vote of **6** ayes/ **0** nays

Social Services: \$12,808.00

Article 14. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and or appropriate for **Community Support Organizations** expenses.

Select Board Recommends with a vote of **4** ayes/ **0** nays

Community Support Organizations: \$67,500.00

Budget Committee Recommends with a vote of **6** ayes/ **0** nays

Community Support Organizations: \$67,500.00

Article 15. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and or appropriate for **Cemetery Care** expenses.

Select Board Recommends with a vote of **4** ayes/ **0** nays

Cemetery Care: \$21,000.00

Budget Committee Recommends with a vote of **6** ayes/ **0** nays

Cemetery Care: \$21,000.00

Article 16. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and or appropriate for **Contingency** expenses.

Select Board Recommends with a vote of **4** ayes/ **0** nays

Contingency: \$55,000.00

Budget Committee Recommends with a vote of **6** ayes/ **0** nays

Contingency: \$55,000.00

Article 17. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and or appropriate for **FirstPark** expenses.

Select Board Recommends with a vote of **4** ayes/ **0** nays

FirstPark: \$38,169.00

Budget Committee Recommends with a vote of **6** ayes/ **0** nays

FirstPark: \$38,169.00

Article 18. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and or appropriate for **Accrued Compensation** expenses.

Select Board Recommends with a vote of **4** ayes/ **0** nays

Accrued Compensation: \$50,000.00

Budget Committee Recommends with a vote of **6** ayes/ **0** nays

Accrued Compensation: \$50,000.00

NOTE: With the retirement of the former town manager, the Accrued Compensation Reserve Fund was completely depleted. Only \$6,000.00 was budgeted for FY18/19 to bring the account back up. However, at the conclusion of FY17/18, and after the payout to the former town manager, the town obligation for Accrued Compensation was just over \$107,000.00. Taking a responsible approach, this year it is intended to add the amount indicated to the reserve account, in the anticipation that the account will be fully funded in the next fiscal year (FY20/21) and in all years following.

Article 19. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and or appropriate for **Program Development Fund (TIF)** expenses.

Select Board Recommends with a vote of **4** ayes/ **0** nays

Program Development Fund (TIF): \$457,082.73

Budget Committee Recommends with a vote of **5** ayes/ **0** nays/ **1** abstains

Program Development Fund (TIF): \$457,082.73

Article 20. For Articles 3 through 19, shall the Select Board be authorized to expend a portion of the appropriated/raised amount prior to the beginning of the 2019/2020 fiscal year or carry forward remaining amounts, and shall the Select Board be authorized to place such unexpended funds as they deem in the best interests of the Town in related reserve accounts, the funds which may be used upon a majority vote of a quorum of the Select Board?

Select Board Recommends: **YES** with a vote of **4** ayes/ **0** nays
Budget Committee Recommends: **YES** with a vote of **6** ayes/ **0** nays

Article 21. Shall the estimated amounts for revenues indicated in the ANNUAL BUDGET be raised and or appropriated to support the expenses approved in Articles 3 through 19, and shall the Select Board be authorized to appropriate surplus revenues in support of such unforeseen expenses or revenue shortages as they deem to be in the best interests of the Town, and shall all other surplus funds not otherwise designated to reserve funds be deposited to the credit of the UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE?

Select Board Recommends: **YES** with a vote of **4** ayes/ **0** nays
Budget Committee Recommends: **YES** with a vote of **6** ayes/ **0** nays

Article 22. Shall a two percent (2%) cost-of-living compensation increase be added across-the-board for eligible employees, and shall the additional \$12,524.68 necessary to increase the compensation be raised and or appropriated above what is already budgeted?

Select Board Recommends: **YES** with a vote of **4** ayes/ **0** nays
Budget Committee Recommends: **YES** with a vote of **6** ayes/ **0** nays

NOTE: The annual Consumer Price Index average for New England was 1.7 % at the end of 2018.
(<https://www.bls.gov/regions/new-england/cpi-summary/ro1xg01a.htm>)

Article 23. Shall the annual stipend for serving as a member of the Select Board be increased from \$1,000.00 to \$1,800.00 per year, and shall the additional \$4,000.00 necessary to increase the stipend be raised and or appropriated above what is already budgeted?

Select Board Recommends: **YES** with a vote of **4** ayes/ **0** nays
Budget Committee Recommends: **NO** with a vote of **1** ayes/ **5** nays

NOTE: A January 2019 survey of Maine towns with Select Boards found that the average stipend for towns of similar size is \$1,920.00 per selectman.

Article 24. 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.

Select Board Recommends: **YES** with a vote of **4** ayes/ **0** nays
Budget Committee Recommends: **YES** with a vote of **6** ayes/ **0** nays

Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to establish two (2) **Tax Payment due dates** to be Friday, September 27, 2019 and Friday, March 27, 2020, and to charge an **Interest Rate** of nine percent (9.0%) per annum after each tax payment due date, at the daily rate of 0.0002465753 for each day, or fraction thereof, the payment is overdue.

Select Board Recommends: **YES** with a vote of **4** ayes/ **0** nays
Budget Committee Recommends: **YES** with a vote of **6** ayes/ **0** nays

Article 26. 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).

Select Board Recommends: **YES** with a vote of **4** ayes/ **0** nays
Budget Committee Recommends: **YES** with a vote of **6** ayes/ **0** nays

Article 27. 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, and to further authorize the Select Board to appropriate from Overlay to offset abatements granted throughout the year.

Select Board Recommends: **YES** with a vote of **4** ayes/ **0** nays
Budget Committee Recommends: **YES** with a vote of **6** ayes/ **0** nays

Article 28. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the town manager to apply for grants in support of town operations, and to further authorize the Select Board to appropriate from grant match funds to provide any required match for approval of such grants throughout the year.

Select Board Recommends: **YES** with a vote of **4** ayes/ **0** nays
Budget Committee Recommends: **YES** with a vote of **6** ayes/ **0** nays

Article 29. To see if the Town will vote to approve changes to the Land Development Code, Chapter 2, Land Use Ordinance, as recommended by the Planning Board.

NOTE: Revisions clarify and resolve various conflicts of language in the respective chapter. Correct numbering and format errors. Additionally, the revisions set out the following:

- Remove municipal requirement for tree harvesting permit which is a duplication of the state permit requirement
 - Clarify time period of seven (7) consecutive days when permit is needed for tent/RV camping
 - Clarify requirement for possible upgrade of grandfathered septic systems for relocated structures in the Shoreland District
 - Remove old language for abandoned structures in the Shoreland District which was contradictory to newer required language
 - Add requirement for manure storage to meet Department of Agriculture Manure Utilization Guidelines (current version only regulates spreading of manure)
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Article 30. To see if the Town will vote to approve changes to the Land Development Code, Chapter 3, Subdivision Ordinance, as recommended by the Planning Board.

NOTE: The Ordinance fees were contradictory to recently established fees. The changes remove actual fee amounts but states that the Select Board shall set the fees. This allows the Board to change the fees in the future without changing the Ordinance.

Article 31. To see if the Town will vote to approve changes to the Land Development Code, Chapter 11, Definitions, as recommended by the Planning Board.

NOTE: Revisions clarify and update various definitions and resolve various conflicts of language in the respective chapter. Additionally, the revisions set out the following:

- Clarify difference between campground and campsite
- Adopt state definition of Code Enforcement Officer
- Change definition of disability to be consistent with ADA
- Add definition of footprint for consistency with DEP 2015 Guidelines (The DEP Guidelines are minimum requirements)
- Require home occupation be within where person resides
- Establish actual date for lot of record of January 1, 1989 (consistent with beginning of 30% expansion beginning for non-conforming structures)