

*Annual Report
of the Municipal Officers
of the Town of China, Maine
for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017*

**Annual Town
Business Meeting**
Saturday, March 24, 2018
9:00 am
China Primary School

**A quorum of 120
registered voters is needed to
hold the meeting!!**

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

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Dedication



It is with great honor and respect that the China Select Board dedicates this year's Annual Town Report to Daniel L'Heureux for over 22 years of service to the Town of China.

We sincerely appreciate your role in the success of the town. You have led us in countless ways. The town now has access to Thurston Park, a highway garage with three town trucks and a new recycling building at the transfer station along with an agreement with the neighboring town of Palermo to share the transfer station facility. You helped the town establish a TIF (Tax Increment Financing fund), established many reserve accounts, and facilitated an arrangement with the Oakland Police to share officers all while the fund balance has almost doubled in the last five years.

On behalf of the Select Board and the residents, we want to thank you, Dan, for your tremendous dedication to the China community!

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, 2017

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 near future. In this report, however, and after short statements about governance and finances, I will digress to focus on the delivery of excellent public service.

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 Maine 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 and robust financial condition, e.g. China does not have any long-term debt and unassigned 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. Recent successes in Tax Increment Financing programs have provided several millions of dollars over the next thirty years for economic development initiatives. 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 has not been in any better financial position than it is in at the present time, arguably in better condition than most municipalities in the State; **credit deserved by many town mothers/fathers over a long period of time who practiced taking care of the bad times during the good times.**

Delivery of Excellent Public Services While Mindful of Costs: The path forward in delivering on the customer promise of excellent public service will impact many residents. It is commonly known that one delivers on the customer "excellent public service" promise most effectively by knowing the customer and their needs and expectations. The manner in which we (municipal government) address how to improve meeting resident/customer needs and expectations will determine the results that will be achieved by all of us. It has been the goal of the town to provide enhanced service delivery comparable to any in the private sector. We are a provider of services for which you pay taxes.

We will consistently search for ways to improve local government efficiency and effectiveness in everything we do; attempting to provide you with good value for your tax dollar. We want to have accessibility of services to all citizens and want you to be satisfied with all of us who work for YOU. We believe this can be done while being mindful of minimizing the costs associated with providing services to you. **Your**

employees have the skill sets and dedication to provide this excellent service to a diverse resident base as we draw insight from other public and private successes that have had the customer/resident at the core of any strategy. Inherently part of the philosophy of the town staff, excellent customer service is the standard by which we measure success in day-to-day operations as we respond to changing customer expectations. We are happy to receive your feedback if you are not totally satisfied with your experiences with us. Thank you for allowing us to serve you!

In closing, personal and professional appreciation is extended to the Select Board, the Budget Committee, our representatives on the RSU#18 School Board, RSU#18, the China Planning Board, the Police Department, 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. The character and fiber of the town of China, its citizens, remains strong.

At this time, I find it very appropriate to personally convey a heartfelt expression of gratitude to every citizen in the town of China for the opportunity you have given me to serve you as your Town Manager. It has been very rewarding.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel L'Heureux
China Town Manager

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.)

- Irene L. Belanger (2019)
- Neil Farrington (2018)
- Jeffrey LaVerdiere (2018)
- Robart MacFarland (2019)
- Donna Mills-Stevens (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 - Kevin Michaud (2019)
- District 2 - Toni Wall (2018)
- District 3 - Milton Dudley (2019)
- District 4 - Thomas Miragliuolo (2018) - Chair
- At-Large - Vacant (2018)
- Alternate At-Large - James Wilkens (2019)

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 (2019)
- Secretary - Jean Conway (2018)
- District 1 - Kevin Maroon (2019)
- District 2 - Thomas Rumpf (2018)
- District 3 - Wayne Chadwick (2019)
- District 4 - Timothy Basham (2018)
- At-Large - Valerie Baker (2018)



Appointed Officials

Appeals Board

- Spencer Aitel (2019)
- Virginia Davis (2021)
- Michael Gee (2022)
- Anthony Pileggi (2018)
- Robert Fischer (2018)
- Lisa Kane (2020)
- Dale Worster (2020)



Board of Assessment Review

- Harold Charles (2020)
- Sheri Wilkens (2019)
- Dale Peabody (2018)
- Anthony Pileggi - Alternate (2019)
- Dwaine Drummond - Alternate (2018)

The following committee appointments are through June 30, 2018.

Broadband Committee

- Neil Farrington
- Robert O'Connor
- Jamie Pitney
- Tod Detre
- Raymond Robert

Capital Investment Committee

- Daniel L'Heureux
- Irene Belanger

Cemetery Committee

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

Forestry Committee

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

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

China for a Lifetime Committee

- Joann C. Austin
- Helen Roy
- Sandra Kostron
- Irene Belanger
- Christopher Hann
- Toni Wall
- Sheldon Goodine
- Joyce Goodine
- Jeanne Hanson
- Dawn Castner



Cost Share Committee

- Ronald Breton
- Irene Belanger

Economic & Community Development Committee

- Lucas Adams
- Irene L. Belanger
- Daniel L'Heureux
- Carlaine Bovio

Emergency Preparedness Committee

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

Appointed Officials

Revolving Loan Fund Committee

- Amy Gartley
- Dale Worster
- Robert Batteese
- Thomas Rumpf

Road Committee

- Frederick Anderson
- Dale Peabody

Recreation Committee

- Rosalie Batteese
- 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
- Ronald Breton
- Shannon Axelson

Transfer Station Committee

- Francis Soares III
- Irene Belanger
- Mark Davis
- Paul Lucas
- Robert Kurek (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

Facilities Committee

- Daniel L'Heureux
- Irene Belanger

Thurston Park II Committee

- Joann Austin
- Rosalie Batteese
- Irene 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
- Lindsey Harwarth



China's Select Board held one meeting in the Old Town Hall

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: cvvfd@roadrunner.com
- William Van Wickler Chief, Weeks Mills Volunteer Fire Department
Phone: 592-1385
- Richard Morse Chief, South China Volunteer Fire Department & Fire Warden
Phone: 445-2948 email: danddmorse@fairpoint.net

China Police Officers

Michael Tracy
Tracey Frost
Adam Sirois
Jerry Haynes
Charles Stubbert
Tanya Allen

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,

In some ways, I was proud of our accomplishments in the legislature this past year. However, too often we mirrored the partisan dysfunction we have seen in Washington.



On the plus side, we took a big step dealing with the referendum process by removing the surtax imposed on Maine's small businesses and professionals. I believe that, had it been left in place, this tax would have presented serious problems for Maine's economy. At the same time, voters made it clear that they wanted more state revenue directed toward K-12 education. To that end, we passed one of the largest increases in education spending in state history. Significantly, we also put in place measures to ensure more resources go directly into the classroom.

The Legislature also passed a measure to make Maine compliant with the REAL ID Act. Had lawmakers failed to take action, Maine citizens would have been unable to use their driver's licenses to board commercial airplanes and access certain federal buildings, beginning in 2018.

On the negative side, I am afraid we did not do our job dealing with both the biennial budget and the legalization of marijuana. Although we eventually passed a budget on the 4th of July, it did not come until after a government shutdown. It was not our finest hour. Partisan gamesmanship was the order of the day rather than collaboration and compromise. I am so proud of the Senate – both parties – for everything we did to avoid the impasse.

The other big disappointment for me was how we dealt with the subject of marijuana. I chaired the committee to write the law implementing this citizen's referendum. Despite many months of bipartisan work and the fact that our proposal passed both bodies of the legislature, the governor vetoed the bill. We will give this issue another shot this year during the upcoming session. Whether one likes it or not, it is now legal to possess and grow small amounts of marijuana. It is our responsibility to put in place the framework to ensure it is done safely so that our communities will be protected.

Mostly, I would like to thank you again for the great honor of representing you in the State Senate. I get goosebumps every day that I walk into the State House, knowing I will have a chance to have an impact on the direction of our wonderful state. I do a better job when I hear from you, so please, keep the calls and emails coming! Feel free to contact me at (207) 485-2394 or roger.katz@legislature.maine.gov if you have comments, questions or if you would like assistance in navigating our state's bureaucracy.

Sincerely,

Roger Katz
State Senator, District 15

House District 79

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It has been an honor to serve as your Representative in the 128th Maine State Legislature. This is a responsibility that I take very seriously. We have faced some very substantial challenges over the past year in the Legislature, and I will continue to represent your interests to the best of my ability.

While we were able to address many issues during the first session, on January 3, 2018, the Legislature convened for the second regular session. This shorter session is where we take up bills considered to be emergency legislation, as well as bills carried over that need work. I can assure you that there are many challenges ahead of us, and I will do my best to address the issues with a thoughtful approach. Maine's drug crisis, Medicaid expansion funding, and recreational marijuana laws will be at the forefront of several issues considered this half of the session.

Many of you know, I currently sit on the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. This session we will be working on a variety of different bills that range from moose permit exchanges to amending the rules around requiring background checks for Maine Guides.

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.

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

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.

Even though Washington is so bitterly divided these days, I've continued to look for bipartisan opportunities to address issues important to our state. Nearly all the bills I've introduced this Congress have Republican cosponsors.

One piece of legislation would help protect our state's economy by investing in working waterfronts. Another would allow Mainers to import less expensive prescriptions from Canada. And several bills would help our farmers capitalize on the fastest growing areas of agriculture—local and organic sales—by investing in research, increasing consumer access to healthy food, and improving farmer programs.

I'm happy to report bipartisan victories for our veterans as well. After working for years with Maine's Congressional Delegation, we were finally able to push a much-needed expansion of the Portland VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic through Congress. Legislation I introduced to help veterans who find themselves in debt to the Department of Veterans Affairs unanimously passed the House of Representatives. And full GI Bill benefits were extended to a group of veterans who had been denied them previously—an issue I've introduced legislation to address.

While I strive to find common ground with my colleagues on everything from rural broadband access to economic development, there are many areas where I will not compromise. I have serious concerns about the direction the Trump Administration and its allies in Congress are taking our country. In so many ways, they have abandoned America's leadership in the world, made our country less safe, and are jeopardizing our future. They've weakened our health care system, rigged the tax code against working families, and endangered the environment. With one hand, they are taking away resources our families and communities need. With the other, they are offering generous giveaways to giant corporations and the wealthiest Americans.

Over the last year, I've received an unprecedented amount of feedback on these issues from my constituents. With their concerns and interests in mind, I have fought hard against these policies. I will continue using my role in Congress and the Appropriations Committee to hold the Administration and the President accountable.

Please keep in touch with your views or if there is anything I might be able to help you with. My office assists hundreds of constituents every year who have issues with federal programs or agencies. It's an honor to serve you.

Take care,

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Doris L. Young Scholarships

The Doris L. Young Scholarship was established in 1982 to award worthy students from China a scholarship to help with their college education. Applications are available at the China Town Office and on the web at www.china.govoffice.com. The following students were awarded a \$500 scholarship for the 2016-2017 school year.

Sarah Basham	Olivia Leary
Christina Belanger	Evan Matteson
Lilja Bernheim	Tanner Matteson
Madison Bodine	Kelly McCormac
Hallee Breton	Emma McCormac
Olivia Burke	Merlin Murphy
Marissa Chamberlain	Brianna Parisien
Mallory Chamberlain	Hannah Peabody
Zachary Childs	Luke Peabody
Daniel Constanzer	Shayla Pillow
Kaitlyn Darveau	Anthony Pizzo
Emmett deMaynadier	James Poulin
Treva deMaynadier	Sarah Poulin
Kiley Drummond	Cameron Reed
Megan Dunn	Emma Robertson
Corey Eastup	Tyler Rollins
Lydia Fletcher	Rebecca Watson
Kayla Goggin	Brittany White
Grace Kilian	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

It is an honor to serve as your Superintendent of Schools and to have the opportunity to contribute to this year's town report. There has been significant change at the Central Office this past year, but what has not changed is the commitment and dedication in RSU 18 to meet the needs of every child, at every school on every day. In my first year as your Superintendent I am spending time watching, listening and learning about our district. One thing that has not been a surprise, but has been very reassuring, is the incredible positive relationships I see in all of our schools.

In our elementary schools, the educational climate is one of the first things parents mention when they visit. We work hard to create this atmosphere, and it is something we are proud of. Our "Watch Dog" and other volunteer programs bring parents into our schools. Our commitment to meeting individual student needs is thriving in our elementary schools. We have intervention programs to meet the needs of struggling students, and our dedicated teachers and administrators work tirelessly to ensure that every student is challenged and given opportunities to succeed.



China Middle School Varsity Girls basketball

In our middle schools and high school, there is no shortage of things to brag about. Math teams are thriving at all levels, our academic indicators are moving in a positive direction, and we have academic supports in place to help all students succeed. The town of China continues to value school choice and our relationship with Erskine Academy. No matter where our students attend high school, we strive to make sure they are well prepared and ready.

This year I watched students from our district present at the Maine School Management Association's conference. They presented on an academic program from our district, and they stole the show. Administrators, teachers and school board members from other schools were blown away. The Governor went out of his way to complement our team. As always, our students made us look good.

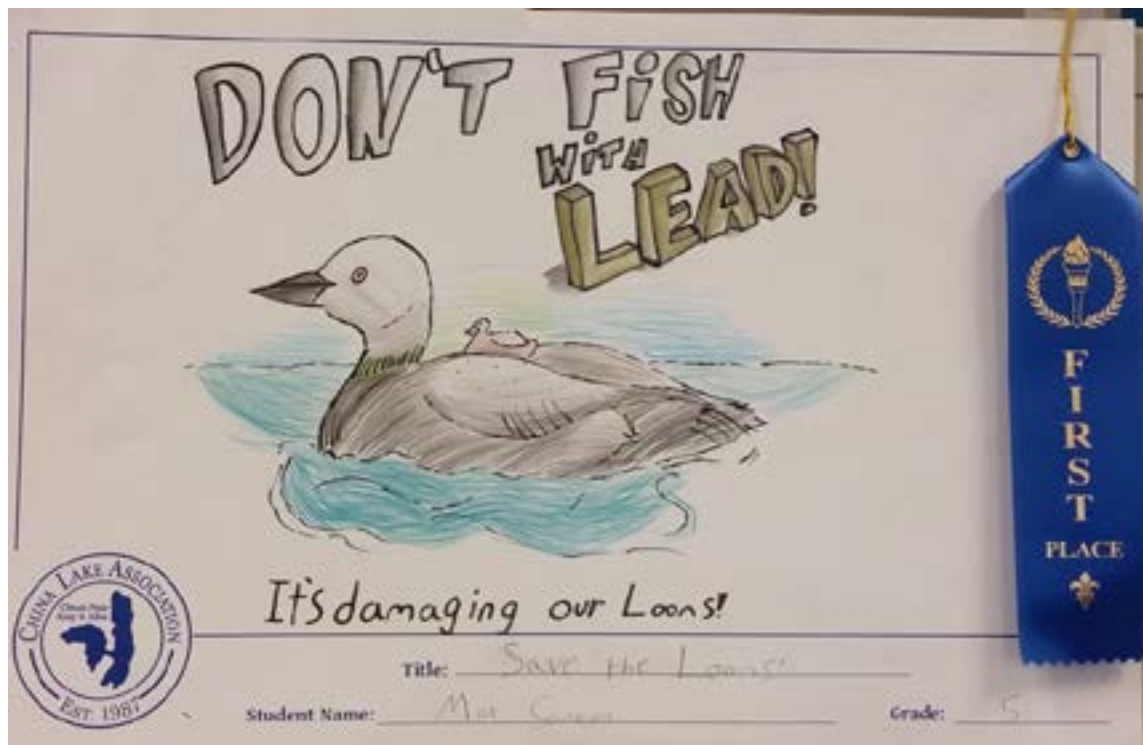
Regional School Unit #18

This past November community members from our five towns had the opportunity to vote on a bond initiative that would allow us to upgrade facilities around the district, make necessary improvements identified by the State Fire Marshal's Office, update our nutrition program, and to renovate the Messalonskee High School athletic complex. First of all, thank you for supporting this initiative. It is exciting to know we will be able to do this needed work for our district.

Twenty-four years ago I moved into this district because of the schools, and I know today this happens with many other families. Great school systems are made up of great people. Thank you to all the staff who work with students every day, and to our community members who go out of their way to support our schools.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Gartley, RSU 18 Superintendent



5th Grader Max Sanborn's first place poster for the China Region Lakes Alliance poster contest

Erskine Academy

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

In our 135th year, with our commitment to the success of every student affirmed by our accrediting agent, the New England Association of Secondary Schools (NEASC), 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 value:

- With nearly 600 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 94% four-year graduation rate
- A dropout rate less than one percent
- Of 117 graduates in 2017, nearly 80% were accepted to higher or continuing education (now a five-year trend), many to highly selective colleges and universities
- The mean SAT scores for the Maine State Assessment administration for our class of 2017 are 12 points greater than the state average
- For a third 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 exams taken by our students
- 2017 KVAC Champions in girls soccer, baseball, and golf
- 2017 Maine Principal's Association Sportsmanship Awards in boys cross country, girls tennis, baseball, softball, and girls lacrosse

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

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

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 an Individual Education Plan (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 fifth 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 remedial courses once in college.

Erskine Academy

Now in its seventh 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 52 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, 140 students took one or more of our fifteen Advanced Placement courses, and 311 students took at least one of our eleven dual enrollment courses with nearby colleges including Kennebec Valley Community College, Thomas College, and Husson University taught here by our teachers. For their efforts in these early college experiences, nearly two-thirds of our graduates earned college credits while in high school, saving considerable dollars in college tuition.

Through our International Student program and American Field Service (AFS) club, we have helped our students gain understanding and interpersonal skills for living more globally and interdependently in a culturally diverse world. For a seventh time, AFS students made a humanitarian trip to Costa Rica to build homes for impoverished families. Eye-opening experiences such as this fire the heart and mind and inspire our students to look beyond EA and the familiar to a world that truly needs them.

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 engaged with our communities to provide 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. Through this important initiative, we put Erskine's values for stewardship, leadership, and relationships to work substantially and meaningfully.



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

Erskine Academy reflects proudly and appreciatively on its 135 years of progress and performance. Since our founding in 1883, Erskine Academy has remained true to its mission while evolving to meet new demands, challenges, and uncertainties. Because there is no 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 friends who believe strongly enough in our values and results to give their time, talents, and financial donations to supplement our state-set tuition rate. Their investment permits us to invest in programs and enhancements beyond what can be supported through tuition alone and raises the expectations we have for ourselves.

Erskine Academy

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 start for adulthood.

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. Those parents who have exercised that choice to attend Erskine Academy—entrusting us with the intellectual and personal development of their children—inspire and honor us. In partnership with you, we look forward to new challenges and accomplishments in the year ahead.

More good things to come!

Michael McQuarrie
Headmaster



Sage Hapgood-Belanger of the Erskine Boys Varsity basketball team shoots a foul shot during a recent game

Albert Church Brown Memorial Library

The Albert Church Brown Memorial Library widened and varied its community program offerings during the 2017-18 fiscal year, and continues in the current year. Based on a survey of library users and other interested residents and on less formal suggestions, we have offered the expectable literary events – mostly Maine authors talking about their work – plus music, hands-on activities for all ages, animal-related programs and others. Two fixed events are the China Library Association annual meeting in October or early November, with a guest speaker, and the holiday open house early in December.

Programs are usually on a Sunday afternoon, usually in the downstairs Schoonover Community Room (occasionally on the south lawn, weather permitting), always free and open to everyone. We advertise in local media and on our sandwich board out front (except when the sandwich board is covered in snow). Information is always available by calling the library at 968-2926 during library hours, which are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon.



Comedian Dr. David Preston entertaining a group of about 30 residents at the library

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.

In addition to community programs, the library continues to offer a variety of books and magazines to borrow. 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. Dogs are welcome. The knitting group and book group are always glad to have new members.

Albert Church Brown Memorial Library

For more information about library activities, please call 968-2926 during library hours; email us at chinalibraryacb@gmail.com; or visit us on line at www.acbrown.lib.me.us.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Grow
Librarian



Author Mark Alan Leslie speaking to China residents about China's historical role with the underground railroad



Library Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday
2pm - 6pm

Saturday
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Phone: 968-2926
Located at 35 Main St.
in China Village

www.acbrown.lib.me.us

South China Library

This is a very exciting time at South China Library. Construction is starting this spring at our new location, 33 Jones Road in South China village. We are looking forward to more space, more activities, more programs, and modern accessible facilities. Our outdoor reading nook is already complete. Aiden Pettengill designed and created the reading nook for his Eagle Scout project, with help from community volunteers and members of Troop 479. Thank you, Aiden and friends! For updates on our progress this spring and summer, watch The Town Line and follow South China Public Library on Facebook.

South China Library is free, open to all, and operated by volunteers. Our collection includes Maine books, many large-print books, the newest popular 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. If you have not visited the library recently, please stop by for a visit.

In 2016-2017 the library had 1,385 patron visits and 359 households had library cards. These numbers do not tell the complete story of use of our library. The wireless internet connection is an important community service. Anyone travelling past the library will notice that there is often a vehicle parked in front of the library or a person sitting on the bench with a computer. Our patrons have access to the Maine Infonet Download Library, and over 100 audiobooks and e-books have been downloaded this year. Interlibrary loan requests increased to 42 this year.



Patrons of the South China Library are shown enjoying the summer activities

South China Library

Our most popular program is the Summer Reading Program, coordinated by Katie Bailey, serving 20 – 30 children per week. Children and adults crowd into our children’s room to learn and to be entertained by Scientists, musicians, authors, and performers. After the program, children choose their books for the week. This program is funded in part by the Town of China.

Special thanks to Librarian Cheryl Baker and our dedicated volunteers for making every library visit enjoyable. 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



The Darlings Ice Cream truck stopped by the South China Library

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 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.

Our ACO's also will provide Have-a-Heart traps to our residents if needed.

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's Home #	993-2225 (if no answer, leave a message)

Complaints – 2017

Dogs at Large	35
Stray Cats	25
Dog Bites	4
Aggressive dogs	1
Pigs at Large	5
Welfare Check	5
Loose Horses	1
Barking Dogs	6
Summons	3
Dogs hit by Car	3
Domestic Deer at Large	1

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Finley
Deputy Clerk



Nellie and Lady Finley

China Police

Attached is the complete review of all activities of the China Police Department for 2017. Overall officers of the China Police handled 440 calls or incidents last year. This includes 117 business checks, 93 traffic stops and 79 residence and property checks.

The calls we handled ranged from the critical to the obscure. We responded to calls such as assisting an elderly resident who was trapped in her home without food or medicine for a few days during the power outage in November. We also responded to calls of intoxicated subjects in businesses. We assisted citizens who discovered used needles in South China, responded to illegal gunfire on Pleasant View Ridge Road. We even removed an intoxicated male from the China Village boat landing who had no clothes on. Sometimes police work can go from one extreme to another rapidly.

We attempt to concentrate on providing services that supplement and expand on those offered by KSO and the State Police. Issues such as checking peoples houses when they are on vacation, checking local businesses when they are closed for the night and providing concentrated traffic enforcement are a key part of the department's mission to serve.

If citizens in town have an emergency, they should always dial 911. If you require an officer to respond, please call Augusta Dispatch at 624-7076. If you have a question or want to make us aware of an issue feel free to contact us at chinamainepolice@gmail.com. This goes directly to my phone and I will respond back as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Sergeant Tracey R. Frost

China Police Department Call Analysis

117	Business Checks	1	Bail Check	4	Traffic Crash
93	Traffic Stops	2	Neighborhood Dispute	1	Locked out of Motor Vehicle
54	Property Checks	1	Illegal Burning	2	Business Alarms
25	Residence Checks	1	Illegal Dumping	2	Funeral Details
24	Radar Details	1	Harassment	9	Citizen Assists
25	Traffic Complaints	1	Property Dispute	8	Holiday Assists
3	Abandoned Vehicles	3	Animal Complaints		
2	Report of Drug Activity	2	Civil Issue	Total number of incidents:	440
1	Theft	2	Illegal Gunfire		
11	Assist Motorist	4	Intoxicated Subject		
9	Suspicious Activity	3	Criminal Mischief		
8	Assist Fire/Rescue	2	Trespass by Motor Vehicle		
6	Debris in Roadway	1	Assist Code Enforcement		
4	Found Property	1	Obstructing Public Way		
5	Assist Other Agency	2	Warrant Arrest		
1	Parking Complaint	1	Noise Complaint		
2	Found Narcotics	1	Child Neglect		
2	Request for Information	3	Trespass Complaint		

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 2017. These services include the Law Enforcement Division, Corrections' Services, Civil Process, Court and Transport Divisions. We provided many regional assets to our communities including Drug Investigations, K-9, Dive Team, Sex Offender Registry, Veterans Advocacy, and Accident Reconstruction.

In 2017 twenty one Deputy Sheriffs serving in the Law Enforcement Division both in fulltime and part-time capacities logged 32,000 calls for service. As a result deputies made 682 arrests, issued 759 traffic summonses, and responded to 628 motor vehicle accidents. Deputy Sheriffs also responded to 407 alarms, 161 domestic disturbances, and assisted other agencies 746 times. Deputies and Detectives made 80 drug seizures, 26 of which were opiate related.

Deputy Nate McNally resigned his position within the patrol division, taking a patrol deputy position with the Androscoggin Sheriff's Office. We wish Nate and his family well at their new agency.

Tad Nelson of Pittston filled the open patrol deputy position vacated by Deputy McNally. Tad was a part-time deputy with our agency and a full-time contract Somerset County Sheriff's Office patrol deputy in the Town of Madison. He will be attending the full-time Maine Criminal Justice Academy in January of 2018. Good to have you on board, Tad.

Our Civil Process deputies serve legal documents on behalf of attorneys, the courts, citizens, local and state government, landlords and other entities. In 2017, the four civil deputies received over 6,500 requests for service in Kennebec County. Some of the services included civil summons & complaints, foreclosures, evictions, small claims, child support notices from the State and enforcement of court orders and writs to name a few.

On December 31, 2017, Laurier "Joe" Brunelle retired after 15 years of loyal and dedicated service to the Kennebec County Sheriffs Office Civil Division. His retirement leaves a big gap in all of our lives and hearts. We wish you the best in your retirement, Joe!

The correctional facility supervisory staff took on many changes in 2017. We welcomed back Captain Richard "Rich" Wurpel as the Correctional Administrator. His correctional knowledge and risk management skills will benefit the staff, inmates and Kennebec County residents.

Bryan Slaney was promoted to lieutenant and assumed the position of Assistant Correctional Administrator. Cory Goodchild was promoted to Staff Sergeant, Kurt Karlsson and Ivano Stefanizzi to sergeant. Duane Rood and Valerie Grant were promoted to corporal assuming the duties of evening and midnight correctional supervisors.

During the past year, our Correctional Facility managed 2,955 inmates, 257 less than 2016. 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). We completed 4 CARA program courses helping 32 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 \$401,213 bed day savings to the citizens of Kennebec County.

Kennebec County Sheriff's Office

Throughout 2017, inmates worked 8,642 community service hours, valued at approximately \$77,787. Our inmates raised 31,458 pounds of produce and gleaned 1,335 pounds of produce for the inmate kitchen, area food pantries, churches, homeless shelters, schools and elder programs in 2017.

In 2017 the new T-Unit was completed and we began housing up to 21 inmates in that direct supervision unit. Having this block open for inmate housing has nearly eliminated the need to board prisoners at another facility, saving the taxpayers a substantial amount of money.

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. 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 continue to soar 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 2018, my focus will remain on my staff, risk management, and serving my constituents in Kennebec County.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Mason, Sheriff



China Village Volunteer Fire Department

During the past year, the China Village Volunteer Fire Department responded to 99 calls that included ten structure fires in town, eight wild land/brush fires, two vehicle fires, sixteen vehicle accidents, six downed wires or trees, fourteen fire or carbon monoxide alarms, six smoke or odor investigations and sixteen miscellaneous service calls. In addition, the Department provided nine assists to China Rescue and responded to twelve mutual aid requests in neighboring towns.

Our department suffered a major loss this past August 18th with the tragic death of George Studley who lost his life in an automobile accident. George had unselfishly served the town for 50 years including 36 years as Fire Chief and the last four as Assistant Fire Chief. We are extremely grateful for the many expressions of sympathy and the large turnout for his fireman's funeral precession and family's celebration of life.

We also want to acknowledge that the Town of China lost three other long time and highly respected members from our other two fire departments. South China lost Robert Dowe and William Bickford while Weeks Mills lost George Oliver. We always enjoyed working with these fine gentlemen and know that they represent a tremendous loss of technical knowledge and skills associated with firefighting.

These losses remind me to again stress the need to recruit younger members into the fire service. 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 7:00 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.

As always, we want to point out 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.

Department members:

- Timothy Theriault
- Robert Batteese
- Kevin Maroon
- William Rancourt
- 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
- Joel Nelson
- Haley Norris
- Kaitlin Joy
- Joel Cloutier



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 466 meals in just an hour and a half. 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 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

China Village Volunteer Fire Department

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 S. Theriault
Fire Chief



Third grader Johanna Jacobs was the winner of this year's Fire Prevention Poster contest. She won a ride to school in the fire truck!

South China Volunteer Fire Department

From July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 the South China Volunteer Fire Department responded to 79 alarms. This is 8 more than last year. They break down by type as follows: 9 Structure, 5 downed wires/trees in road, 3 vehicle fire, 27 auto accidents, 15 unfounded/false alarms, 9 mutual aid to neighboring towns for structure fires and other incidents, 4 smoke/odor investigation, 1 unattended burn, 1 set up landing zone for Lifeflight helicopter, and 5 forest/brush/grass.

We currently have 23 active members. Sadly, we lost Engineer Bob Dowe and Lieutenant Bill Bickford to cancer this year. Both men were very valuable and long-time members of our department. Their passing leaves a huge hole in the organization, and their shoes will be difficult to fill. Thanks brothers, may you rest in peace. You are sadly missed.

On July 1, 2017, as a result of a Town Meeting vote, the Town started a program of paying stipends to our volunteers. It is too early to tell if it will serve its intended purpose of encouraging membership and participation. We consider it a trial program, and are evaluating its effectiveness.

We thank the Skowhegan Fire Department for their donation of 2 large air tanks to improve the capacity of our cascade system in the station. The system enables us to refill SCBA bottles with breathing air, without going out of Town.

We purchased a used Positive Pressure ventilation fan from the Scarborough Fire Department. It will be an asset to our ventilation procedures. Our thanks to Albion Fire for their assistance.

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, 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

Department members:

- Richard Morse
- Robert Cargill
- Donald Dowe
- Shawn Reed
- Glen Morse
- Mike Rocque
- 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 Finley

South China Volunteer Fire Department

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 Sienkbiel for her leadership and to all the volunteers from the Town's three fire departments and China Rescue who helped make this a success. Thanks also to the staff at the school for their support of this program. We feel it helps to prevent fires.

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

We held our 38th 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. This year instead of hand delivery of our auction flyers, we did a direct mail campaign. It was very successful and we will be doing it again next year. It saved our volunteers many miles and hours and it provided more thorough coverage.

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. It will let you get a permit after 9:00 AM (that is the time that the fire danger class is first available) on any day that the fire danger is less than Class 3 (HIGH). If you do not have a computer you can go to the Town office, and the girls will use the system for you. You can still contact me as well.

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

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

Weeks Mills Volunteer Fire Department

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

We are still working on renovations to the building and continue to train every month. Engine 72 was replaced this year with a 2009 Ford F450, this truck will respond to all brush/forest fires as well as motor vehicle accidents. We would like to thank Dan L'Heureux and the Select Board for their help and support with the purchase of this truck.

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 53 calls, the breakdown is as follows: 12 structure fires, 21 auto accidents, 2 chimney fires, 2 false alarms, 5 rescue assists, 4 brush fires, 1 mutual aid, 6 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 @ 7:00 pm. Our door is always open for new members.

Sadly we lost two members this year, Chief George Oliver and Bill Bickford. George was a member of the department for 54 years, he served as chief for 26 of those years. George was committed to the fire department. He never missed a meeting, training or any function that involved the fire department. Bill Bickford joined the department after moving to Weeks Mills. He belonged to South China for many years and decided to join Weeks Mills as well where he was so close to the department. Bill did the inspection and repairs on all the fire engines in town. He was always willing to lend a hand with anything. Both George and Bill will be missed, they spent countless hours serving this town. Words cannot express how much we appreciated them. RIP. Thank you for your service. Your work here is done. We'll take it from here.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief George Shaw

Department members:

- Greg Althenn
- Kate Althenn
- Norman Black
- Ray Chavarie
- Kevin Freeman
- David Herard
- Tom Michaud
- Justen Quimby
- George Shaw
- Tom Stephenson
- Chuck Stephenson
- Bill Van Wickler

China Rescue

Our call volume in 2017 rose to 307. However missed calls still occur due to the lack of manpower. Last year we missed 50 calls. Within the 307 calls, 16 mutual aid were included. 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.

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.

As always, it is out pleasure to serve you.

Respectfully submitted,

David Herard
Chief of Service

Department members:

- David Herard
- Webb Shaw
- Erica Thayer
- Norman Black
- Danny McKinnis
- Thomas Alfieri



Emergency Services

At the 2017 Annual Town Business Meeting, the town's legislative body appropriated an amount not to 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 developed on June 8, 2017.

The following is a summary of the distributions from the approved article:

<u>China Rescue</u>	<u>Pay</u>	<u>Stipends</u>
July - November		
David Herard, Officer	\$ 1,620.00	\$ 500.00
Webb Shaw, Officer	\$ 20.00	\$ 250.00
Tom Alferi, Officer	\$ 380.00	\$ 125.00
EricaThayer, Officer	\$ 80.00	\$ 125.00
Norman Black	\$ 540.00	
Danny McKinnis	\$ 470.00	
Erasmio Gonzalez	\$ 290.00	
Julie Chaves	\$ 10.00	

<u>China Village Fire Department</u>	<u>Pay</u>	<u>Stipends</u>
July - November		
Tim Theriault, Chief	\$ 290.00	\$ 1,000.00
Ben Loubier, Assistant Chief	\$ 90.00	\$ 500.00
George Studley, Assistant Chief	\$ 50.00	\$ 500.00
Scott Adams	\$ 130.00	
Bob Batteese	\$ 470.00	
Sarah Batteese	\$ 200.00	
Ed Brownell	\$ 100.00	
Joel Cloutier	\$ 330.00	
Erasmio Gonzalez	\$ 40.00	
Kaitlyn Joy	\$ 20.00	
Bob Hall	\$ 360.00	
Joe Labbe	\$ 100.00	\$ 250.00
Kevin Maroon	\$ 50.00	\$ 250.00
Danny McKinnis	\$ 60.00	
Joel Nelson	\$ 390.00	
Ron Morrell	\$ 30.00	
Haley Norris	\$ 130.00	
Bill Rancourt	\$ 210.00	\$ 250.00
Dale Worster	\$ 410.00	\$ 250.00

Emergency Services

<u>South China Fire Department</u>	<u>Pay</u>	<u>Stipends</u>
July - November		
Richard Morse, Chief	\$ 640.00	\$ 1,000.00
Donald Dowe, Assistant Chief	\$ 160.00	\$ 500.00
Mike Rocque, Lieutenant	\$ 430.00	\$ 250.00
Glen Morse, Deputy Chief	\$ 70.00	\$ 500.00
Cindy Senkbeil	\$ 80.00	
Hans Arp	\$ 10.00	
G. Nelson Glidden	\$ 390.00	
Sheldon Goodine	\$ 70.00	
Martin Britten	\$ 150.00	
Shawn Reed	\$ 80.00	
Dean Sheaff	\$ 300.00	
Webb Shaw	\$ 70.00	
James Wentworth	\$ 80.00	
Justen Quimby	\$ 240.00	
Kelly Bossie	\$ 140.00	
Greg Althenn	\$ 150.00	

<u>Weeks Mills Fire Department</u>	<u>Pay</u>	<u>Stipends</u>
Webb Shaw, Chief	\$ 40.00	\$ 1,000.00
Bill Van Wickler, Assistant Chief	\$ 215.00	\$ 500.00
Kevin Freeman	\$ 60.00	
Norman Black, Captain	\$ 60.00	\$ 250.00
Raymond Chavarie	\$ 80.00	
Chuck Stephenson	\$ 180.00	
Dave Herard, Safety Officer	\$ 100.00	\$ 250.00
Justin Quimby	\$ 20.00	
Greg Altham, Captain	\$ 100.00	\$ 250.00

*Thank you
for your service!*

Emergency Preparedness



Visit Maine Prepares at <http://www.maine.gov/mema/prepare/>. You'll find fact sheets, tips and news to help your family, school, business, community or service organization prepare for any emergency or disaster

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

For public officials, preparedness encompasses planning, training, exercise, public information and education, facilities and communication.

For business owners it needs to include thinking about emergencies that could affect customer, supplier or employees.

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

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

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

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

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

Municipalities may respond to various emergencies. The relatively less complex emergencies are traditionally responded to for the most part by personnel from local fire departments and rescue. They are also managed at the "local" level and handled in an efficient manner. In China we have a very robust and effective and responsive

Emergency Preparedness

group of volunteer fire department, rescue and Highway Department personnel. We are eternally grateful for their professionalism and ability to handle local emergency situations. The respective entities in China are hereby noted and thanked for their collective efforts in being prepared for emergency situations; the China Village Volunteer Fire Department; the South China Volunteer Fire Department; the Weeks Mills Volunteer Fire Department; China Rescue, Inc., our mutual aid partners and our own Highway Department. We also extend appreciation to the City of Waterville Hazmat Team and also those who have volunteered on a personal basis in past emergency circumstances.

Voters at a recent election appropriated financial resources to have a well and septic system for the portable classrooms that the town will use as a shelter in an appropriate emergency situation. We are now in the process of testing the well operationally and will endeavor to plumb the septic system into the portable. We were also recently successful in securing an additional radio repeater that will be used to improve our communication capacity. Each year we are able to take additional small steps to perfect an appropriate response under all circumstances. Though we have more to accomplish, we are mindful that we need to prepare now. A focus in the next year will be to coordinate with the RSU#18 and Erskine Academy in an attempt to have a smooth interface with theirs and the town's emergency response protocol. Subsequent to this coordination we will review how the town might interface with the business community in their respective plans.

We want to thank our town manager Dan L'Heureux who serves as the Director of Emergency Management for the Town of China. He has stayed current with the necessary training and has sought to be aware of changing needs in our various emergency departments and worked to make sure the essential resources were available.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Morrell, Chairperson
China Emergency Preparedness Committee



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 our web site: 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, 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 441-5019.

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.

China Cemetery Committee Members:

Horace Stevens

Richard Norton

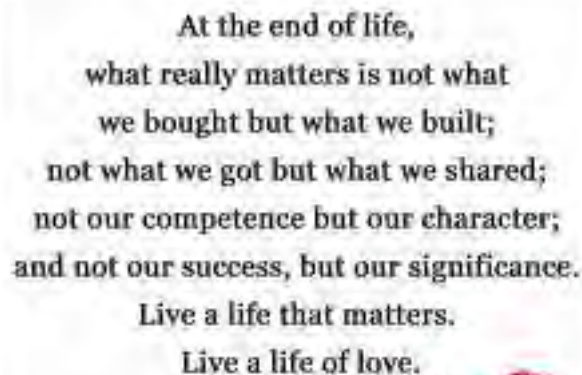
Julie Finley

Elwood Ellis

Daniel L'Heureux

Harold Charles

If you are interested in genealogy you may contact Kelly Grotton. Her email address is kelly@chinamaine.org.



At the end of life,
what really matters is not what
we bought but what we built;
not what we got but what we shared;
not our competence but our character;
and not our success, but our significance.
Live a life that matters.
Live a life of love.

China Lake Association

The China Lake Association held last year's annual meeting on Saturday, July 22nd 2017 at the China Primary School, celebrating the organization's 30th anniversary with an excellent program for its membership. The meeting was attended by over 75 people.

China Lake Association Directors Elaine Philbrook and Marie Michaud presented the awards for the annual Poster Contest held for the fifth and sixth graders at the China Middle School. There were some amazing posters created upon the theme of one of China Lake's most precious resources, the Maine Loon. Susan Gallo of Maine Audubon made a presentation to the students on loons, and the posters reflected the students' ideas about the importance of the local loon population. China Lake Association Director Bob O'Connor reported on the loon count for China Lake for 2017, reporting 22 loons and with 4 new loon chicks observed. Susan Gallo was also the keynote speaker at the annual meeting. She delivered a power-point presentation called "The State of Maine's Loons" covering the lifespan of the Maine Loon. A second keynote speaker, Betsy Barber (a PhD candidate at the University of Maine) presented her thesis on "Modeling the Nutrient Budget for Alewife in China Lake".

China Selectman Irene Belanger spoke to the China Lake Association members, highlighting the Spirit of America Award that was presented to LakeSmart Coordinator Marie Michaud and the China LakeSmart volunteers. The award recognized their achievements on installing vegetative buffers on lake-front properties around China Lake. Marie Michaud updated everyone on the LakeSmart progress made over the summer, with a total of nearly two dozen LakeSmart buffers installed by the Youth Conservation Corps operated by the China Region Lakes Alliance. China LakeSmart volunteers are always welcome to step forward to be trained on how to evaluate shorefront properties so that buffers can be designed for each location. Anyone interested can get more information by e-mailing chinalakesmart@gmail.com.

The China Lake Association also recognized the considerable contributions made by the Kennebec Water District which donated funds to be used to purchase materials for the China LakeSmart projects. Also, the Kennebec Water District donated a pick-up truck to be used by the Youth Conservation Corps and the Courtesy Boat Inspectors around China Lake. The Courtesy Boat Inspectors can be seen at the Head of China Lake on the weekends during the summer. They are responsible for inspecting boats to help prevent the infiltration of invasive aquatic plant species into the lake. Also the Kennebec Water District's representative Matt Zetterman stated that the District monitors China Lake's water quality at three different (deep hole) locations every two weeks during the summer. Mr. Zetterman reported that on July 14th 2017 the water clarity in China Lake's west basin was the best it has been since 1981, showing a secchi disk reading of 7.55 meters (over 24 feet!).

Matt Streeter, the Project Manager for Maine Rivers and the Alewife Restoration Initiative (ARI) also presented information on the progress being made on the ARI project. He reported that engineering designs are being developed for several of the dam locations to ensure access for the alewives to enter China Lake by way of the Outlet Stream in Vassalboro. For example, the ARI includes the design of an engineered fish passage at the China Lake Outlet Dam in East Vassalboro. In 2017 the ARI obtained the State permit to remove the Masse Dam, and the dam was successfully removed to provide alewife passage at that location. The Youth Conservation Corps also helped out by planting vegetative buffers on properties above the Masse Dam to stabilize the shoreline adjacent to the Outlet Stream.

Elaine Philbrook talked about the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program she is participating in along with Kennebec Water District personnel. The Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program is designed to train and certify people to monitor a wide range of water quality concerns, especially to identify invasive aquatic plant species in the lake. Anyone who would like to participate in this program can reach out through the China Lake Association's website or Facebook.

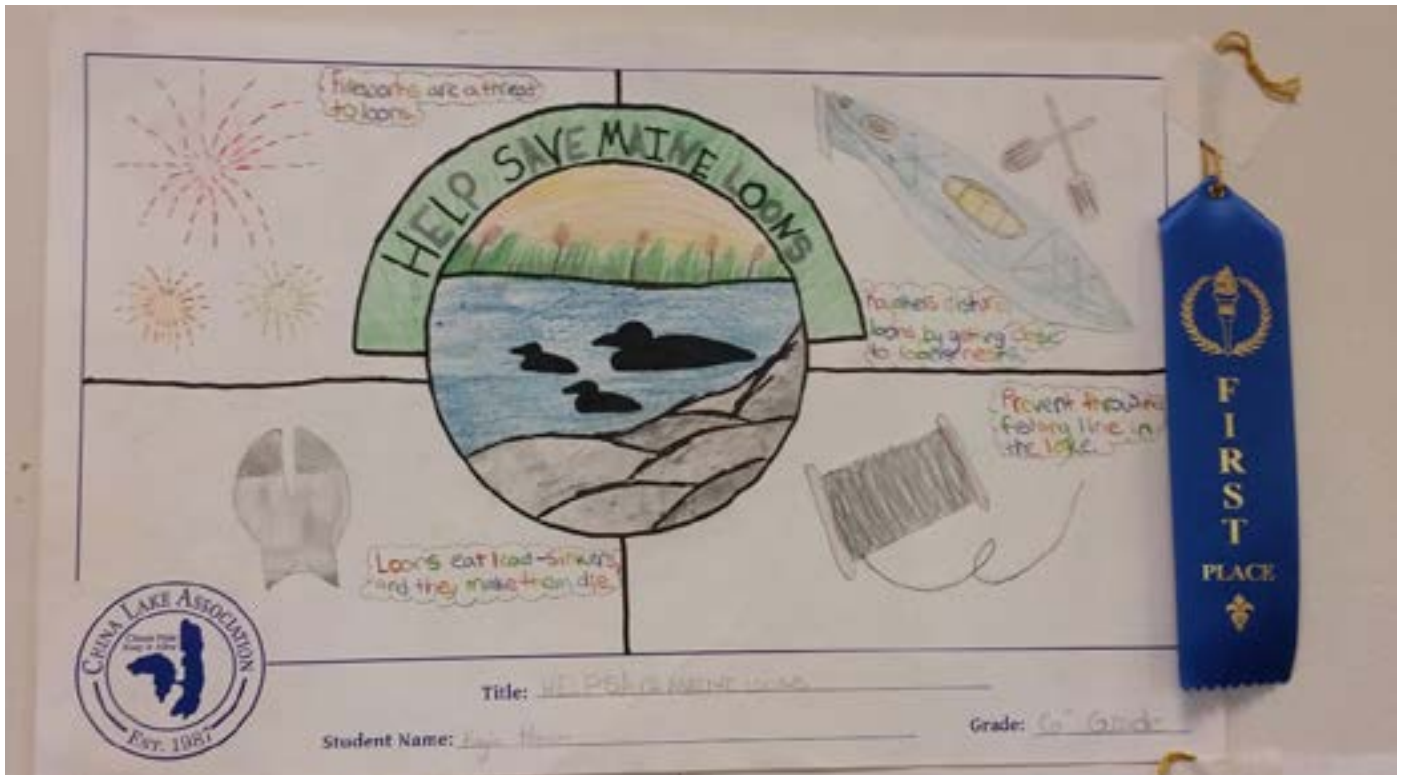
China Lake Association

Finally, the China Lake Association's membership approved two organizational items, the first dealing with funding appropriations and other fiscal matters deemed to be in the best interest of the China Lake Association; the second item involved seeking a recommendation from the China Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Committee for additional funding to support and operate future LakeSmart projects around China Lake. The China Lake Association membership voted to approve both measures. In addition, the China TIF Committee agreed to support China LakeSmart funding and recommended China Selectmen present a warrant article for voter consideration at the annual March Town Meeting in 2018.

The China Lake Association's Registered Agent Jamie Pitney conducted the business of renewing some of the Director's terms, and he also welcomed two new Directors: Dale Worster and Jeff Zimmerman. Also, the slate of Officers remained the same for another year until the next annual meeting in July 2018. These include Scott Pierz (President), David Preston (Secretary), Tim Axelson (Treasurer) and James Pitney (Registered Agent). For additional information about the China Lake Association or for anyone interested in becoming a member, please go to the China Lake Association's website at <http://chinalakeassociation.org/> or check us out and like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/China-Lake-Association>.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Pierz, President
China Lake Association



6th grader Kayla Peaslee won a first place ribbon for her *Help Save The Maine Loons* poster.

China Region Lakes Alliance



The China Region Lakes Alliance was formed in 1995 by the China Lake, Three Mile Pond, and Webber Pond Associations along with the Towns of China, Vassalboro, and Windsor and the Kennebec Water District with the mission to improve water quality in member lakes. The work done by the CRLA falls into 4 broad categories; technical assistance and design work for major erosion control projects, hands on work on smaller project done by our Youth Conservation Corp, no-charge land owner LakeSmart consultations, boat launch inspections to prevent the introduction of invasive water plants into our lakes, and supporting the alewife restoration initiative.

It was a truly prolific year for the Youth Conservation Corp. Led by Red Wilkens, the YCC tackled twenty (20) individual projects in 2017 – a record number – including eighteen (18) candidate sites for LakeSmart on China Lake, a weeklong revegetation project on the Outlet Stream in East Vassalboro to plant trees and bushes in riparian areas, and a weeklong rip-rap job at Webber Pond. The entire crew was plagued by a bout of poison ivy and hot muggy days which makes the feat even more incredible!

Another highlight was the deconstruction of Masse Dam on The Outlet Stream in East Vassalboro.

Alewife restoration initiative in 2017

The Outlet Stream of China Lake – Masse Dam deconstruction

Before

Masse



After



This is the first step toward restoring passage of alewife to China Lake. Maine Rivers and her partners are working hard to pull the rest of the pieces together.

China Region Lakes Alliance

An important task of the CRLA is the job of weekend prelaunch boat inspections to prevent the introduction of invasive plants into our lakes. Many lakes in the Midwest are unusable in the summers due to infestations of Eurasian Milfoil, a very aggressive invasive aquatic plant. Other known milfoil containing lakes are nearby, including Belgrade Lakes unfortunately. If a plant such as Eurasian Milfoil were to get into a shallow lake such as Webber and Three Mile, the results would be potentially devastating. Led by Mallory Chamberlain, the CBI conducted boat inspections at all four (4) boat launches on CRLA on member lakes; including 1084 on China Lake, 98 on Three Mile Pond, and 460 on Webber Pond. Three hundred sixty six (366) plants was found from these inspections; but none were invasive. The boat inspection program is partially supported through grants administered by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

Water quality was the best in 25 years on China Lake although an algae bloom was seen. This is the second year in a row of improving water quality and it hopefully portends the beginning of a trend. Three Mile Pond had relatively good water quality although it did experience an algae bloom. Overall, it was less severe than previous years. Webber Pond experienced fair water quality and hovered in and out of algal blooms from late Spring through summer. The blooms were less severe than earlier years but run counter to the generally improving trend there.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Hart



A view of China Lake from the camera on the tower at the Town Office

LakeSmart



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. A volunteer will come to your home, evaluate the property's ability to prevent run-off and pollution, and report the finding 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.

Thurston Park II Committee

Thurston Park continues to be quite popular, with several people using the park on a regular basis for hiking, biking, running, hunting, walking and training dogs, snowmobiling, and riding ATVs. The park is not only popular with town residents, both permanent and seasonal, but attracts residents from neighboring towns and visitors from all over the country!

Thurston Park was a very busy place in 2017! Harold Burnett from Two Trees Forestry has developed a plan for the park which included some wood harvesting for this year. This activity was carried out in July and August of 2017 and involved areas east of the Yorktown Road. Because of previous heavy logging activities, there was not a high yield of marketable trees, but did produce necessary thinning and improvement of the forest. Along with Maine Woodland Owners, we organized pre- and post-harvest tours in the park with Harold Burnett explaining the equipment, activities and outcomes of the harvest. The pre-harvest tour was well attended, unfortunately the post-harvest tour had fewer attendees. We did have several residents in town call or email about the logging in the park and all felt comfortable with the plan on explanation. The harvest did yield approximately \$9,000. These monies will be used for maintenance activities at the park.



A beautiful winter view of the park

This fall the sound of heavy equipment was heard again in the park as we worked to improve access to the park from the north end. Work was done to clear back the trees and brush away from the road so that ditching and



The beaver dam that was installed to prevent the beavers from obstructing the culvert and causing flooding of the north entrance road to the park.

crowning of the road could be done. This will help with drainage to prevent the washouts that have been problematic in the past. Opening the canopy will allow more sun to enter and further dry up the roadway, hopefully preventing some of the problems with “mud season”. The rickety old bridge across the stream was removed and a new culvert was placed with a gravel roadway. A “beaver dam” was placed at the culvert to prevent further flooding caused by beaver activities. These improvements should create much better access into the park, even if you have a small vehicle without 4-wheel drive. New gates were installed at both the north and south entrances to prevent vehicle traffic in the park except for snowmobiles and ATVs. They are well designed and should prevent the vandalism that has occurred in the past. Plans for improving the south entrance are continuing and we hope to carry that out in the next year or so.

Thurston Park II Committee

Trail work in the park is a never-ending project. The bog bridging on the Deer Trail was completed this past spring during our annual spring clean-up. The big windstorm in late October has caused some damage that will need clean up this spring, but much less so than expected given the extensive damage along the roadways and yards in town. The trail to the monument marking the corner of Albion, Palermo and China needs extensive work that is planned for this coming year.

The committee continues to work on several other projects. Improvements in the picnic area including the addition of a composting toilet are planned for 2018.

The committee decided to develop a Thurston Park calendar featuring photographs taken by people using the park. We are holding a photo contest with the winning entries being featured in the calendar. All photos must be taken in the park. Detailed information regarding the contest will be revealed early in 2018 with an entry deadline of May 31, 2018. Winners will be announced at China Community Days with calendars available for purchase!

The members of the Thurston Park Committee, both past and present, have worked hard to make the park a place for all to enjoy. We have worked at acquiring grants for most of the improvements in the park. We did apply for TIF monies last year for road improvement activities, as most grants will not cover that kind of work. Monies from the harvest will be used for further maintenance activities. The park should be a place of refuge and recreation for the people of China and not a burden through tax increases. The committee hopes to continue finding creative funding sources, so this treasure can be preserved.

The committee is always looking for additional volunteers to help with future planning, trail work, grant writing, and fund-raising activities. Please consider joining us in our endeavors!

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Smith, Secretary
Thurston Park Committee



Committee members Steve and Sonia Nelson (second and third from left) and members of Woodlot Owners of Maine listen to Harold Burnett as he discussed the equipment that will be used.

Town Forest at the China Schools

This year, the China School Forest celebrated their 20th anniversary of the Maine Outstanding Tree Farm award. Since its creation, the school forest continues to provide exciting learning opportunities and public trail access for our community and others from central Maine. Teachers and students at both China Primary and China Middle School use the forest in various ways including physical education classes, environmental studies and units related to their curricula. This year, we held our Forest Day program, with all pre K-8th grade students learning about a multitude of forest-related topics. We had about 35 volunteer presenters sharing lessons on topics such as forest management, wood products, owls, song birds, coyotes, snakes, nature journaling, alewife restoration, butterfly life cycles, the water cycle, geology, and much more. This Forest Day event has been held biannually since 2000, and staff, students and our guest presenters always look forward to the day. Several other schools have created their own Forest Day programs based on our model. Each year, more guests come to see what Forest Day is all about in hopes of bringing a similar program to their local school.



In addition to school-related activities, the China School Forest has volunteers who lead family and community events throughout the year. Earth Week events were held during April vacation, including a Signs of Spring walk, a night hike, pond explorations and fairy house building. These are always well attended. Summer day camps were great fun and we had our largest group ever (80+ people) attend a solar eclipse event in August. We have hosted field trips for local schools and programs for homeschool groups. We conducted a Project Learning Tree workshop and a workshop for the Maine Master Naturalist Program. We hosted tours for Unity College students and others who are interested in creating their own outdoor classrooms and trails based on our successful model. The China School Forest is known throughout the state for its unique, community-based programs.



We are grateful for Nivek Boostedt and the China Scout troop 479 for reroofing our bird watching station and creating benches for a new outdoor classroom near the wood yard area. We look forward to working with the troop on future projects. In May, students from Erskine Academy helped during their Day of Caring to clean up trails, apply water seal to structures and maintain several outdoor classroom areas. It is always fun to see former China students return to help steward the forest.

For 2018, we are looking for and applying for grants to rebuild the Reading Tree roof, repair the compass at Forest Choices and maintain several other outdoor classrooms. Maintaining and improving our trails is a constant need and we could use

additional volunteers to help, especially when we have significant weather events like this October's windstorm. We continue to look for and write grants for student and community education programming in the forest. As a certified Tree Farm, we are looking at a summer/fall tree harvest in several areas to maintain our forestry-based outdoor classrooms and improve other stands, based on best silviculture practices. Another long-term goal is have a 4-season building where we can host groups and conduct education programs even when the weather is

Town Forest at the China Schools

rainy or very cold.

We are always looking for volunteers and community members who would like to get involved in helping or leading programs, helping with grant writing, and maintaining the trails or outdoor classroom structures. The China School Forest is a tremendous community asset and we would love to grow and expand recreational and educational opportunities for all in the central Maine area. We welcome your help and ideas!

For more information, you can visit our Facebook page or contact us at chinaschoolsforest@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Smith



Kids getting ready to enjoy the eclipse in the Town Forest at China Schools

Recreation Committee

We are pleased to report that large numbers of children again showed great interest in our sports programs, and there was considerable positive feedback from their parents. The outdoor programs included youth baseball, softball, football and soccer. During the winter months, we also supported a youth basketball program at the China Schools. We want to point out that the success of these programs is the result of 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.

The largest portion of our budget is devoted to the maintenance and operation of the two ball fields. Contractors are engaged for most of the duties that include mowing, brush hogging, aerating, fertilizing and when absolutely necessary controlling weeds. Other costs include the lights and portable toilet rentals. In addition, we are paying labor costs of a part time town employee to operate the irrigation system. Again, we received many positive comments on the improved condition of the ball fields.

Last year we reported that we would need to fix the sagging fences around the ball fields. We are happy to report that under Todd Dunn's supervision, this work was expertly completed by volunteers and at no cost to the town. We also want to recognize members of the public works crew who have been routinely emptying the trash barrels.

In closing, I want to thank Dan L'Heureux and the Select Board for their guidance and support as well as the dedicated service of our seven member committee who include David Crommett, Todd Dunn, Scott McCormac, Brian Plato, Becky Theriault and Martha Wentworth.

Respectfully submitted,

Dolly Batteese
Chair



Left - Landon Decosta puts up a shot during rec basketball.

Right - Khloe Clark, Kelsie Dunn, Johanna Jacobs and Ava Miragliuolo pose during a rec soccer game.



Code Enforcement

Another year has passed. I have been working in China 2 ½ years now and enjoy working here with its friendly people. I have recently taken on the position of Plumbing Inspector for the Town of Palermo. I also fill in as an alternate for two other towns whenever they need me. There seems to be a shortage of code officials. I did not ask for more work but feel obligated to help within my community when asked. I feel very fortunate to be working within a beautiful lakes region such as China / Palermo.

The permits issued for 2017 were down 15% from 2016. However there were 18 new homes permitted compared to 7 last year. Maybe the economy is finally recovering? A summary of permits issued during my tenure are as follows:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Building Permits	127	158	130
Plumbing / Septic	66	80	95
CEO Permits	32	40	16
Timber Harvest	13	13	11
Total	238	291	252

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. Inspections are required for all phases of foundations, framing, insulation and occupancy. 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 addition until I issue a certificate of occupancy.

The state will be finally updating its code book versions from 2009 to 2015 this coming year. This was supposed to happen two years ago. The statewide group that I am a member of; MBOIA (Maine Building Officials Inspectors Association); arranged a good deal in which members will receive a free membership from the International Code Council for 18 months and will receive most 2015 code books free. Being a member of MBOIA is also valuable in that we receive training at reduced rates and can network with other town officials to find answers to some of the complex issues that we may face.

A building plan application which must be filled out for all new homes, major additions, and garages should result in easy compliance of all the inspections. This is an agreement over how the building will be constructed. These are now 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. I have been using this process for almost five years now when considering the last town that I worked for and have found that it works out well.

Please remember it is my job responsibility to enforce land use laws whether they are 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.

Another of my job responsibilities is being a technical advisor to the Planning Board and their applicants. If you are planning a venue which results in income for you, you may need a conditional use permit from

Code Enforcement

the Planning Board. Please check with me prior to initiating the venue. I will schedule you for meetings and help you with your application. The Board relies highly on information provided by the CEO, since China's Land Use Ordinance does not specifically list what should be provided by the applicant for each submittal. There were only seven applications received and approved by the Planning Board this year compared to fifteen last year.

In closing I will ask that those property owners with water frontage contact me prior to any clearing of trees or vegetation, earthmoving, or construction activities within 250 feet of any 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. I have made a new form for clearing authorizations so that you and the Town will have a written record explaining why you did or did not receive your requested clearing.

Thank you for the opportunity to work in your great town!

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Mitnik

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



The Dinsmore Mill in Branch Mills before it was torn down

Planning Board

“It is the mission of the China Planning Board to balance public and private needs while promoting development which integrates environmental protection and community economic goals.”

Adopted May 23, 2017

In 2017 the Board approved conditional use permits on three new businesses, one new church, two expansions of existing businesses, and the relocation of the South China Library. No permits were denied. The Board held 19 meetings plus 1 site visit. Members of the public are always welcome to attend.

The Board drafted improvements and clarifications to town ordinances and brought 10 warrant articles to the 2017 Spring town meeting. Voters approved nine of the ten. Approved articles included fixing typographical errors, definition changes, and the treatment of seasonal conversions, timber harvesting, water dependent uses, conditional use standards, and the sign ordinance. The failed Article would effectively have changed the way shoreland zoning expansion limitations are measured from using cubic feet to square feet. In late 2017 the Board also reverted to the old way of issuing conditional use decisions. These decisions are now issued in a written Findings of Fact.

The year began with the departure of former chair Francis Soares III. The Select Board later appointed Ralph Howe and Thomas Michaud to the Board. Both have since stepped down. The Board appreciates their service to the town. 2018 began with the Select Board’s appointment of Milton Dudley and currently the only vacancy is the At-Large position.

In 2018 the Board will be initiating the China Comprehensive Plan update and welcome your involvement and participation in this process.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Miragliuolo, Planning Board Chair

Planning Board Members

- District 1 – Kevin Michaud
- District 2 - Toni Wall
- District 3 - Milton Dudley
- District 4 - Thomas Miragliuolo
- At-Large - Ronald Breton
- Alternate At-Large - James Wilkens

Kennebec Regional Development Authority

Financial Overview

At fiscal year-end 2016-2017, KRDA's government funds reported a positive fund balance ("net equity") of \$787,151, an improvement of \$323,171 from the previous fiscal year. The last several fiscal years have continued to build our net worth. 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 \$747,689. We project adequate cash flow for operations and debt service through the coming fiscal year without additional borrowing or increasing the municipal assessments, which have remain unchanged at \$587,000, since 2007. Annual revenue distributions to member communities totaled \$259,038. Funds held at various local banks, are comprised of a business checking account, plus certificates of deposits totaling \$354,945, a money market account of \$70,128 in, and a savings account totaling \$248,952. Some of these cash allocations represent designated funds, toward an operating reserve, and a growing infrastructure reserve. Our audited financial statements should be available at the Town Office.

Operations Overview

In mid-2017 new officers were installed and they are Mike Roy, President; Stephen Monsulick, Vice President; James Jurdak, Treasurer; Doug Eugley, Assistant Treasurer; Peter Mills, Secretary/Clerk; and Howard Mette, Past Immediate President. The Town of China's representative on KRDA's General Assembly is Irene Belanger. Ms. Belanger also serves on KRDA's Executive Board and Marketing Committee. During FY 2016-2017, the organization had a change of leadership. Mr. James Dinkle of Mesa, Arizona, become its Executive Director on November 6 following a national search. KRDA was awarded a grant by the Maine International Trade Center to bolster overseas business recruitment efforts. A refresh of KRDA's website commenced late year. The refresh will include a translation feature that will enable visitors to the website to read it in English, Chinese, French, Spanish or German. A late year call trip established KRDA and central Maine with a multinational construction company that performs site selection for its US, Canadian and Japanese clients.

From the Director's Desk

Much work from 2017 has carried over into 2018 as I get settled in my new position as Executive Director. Strategic planning, marketing, recruitment and outreach to KRDA's 24 member communities are among my priorities. KRDA/FirstPark has a fiduciary responsibility to its 24 member communities and their taxpayers. Accountability to our member communities is of paramount importance to the General Assembly, Executive Board and staff.

Respectfully submitted,

James W. Dinkle
Executive Director
KRDA/FirstPark



Transfer Station & Recycling Center

The Transfer Station is open Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is located at 191 Alder Park Road. The Transfer Station is managed by Tim Grotton and is staffed by Ashley Farrington, Kevin Rhoades, Edward Brownell, and Gary McCarty.

The addition of the Town of Palermo has been very successful. We have increased recycling over our 2016 totals. The new building has been constructed for the “free for taking.” All are welcome to use the “free for taking” area. We do ask that you leave it better than you found it. The building has been successful at its new location and seems to be utilized well by the town. In addition, we have put in new parking spaces for “the free for taking” area. Additionally, we have added new hot top where the sand box is located, as well as the front entrance. All residents and camp owners who enter the Transfer Station must have a Transfer Station sticker. Stickers expire annually and new ones can be picked up at the Town Office.

Recycling markets are constantly changing here at the transfer station we do all that we can to find the best market value for all materials. 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.

We had two successful drug take back days which resulted in 103 pounds of drugs and a household hazardous waste day. We also had free paper shredding day which resulted in 2.9 tons of shredded material. Paint Care has proven to be a successful program where we have recycled 800 gallons of paint.

China’s Transfer Station has won the Maine Recycling and Solid Waste Award of Continued Excellence for 2017 from the Maine Resource Recovery Association.



In conclusion, we would like to thank the members of the Transfer Station Committee: Mark Davis, Francis Soares III, Irene Belanger, Robert Kurek, Paul Lucas, Lynne O’Connor, Lawrence Sikora, and Cheryl York for their hard work and dedication to our Transfer Station. The staff particularly appreciates their work

Transfer Station & Recycling Center

researching, budgeting and promoting Annual Town Business Meeting Warrant Article 17 which proposes to see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and or appropriate for Solid Waste Disposal/China Transfer Station Capital Equipment Purchases. Please note both the Budget Committee and the Select Board Recommends \$80,613 - (\$56,319 for a Pre-Crusher & Compactor and \$24,094 for a New Forklift) with funding to be appropriated from the following sources: Assigned Fund Balance: Box Trailers \$10,000 and Unassigned Fund Balance: \$70,613.

Respectfully submitted,

Transfer Station Manager Tim Grotton & Staff

Reminders:

- We encourage you to use one of our three express cans if you have 2 bags or less.
- We always accept all food waste in our compost pile and we will have free compost available in the spring.
- Saturdays from 9:00 – 1:00 are our busiest times of the week.
- We accept all oil and latex based paint.
- Metal is always free to drop off.
- We accept good used products for our free for taking building.
- We accept all CLEAN waste oil (no antifreeze, gas, water, etc.).
- If you throw anything in the 1 or 2 demo bays, there is a charge for disposal.



The new “free for the taking” swap shop on the left and the “hopper” for regular household trash on the right

Transfer Station & Recycling Center

Recycling totals	
Paint	800 gallons
Metal	97.17 tons
Cardboard	84.73 tons
Mixed paper	46.40 tons
Newspaper	42.76 tons
#2 plastic	8.12 tons
#1 plastic	2.13 tons
#3-7 Plastic	5.08 tons
Plastic bags	0.55 tons
Tin cans	9.05 tons
Household Glass	15.40 tons
Waste oil	975 gallons
Compost	35.58 tons
Freon Units	188 tons
Brush	254.01 tons
Crushed & Recycled asphalt, cement, and porcelain	7.25 tons
Schools	
RSU #18	5.34 tons
Universal Waste Electronics	
Tvs & Monitors	5.97 tons
PCB Ballasts	0.06 tons
Computers & peripherals	0.38 tons
Miscellaneous Electronics	0.21 tons
Municipal Solid Waste Transferred out	
PERC	1,355.28 tons
Mixed CDD (Construction Demolition Debris) Transferred out	
Waste Management	558.78 tons
Commercially Hauled Trash	239.82 tons

Highway Department

In this winter season the public works staff have managed two salt-priorit routes with exceptional results. Salt priority means primarily using salt during almost all storms, with use of sand when absolutely necessary. The results of these test routes in the southern part of China have been exceptional. We are hopefully going to add a third route during the next winter season in the northern part of town. This process has proven to be very effective with the Maine Department of Transportation and with many municipalities.

We took delivery of a new International Harvester truck with plowing equipment in December to replace the oldest plow truck we have and it is working out very well. All large town plow trucks have appropriate equipment for calculating sand/salt output per foot of road or road mile and for regulating the mixture of sand and rock salt and liquid calcium to produce the best results at the lowest cost to you. We have your safety in mind at all times.

With summer just around the corner the road work season planning has begun. The initial list of roads on the resurfacing list are the Branch Mills Road, Rockwood Drive, Pleasant View Ridge Road from the new paving last year to Parmenter Hill Road, and part of the Deer Hill Road. There will be reconstruction and resurfacing of the last mile of the Dirigo Road intersecting at Route 3.

Roadside mowing has been traditionally done twice a season, once in June and again in September. The results have been impressive. Aggressive Cuts, located in Herman, Maine have been doing this service for us, with each mowing taking about one week. Thank you, Rick and Kim.

It is with high hopes at public works that we can accomplish more tree trimming in the current year. Tree trimming is very important for many reasons; sight distances for the motoring public, allowing the sun to shine on the roads to melt snow and ice in the winter, reduction in power outages from falling trees/branches during storms, and minimizing damage to vehicles during storms. Tree trimming is very labor intensive and costly though a good investment when considering all circumstances.

Thank you for the support. We encourage any feedback you may feel appropriate.

Regards,

Gary Cummings, Public Works/Highway Department Manager



China's new plow truck
2018 International

China Historical Society

This past year has brought me closer to understand our community. Not just one but four. We have always maintained an historic independence of our villages. I have seen the importance of all these historic places. I will now address each one.

China Village has a recognized historic village. They have a very active historic library. A historic church and their own fire station. They were the only village to be called China until 1822.

South China Village is the main cross road for modern commerce. A very active historic library (longest continuing operated in Maine) with continued growth with the recent purchase of Rufus Jones farmhouse. Also, a historic church and own fire station. The area known as South China Village joined China in 1822.

Weeks Mills Village was the cross road for commerce in the 1800's. With mills on the Sheepscot and a major railroad, it prospered until the automobile. It also has a historic church, one room school house and own fire station but no library. The area known as Weeks Mills Village joined China in 1822.

Branch Mills Village was a mill area also. It recently lost the Dinsmore Mill at the mouth of Branch Pond to decay. It doesn't have a church, fire station or library, but it does have a lovely historic flower store and unused historic church. The area known as Branch Mills Village joined China in 1830.

My challenge for the citizens of these four villages is promote your history. Don't let the bypass roads change the unique value of your surroundings. Don't let your heritage die with you. Teach your children that some things can't be googled.

Respectfully submitted,

Neil Farrington
President
China Historical Society



One Room School House in Weeks Mills Village

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. We are issuing current death and birth records via the electronic system. As of January 1, 2017, marriage licenses are now processed and filed electronically. If you are getting married, please call ahead to schedule an appointment. The application process takes about 30 minutes. Other duties include issuing hunting and fishing licenses, registering ATVs, snowmobiles, boats, motor vehicles, trailers, and dogs, assisting with genealogy requests, conducting elections, voter registration 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, 2016 through June 30, 2017. As a note, the Town Clerk reports 49 births for this time period.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Hapgood, Town Clerk



Autumn, Asher and Ally Krause
All are Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

Deaths

Jeffery L. Hall	July 2, 2016
Martha Annie Brann	July 8, 2016
Josephine Laura Starrett	August 11, 2016
Alan Stuart Bailey	August 14, 2016
Carol L. Prosser	August 27, 2016
Robert G McMillan, Sr.	September 11, 2016
Gregory Charles Luck, MD	September 20, 2016
Roland Ouellette	September 29, 2016
Carl James Schroeder	October 1, 2016
Alberta N. Craig	October 2, 2016
Debra A. Pomelow	October 14, 2016
Andis Ivars Busmanis	November 3, 2016
Donald Edward Carll	November 10, 2016
Jean Esther Dow	November 13, 2016
Sumner Tuell Carlson	November 22, 2016
Leroy Winslow Austin	November 28, 2016
Glenn R. Turner	December 4, 2016
Richard Roland Merrill	December 16, 2016
Theodore Carleton Farrington	December 31, 2016
Jonathan William White	December 31, 2016
Randall Hughes Luck	January 8, 2017
Elizabeth Ann Coonan	January 31, 2017
Jeanne L. Vance	February 1, 2017
Robert Stanley Holyoke, Sr.	February 9, 2017
Robert Clifton Dowe	February 23, 2017
Lisa Ann Whitmore	February 28, 2017
Dorothy Janet Brewster	March 3, 2017
Jon A. McKeil	March 3, 2017
Ruth H. Jones	March 23, 2017
Albert W. Althenn	April 2, 2017
Dorothy Alice Burns	April 12, 2017
Geraldine Richardson Brackett	April 18, 2017
Daniel Lee Sawlivich	April 27, 2017
Madeline Lawrence Pitney	May 3, 2017
Sharon Louise Plato	May 29, 2017
Richard Allan Wenzel	May 30, 2017
Frank Clifford Hummer	June 12, 2017
Arthur Lee Stevens	June 12, 2017
Glenys Pooler Lovett	June 13, 2017
Vaughn Pierce	June 20, 2017
David B. VanWickler, Jr.	June 24, 2017
Bernard L. Carter	June 28, 2017

Marriages

Caitlin Joseph	Zachary Pelletier	July 9, 2016
Frannie Archer	Noel Peart	July 12, 2016
Rebecca Wilson	Christopher Young	July 30, 2016
Karen Prescott	Mark Mason	August 6, 2016
Jessica Palmer	Simon McKinnis	August 27, 2016
Elana Susi	Joel Nelson	August 27, 2016
Corbin Nadeau	Kayla Young	August 27, 2016
Troy Bulmer	Cheryl Gwadosky	September 4, 2016
Theresa Mattern	Jeffrey Adelberg	September 4, 2016
Sheryl Pennanen	Ryan Taylor	September 10, 2016
Stephanie Hargadon	Clayton Rogers	September 10, 2016
Leah Howard-Berry	Adam Michaud	September 17, 2016
Heather Pelletier	Jeffrey Browne	September 24, 2016
Jacqueline Mrazik	Justin Cook	October 1, 2016
Linda Clifford	Wayne Bengtson	October 8, 2016
Nathan Sylvester	Madelyn Brackett	October 15, 2016
Samuel Smith	Haley Levasseur	October 15, 2016
Frederick Montgomery	Julie Mueller	October 16, 2016
Jennifer Creamer	Ryan Turffs	December 17, 2016
Jaime Haywood	Richard McIntyre, Jr	December 23, 2016
Kaylyn Marston	Steven Bourque	January 10, 2017
Michelle Greene	Raymond Bernier	May 13, 2017
Toney Curtis	Charles Bonetti	May 17, 2017
Tamara Nelson	Timothy Warren	May 20, 2017
Nicole Foss	Joshua Morneault	May 20, 2017
Erin Howes	Christopher Vogel	June 2, 2017
Stacey Genest	Eric Mannke	June 3, 2017
Tasha French	Andrew Ludwig	June 11, 2017
Abraham Cates	Kerri Santy	June 24, 2017



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.

2018 Homestead Exemption – If you did not file for the Homestead Exemption in 2017 or prior years, you must apply prior to April 1, 2018 to be eligible in 2018. 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, 2018; 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

Acct	Name	Year	Amount Due		Year	Amount Due	
2533	Althenn, Albert & Glidden,	2016	\$ 610.95	*			
2977	Althenn, Daniel H	2016	\$ 842.48				
189	Althenn, Russell C & Patricia	2016	\$ 1,167.20	**			
188	Althenn, Russell C & Patricia A	2016	\$ 794.98	**			
1389	Andrews, J M Heirs	2016	\$ 210.02		2015	\$ 224.44	
636	Barber Investments, LLC	2016	\$ 9,865.80	*	2015	\$ 7,215.39	*
696	Barber Investments, LLC	2016	\$ 3,204.96	*	2015	\$ 3,444.43	*
2843	Bard, John	2016	\$ 402.61				
3653	Bickford, William	2016	\$ 165.47	*			
549	Bickford, William H & Annette	2016	\$ 3,847.40	**			
3621	Bickford, William H & Annette	2016	\$ 1,318.98	**	2015	\$ 1,417.17	*
2573	Boivin, Ferne Heirs of	2016	\$ 763.69				
195	Boucher, Ryan R	2016	\$ 109.80				
1107	Bovio, Carlaine Starkey	2016	\$ 865.00				
359	Boynton, Peter H & Pauline A	2016	\$ 457.30		2015	\$ 483.35	*
1567	Branch Mills Flour and Grain	2016	\$ 550.53	*	2015	\$ 1,437.02	*
2154	Brewster, Dorothy	2016	\$ 1,548.75		2015	\$ 1,181.45	*
125	Britten, Martin & Traci	2016	\$ 4,826.28	*			
1410	Clark, Glenn A	2016	\$ 1,635.13				
1653	Clary, Sherman	2016	\$ 474.33	*			
1047	Clowes, Barry H	2016	\$ 551.86		2015	\$ 695.66	*
2912	Conary, Craig	2016	\$ 494.64		2015	\$ 596.40	*
612	Cook, Steven P & Paula E	2016	\$ 577.22				
1546	Coombs, Stephen & Christine	2016	\$ 85.13				
1020	Coston, Russell	2016	\$ 564.70	*			
69	Cox, David & Mary A & Mary I	2016	\$ 552.87	*			
1955	Crockett, Jeffrey M	2016	\$ 569.65	**	2015	\$ 696.95	*
1012	Crommett, Clayton & Tammy	2016	\$ 1,434.45				
2717	Cunningham, Matthew J & Angela Mae	2016	\$ 733.21		2015	\$ 841.60	

as of 2/7/2018

* - paid in full

** - partial payment

Unpaid Taxes

Acct	Name	Year	Amount		Year	Amount	
			Due			Due	
2857	Cunningham, Shawn D & Patty J	2016	\$ 1,698.00	*	2015	\$ 1,488.26	*
2517	Curtis, Fred & Terry	2016	\$ 1,061.01	**	2015	\$ 1,250.95	*
1716	Cushman, Robert F & Colin & Ryan	2016	\$ 411.19	**	2015	\$ 438.47	*
286	Dennison, Betty Jo	2016	\$ 585.56				
215	Derosier, Freeman	2016	\$ 1,091.22				
982	DesIsles, Patricia H	2016	\$ 1,054.17				
3235	DesIsles, Patti L	2016	\$ 141.15				
1386	Dillenbeck, John S	2016	\$ 2,553.25	**	2015	\$ 2,706.96	*
1457	Dixon, June & Waugh, Dana	2016	\$ 1,607.78				
1580	Downie, Jon M & Franklin A	2016	\$ 1,503.38	**	2015	\$ 1,575.37	*
3042	Drouin, Thomas & Bernadette	2016	\$ 249.11	*	2015	\$ 367.70	*
572	Dupont, David Jr	2016	\$ 881.13		2015	\$ 1,031.38	*
2971	Elian, Mark	2016	\$ 1,887.24		2015	\$ 1,522.16	*
2324	Epick, Alexander	2013	\$ 8.80		2012	\$ 69.96	
		2011	\$ 78.54				
454	Estes, Duane C & Tina M	2016	\$ 1,396.14		2015	\$ 1,062.56	*
1903	Estes, Duane S Heirs Of	2016	\$ 1,609.73		2015	\$ 1,728.71	*
2952	Estes, Michael Anthony	2016	\$ 391.79		2015	\$ 411.71	*
3411	Farrington, Carleton B	2016	\$ 519.90		2015	\$ 491.97	*
3716	Feyler, Melanie	2016	\$ 205.21		2015	\$ 219.28	*
2882	Fletcher, John L Sr & Alice M	2016	\$ 1,025.71		2015	\$ 974.43	*
619	Fletcher, Rosemary & Brown, Sherwin	2016	\$ 1,309.62		2015	\$ 1,263.42	*
2115	Fortin, Dylan	2016	\$ 611.24	**			
2883	French, Vicki S	2016	\$ 918.46		2015	\$ 989.94	*
2689	Gallant, Heather	2016	\$ 1,582.45		2015	\$ 8.22	*
348	Gallant, Jean E	2016	\$ 1,827.72	*	2015	\$ 836.13	*
1377	Glidden, Avery & Lisa	2016	\$ 268.15	*			

as of 2/7/2018

* - paid in full

** - partial payment

Unpaid Taxes

Acct	Name	Year	Amount Due		Year	Amount Due	
3263	Glidden, Avery	2016	\$ 395.91	*			
1375	Glidden, Avery K & Lisa	2016	\$ 261.04	*			
1376	Glidden, Avery K & Lisa	2016	\$ 198.74	*			
1547	Glidden, Avery K & Lisa	2016	\$ 63.08	*			
1554	Glidden, Avery K & Lisa	2016	\$ 64.65	*			
1558	Glidden, Avery K & Lisa	2016	\$ 126.97	*			
3580	Glidden, Jesse N	2016	\$ 230.88				
828	Glidden, Lisa Baker & Avery & Baker, Dewey R	2016	\$ 1,610.25	*			
1332	Glidden, Mahlon S Heirs of	2016	\$ 388.44				
2811	Glidden, Mahlon S Heirs of	2016	\$ 67.19				
2812	Glidden, Mahlon S Heirs of	2016	\$ 65.59				
1712	Grant, Scott A	2013	\$ 909.21	**	2012	\$ 73.75	*
1461	Hall, Jeffery & Marcia	2016	\$ 668.93				
1005	Haskell, Gary L & Katherine	2016	\$ 935.71	**			
3500	Hersey, Joyce & Herbert	2016	\$ 522.98				
2663	Hipp, Christopher Blake	2016	\$ 2,602.99	**	2015	\$ 1,128.51	*
594	Hisler, Colleen E & Randolph A	2016	\$ 859.99		2015	\$ 983.92	*
595	Hisler, Colleen E & Randolph A	2016	\$ 332.00		2015	\$ 448.80	*
3730	Hoague, Stepahny Anne	2016	\$ 588.24	*			
3072	Holyoke, James A	2016	\$ 1,205.03		2015	\$ 1,295.48	*
1720	Holyoke, Scott T	2016	\$ 900.11		2015	\$ 876.03	*
2609	Hotham, Judith A	2016	\$ 1,655.99		2015	\$ 1,865.95	*
540	James, William R	2016	\$ 760.49		2015	\$ 802.80	*
2776	Julia, Dawson & Kellie	2016	\$ 168.37		2015	\$ 153.22	*
3048	Julia, Dawson & Kellie	2016	\$ 330.47		2015	\$ 327.56	*
269	Kringle, Kris Donald	2016	\$ 1,983.33	*			
	f/k/a Audet, Donald & Linda						
931	Lapierre, Christopher & Jo-Ann	2016	\$ 4,252.92	*	2015	\$ 4,483.17	*

as of 2/7/2018

* - paid in full

** - partial payment

Unpaid Taxes

Acct	Name	Year	Amount Due		Year	Amount Due	
1544	Laske, Lawrence L	2016	\$ 1,761.91	**			
2697	Leclerc, Michelle M	2016	\$ 338.42		2015	\$ 448.94	*
2820	Lee, Robert E Jr	2016	\$ 1,112.08				
2887	Lemar, Peter & Grace	2016	\$ 1,653.71	*			
1085	Letourneau, A Lorraine & J	2016	\$ 2,886.91	*	2015	\$ 1,485.36	*
1639	Levesque, William & Kathy	2016	\$ 659.52	*	2015	\$ 502.25	*
2241	Liberty, Raymond A	2016	\$ 2,984.81	*			
1681	Luczko, Kevin L & Tiffany C	2016	\$ 1,617.61	*			
2171	MacDonald, Bruce F	2016	\$ 1,900.50	**	2015	\$ 2,125.86	*
3425	Mayo, Jeramy J	2016	\$ 770.11	**	2015	\$ 243.47	*
1358	Mayo, Ronald Timothy	2016	\$ 1,420.96	*			
3452	McAlister, Alfred, Pers Rep	2016	\$ 334.02	*	2015	\$ 349.58	*
3454	McAlister, Alfred, Pers Rep	2016	\$ 274.64	*	2015	\$ 285.72	*
3455	McAlister, Alfred, Pers Rep	2016	\$ 271.43	*	2015	\$ 282.27	*
2523	McKeil, Carl C	2016	\$ 2,190.63	**			
372	McMahon, Kelly	2016	\$ 126.97				
905	McMahon, Kelly	2016	\$ 233.81				
951	McMahon, Kelly	2016	\$ 59.14				
953	McMahon, Kelly	2016	\$ 195.58				
2641	McPhee, Vicki J	2016	\$ 1,305.24	*			
871	Meador, Sandra Jean	2016	\$ 634.87				
2483	Michaud, Debra Jane & McKeil, Carl Chester & Quirion, Mary	2016	\$ 424.05				
3673	Miller, Sandra	2016	\$ 262.98				
40	Moore, Daniel L & Dwayne L	2016	\$ 926.07		2015	\$ 993.41	*
2137	Nationstar Mortgage LLC	2016	\$ 1,562.92				
1394	O'Connor Association	2016	\$ 961.09	*	2015	\$ 1,031.91	*
1395	O'Connor Association	2016	\$ 2,050.78	**	2015	\$ 2,203.53	*
104	O'Connor, Stacy A	2016	\$ 1,436.12		2015	\$ 1,543.17	
562	Ouellette, Daniel E	2016	\$ 884.06	**	2015	\$ 903.50	*

as of 2/7/2018

* - paid in full

** - partial payment

Unpaid Taxes

Acct	Name	Year	Amount		Year	Amount	
			Due			Due	
563	Ouellette, Daniel E	2016	\$ 431.63		2015	\$ 461.76	*
717	Ouellette, Daniel E	2016	\$ 275.95		2015	\$ 294.50	*
57	Oyler, Diane L	2016	\$ 1,230.07	*			
687	Page, Joseph TIP	2016	\$ 1,211.45	*			
1002	Page, Keith A & Dorothy	2016	\$ 505.46	**	2015	\$ 627.92	*
638	Parisien, Karen	2016	\$ 635.30	*	2015	\$ 680.18	*
2301	Parisien, Karen A	2016	\$ 210.02	*	2015	\$ 224.44	*
1357	Parsons, Marcus & Diana	2016	\$ 479.91		2015	\$ 513.57	*
3672	Pelkey, Morgan	2016	\$ 269.39		2015	\$ 288.31	
2709	Pellerin, Daniel B	2016	\$ 330.39				
2521	Quirion, Mary, Personal	2016	\$ 165.08		2015	\$ 176.70	
		2014	\$ 173.19		2013	\$ 166.16	
		2012	\$ 318.32		2011	\$ 331.72	
268	Reed, Diane	2016	\$ 1,372.08		2015	\$ 1,559.99	*
1276	Rice, Donald Kevin	2016	\$ 2,472.87	**	2015	\$ 2,780.76	*
3104	Risbara, Candita M	2016	\$ 560.16		2015	\$ 597.14	*
961	Rodrigue, Nanci L & Jacob S	2016	\$ 1,012.56				
1363	Rountree, Gail	2016	\$ 781.34	*	2015	\$ 838.93	*
1927	Rumpf, Thomas & Laurie	2016	\$ 625.90	*			
3608	Sawlivich, Jessica L	2016	\$ 335.20	*	2015	\$ 332.31	*
1488	Sears, Pamela Lynn, Heirs of	2016	\$ 793.93	*			
477	Severance, Alice	2016	\$ 1,867.83	**	2015	\$ 2,684.85	*
3013	Smith, Lisa J	2016	\$ 61.51				
1727	Snow, Jennifer	2016	\$ 2,323.90	**	2015	\$ 2,496.82	*
3361	St Peter, Mark H & Erin P	2016	\$ 304.42	*			
3515	St. Laurent, Leon A, Heirs of	2016	\$ 825.13				
98	Strout, Gloria E & Arthur C	2016	\$ 4,581.64				
3432	Strout, Lenwood	2016	\$ 340.01				
3505	Studholme, Aaron Clayton & Hanson, Sheena Lynn	2016	\$ 68.75	**			

as of 2/7/2018

* - paid in full

** - partial payment

Unpaid Taxes

Acct	Name	Year	Amount Due	Year	Amount Due	
316	Suga, Linda C	2016	\$ 434.70	2015	\$ 466.10	*
38	Taber, Joseph W & Tucci-Taber,	2016	\$ 86.91			
2692	Theriault, Norma	2016	\$ 947.10			**
2943	Tracy, Tara	2016	\$ 75.21	2015	\$ 160.80	*
2313	Turner, Susan	2016	\$ 2,091.05	2015	\$ 2,326.81	
		2014	\$ 747.17			
2560	Velez, Marcos, Personal	2016	\$ 1,757.24			*
1858	Venuti, James J	2016	\$ 2,596.75	2015	\$ 2,790.69	*
1859	Venuti, James J	2016	\$ 192.37	2015	\$ 204.82	*
592	Willey, Marion a/k/a Deresioer,	2016	\$ 932.34			*
1953	Woods, Jason A	2016	\$ 68.81			*
1861	Yocz, Irene	2016	\$ 76.37			*
3312	York, Chris & Renee	2016	\$ 147.58	2015	\$ 242.20	*
2351	Young, Alan D	2016	\$ 256.70			
2348	Young, Alan Duane	2016	\$ 1,002.96			

as of 2/7/2018

* - paid in full

** - partial payment

China's tax year runs from July 1st through June 30th. Taxes are usually committed in July or August with tax bills being sent out about 2 weeks after the commitment. The due dates are the last Friday in Septmeber and the last Friday in March.

Interest begins to accrue the day after each due date. If the full tax bill is not paid by mid April, the lien process will begin. The required 30 day notice is sent during the first week in May and liens are recorded at the Kennebec Registry of Deeds during the first part of June. Once a property is liened, the owner has 18 months to pay the lien before foreclosure.

Unpaid Taxes

Acct	Name	Year	Amount Due		Year	Amount Due
514	Birch-Knoll Enterprises, LLC	2016	\$ 32.09		2015	\$ 34.59
533	Branch Mills Heating Solutions	2016	\$ 112.34	*		
555	Bronzebombshellairbrushtanning	2016	\$ 16.05			
244	Buckshot Powersports	2016	\$ 80.25		2015	\$ 155.34
		2014	\$ 151.14			
224	Central Machine Inc	2016	\$ 1,794.22		2015	\$ 1,675.64
90	China Lake Auto Sales	2016	\$ 401.21	*	2015	\$ 431.52 *
431	Comprehensive Land Technologies	2016	\$ 72,218.37			
412	Willette, Dick	2014	\$ 177.81	**		
435	Diesel Dan's Auto Srvc & Truck Rep	2016	\$ 2.71	*		
499	Dollar Deals	2015	\$ 431.52		2014	\$ 218.92 **
305	Downeast Surveying & Dev Inc	2016	\$ 85.96	*		
564	EJ Holt Consulting	2016	\$ 16.05			
181	Fieldstone Quick Stop	2016	\$ 3,402.29	*	2015	\$ 3,957.89 *
		2014	\$ 3,556.12	*		
548	Fletcher, John - Handyman	2016	\$ 120.37			
448	Fred and Larry's Disposal Service	2015	\$ 43.15		2014	\$ 44.46
		2013	\$ 44.01		2012	\$ 40.58
		2011	\$ 41.37			
203	French, Leslie H	2016	\$ 4,814.56		2015	\$ 2,157.59
566	Girard Builders	2016	\$ 40.12			
409	Glidden, Jesse	2013	\$ 214.84			
469	Green Bean Coffee Shop	2016	\$ 83.45	*	2015	\$ 94.93 *
		2014	\$ 18.20	*		
526	Hamilton, George	2016	\$ 85.06		2015	\$ 86.31
537	Hans Arp Trucking LLC	2016	\$ 481.45			
440	Hayes Recycling	2016	\$ 40.12	*		
536	Howe, Linda / Bio Renewable Fuels	2016	\$ 186.16		2015	\$ 431.52
294	Innovative Workspace Solutions	2016	\$ 27.28	*	2015	\$ 32.79 *
593	JB Builders	2016	\$ 62.58			
596	K & M Transport, LLC	2016	\$ 288.88			

as of 2/7/2018

* - paid in full

** - partial payment

Unpaid Taxes

Acct	Name	Year	Amount Due		Year	Amount Due	
248	Legacy Home Improvements	2016	\$ 54.04	*			
563	Mannke, Edward - business services	2016	\$ 16.05				
567	Marlett, Gregory - Voc Rehab Svcs	2016	\$ 16.05				
63	Ouellette Sand & Gravel Inc	2016	\$ 1,261.42	*	2015	\$ 2,397.51	*
		2014	\$ 1,687.39	*	2013	\$ 616.13	*
586	Oxley Express	2016	\$ 160.48	*			
430	Pierce, Kyle	2015	\$ 43.15		2014	\$ 44.46	
348	Rocnet Data Designs	2016	\$ 25.68		2015	\$ 14.44	**
594	Rodrigue Carpentry	2016	\$ 40.12	*			
617	Sears, Joseph	2016	\$ 315.49				
282	Shear Techniques	2016	\$ 104.31		2015	\$ 112.20	
475	SM Custom Fabrication	2016	\$ 78.87	*			
350	South China Learning Center	2016	\$ 17.65	*	2015	\$ 18.99	*
		2014	\$ 12.44	*			
572	Stevens, Kirby L	2016	\$ 160.48	*			
298	Strout Builders	2016	\$ 80.25				
372	The Clothesline Shop	2016	\$ 32.09	*			
474	The Milkhouse	2016	\$ 86.31				
588	The Voice Guy		\$ 120.37	*			
338	Tom Jones Soil Testing & Septic	2016	\$ 22.47		2015	\$ 17.26	
422	Top of the Line Drywall	2016	\$ 16.05	*			
382	Tropical Sunations 2 Tanning Salon	2016	\$ 287.26		2015	\$ 115.64	
		2014	\$ 20.77	**			

as of 2/7/2018

* - paid in full

** - partial payment

Abatements

Real Estate

Name	Account #	Amount
Bennett, Robert & Nanette	468	\$156.00
Davis, Grace	1200	\$263.50
Gooldrup, Peter	2319	\$497.55
Keene, Betty	1550	\$275.90
Brown, Michael	1775	\$111.60
Chadwick, Wayne	3689	\$354.95
Soderberg, Steven	3335	\$292.95
Harding, Kathleen G, Pers Rep & Tunks Norma M, Pers Rep	3687	\$458.80
Tenney, Rhonda	1828	\$381.30
Martin, Gregory A, Heirs of	1425	\$119.35
Althenn, Albert	942	\$748.65
Cotta, Helga	1088	\$463.45
Eugley, Wlater	2839	\$162.75
Wentworth, James	2850	\$71.30
Wachusett Properties Inc	3592	\$96.10
Wachusett Properties Inc	3593	\$94.55
Wachusett Properties Inc	3594	\$97.65
Wachusett Properties Inc	3595	\$102.30
Wachusett Properties Inc	3596	\$112.37
Wachusett Properties Inc	3597	\$98.42
Wachusett Properties Inc	3598	\$103.07
Wachusett Properties Inc	3599	\$98.42
Wachusett Properties Inc	3600	\$101.52
Wachusett Properties Inc	3601	\$97.65
Wachusett Properties Inc	3602	\$102.30
Wachusett Properties Inc	3603	\$101.52
Wachusett Properties Inc	3604	\$101.52
Roderic, Michael & Cook, Michael	3159	\$322.40
Boyle, Gerard & Mary	2377	\$251.10
Farrington, Neil & Doreen	1038	\$550.25
Roy, Helen	956	\$368.90
Spiller, Howard & Spiller, Dwight & Webber, Rhonda	32	\$477.40

Abatements

Personal Property

Name	Account #	Amount
RGR Investigations	581	\$15.50
Bert Audet Consulting	554	\$15.50
Annettes Daycare	535	\$75.95
W D Chadwick Construction	590	\$173.60
Larrabee, James	542	\$300.70
Michaud Farms Broad Acres LLC	361	\$1,116.00

In order to request an abatement, you must file an abatement application within 185 days of commitment. Abatement applications are on the town's website under assessing.

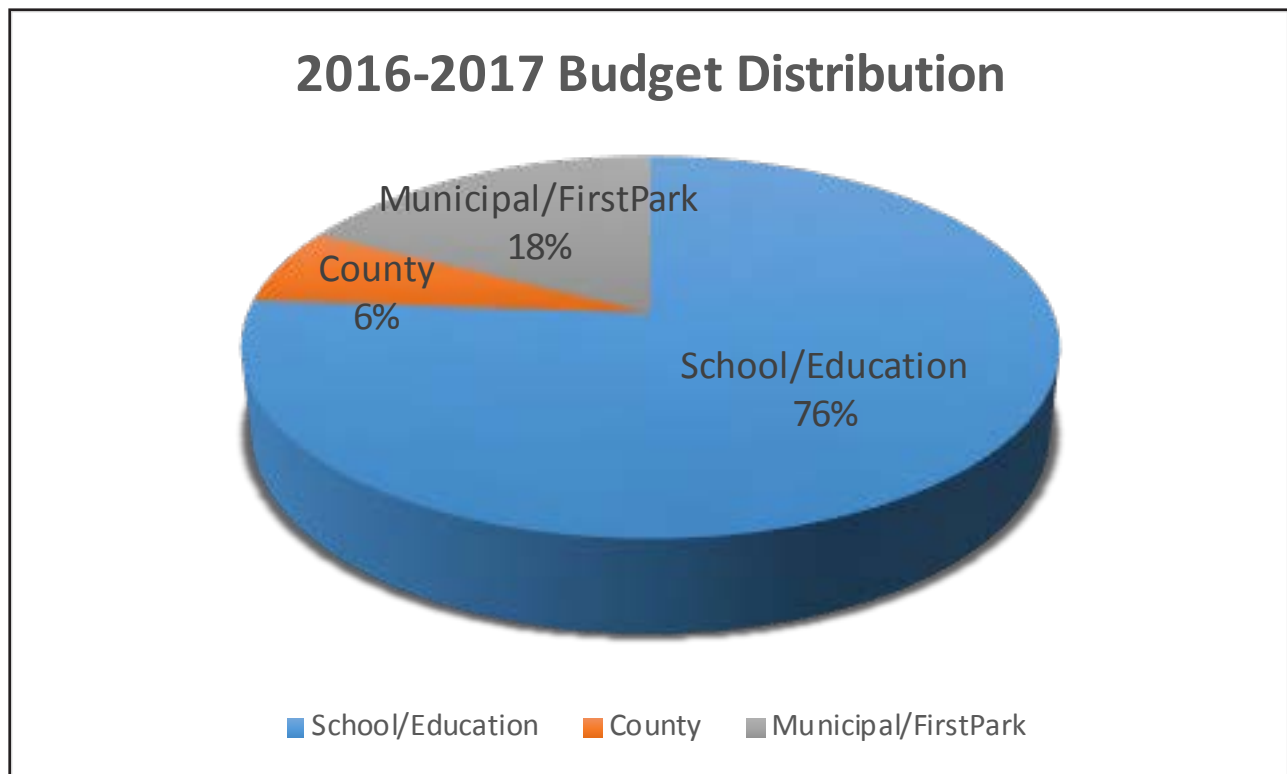


China's Police unit with a sea of yellow dandelions in the background at the top of Parmenter Hill.

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 met four times during 2017 and held an extended meeting on February 6, 2018 to review the entire 2018-2019 Municipal Budget ahead of a forecasted large snowstorm. 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.

Budget Committee

The Budget Committee also considered Town Manager L'Heureux's comment that the Town of China had never been in a better financial position since there was a healthy Unassigned Fund Balance and no debt at the present time. The members therefore felt comfortable in supporting the Select Board's position on all the monetary warrant articles for the March 24th Business Meeting. With the exception of four articles, all of the decisions were unanimous.

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 2019
- Secretary: From the town at-large: Jean Conway - Term expires 2019
- Member at-large: Valerie Baker - Term expires 2018
- District 1: Kevin Maroon - Term Expires 2019
- District 2: Thomas Rumpf - Term Expires 2018
- District 3: Wayne Chadwick - Term Expires 2019
- 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert I. Batteese, Jr.
Chairperson



Sunset on China Lake from the Worsters' homestead

Auditors' Report



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, 2017, 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, 2017, 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

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 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.

Purdy Power & Company
Professional Association

Auditors' Report

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, 2017. 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 \$6.7 million as of June 30, 2017, compared to approximately \$6.0 million as of June 30, 2016.
- The Town's governmental funds General Fund Balance was \$2.5 million as of June 30, 2017, compared to \$2.0 million as of June 30, 2016.

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

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

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, 2017 and 2016:

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>		
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Change</u>
Current and other assets	\$ 4,516,041	\$ 3,896,809	\$ 619,232
Capital assets	<u>2,763,478</u>	<u>2,844,639</u>	<u>(81,161)</u>
Total Assets	<u>7,279,519</u>	<u>6,741,448</u>	<u>538,071</u>
Deferred outflows related to pensions	<u>121,302</u>	<u>73,101</u>	<u>48,201</u>
Total Deferred Outflows	<u>121,302</u>	<u>73,101</u>	<u>48,201</u>
Long-term liabilities	407,992	388,721	19,271
Other liabilities	<u>204,117</u>	<u>333,407</u>	<u>(129,290)</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>612,109</u>	<u>722,128</u>	<u>(110,019)</u>
Deferred inflows related to pensions	<u>67,493</u>	<u>96,577</u>	<u>(29,084)</u>
Total Deferred Inflows	<u>67,493</u>	<u>96,577</u>	<u>(29,084)</u>
Net investment in capital assets	2,566,491	2,579,003	(12,512)
Restricted	1,493,112	1,243,243	249,869
Unrestricted	<u>2,661,616</u>	<u>2,173,598</u>	<u>488,018</u>
Net Position	<u>\$ 6,721,219</u>	<u>\$ 5,995,844</u>	<u>\$ 725,375</u>

As you note from the Financial Highlights above, the town's financial position continues to improve by many measures, particularly in two most significant areas; the increase in assets exceeding liabilities and in the General Fund Balance. Both short term and long term information indicate a healthy financial outlook.

Long term liabilities are derived from a prior time when the town of China was part of School Union #52. The long-term liabilities are associated with school building related improvements which were an accepted liability of the newly formed Regional School Unit #18 (RSU#18). RSU#18 funds these long-term liabilities. The town does not have any municipal related debt and does not anticipating any as it continues to contribute to reserve accounts for long term needs.

The town's capital asset condition is exceptional and reflects positively on the town's management and long-term perspective. The town is well prepared for unforeseen circumstances and will be able to react deliberately and definitively as it has a significant financial capacity.

Auditors' Report

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, 2017 and 2016:

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>		
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Change</u>
Revenues:			
Program revenues:			
Charges for services	\$ 170,898	\$ 128,739	\$ 42,159
Operating grants and contributions	62,697	64,903	(2,206)
General revenues			
Taxes	7,150,552	7,096,149	54,403
Intergovernmental	333,822	285,292	48,530
Investment	90,071	13,602	76,469
All others	166,792	77,008	89,784
Total Revenues	<u>7,974,832</u>	<u>7,665,693</u>	<u>309,139</u>
Expenses:			
Administration	891,420	834,561	56,859
Protection	182,138	208,982	(26,844)
Public works	707,317	1,151,933	(444,616)
Solid waste operations	344,306	321,172	23,134
Community services	120,045	96,578	23,467
Education	4,471,590	4,445,541	26,049
Recreation	26,067	29,711	(3,644)
County tax	400,830	376,230	24,600
Interest on long-term debt	(1,900)	(1,738)	(162)
Capital outlay	107,644	86,993	20,651
Total Expenses	<u>7,249,457</u>	<u>7,549,963</u>	<u>(300,506)</u>
Change in Net Position	<u>\$ 725,375</u>	<u>\$ 115,730</u>	<u>\$ 609,645</u>

The increase in town revenues is a reflection of the general State and National economies in general. Intergovernmental and investment derived revenues increase as the greater economy improves. The town's expenses, over these two particular years, have realized a decrease though have traditionally increased commensurate with inflation and town growth rates. This traditional trend is reflective of a planned and controlled environment that matches residents' demands with the ability to pay for those demanded services. The town has shown extremely good discipline.

Auditors' Report

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, 2017 of \$4.0 million. Approximately 38% of this total constitutes unreserved and undesignated fund balance, which is available for spending at the government's discretion.

The ultimate position a town would prefer to realize is a position that provided a reasonable comfort level in terms of a future outlook that could handle any economic circumstance. The town's lack of municipal debt and optimal level of unreserved fund balance has proved to be a desirable financial position. The town has a policy of preparing for the bad times during the good times. China has adhered to traditional reserve fund standards relating to monthly and annual gross expenditures.

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 \$1,525,910. 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.

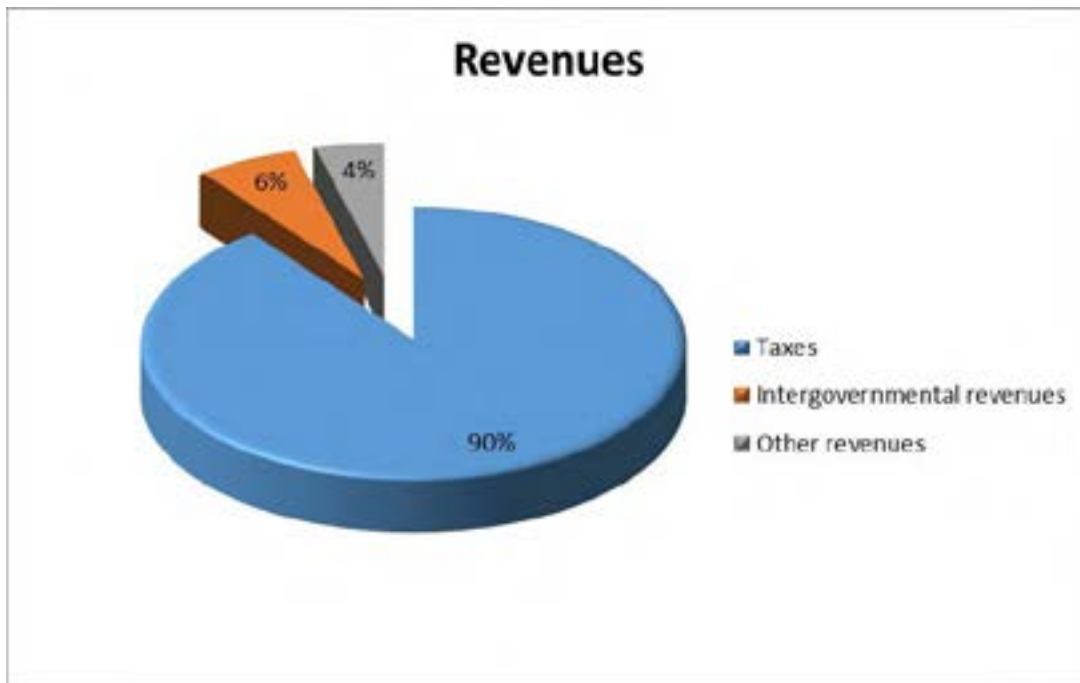
The absolute unreserved fund balance and that balance as a percentage of the total governmental funds provides the town with an important measure of liquidity. The absolute unrestricted fund balance is on the high side of 2-3 months gross expenditures. The unrestricted/unreserved and total fund balances continue to grow compared to total fund expenditures creating a very desirable condition for the town. As noted earlier, this liquidity measure informs us that the town is well prepared for unforeseen circumstances while, at the same time, the town has attempted to be proactive in terms of planning for its necessities and residents' demands.

Auditors' Report

Management's Discussion and Analysis - Continued

Town of China, Maine

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



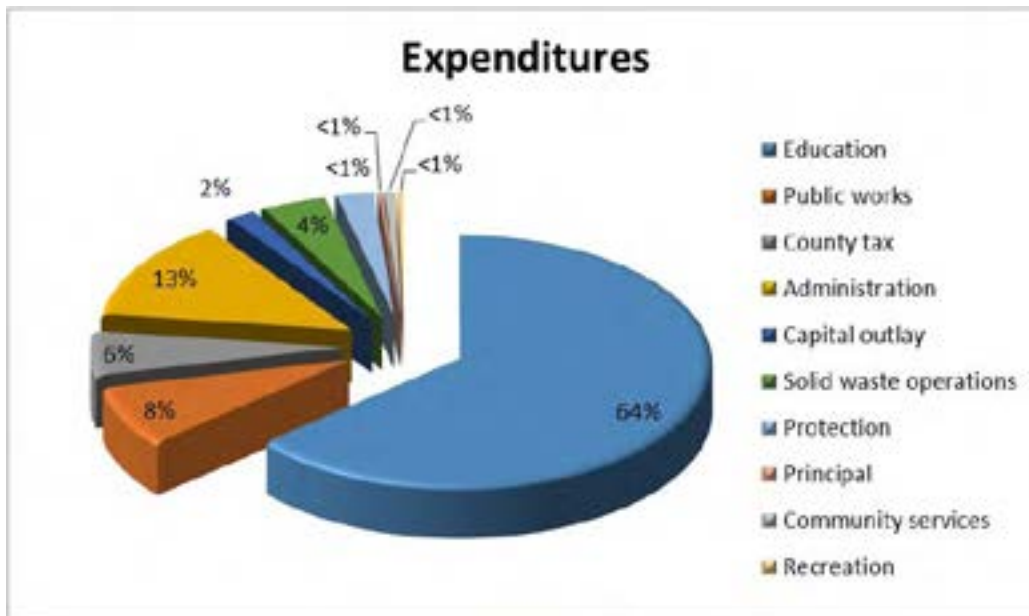
The town's tax base continues to be a greater portion of the total general fund operating revenues than would be desirable. Though very dependable and the town having a very high rate of tax collection, the tax base is very dependent on a residential base. Intergovernmental revenues have recently been undependable, one example being the Revenue Sharing from the State. For over 40 years there had been one formula to determine what revenues would accrue to municipalities and that has changed. Moreover, there has been repeated legislation introduced in the State Legislature to reduce the amounts of excise taxes on motor vehicles. It seems there needs to be a continued expenditure of energy reviewing the "other revenues" category. The town might review the fee structure in all areas and consider a "pay for use" arrangement wherever possible, e.g. building permitting, transfer station use, and so forth. The "other revenues" category will need to play a more important role in the total mix if other categories are not dependable.

Auditors' Report

Management's Discussion and Analysis - Continued

Town of China, Maine

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



Public education expenditures continue, and will continue into the foreseeable future, to be the most significant expenditure in expenditures budgeting. The Town of China school system is part of Regional School Unit #18, which assesses member towns a proportionate share of the RSU budget. The remainder of the expenditures have remained proportionately stable over time. The gross expenditures budget increase has been governed by annual inflation and growth factors over a long period of time.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

Expenditures were under budgeted amounts and have consistently been under budgeted expenses over the years. Revenues were over budgeted amounts and also have consistently been over budgeted revenues. The town has a significant overall fund balance with unrestricted reserves equal to three months gross expenditures. The town has additional reserve funds in dedicated categories to proactively offset demands for significant funds for replacement items.

Capital Assets

Capital assets, net of depreciation and amortization, continue to increase significantly on an annual basis. The town's capital position is very favorable though the town might consider additional capital expenditures or capital reserve expenditures above the 2% noted in the expenditures pie chart above. The town is in a favorable position to accommodate capital expenditures where needed.

Auditors' Report

Management's Discussion and Analysis - Continued

Town of China, Maine

Long Term Liabilities

The town does not have any municipal debt net of the educational commitment noted earlier and associated with the former School Union #52 which transitioned to Regional School Unit #18. All long-term liabilities on the town's financial records are the responsibility of RSU#18. The town has several reserve accounts in the Fund Balance that serve to stabilize the town's tax rate and compliment the position of a municipality without short and long-term indebtedness.

Economic Factors and Next Year's Budgets and Rates

There are circumstances beyond the town's control that might slightly affect the budget and tax (mil) rate. Both the County Budget and the RSU#18 budget derive from independent entities which assess the town. China municipal Officials do not initiate those budgets nor do they vote whether or not to recommend the respective budgets. Voters in November 2017 approved of a \$13.9 million-dollar bonding instrument to be financed over 30 years by the five member-towns.

The town gained approval of an application to the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development for a Tax Increment Financing District which will add an additional approximate \$85,000 annually to the Program with a total allocation projected at \$9,058,092 in total funding over thirty years facilitating funding for economic development in China. Projects funded are further described in the State of Maine Department of Economic and Community Development approval documents associated with the Central Maine Power/China Lake Municipal Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District; Development Program and *First Amendment (AMD-1)* documents.

The economic recovery in the central Maine area seems dependable with building permits and other activities accelerating. Budgeted revenues should increase to the extent needed to offset any increased expenditures without affecting the tax rate from the municipal perspective. The town has not been in better financial condition for decades.

Contacting the Town's Financial Management

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

Auditors' Report

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, 2017

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual (Budgetary Basis)	Variance Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
Revenues				
Taxes:				
Property taxes	\$ 6,234,412	\$ 6,234,412	\$ 6,144,048	\$ (90,364)
Excise taxes	693,500	693,500	892,320	198,820
Interest and costs on taxes	25,000	25,000	29,184	4,184
Total Taxes	<u>6,952,912</u>	<u>6,952,912</u>	<u>7,065,552</u>	<u>112,640</u>
Intergovernmental:				
State revenue sharing	142,000	142,000	177,338	35,338
Road assistance	54,200	54,200	54,516	316
Homestead reimbursement	142,921	142,921	142,921	-
Tax reimbursements and relief	8,730	8,730	13,563	4,833
General assistance	3,000	3,000	-	(3,000)
RSU debt and capital lease funding	76,830	76,830	76,830	-
Total Intergovernmental	<u>427,681</u>	<u>427,681</u>	<u>465,168</u>	<u>37,487</u>
Other Revenues:				
Interest on investments	14,500	14,500	10,401	(4,099)
Permits and fees	44,500	44,500	64,514	20,014
Miscellaneous revenues	13,600	13,600	102,170	88,570
Solid waste revenues	58,900	76,900	106,385	29,485
Total Other Revenues	<u>131,500</u>	<u>149,500</u>	<u>283,470</u>	<u>133,970</u>
Total Revenues	<u>7,512,093</u>	<u>7,530,093</u>	<u>7,814,190</u>	<u>284,097</u>

Auditors' Report

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, 2017

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual (Budgetary Basis)	Variance Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
Expenditures				
Administration:				
Administrative payroll costs	\$ 382,129	\$ 382,129	\$ 378,508	\$ 3,621
Administrative expenses	105,300	105,300	174,430	(69,130)
Planning Board expenses	2,363	2,363	1,524	839
Association dues	12,367	12,367	11,587	780
Assessing	47,500	47,500	43,889	3,611
Computer costs	23,000	23,000	23,000	-
Legal services	10,000	10,000	10,000	-
Insurance and benefits	297,087	297,087	299,109	(2,022)
Total Administration	879,746	879,746	942,047	(62,301)
Protection:				
Constable services	28,980	33,980	37,375	(3,395)
Fire departments	65,400	65,400	65,455	(55)
China rescue squad	18,350	18,350	18,350	-
Health officer	1,121	1,121	-	1,121
E-911	24,994	24,994	24,994	-
Dispatching	27,079	27,079	27,079	-
Emergency services insurance	17,174	17,174	12,222	4,952
Total Protection	183,098	188,098	185,475	2,623
Public Works:				
Road maintenance	719,994	719,994	514,686	205,308
Street signs	2,500	2,500	721	1,779
Street lights	7,000	7,000	6,761	239
Cemeteries	24,600	24,600	27,972	(3,372)
Total Public Works	754,094	754,094	550,140	203,954
Solid Waste Operations	271,413	289,413	298,284	(8,871)

Auditors' Report

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, 2017

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance
	Original	Final	(Budgetary Basis)	Positive (Negative)
Expenditures - continued				
Community Services:				
General assistance	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,732	\$ (732)
Social service agencies	12,458	12,458	12,458	-
China Historical Society	6,000	6,000	5,734	266
South China Library	4,500	4,500	4,500	-
Albert Church Brown Library	4,500	4,500	4,500	-
K.V. Humane Society	7,087	7,087	6,881	206
Memorial Day/Veteran's markers	950	950	950	-
Total Community Services	51,495	51,495	51,755	(260)
Education:				
RSU Assessment	4,505,409	4,505,409	4,463,409	42,000
Capital lease obligations	61,064	61,064	61,064	-
Total Education	4,566,473	4,566,473	4,524,473	42,000
Recreation:				
General recreation	23,950	23,950	23,950	-
China community days	2,500	2,500	2,500	-
Total Recreation	26,450	26,450	26,450	-
Total County Tax	400,830	400,830	400,830	-
Total Debt Service	15,766	15,766	15,766	-

Auditors' Report

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, 2017

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance
	Original	Final	(Budgetary Basis)	Positive (Negative)
Expenditures - continued				
Special Projects:				
Equipment replacement	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 1,685	\$ 118,315
One Room School House	3,000	3,000	3,000	-
Oakland Super Park	37,924	37,924	245	37,679
Contingency	45,000	45,000	22,883	22,117
Docks	-	-	183	(183)
Project Learning Tree	-	-	125	(125)
Town line	3,000	3,000	3,000	-
Community Needs Assessment	-	3,800	-	3,800
Land purchase	-	34,000	-	34,000
Emergency shelter septic and well	-	25,000	-	25,000
Bicentennial	10,000	10,000	10,000	-
Development Program Fund	50,000	50,000	14,788	35,212
Causeway Road	-	50,000	1,332	48,668
Fire department truck purchase	6,000	6,000	6,000	-
Grant expenses	55,000	55,000	97	54,903
Total Special Projects	<u>329,924</u>	<u>442,724</u>	<u>63,338</u>	<u>379,386</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>7,479,289</u>	<u>7,615,089</u>	<u>7,058,558</u>	<u>556,531</u>
Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	32,804	(84,996)	755,632	840,628
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Operating transfers in	117,073	167,073	16,120	(150,953)
Operating transfers out	(303,604)	(303,604)	(288,604)	15,000
Transfer to assigned fund balances	-	-	(97,101)	(97,101)
Utilization of unassigned fund balance	229,050	296,850	-	(296,850)
Utilization of assigned fund balance	5,350	5,350	-	(5,350)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>47,869</u>	<u>165,669</u>	<u>(369,585)</u>	<u>(535,254)</u>
Revenues and Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Uses	\$ 80,673	\$ 80,673	386,047	\$ 305,374
Budgetary fund balance at beginning of year			<u>1,527,398</u>	
Budgetary Fund Balance at End of Year			<u>\$ 1,913,445</u>	

Auditors' Report

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, 2017

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance
	Original	Final	(Budgetary Basis)	Positive (Negative)
Expenditures - continued				
Special Projects:				
Equipment replacement	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 1,685	\$ 118,315
One Room School House	3,000	3,000	3,000	-
Oakland Super Park	37,924	37,924	245	37,679
Contingency	45,000	45,000	22,883	22,117
Docks	-	-	183	(183)
Project Learning Tree	-	-	125	(125)
Town line	3,000	3,000	3,000	-
Community Needs Assessment	-	3,800	-	3,800
Land purchase	-	34,000	-	34,000
Emergency shelter septic and well	-	25,000	-	25,000
Bicentennial	10,000	10,000	10,000	-
Development Program Fund	50,000	50,000	14,788	35,212
Causeway Road	-	50,000	1,332	48,668
Fire department truck purchase	6,000	6,000	6,000	-
Grant expenses	55,000	55,000	97	54,903
Total Special Projects	<u>329,924</u>	<u>442,724</u>	<u>63,338</u>	<u>379,386</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>7,479,289</u>	<u>7,615,089</u>	<u>7,058,558</u>	<u>556,531</u>
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Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
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Operating transfers out	(303,604)	(303,604)	(288,604)	15,000
Transfer to assigned fund balances	-	-	(97,101)	(97,101)
Utilization of unassigned fund balance	229,050	296,850	-	(296,850)
Utilization of assigned fund balance	5,350	5,350	-	(5,350)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>47,869</u>	<u>165,669</u>	<u>(369,585)</u>	<u>(535,254)</u>
Revenues and Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Uses	\$ 80,673	\$ 80,673	386,047	\$ 305,374
Budgetary fund balance at beginning of year			<u>1,527,398</u>	
Budgetary Fund Balance at End of Year			<u>\$ 1,913,445</u>	

Auditors' Report

Schedule of Valuation, Assessment and Collection of Taxes

Town of China, Maine

For the Year Ended June 30, 2017

Valuation

Real estate	\$	389,906,300
Personal property		<u>12,313,800</u>
Total Valuation	\$	<u>402,220,100</u>

Assessment

Valuation x Rate - \$402,220,100 x 0.015500	\$	6,234,412
Supplemental taxes		<u>1,128</u>
Total Assessment Charged to Collector	\$	6,235,540

Collections and Credits

Cash collections	\$	6,004,537
Tax abatements and adjustments		<u>6,643</u>
Total Collections and Credits		<u>6,011,180</u>

2017 Taxes Receivable - June 30, 2017 **\$ 224,360**

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	\$1,620,740.04
(Multiplied by Growth Limitation Factor 1.02135)	
Allowable Growth Subtotal	\$1,655,342.84
Deductions (Net New Funding)	
Increases and Decreases in State Subsidies**	\$ 4,968.30
Increase by Home Rule Authority**	
Property Tax Levy Limit (Core Going Forward)	<u>\$1,650,374.54</u>

** Extraordinary circumstances outside the control of the municipal legislative body: insurance, potentially reduced State subsidies to China, e.g. reductions to Revenue Sharing, Tree Growth, Local Road Assistance, Homestead Exemptions, Excise Taxes on Motor Vehicles, and the BETR program, and the assessment from FirstPark. The Maine State Legislature continues to consider further and substantial reductions in Revenue Sharing and Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes and other property tax relief programs to municipalities. 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 at this 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 Primary School in said Town of China on Saturday, the 24th day of March, A.D. 2018 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, China for a Lifetime Committee, Broadband Committee, Tax Increment Finance Committee** representatives and **Bicentennial Committee Coordinator** regarding the progress of their respective initiatives?

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 2018-19 property tax levy limit of \$1,650,374.54 established for China by State Law (LD#1) in the event that the municipal budget approved under the following articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than the current property tax levy limit. The request would 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 Motor Vehicles, and the BETE program) to China. The amount noted above will be the new core municipal commitment going forward.

Select Board Recommends: YES
Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Article 5. **Tax Increment Financing (TIF):** Shall the voters of the Town of China vote to authorize the Select Board to appropriate funds in the 2018-2019 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:	\$10,000
FirstPark:	\$38,169
CRLA:	\$15,000
Kennebec Valley Council of Governments	\$6,748
China Community Days:	\$2,500
Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce Dues:	\$500
Bicentennial Events Coordinator:	\$5,000

Select Board Recommends: YES
Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Article 6. **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 in the 2018-2019 fiscal year from the Development Program Fund (TIF Fund) **for planning, engineering, maps, document preparation, administrative and legal expenses, surveying of proposed property for purchase or development** (e.g. town owned 13 lot subdivision), 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 7. 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 - \$392,443 *** (\$10,000 from TIF generated revenues)

Administration Other - \$107,280

Budget Committee Recommends:

Administration - \$392,443 *** (\$10,000 from TIF generated revenues)

Administration Other - \$107,280



Article 8. 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.

Select Board Recommends:

Planning Board Expenses - \$2,363

Maine Municipal Association Dues - \$4,862

Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce Dues - \$500 *** (\$500 from TIF generated revenues)

Kennebec Valley Council of Governments - \$6,748 ***(\$6,748 from TIF generated revenues)

Budget Committee Recommends:

Planning Board Expenses - \$2,363

Maine Municipal Association Dues - \$4,862

Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce Dues - \$500 *** (\$500 from TIF generated revenues)

Kennebec Valley Council of Governments - \$6,748 ***(\$6,748 from TIF generated revenues)



Article 9. 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: \$200,000 (\$150,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance)

Budget Committee Recommends: \$200,000 (\$150,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance)

◆

Article 10. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Contracted **Assessing and Legal Services**; any remaining balance in the legal budget at the end of the fiscal year to lapse into the Legal Account of the Reserve Fund, the funds in which may be used upon a majority vote of a quorum of the Select Board for legal services.

Select Board Recommends:

Assessing Services - \$47,500

Legal Services - \$10,000

Budget Committee Recommends:

Assessing Services - \$47,500

Legal Services - \$10,000

◆

Article 11. 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 12. 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: \$43,082

Budget Committee Recommends: \$43,082

◆

Article 13. 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	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$24,000
***China Village VFD	\$24,500	\$24,500	\$24,500
***Weeks Mills VFD	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000
China Rescue	\$16,100	\$16,100 with \$3,100 From Rescue Reserve	\$16,100 with \$3,100 From Rescue Reserve
Compensating Emergency Services Personnel for Time and Service	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
PSAP/E-911 Calls	\$26,914	\$26,914	\$26,914
Dispatching Service	\$23,000	\$23,000	\$23,000
Totals:	\$162,514	\$162,514	\$162,514

And further, to see if the voters will authorize the Select Board to make “lump sum/single pay-out” distributions of the annual amounts appropriated for operations for the respective emergency services entities pursuant to the Maine Legislature LD150, an Act regarding the funding of ***Volunteer Fire Departments, upon agreement between the town and the emergency services groups as the Select Board deems in the best interest of the town.



Article 14. 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 15. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Insurance and Unemployment Compensation Premiums and Emergency Services Insurance.**

Select Board Recommends:

Insurance and Unemployment Compensation Premiums - \$300,387

Emergency Services Insurance - \$21,174

Budget Committee Recommends:

Insurance and Unemployment Compensation Premiums - \$300,387

Emergency Services Insurance - \$21,174

Article 16. 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: \$339,601

Budget Committee Recommends: \$339,601

Article 17. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and or appropriate for **Solid Waste Disposal/China Transfer Station Capital Equipment Purchases.**

Select Board Recommends: \$80,613 - (\$56,319 for a Pre-Crusher & Compactor and \$24,094 for a New Forklift), funding to be appropriated from the following sources:

Assigned Fund Balance: Box Trailers \$10,000

Unassigned Fund Balance: \$70,613

Budget Committee Recommends: \$80,613 - (\$56,319 for a Pre-Crusher & Compactor and \$24,094 for a New Forklift), funding to be appropriated from the following sources:

Assigned Fund Balance: Box Trailers \$10,000

Unassigned Fund Balance: \$70,613

Article 18. 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 2018/2019 fiscal year or carry-forward remaining amounts as of June 30, 2018 as they deem to be in the best interest of the Town of China.

Select Board Recommends: \$776,211

(\$55,000 from highway grant & \$721,211 from excise taxes) and YES (on further authorizing the Select Board).

Budget Committee Recommends: \$776,211

(\$55,000 from highway grant & \$721,211 from excise taxes) and YES (on further authorizing the Select Board).

Article 19. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and or appropriate for **Special Capital Road Maintenance**; the reconstruction of the most northerly mile of the Dirigo Road and the replacement of a large culvert under the Bog Road.

Select Board Recommends: \$100,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance and \$100,000 from Assigned Fund Balance: Revenue Sharing; (approximately \$50,000 for the Dirigo Road Reconstruction and approximately \$150,000 for the culvert replacement on the Bog Road).

Budget Committee Recommends: \$100,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance and \$100,000 from Assigned Fund Balance: Revenue Sharing; (approximately \$50,000 for the Dirigo Road Reconstruction and approximately \$150,000 for the culvert replacement on the Bog Road).

Article 20. 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

Article 21. 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 22. 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 23. 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 24. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and or appropriate for the **China Historical Society** toward the cost of utilities and repairs for the Old Town Meeting House; the **One Room School House** toward the cost of utilities and repairs; and the **Red Storage Garage** toward the cost of utilities and repairs.

Select Board Recommends:

China Historical Society - \$11,000, (\$5,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance)

One Room School House - \$1,000

Red Storage Garage - \$8,000, (\$7,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance)

Budget Committee Recommends:

China Historical Society - \$11,000, (\$5,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance)

One Room School House - \$1,000

Red Storage Garage - \$8,000, (\$7,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance)

◆

Article 25. Shall the voters of the Town of China vote to appropriate an amount up to \$20,000 from the town's Unassigned Fund Balance for the purpose of **funding the purchase and or installation of a septic system and water system for the One Room School House** at 12 Deer Hill Road in China?

Select Board Recommends: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Article 26. 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 27. 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	\$1,545
Spectrum Generations	\$2,276	\$2,276
Kennebec Behavioral Health	\$1,000	\$1,000
Children's Center	\$1,500	\$1,500
Sexual Assault Crisis & Support	\$1,515	\$1,515
Dioceses Human Relations Center	\$500	\$500
Hospice Volunteers of Waterville Area	\$1,650	\$1,650
American Red Cross	\$1,000	\$1,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$12,986	\$12,986

Article 28. 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
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$4,250	\$4,250

Article 29. 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 30. 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 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 31. To see if the Town will vote to establish two (2) **Tax Payment due dates** to be Friday, September 28, 2018 and Friday, March 29, 2019 and to charge an **Interest Rate** of eight percent (8.0%) per annum after each tax payment due date, with interest to be calculated daily at the rate of 0.00021917808 for each day or fraction thereof that each payment is overdue; and to further see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to sell and convey by Warranty Deed or Quit Claim Deed tax acquired properties and to execute Waiver of Foreclosure documents as determined to be in the best interests of the Town of China, said authority to continue unless rescinded by voters, and to further authorize the tax collector or treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. Section 506, and to further authorize the Select Board to appropriate funds from Overlay to offset abatements granted throughout the fiscal year.

Select Board Recommends: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Article 32. Shall the voters of the Town of China vote to appropriate from Unassigned Fund Balance an amount not to exceed \$55,000 for the purpose of using these funds as the required **Matching Funds in Successful Grant Applications** and to further authorize the Selectmen to apply for and accept funds from the State of Maine, Federal Government, and any other duly authorized authority.

Select Board Recommends: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Article 33. 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 2018/2019 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 34. Shall the voters of the Town of China vote to appropriate an amount up to \$20,000 in the 2018-2019 fiscal year from the Development Program Fund (TIF Fund) for the **LakeSmart Program Initiative** expenses, and to further authorize the Select Board to expend a portion of the raised/appropriated amount prior to the beginning of the 2018/2019 fiscal year as they deem to be in the best interest of the Town of China; said initiative being provided oversight and administration services by the China Lake Association?

Select Board Recommends: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

◆

Article 35. Shall the voters of the Town of China vote to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$55,000 from the overlay and or Unassigned Fund Balance to serve as a **Contingency Fund** to be spent by the Select Board on unanticipated expenses and emergencies and to avoid overdrafts that may occur during this fiscal year.

Select Board Recommends: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

◆

Article 36. To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise and or appropriate for the purpose of funding **China Community Days** events and to allow any remaining balance to lapse into the China Community Days account of the reserve fund at the end of the fiscal year; the funds in which may be used upon a majority vote of a quorum of the Select Board, and said appropriation to become available in the current fiscal budget year.

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

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

Article 37. Shall the voters of the Town of China vote to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$2,700 from Unassigned Fund Balance for the purpose of preserving the **Historical Records** in the Town of China.

Select Board Recommends: YES
Budget Committee Recommends: YES



Article 38. 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 39. To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate from Unassigned Fund Balance for the purpose of adding to the **Unfunded Accrued Compensated Balance Reserve Account in the Fund Balance/Designated Fund Balance** to finance the unfunded accrued compensated balances of the Town.

Select Board Recommends: \$6,000 (From Unassigned Fund Balance)
Budget Committee Recommends: \$6,000 (From Unassigned Fund Balance)



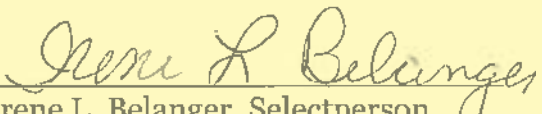
Article 40. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for use by the **Bicentennial Coordinator** for the purpose of organizing and coordinating events to celebrate China's 200-year anniversary of incorporation as a municipality and further to see if the town will vote to move the remaining balance in the Bicentennial Coordinator line item in the current fiscal year 2017-2018 into a **Bicentennial Account** in the Reserve Fund for said Coordinator services?

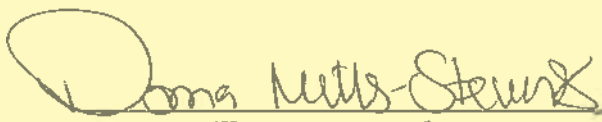
Select Board Recommends: \$5,000 *** (\$5,000 from TIF generated revenues) and YES (to move any remaining balance into a Bicentennial Account in the Reserve Fund).
Budget Committee Recommends: \$5,000 *** (\$5,000 from TIF generated revenues) and YES (to move any remaining balance into a Bicentennial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

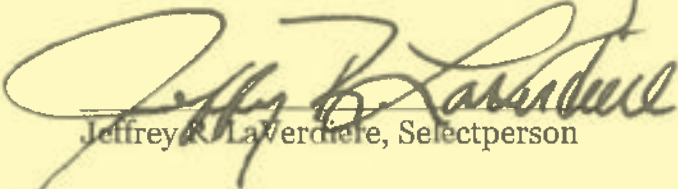
Given under our hands this 20th day of February, AD 2018


Robert A. MacFarland - Chairperson

Neil Farrington, Selectperson


Irene L. Belanger, Selectperson


Donna Mills-Stevens, Selectperson


Jeffrey R. Laverdiere, Selectperson

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 **2018** 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

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