

Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Friday January 4, 2013 2:00pm

Present: John Hammond, Larry Dingee, Merilynn Bourne

1. Connie Kousman and Ann Heir met with Selectmen to ask about maps for display in the Town Hall on January 18th, the 250th Anniversary kick-off event. They borrowed the 1932 Road Map.
2. John Hammond reported that Connie Kousman has reported she would like the General Assistance budget for 2013 to remain at \$3,500.00.
3. John Hammond moved to accept the December 28, 2012 minutes as presented, seconded by Merilynn Bourne; Larry abstained as he was not present for that meeting. The vote was in the affirmative by Hammond and Bourne.
4. Selectmen reviewed the day's mail. Several emails were received from Dale Lawrence. She wanted to know why the December and January minutes were not posted on the town web site. She also asked for a correction to the November minutes relative to the use of sexton vs. sextant. She wanted corrections made to the minutes and copies of the corrected minutes sent to her. Merilynn explained that the Selectmen's Minutes are posted at the end of each month, after approval by the board. December's final minutes were just approved so December will be posted shortly. January has not occurred yet. Selectman Dingee composed an email response for Dale which was approved by the Board.
5. Caroline Storrs met with Selectmen to talk about painting the gable end of the Meeting House in the Flat. She wanted to know if she needed to follow the purchase order policy for expenses over \$300. The Selectmen explained that the policy is for the use of town funds. Caroline asked for an annual line item for the maintenance of important town buildings, such as: Town Office, Meeting House, Town Hall, Trinity Church, the Old Selectmen's Office, the Hearse House, Little Town Hall, etc. She was thinking of a figure of around \$10,000.00 This would allow for a 4 year rotation among the larger listed buildings and less frequently with the smaller listed buildings to keep them all from deteriorating. Caroline would like the Selectmen to put together a Warrant Article for this purpose. The Selectmen explained their plans to ask for funds for the Town Office Building and the Town Hall for this year. Caroline thinks it would be proactive to have a maintenance schedule for town buildings as we have replacement schedules for town heavy equipment. The Selectmen suggested that we wait until 2014 for a warrant article for this purpose since we will already be asking for maintenance funds for 2013. We will discuss the concept of a Building Maintenance line item at the Town Meeting.
6. Selectmen set the date for the Public Hearing on the Town Budget: February 11, 2014 7:00pm at the Town Office, second floor. Town Warrant and Budget must be posted by February 25, 2014. John reported that Everett Cass has resigned from the Finance Committee. Selectmen will call the Town Moderator, Gwynn Gallagher, to ask him to appoint a new member. The Town's Annual Report must be available no later than March 5th. The Selectmen asked Mary to email all department heads to notify them that the Finance Committee will be meeting with the Selectmen on January 29th and Department Heads are required.
7. Selectmen called Troy Simino to ask about the School Budget Hearing dates. Troy didn't have the answer but will find out and get back to the Selectmen by Monday.
8. Selectmen called the office of Bernie Waugh to ask about setting up a date and time for his review of Municipal Law Updates for elected and appointed officials. He will present on Thursday, February 7th at the Town Offices. Selectmen will also meet with Bernie Waugh on January 11th at 2:30 in his office.
9. Selectmen reviewed the Town Office budget for 2012 in advance of preparing the 2013 budget.

Adjourned at 5:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Merilynn Bourne, Selectwoman

Present: Merilynn Bourne, Larry Dingee

Absent: John Hammond

1. Selectmen reviewed mail and invoices and signed checks.
2. Mary reported on messages to the Selectmen. Bill Fitts reported that the old stove is out of the Town Hall and he has put the fire extinguisher in the kitchen. Mary spoke with Avitar who stated that software expenses may go up 2-5% and Lettermen Press reports there will be no increase in the fee for printing the town report. The Ladies Auxiliary to the Fire Dept. asked about using the Town Hall for Square Dancing. They would like to know if they would be charged a fee. The Selectmen stated they would not. They would be treated the same as any other town organization. Dale Lawrence will meet with the Selectmen on Friday, January 18th at 3:30 to review the Cemetery budget for 2013.
3. Larry moved to approve the minutes of January 4, 2013 as edited; seconded by Merilynn Bourne. The vote was in the affirmative by both Merilynn and Larry.
4. Mary reported that Mary Ann McGrath is scheduled for her budget review on January 14th at 6:30pm.
5. Troy Simino called to report that the School Budget Public Hearing is February 4th at 7:00pm.
6. Selectmen called the Town Moderator, Gwyn Gallagher to let him know of the need to appoint an individual to the Finance Committee.
7. Joan Littlefield met with the Selectmen to ask about her tax bill. She wanted to know how the assessors arrive at valuations. Evan Roberge is the person who visited her home this year. Evan discovered that for a very long time there was a strange way of measuring the square footage of the house. It was measured incorrectly. The selectmen will review the file and get back to her. Evan was at her home some time this past summer. Larry reviewed her file and found that the building assessment has dropped by almost \$9,000 since Evan's visit. Taxes for '11 were \$6,638. Taxes for '12 were \$6,586. Joan wanted to know if the Selectmen could make any allowances for the fact that she has been overpaying for 30 years. Larry explained that the law allows the Selectmen to go back only one year for abatements. Selectmen will get back to Joan after we've had some time to review the file.
8. Selectmen returned a call from Caroline Storrs. She would like to know if Doug Hackett could be available for the 250th Tree Lighting festivities. She was given Doug's number and encouraged to speak with him directly. She was also encouraged to speak with the Road Agent about clearing snow around the Town Hall for parking.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Merilynn Bourne, Selectwoman

Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Friday January 11, 2013 4:00pm

Present: John Hammond, Merilynn Bourne, Larry Dingee

1. Selectmen arrived in the office after a meeting with legal counsel. Selectmen reviewed mail and invoices and signed checks.
2. Doug Hackett met with Selectmen to provide an update on department business. Doug reported on three quotes for dispatch services. Newport declined to bid. New London bid \$14.7K; Claremont bid \$16K to \$22K in six years; Hanover bid \$8.5K plus the cost of a software "bump". One time fees for a mobile repeater and software bring the cost to \$20,000 for the first year and then back to \$8.5K, more or less. Doug will be meeting with the Selectmen January 21, 2013 at 7:30pm to present his budget.

3. Selectmen asked Mary to notify Mr. Laird Klingler and Ms. Carol Rennie of a meeting with Attorney Waugh and Mr. & Mrs. Paul Duvall and their attorney to discuss the status of Old Stage Coach Road. The meeting will be on January 25th at 2:00pm.
4. Larry moved to meet on Tuesday, February 5th and to cancel the February 4th meeting to allow for attendance at the School Budget Hearing; seconded by John Hammond. The vote was in the affirmative.
5. Larry moved to waive current interest and abate a portion of the assessed value of \$8,959 on the 2011 Littlefield tax bill and to send a letter to that effect to the Littlefield's and the Tax Collector, seconded by John Hammond. The vote was in the affirmative.
6. Larry moved, Merilynn seconded, to approve the minutes of January 7, 2012 as presented. The vote was in the affirmative. John Hammond abstained as he was not present for that meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm
Respectfully submitted,
Merilynn Bourne, Selectwoman

Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday January 14, 2013 6:30pm

Present: John Hammond, Merilynn Bourne, Larry Dingee

1. Selectmen reviewed the mail and signed checks.
2. Joshua Hall met with Selectmen to ask about a Certificate of Zoning Compliance for a home business on 162 Harrington Road. His wife, Angie, runs Yoga classes a few times a week in the mornings. Josh presented a written overview of the business. It does not appear to have a significant impact. Merilynn commented on the need for Site Plan Review by the Planning Board. She explained to Josh that the Planning Board may waive the need for Site Plan Review if they feel the impact is minimal. Larry provided Josh with the Planning Board's schedule. Certificate was denied pending Planning Board review.
3. Jim Prior met with Selectmen to discuss his taxes and a payment schedule. Jim was asked if he would like to bid on exterior painting for the Town Hall and the trim on the Town Office building. Jim will take a look at the buildings and get back to us.
4. Mary Ann McGrath met with Selectmen to review the budget for the Recycling Center. John moved, seconded by Larry to level fund that line. The vote was in the affirmative.
5. Scott Reuthe met with Selectmen to review the Fire Department budget for 2013. Larry asked about mileage expense. Scott stated it was for the Chief and the Deputy Chief. Larry asked about the Deputy Chief receiving mileage. Merilynn commented that the policy is up to the Chief. It is his responsibility to explain the expense to voters at Town Meeting. After review, the budget appears to be up by \$500 or 1.2% over last year. Larry asked Scott about progress with the Explorers Program. Scott reported that the Fire Department will be meeting with a representative from the Explorer's Group in the next week or so to talk about the Explorers Program for youth in the Cornish Volunteer Fire Department. Youth are not riding on fire trucks at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm
Respectfully submitted,
Merilynn Bourne, Selectwoman

Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Friday January 18, 2013 2:00pm

Present: John Hammond, Merilynn Bourne, Larry Dingee

1. Selectmen reviewed the mail.
2. Heidi Jaarsma met with Selectmen for an update on Treasurer's business. She also spoke about the need for computers in the Tax Collector's and Town Clerk's offices. The school has some older computers to donate but they may not be what are needed. Merilynn commented that Reigh Sweetser had spoken of the need and Merilynn suggested that the Clerk and Tax Collector speak with the State about the requirements for a suitable system. Heidi recommends a warrant article for the purpose. Heidi feels that any large, one time expense should be presented to the town as a warrant article rather than showing up in a departmental budget. Heidi was asked her preference for reporting expenses as they actually are vs. showing an expense after it is offset by income. Heidi stated she was trained to show the expense as it actually is and to report full revenues to offset any expense. Larry asked about the Planning Board model and what the difference was between that reporting and reporting for the Recycling Center. Heidi said the difference is in the way NRRA bills for hauling from the Recycling Center. Revenue is to offset the tax rate and should not be offsetting the budget. The expense needs to be reported as it is. Heidi states it is the way she does it and it is the way Bill Caterino feels it should be done. Heidi suggested that the issue be discussed with the Finance Committee for their perspective. Heidi reports that the financial year has ended and she provided the Selectmen with her year-end report. The town has \$80K more in cash than we had at the same time last year. After liabilities, the Fund Balance is \$42,869 higher than last year. John asked Heidi if she planned to advertise Trinity Church for weddings again this year. She said she would like to. John and Merilynn feel it would be wise. The group discussed warrant articles for building maintenance and cemetery equipment replacement. Perhaps some of the funds for such articles can come from fund balance. The 250th Committee needs to ask for \$8,420 for the 250th celebration. The group expects to make \$8,210 in 2013. They have already brought in \$2,470. The Selectmen mentioned that the committee may wish to request \$10,000 for the event since they expect to be raising that much. The board thanked Heidi for her time and her efforts.
3. Selectwoman Bourne stated she wished to file a complaint. It has come to her attention that in the past week, Selectmen Dingee attempted to convene a meeting with Selectman Hammond and Fire Chief Reuthe to discuss a Fire Department issue. Selectman Dingee told both parties that he wanted to hold the meeting at the Highway Garage to avoid a "person with a vendetta", presumably Selectwoman Bourne as he did not contact her and did not wish to meet in the Town Office which is the official meeting place. This attempt violates the Right-to-Know law and is highly offensive to Ms. Bourne. Selectwoman Bourne stated that it is also highly offensive that she has been characterized as a person with a vendetta. She stated that in her opinion there is only one person with a vendetta, one person who tries to intimidate, harass and bully and that is Selectman Dingee. She asked Selectman Dingee for an explanation for his actions. He stated he had nothing to say. Selectwoman Bourne offered a draft memo, recommended to her by the Legal Department at the Local Government Center, to be provided to all Town Department Heads and employees to notify them that they must not respond to any such attempt by any single member of the board and that any such attempt needed to be reported to the Board. After Board review, Merilynn moved to approve and distribute the memo to all Department Heads and employees, seconded by John Hammond. The vote was in the affirmative and unanimous.
4. Dale Lawrence, Sexton, met with Selectmen to review her budget for 2013. Dale would like to combine the Gasoline and Diesel lines into one line, FUEL and add \$250 to that line bringing the total to \$1,450. Without any salary increase, the new budget would be \$18,300. Dale would like to see the Town add \$500 to maintenance of Town Property to account for work done by the

Cemetery Department. John asked Dale about the mower. Dale would like to see a warrant article for a Capital Reserve Account for replacement of the mower in three or four years. The mower is about 15 years old. A new one costs about \$20,000. John asked Dale if she had been able to meet with Kyle to discuss the work needed at the roadside rest by the Covered Bridge. She stated she had not yet. Dale asked if she could come back at a later date to revisit the budget once wage increase has been set. Merilynn asked Dale to create a budget for wage based upon hours used last year and expectations for work on the fences with a little extra for the unexpected. That way we can see if it looks like wage would surpass the 2012 budget amount of \$11,725. Dale said she would put that information together and get it to the Board. The Selectmen thanked her for her time.

5. Steve Wilkie met with Selectmen to ask about the expiration date for an Intent to Cut. The Selectmen report it is good for one year. He also asked about timber tax for a cut for personal use of less than 10,000 sq. ft. He also asked about the use of a portable saw mill and when it becomes a permanent operation. John reported that once it is in place and being used regularly, it would be considered permanent and a business. Merilynn added that at that point, Steve would be required to go to the Planning Board for their decision relative to Site Plan Review. Steve asked about a lot that abuts the larger Wilkie Trust lot. Selectmen replied that any questions about lot mergers or subdivisions should be addressed to the Planning Board.
6. Selectmen called Connie Kousman per her request. Connie reported on several requests for general assistance. Connie was asked about her budget for 2013. She was asked if she would like to increase that budget. Connie wasn't sure. Merilynn asked if she wouldn't like to increase it based upon the recent cases and requests. Connie said that would probably be a good idea. Merilynn recommends increasing by \$2,400; from \$3,650 to \$6,050.
7. Merilynn Bourne moved to approve the Selectmen's minutes of January 7th, seconded by Larry Dingee, vote was in the affirmative. John abstained as he was not present.
8. John Hammond moved to approve January 14th as presented; seconded by Merilynn Bourne; the vote was in the affirmative.
9. John moved to approve the January 11th minutes, seconded by Larry Dingee. The vote was in the affirmative.
10. Selectmen reviewed the preliminary 2013 budget.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm
Respectfully submitted,
Merilynn Bourne, Selectwoman

Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday January 21, 2013 6:30pm

Present: John Hammond, Merilynn Bourne, Larry Dingee

1. Selectmen reviewed the mail and invoices and signed checks.
2. John reported on a call from Connie Kousman asking about a petition being passed around by Laird Klingler regarding Old Stage Coach Road. John told Ms. Kousman that he has not seen the petition. Selectmen called Mr. Klingler to notify him of the meeting this Friday. Mr. Klingler stated that, on the advice of his attorney, if no solution could be achieved that a warrant article might be the route. Merilynn mentioned that a warrant article may not be legal as the land ownership may be in question. Mr. Klingler stated he will attend the 2:00pm meeting to discuss the status of Old Stage Coach Road.
3. Selectmen called Ms. Carol Rennie, a resident of Old Stage Coach Road, to notify her of the Friday meeting. Carol states she plans to attend.
4. Selectmen called Kyle Witty, Road Agent, to ask him to attend Friday's meeting as well. He was also asked to let us know when he will meet with us to review his budget. He will attend the meeting and if time allows, we will review his budget following the road meeting.

5. Police Chief Hackett met with Selectmen to review his 2013 budget request.
6. Emergency calls ended the meeting early.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm
Respectfully submitted,
Merilynn Bourne, Selectwoman

Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Friday January 25, 2013 2:00pm

Present: John Hammond, Merilynn Bourne, Larry Dingee

1. Selectmen met with Paul & Beverly Duval, their attorneys Laura Beliveau and David Bradley; Attorney Waugh was present for the Town as well as Mr. Laird Klingler and Ms. Carol Rennie. John Auten was in attendance on behalf of Ms. Rennie and Kyle Witty was also present. John Hammond turned the meeting over to Attorney Waugh to discuss the status of Old Stage Coach Road. The town would like to see the abutters come to some sort of resolution. Attorney Waugh stated that a 2012 Supreme Court resolution declared that the Selectmen do not have the jurisdiction to make a final decision without an agreement between the parties. Dave Bradley, representing the Duvals, stated that he was here to say that he thinks an agreement may have been reached between the Duvals and Carol Rennie. The agreement would state that the parties agree that a road can be re-established as a Class 5 highway from the claimed point of discontinuance to the Duval and Klingler driveways. The parties have agreed "to do and not to do certain things to their properties". John Auten stated that Ms. Rennie's bottom line is that the access from the 25 acre lot line be limited to a single residence. Using the Patten survey for a road layout, all parties reviewed the layout created in 2011. Attorney Bradley remarked that the Duvall's are seeing this layout for the first time. The Patten survey would give the Duvall's frontage at their driveway of 30' +/- . Attorney Bradley mentioned that it appears that Ms. Rennie would like the Duvall's to restrict the use of the driveway to one residence and the Duvall's agree to that restriction. Further, the Duvall's would like Ms. Rennie to restrict the lot to the east of the boundry wall to "none development". The Duvall's will cooperate with the town in the establishment of a road. Attorney Waugh stated that the town has no authority relative to property restriction agreements. That is between the landowners. The Town will follow the layout procedure and all parties will waive any damages brought about by this layout. Attorney Bradley stated that his client will waive damages. Attorney Auten would like the town to guarantee that no further driveways will be placed off the road. Attorney Waugh responded that it is not certain the town is allowed to do that. Attorney Bradley pointed out that the deed restrictions should cover that concern. Merilynn Bourne stated that the proposed deed restrictions, running in perpetuity, would resolve the issue. Attorneys Bradley and Auten will work together to create the documents. Attorney Waugh stated that the best way to accomplish the goal would be a layout by the selectmen to take to town meeting. The town would require statements from abutters stating they would waive damages. John Hammond asked for clarification regarding the proposal for restrictions. Attorney Auten stated that the restrictions would not affect or impact the town. Attorney Beliveau asked Attorney Waugh to explain "waiving damages". He explained that a "taking" can create damages. The waiver would eliminate that concern for the town. Attorney Waugh will create the waiver document. Attorney Beliveau asked if the Patten layout specified rods. Attorney Auten said it was a 2 rod (33 feet) width. The metes and bounds are written on the survey. The Selectmen took a few minutes to meet alone with Attorney Waugh. Selectman Dingee asked about a covenant against further development. Attorney Waugh stated that the proposed restrictions are not a covenant against development. The Duval restriction is an assurance that none of the residence built in the future will have access from Old Coach Road. The covenant would prevent that. John Hammond asked if we could get all parties to state they accept the Patten survey as presented.

Attorney Waugh will ask. He will also ask that the end product of the Patten layout be a written decision to be filed with the Town Clerk and the County Registry. Also he will state that the Selectmen will put a statement in the return that the board is aware of the covenants between the parties, had no role in the creation of said covenants and will not play a role in enforcing those covenants. After re-joining the group, Attorney Waugh asked, first, assuming the conceptual plan hasn't changed, if the layout is going to proceed as referenced by the present Patten plan; does anyone have any issues with the current layout? Mrs. Duval stated she and Mr. Duval have not had time to look at it. Attorney Bradley asked if the Selectmen had a different layout than the one being shown today? "No." Merilynn stated, for the record, that we have only the layout in front of the group. Mr. Paul Duval asked about reference points. For example, the distance from the wall to the edge of the road right-of-way and the house, etc. It was stated that such reference points weren't required because the metes and bounds were written on the survey. Attorney Waugh stated that the Selectboard wants future selectmen to be spared any disputes. Would the parties mind if the town had copies of the agreements so that the "return document" can reference those documents and state, "The selectmen are aware of these documents, the Selectmen had no role in creating these documents and the Selectmen will not play any role in enforcing the covenants"? The layout return will reference the recording of the deeds. There was a short discussion following, regarding the issue of town highway equipment being able to turn around at the road's end. Attorney Waugh suggested language in the "Return" stating that the town has the right to travel over the land in order to perform maintenance. Ended 2:44pm

2. Nonpublic – Conference with Counsel. The Road Agent stated he is concerned about being forced to maintain that which does not belong to the town...relative to a turn around. Attorney Waugh stated that the simplest way to address that concern is to make an area for turn-around part of the description of the Patten layout. The Road Agent will take the grader to the location and measure the distance needed. Ended 3:10pm
3. Police Chief Doug Hackett met with Selectmen to review his budget proposal for 2013. He discussed the dispatch proposals. He stated that for the long term, Hanover is the best price for dispatch over the next 6 years. Hanover would be \$70K, Claremont would be \$116K, New London would be \$85K. Doug explained the impact of the dispatch issue on his budget. The expense for new dispatch totals almost \$12,000. The Selectmen and Doug then reviewed his salary request. He presented comparables from similar sized towns. Cornish is considerably lower than the comparable towns. Doug believes the department is at the point where the wage issue needs to be addressed. Doug would like his hourly rate to go up and, if necessary, he will work less hours. The hours he will work will be determined by his raise. Doug states he can work with a salary of \$33,687. Larry Dingee stated that there is a 2 hour call-out minimum. Does Doug know how often that happens? Doug didn't have the answer right-off. Merilynn stated that the 2 hour minimum pay is a state requirement and is not an option on the part of the town. John Hammond asked what the 3rd officer would be paid. Doug stated the same as the 2nd officer. John stated he would like to see precise hours worked, per officer in 2012 to be able to make decisions going forward. There was a discussion about the Crown Vic and its replacement. Doug thinks it might be a good idea to keep the Crown Vic as the back-up car and let go of the Durango. The board will discuss the concept with Doug at a later date.
4. Shelley Brookings met with Selectmen to ask for a signature on a release/permission to use the license plate design for wooden lids for her Longaberger baskets. Shelley has permission from the 250th Committee to use the design. The design is not copyrighted. Shelley stated the committee will get back 10% of the sale price of the basket lids. Merilynn Bourne made a motion to approve the use of the logo for this purpose; seconded by John Hammond, the vote was in the affirmative. All Selectmen signed the release.
5. Selectmen reviewed the hours used for the Police Department for 2012. The third officer used 17 hours; The Chief used 1248. Larry reminded the board that as a certified part-time officer, the Chief is not allowed to work over 1300 hours in a year; the second officer used 338 hours.

Doug is mandated by part-time certification to do no more than 1300 hours in a year. In 2011, the Chief worked 1169 hours and the 2nd Officer worked 372.

6. Larry Dingee made a motion to start the Monday session at 4:30 in order to work on the Town Budget, seconded by Merilynn Bourne. The vote was in the affirmative and unanimous.
7. The Board adjourned 4:50 pm to attend the 250th Celebration Kick-off Ceremony at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Merilynn Bourne, Selectwoman

Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday January 28, 2013 6:30pm

Present: John Hammond, Merilynn Bourne, Larry Dingee

1. Selectmen reviewed the mail, signed checks and invoices.
2. Connie Kousman called Selectmen to discuss a Town Assistance request.
3. Kyle Witty met with Selectmen to review his budget. There was a long discussion about his request for an 11% increase in wage. Kyle explained that he is not compensated within the mid-range of same size towns. He is asking for a 3% increase for his crew. Larry asked if he had checked the wages being paid state highway crews. Kyle had not. He had checked with Claremont and Plainfield. Kyle was asked to break out the wage request. The board asked about the significant increase in his request for hired equipment and radios. Kyle stated that this is an "open" winter, like last year and could lead to another significant mud problem in the spring. Kyle stated that Cornish is a hilly town and more powerful radios would help him communicate with his crew when they are out on the roads. His new truck does not have a radio at this time. John asked about Asphalt. If we created a Warrant Article for that expense, what would that amount be? Kyle had bids on shimming and overlay on Center Road (from Jonesville to Rt. 120): \$200,195; shimming and overlaying for Peniman Road (one mile) would cost \$82,415; shimming *only* for both roads would be \$109,886. Larry asked for a cost per mile for shimming and cost per mile for overlay. Kyle stated he was not certain he could get the work priced that way. John asked about grinding the roads. Kyle feels that grinding a road is a waste of money. Larry asked about the current cost of gravel. Kyle stated it is running about \$11 a ton, delivered (St Pierre's). Other places are asking for \$12-13. Larry Dingee made a motion to approve a pay raise of 3% across the board for all town employees, except Selectmen. Merilynn commented she was not ready for such a sweeping decision. The board had not had time to fairly consider the request. John stated he would rather plug in some of the numbers quoted at this meeting before voting on a motion. There was no second so the motion failed.
4. The Selectboard discussed Warrant Articles for the 2013 budget. Painting of Town Buildings, \$25K; Cemetery Equipment Capital Reserve, \$4K; Computers, \$3K; 250th Celebration, \$8K; Highway Radios, \$10K; Dispatch, \$12K; the total of \$63K to come from fund balance. Any asphalt would be a Warrant Article to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen will meet with the Finance Committee tomorrow at 6:30pm.

Adjourned at 8:50pm
Respectfully submitted,
Merilynn Bourne, Selectwoman

Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Tuesday January 29, 2013 6:30pm

Present: John Hammond, Merilynn Bourne, Larry Dingee

1. John reported on a call from Connie regarding a household without fuel. Connie will see what she can do to help and find resources.
2. Selectmen met with the Finance Committee to review the draft of the 2013 Budget.
Present for the meeting: Heather Meeks, Bill Caterino, Heidi Jaarsma, Kyle Witty, Doug Hackett, and Scott Reuthe. Under town offices, health insurance was raised to \$7,100 to cover the actual cost of \$7,082. Bill Caterino asked if we thought the Cemetery crew could take care of the grounds at Trinity Church. Maintaining the grounds around the church is different then maintaining the building. It would be good to talk about it at Town Meeting. Selectmen will consider adding \$500 to the Cemetery budget for that purpose. Bill would like to see the Selectmen recommend the change. Doug Hackett provided an explanation for his request for an increase in wage for all officers. Cornish officers are underpaid. This request brings the department to a low average. Bill asked if it was appropriate to have the Chief make just one dollar more than his second officer. Doug said it was a place to start and he did not expect the town to make a full correction after so many years of low wages. Doug repeated that if the board did not want to raise the pay, he would take the wage offered and work less hours. Heather said she would like to know how many hours would be cut. Doug stated that it would be 50 hours over a 12 month period. Doug explained the change in dispatch services and the proposed warrant article to address dispatch. \$8,000 is for two (2) vehicle repeaters (with \$4,000 reimbursed from an Emergency Planning grant); \$7,000 one time fee to move our software from Claremont to Hanover; software license "bump" for Hanover \$1,000; \$4,250 for six months at Hanover ; Total for warrant article is \$20,250. \$4,000 of that will be offset by the grant. Heather said it would be great to have all the town's dispatch needs covered by the same service. Cornish Fire Department is already dispatched out of Hanover. Merilynn asked the committee how they felt about the wage request. Bill stated we needed to make certain that all town employees are treated the same. Merilynn said she agreed relative to cost of living increases but stated that there is a difference between cost of living increases and a wage increase based upon compensation practices. Heather wants to table the discussion on Police wage until she hears about Highway. The group reviewed the Fire Department budget with Scott Reuthe. There were no concerns. The group reviewed the Highway budget and Kyle's wage request. Larry brought up the issue of medical insurance and the fact that Kyle doesn't take medical insurance. Heather asked Kyle for more "comps" relative to wage. Bill stated that he would like to compare Cornish with other towns relative to miles to maintain. Some towns have more road surface. It would be great to know what those differences are. Hard to find. Larry asked about Kyle's overtime line. Could he cut some of that out? Kyle replied that the overtime line has not been keeping up with the increase in wage for several years now. Overtime is also a reflection of his regular salary line request. Kyle commented on weather issues as well, like the mud season we had last year. Heather asked Kyle why he hasn't done any paving when each year he has asked for asphalt but the money has not been used as it was budgeted. Capital equipment was purchased instead. People are wondering why. Kyle stated that now that he's been in office, he understands how that happens; because other needs come up. Kyle said he would like to see a Warrant Article to raise money for Asphalt. Heather states a warrant article is above and beyond his budget. The Warrant Article will be hard for some people to swallow. Larry stated that usage is driven by weather. This year as an example, Kyle had to use a great deal of his budget for the mud problem this past spring. Larry is also not keen on a warrant article but the cost of gravel has grown so much over the past few years that asphalt may need to be by warrant article. Gravel could be two to three times the price of past years because of the cost of fuel for trucking. Gravel will now have to be trucked in. No more local gravel. Gravel is a crisis need and paving can be put off. Heather understands but is concerned that this lack of paving will catch up with us. Kyle added that he thinks a fund for

paving needs should be created. Kyle states we have 16 miles of paved surface and 56 miles of gravel. Heather asked about using the larger gravel as a base. Kyle said the larger gravel has made a good base where it was placed but it is no longer available. Bill said that when the weather is bad, it is understandable that paving money might need to be used, but when the weather is not bad, we shouldn't be buying equipment with paving money or buying gravel with paving money. If we want to pave, that is what we should do. Bill thinks that the asphalt line should stay in the highway budget, not as a warrant article, with the understanding that if it is not used for paving, it will not be used to buy equipment. It may be used for a crisis need such as hauling. Moving along, the group looked at the "Dog Control" line under Health & Human Services. There is a great deal of confusion about that line and the way it reports. Heidi explained that the state's MS5 form requires dog registrations to be listed in that department. Registrations and vet fees to the town show up on that line. Heidi will look at the issue this week. The committee will meet again on Tuesday, February 5th. If there is no public hearing for the school budget on Monday, the Selectboard will also meet on Monday, February 4th to further refine the work done tonight.

Adjourned at 10:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Merilynn Bourne, Selectwoman