

Handwritten initials: JGB JSH.

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 29, 2024 6:30-8:30 pm**

Present: Dillon Gallagher, Chair, John Hammond, Jason Bourne

1. BOS reviewed invoices, mail and signed checks.
2. Mary came in to explain some changes in the budget. Currently the budget would be level funded from 2023. These changes may be adjusted with the Budget Committee.
3. 7:00pm BOS went upstairs to meet with the Finance Committee. Attendees were: Scott Baker, Lyle Parry, Everett Cass, Fred Weld, Bill Caterino, Doug Hackett and Heidi Jaarsma.
 - a. Town Office – Salaries are down due to working 27 hours instead of 29 hours. Budget is down .4% over last year. This would cover the cost of increase in software prices as well as web site increase.
 - b. Tax Collect and Town Clerk – Level funded.
 - c. Elections – Budget is up 74% due to the national election.
 - d. Audit – Up 3% by contract.
 - e. Revaluation, Legal, Planning Board, ZBA and Building & Grounds level funded.
 - f. Cemetery – Lyle Parry felt that the records of hours spent mowing were incorrect based on the amount of mowing done.
 - g. Insurance (non-medical) up 42.%
 - h. Town Records and Spirit Committee – Level funded.
 - i. Police Department – Doug would like to have all the officers get a salary increase. His consideration would be reduced hours but getting an increase in pay.
 - j. Ambulance and Fire Department – Level funded.
 - k. Highway Department – Budgeted for 2 more family plans for not yet hired employees. Overall budget is up 8.3%. A question was raised if the Highway Department budget was over budgeted because the Buildings and Grounds and Cemetery should pay for that work done. A discussion took place on how to advertise better for help.
 - l. Recycling – Salary line is up due to hiring new help. Another increase in tipping fees.
4. Overall budget is proposed for \$1,447,988, up by 6.4%.
5. Warrant articles were discussed. Library fund is up \$1,562 mainly salary increases. Library Capital Reserve reduced from \$5,000 to \$2,000. Leavitt Hill Bridge repair could be \$75,000, \$150,000 or \$240,000 depending upon which option is chosen.
6. Tax rate summary: 2022 \$23.67, 2023 \$26.23 and 2024 estimate \$28.77. School budget is up 11.4% and revenues are down. Town budget is up 6.4%.

Respectfully submitted,
John Hammond

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**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 25, 2024 4:00-6:00 pm**

Present: Dillon Gallagher, Chair, John Hammond, Jason Bourne

1. BOS reviewed mail and invoices.
2. Derek Ferland, Sullivan County Manager, came in to talk to the BOS about the Sullivan County Gateway Sign Project. Derek would like to erect a sign at the east entrance of the covered bridge saying "Welcome to Sullivan County Est. 1827". He is going through a 3-step process to have all organizations having approval of the project. The NH DOT has to approve the location and size of the signage. They would like to have the "Welcome" sign in place later this year after all towns are happy with the project.
3. Heidi Jaarsma came in to talk about the accounting software lease upgrade costs. The total amount is \$5,210 for the software lease budget line. Fund balance is up \$10,000 over last year. The projected percentage of fund balance should be around 17%, a little less than last year.
4. Marie DeRusha came in to request \$3,000 of General Assistance for a Cornish resident. Motion made by Jason, seconded by Dillon. Voted in the affirmative.
5. Wayne came in to give a report on the paving quotes for the proposed projects in town. The new town truck is waiting on the delivery of the new plow at Viking. Wayne walked the section of Old Turnpike Road that ends at Burr Road and reported it to be in poor condition. He has not looked at the upper end of Leavitt Hill Road to see if it would be possible. The Highway Department is still looking for two employees. Wayne would like to purchase flashing LED strobe lights for the vehicles in the shop. They can be purchased at Sabil & Sons in White River Junction. The BOS agreed to the purchase. The new grader seat has been installed.
6. Lee Baker stopped in to say hi and see how things are going in the office.
7. The BOS discussed the proposed upgrade of the W149 transmission line of National Grid.

Respectfully submitted,
John Hammond *J.H.*

Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 22, 2024 6:30-8:30 pm

Present: John Hammond, Jason Bourne

Absent: Dillon Gallagher

1. BOS reviewed invoices, mail and signed checks.
2. John made the motion to pass the Boston Post cane to Connie White who is living on Platt Road. She will be ninety-five in May of this year. Seconded by Jason. Vote in the affirmative.
3. The BOS finished the preliminary budget and will share it with the Finance Committee Monday, Jan 29th, at 7:00pm.
4. A contingent of 6 people came in to the office from National Grid. This is a presentation on the reconstruction of the powerline from White River Junction to Walpole, NH. It is not a new line, just pole replacement and brush removal. A new line will be erected and the old existing line will be removed. In Cornish 75 structures will be removed. The voltage will remain the same. The amperage will be increased. The new poles will be metal. Project will start in 2026. The distance in Cornish will be 6.2 miles. The group talked about possible permitting process and protocol on the cutting of trees.
5. BOS called Gwyn Gallagher about the primary election Tuesday, January 23rd. The polls open at 8:00 am and close at 7:00 pm. There is a concern of changing the flow of traffic inside the building to keep people from standing outside in the cold. There will be Selectboard members present all day during the voting.
6. The BOS discussed the continued parking issue on School Street and East Road.
7. Motion made by John to appoint Dale Lawrence as Chair of the CREA Committee, seconded by Jason. The BOS called Dale and she accepted. She talked about the walking bridge being in poor condition and the water level being elevated due to beaver activity. She will take pictures of both and send in for review. She suggested closing the bridge until it was repaired.
8. Adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,
John Hammond

JB

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 18, 2024 4:00-6:00 pm**

Present: Dillon Gallagher, Chair, John Hammond, Jason Bourne

1. Wayne Gray and Justin Vivian also stopped in.
2. BOS reviewed mail and invoices.
3. Wayne Gray came in to report on the Highway Department. Roads were all plowed and sanded by the opening of school. A resident on Center Road has been snow blowing banks back in to the road that can create a hazard. Officer Vivian will speak with the resident.
4. Dave Eckman of Eckman Engineering came in to discuss the Leavitt Hill bridge. He has suggested a 2-stage repair to allow the bridge to be open during the repair project. The top of the precast sections can be paved or put a concrete finish top coat. Dave brought in design of a similar repair of bridge in Chandler Mills. His advice is to put in precast sections (11 inches thick) on one lane and prepare it for traffic and then finish the other lane. An estimated time to complete the project would be 6-8 weeks. A discussion took place about using Old Stage Coach Road that exits on Burr Road to create an alternate route. Jim Strout sat in on the meeting. If a Class VI Road was used as an alternate exit route from Leavitt Hill Road an approval by the town to reopen a Class VI Road for temporary use would require an article on the warrant for Town Meeting.
5. BOS reviewed the Capital Reserve funds for bridges and paving in anticipation of projects that need to be addressed.
6. Heidi came in and asked about the wireless access to the printer. This would allow remote printing from a laptop. This would be secured access with a password protected network.

Respectfully submitted,
John Hammond

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**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 15, 2024 6:30-8:30 pm**

Present: Dillon Gallagher, Chair, John Hammond, Jason Bourne

1. BOS reviewed invoices, mail and signed checks.
2. Mary Curtis suggested that we consider using a wireless print access point. Cost could be about \$300. This would allow easier access to printing of minutes of various committees.
3. Rich Thompson and Joanna Sharf came in to talk about the Energy Committee. They came in to discuss upgrading the insulation, windows and air sealing tightening, blow insulation the in ceiling. There is funding available from Eversource based on energy saving estimates of improvements. Projects costing under \$10,000 don't require an RFP to start the project. The Energy Committee would request the Board to choose members to fill the committee. By March they will need 2 full members and one alternate. The Board will have the choices by the end of the month.
4. Dill made a motion to appoint Mike Belanger as a full member, Myron Kuhre and Bill Schmidt as alternates. Seconded by Jason. Unanimously voted in the affirmative.
5. The BOS continued to work on the town budget. A discussion took place on salary raises for full time employees. A lengthy discussion took place on what day the business portion of town meeting would take place. In 2023 it was on Saturday starting at 10:00am. Motion made by John to hold business portion of town meeting on Saturday at 10:00 am on March 16th. Seconded by Jason. Voted in favor unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
John Hammond

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**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 11, 2024 4:00-6:00 pm**

Present: Dillon Gallagher, Chair, John Hammond, Jason Bourne

1. Jason and Dillon made a site visit for a building permit of a sugar house on Center Road.
2. BOS reviewed mail and invoices.
3. Wayne Gray came in to talk about road issues. The beaver dam on Tandy Brook has raised the water level in the culvert substantially. The backhoe will remove the dam inside the culvert tomorrow. The F350 has been having problems raising the plow blade. The solenoid on the plow has been needed to be replaced. The seat on the grader needs to be replaced. Approximate costs look to be \$700. Eckman Engineering contacted Wayne to see if the board was moving forward with the Leavitt Hill Bridge. The BOS would like to have a meeting with the Engineer to discuss their services.
4. The Board has started to work on warrant articles for the 2024 Town Meeting. Resurfacing and improving a number of gravel roads was discussed. East, Clark Camp, Dodge Hollow, Burr, Tandy Brook and St. Gaudens Roads are all in need of added gravel and culvert upgrades or replacement. An approximate cost per foot will give the Board an estimate on how much a mile will cost. This also includes ditching prior to resurfacing the roads. East Road is probably the road that is the most heavily traveled. The Board asked Wayne to give them a quote for paving costs by the end of January. A discussion also took place on grinding some of the paved roads that were totally out of shape.
5. Gwyn Gallagher came in to confirm that the January 23rd voting will be held at the Town Hall. The voting will be held at the school for Town Meeting (2 sessions) and School Meeting. September 10th state primary and November 5th general election will also be at the school.

Respectfully submitted,
John Hammond

Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 8, 2024 6:30-8:30 pm

Present: Dillon Gallagher, Chair, John Hammond, Jason Bourne

1. BOS reviewed invoices, mail and signed checks.
2. The CCI committee came in to report, represented by Keith Mullane, Colleen O'Neil and Dan Poor, to give us an update on the progress of the status of the old Cornish Flat Store. Keith Mullane reported that the design phase is pretty much completed. The type of solar to be used has yet to be determined. Trumbull Nelson will be the general contractor. The construction is expected to be done in 9-12 months.
3. Bill Wall came in to talk about waste removal costs for the Town of Plainfield. If the warrant article to hire Casella for a 7-year contract fails at town meeting he fears that Cornish will be inundated with Plainfield's recycling and trash.
4. Motion made by Jason to set the January 23rd polling location at the town hall. Seconded by John. All in favor of the motion.
5. The Board had a discussion on the cost of having a contracted hauler for material of sand and gravel versus having the town haul the material with the town's 6 wheelers. Right now, the town only has 2 CDL drivers.
6. The BOS called Superintendent Sydney Leggett to say that the polling booths will be set up at the Town Hall on January for the primary. The Town Meeting and School Meeting will be held at the school gymnasium. When the school is used for voting the students will not be in attendance at school.
7. The BOS worked on completing the State of NH form permit for Limited Public Solid Waste Transfer Station/Recycling Facility. The town contracts with a private contractor to take the solid waste. Only recyclables are stored at the facility. The question is would the town be considered as a transfer station. The question will be asked to Mary Daun (DES employee) for clarification.
8. The BOS worked on wages for town employees and continued to work on the budget.

Respectfully submitted,
John Hammond

Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 4, 2024 4:00-6:00 pm

Present: Dillon Gallagher, Chair, John Hammond, Jason Bourne
Also Present: Wayne Gray, Road Agent; Bill Wall.

1. The Selectmen reviewed invoices and minutes.
2. Bill Wall gave the Board information about power coalitions in New Hampshire. He brought some articles published in the *Valley News*.
3. The Board discussed the polling place for the January 23, 2024, presidential primary election. Mary Curtis explained that the Town Clerk had posted the polling place as the school. Cody Schoolcraft will call to discuss the situation. Jason Bourne reported that the Municipal Association had stated that the Select Board sets the voting location and time.
4. Wayne Gray reported that last week was an early mud season. The Highway Department has delivered 40-50 loads of gravel at various locations in town. The new truck is now at the paint show and is on schedule to be delivered at the end of January. Mr. Gray anticipates snow this coming Sunday.
5. Sydney Liggett, SAU 100 Superintendent, called to express concern about voting at Cornish School on January 23. She is concerned about the security of the vote and the fact that the school board voted not to have voting at the school during school hours. The Board will check with other authorities on how the decision was made to post the polling place as the school.
6. Dillon Gallagher made a motion to add Lyle Parry and Scott Baker to the budget committee. This would raise the membership to six. The motion was seconded by John Hammond and voted in the affirmative.
7. Tom Dombroski came in to make an adjustment to a new septic system located on Upper East Road.
8. Eric Weeks came in to request information on monies spent for materials and costs of trucking. He has also requested the cost of subcontracted trucking. Mr. Weeks feels that the town could be more financially efficient in the purchasing and hauling of material.
9. The Board decided to have a discussion with the Fire Chief about the creation of a capital reserve fund for specific items of equipment that need to be replaced on a long-term schedule. The cost of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) equipment is approximately \$100,000. The replacement schedule is every 20 years. Sixteen portable radios cost approximately \$2,500-\$3,000 each with a 15 to 20-year shelf life. Truck radios are \$2,500 to \$4,000 each. Five to six units are required. The current helmets are 30 years old. New helmets are needed to comply with safety standards. Eighteen to nineteen helmets need to be purchased.

Respectfully submitted,
John Hammond

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**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 2, 2024 5:00-7:00 pm**

Present: Dillon Gallagher, Chair, John Hammond, Jason Bourne
Also present: Mary Curtis

1. Dillon Gallagher made a motion, seconded by Jason Bourne, to accept the minutes of November and December 2023.
2. The Selectmen signed checks.
3. Mary Curtis and Road Agent Wayne Gray had compiled a list of roads in town in need of refurbishing: Clark Camp, East Road, Tift Road, Mace Road, Tandy Brook Road, Burr Road, Upper Dodge Hollow Road, St. Gaudens Road, Gap Road, and Lang Road. Work would include replacement of culverts that are undersized or not functioning.
4. The Town received \$152,746.77 from the state rooms and meals tax. This amount was used in the tax rate calculation to offset the tax rate.
5. The Board worked on initial line items in department budgets.
6. The Board discussed possible warrant articles.

Respectfully submitted,
John Hammond