

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 1, 2024 4:00-6:00 pm**

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

1. BOS reviewed mail and invoices.
2. Heidi Jaarsma, Treasurer, came in to explain some budget items regarding Highway and Cemetery. She presented details on hours recorded on time cards by the Highway Department. 2023 time cards were not accurately reported between Highway, Building & Grounds and Cemetery.
3. Bill Wall came in to discuss solid waste liability. He urged the town not enter into agreements that could incur increased liability.
4. Executive Session 4:34-4:56.
5. Wayne reported that the Highway Dept. will pick up the new truck from Reed's tomorrow. He asked about registration. Wayne will follow-up with Paula, Town Clerk. BOS and Wayne discussed the potential sale of the '09 truck. Truck could be sold with or without wing and with or without model 2025 sander. Wayne discussed powerline ROW cutting. He is concerned about the contractor impeding drainage of the ditches and culverts. He will follow up with the power company and the contractor.
6. Erich Weeks came in to discuss trucking costs. He presented some numbers that had been given to him by the town per his 91:A request. He declared that the town is wasting money by hiring the trucking for gravel and hardpack. He estimated costs by considering a 6-wheel truck which hauls 17 tons and gets 6 mpg.
7. Adjourned at 6:15.

Respectfully submitted,
Dillon Gallagher

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 5, 2024 6:30-8:30 pm**

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

1. BOS reviewed invoices, mail and signed checks.
2. Bill Wall was in to discuss funding for CPCNH. He brought a newspaper article. He is concerned about bureaucracy. Jason asked if anything had changed in the legal framework. Bill is concerned that it won't be brought to Town Meeting. BOS had been under the impression that if this was acted upon, it would be brought to Town Meeting.
3. Nikos Tampasis came in to inquire about 3 tax deeded properties that abut him. He is interested in purchasing the lots, primarily a 3-acre lot that his driveway runs through. BOS informed him that it will be discussed.
4. Gwyn Gallagher came in to ask BOS if they had any feedback on the recent primary. John said that he thought it went well. Jason said he didn't see any room for

improvement. Gwyn explained that the Secretary of State has asked for limited enforcement of electioneering.

5. Gwyn wants to work with the Road Agent to cut trees on Center Road. It would require a short-term closure of the road and a detour to be setup. Operation would not be during traditional commuting hours. Jason said it seemed reasonable. John agreed. Gwyn wanted to check with Selectmen before approaching the Road Agent.
6. Tim Schad called about the "School Street" bridge. He said Osgood Construction would like to bid. It was explained that the Town has a bridge inspection from an engineer and nothing has gone out to bid.
7. John moves, Jason seconds, to approve January 2024 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.
8. BOS returned a call to Laura McCord about tree cutting. She had a honeysuckle hedge and 2 small old apple trees. The apple trees were cut. She is concerned about the damage. She called the NH Electric Co-op arborist and said he was like a used car salesman. She is angry that shrubs were cut, "blowing them up" and leaving 4-foot holes. Dillon asked if she had tried to reach anyone higher at the Co-op. John recommended that she send a letter to NH Electric Co-op to complain and establish a paper trail. Jason said there is a way to file a complaint about property damage.
9. BOS discussed upcoming Budget Hearing. BOS discussed the Town Report. BOS discussed spring road maintenance.
10. Adjourned 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Dillon Gallagher, Chair

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 8, 2024 4:00-6:00 pm**

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

1. BOS made a site visit for a building permit and stopped at the Highway Garage to see the new dump truck.
2. BOS reviewed mail and invoices.
3. Heidi Jaarsma came in to go over Town Report, Warrant and 2024 Budget.
4. Police Chief Doug Hackett, Fire Chief Mike Boutilier, John Drye, Bill Harthan and Rescue Squad leader Chris Chilton came in. Chief Boutilier asked for the meeting with Doug and wanted it in the presence of the BOS. Chief Boutilier presented correspondence about radio repeaters. (See attached.)
5. Re-programming costs were discussed. Hanover can reprogram radios and pagers, but only Motorola. When Burr Road project is complete radios will need to be reprogramed. Chris Chilton reported that he has no service. He needs to switch to UVCOMM. John Drye asked Doug if Newport had been notified of interference. He wants to know how to set up maintenance schedules, costs and a timeline. Doug said that when weather permits the repeater will be moved from Green Mountain to Burr Road. He said that if the Fire Dept went to UVCOMM it would fix dispatch. Bill Harthan asked if repeater and UVCOMM are on Green Mountain. Doug said yes. Bill asked how long it will take to

move the repeater to Burr Road. A couple days. Fireground is currently Simplex. BOS agreed that Mike should donate some old radios to the Highway Department. Chris Chilton asked what it would cost to maintain the Burr Road repeater. Doug will get estimates for those services. Bill asked how old the equipment from is that is being moved from Green Mountain to Burr Road. Doug will check. Doug will keep BOS posted on timeline and maintenance costs.

6. In summary: Will transition Cornish Fire and Rescue to UVCOMM. Plan in spring to move repeater to Burr Road, provide price estimates for service and preventative maintenance.
7. Doug reported that he testified at the State House on a bill to protect covered bridges.
8. John Drye asked for BOS to ask Wayne to not leave a big snowbank by the Fairgrounds ice rink.
9. Tricia Kruidenier, Stephanie McAndrew and Chuck McAndrew came in. Stephanie asked about December 21 BOS discussion on Newton's dance studio. She said her family used to use the library during dance classes. Chuck pointed out that more library patrons are good for the library. Dillon asked what days are dance class. Monday 9:30-7:45. Tricia said that Valerie sent out letters directing patrons where to park. Tricia said parents and some children hand out in the library; 3-7 adults and 10 children. Tricia estimated 3-6 cars on each side of the road. Jason pointed out that BOS had discussed the problem, including safety and possible parking restrictions. Chuck said that on Saturdays there can be 6-7 cars parked on School Street.
10. Adjourned 6:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Dillon Gallagher

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
Monday, February 12, 2024 6:30-8:30 pm**

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

1. BOS reviewed invoices, mail and signed checks.
2. BOS discussed budget, tax rate, and draft 2024 warrant with Heidi Jaarsma, Town Treasurer.
3. Cory Fitch, Chair of CCC, brought in information on the NRI.
4. Larry Dingee came in to inquire about the Town Warrant.
5. 7:04 Public Hearing started.
6. Judith Kaufman asked about conflicting numbers on her printout compared to the one presented. She had an old copy. Judith asked why Tax Collector did not get a COLA raise.
7. (i) Zoning Board – Merilynn explained costs for ZBA.
8. Tim Schad asked about using Highway for Cemetery. Asked about contractors.
9. Lois asked about the Cemetery behind her house. She would like to have it maintained.

10. Kathi said the library is not getting mowed.
11. Bill Wall spoke to thank Doug for the great service Justin has provided.
12. Tim Schad asked about the '02 truck and why the contracted services were so high.
13. Judith asked about building maintenance.
14. Nancy Wightman like that we hire local.
15. There were questions about the culvert line in the Highway budget.
16. Tim Schad asked about the Road Plan. He criticized the lack of plan.
17. Kimberly Patterson said Wayne told her he didn't have any material. BOS pointed out Wayne can order what he needs.
18. Bill Palmer said roads are bad.
19. Fred Sullivan asked who was Road Agent.
20. Recycling Center – Marilyn feels it is time to reconsider the recycling center.
21. Nancy Wightman pointed out that it costs more to hire.
22. Kimberly Patterson asked about returnable. \$7,814 revenue from recyclables.
23. Bill Wall pointed out the Town pays \$0 for garbage and has no liability.
24. Bill Palmer thinks the costs should be compared and we might find it is cheaper to have recycle center.
25. Judith – Fire, Rescue and Recycle are important.
26. Kimberly Patterson asked about tipping fees. Bill Wall discussed tipping fees. Doug said tipping and trucking equaled \$16,000. Tim Schad discussed tipping fees.
27. Judith asked about why General Assistance didn't use all of budget. Marie DeRusha explained that it is difficult to budget. Marilyn asked about Lake Sunapee VNA versus VNA and Hospice. Are we getting information on services? Bill Wall complimented the skills of the VNA.
28. Article 2(za) – Kathi Patterson talked about anyone who wants to can request a spreadsheet and is on the Town website.
29. Alicia Simino asked about the \$5,000 for well and septic at Stowell and if anything had been done. Kathi said waiting to see how the future goes. Heather Meeks pointed out the \$5,000 did indeed go into the G.H. Stowell Capital Reserve account.
30. Jason Bourne read the 2024 proposed warrant.
31. Kathi P. asked about \$2,000 versus \$5,000 going into the Library Capital Reserve. It was pointed out it will still be a Town building.
32. Tim Schad asked if Bridge Capital Reserve will be used for Leavitt Hill. He also asked if we have 3 or 4 bids. Jason replied we have quotes estimated, but has not gone to bid. Tim Schad asked if the bids would be bonded. He also asked if this was for an emergency bridge washout, etc.
33. Lois Fitts asked about where was paving being done.
34. Bill Wall wants better pavement binder.
35. Heather Meeks asked about potholes by Frank Ackerman's house.
36. Bill Wall asked how was DES during the flood?
37. Everett Cass asked why we had 2 Town meetings.
38. Gwyn Gallagher asked about Article 1. Election of Officers. He stood and spoke. Judith point of order, there are other races. Merilynn point of order, candidates' night should be advertised. Heidi has been at many budget hearings with candidates speaking. Bill Palmer also remembers candidates speaking. Perhaps should be warned. Kathi mentioned that the CCPTO had candidate night. Dillon Gallagher spoke. Diane Titus

spoke. Karim spoke briefly. Karen Gillock spoke “running for Library Trustee”. Laura Cousineau spoke for Library Trustee.

39. Heidi Jaarsma talked about the tax rate.
40. Mike Belanger asked “where can school budget be seen”?
41. Judith asked “where do I see state money”?
42. Bill Palmer said the state passed a budget last year which is not good for Cornish.
43. Heidi’s numbers come from school and the state.
44. Bill Wall thanked Heidi.
45. Lois asked if the Selectmen could do school budget.
46. Hearing adjourned at 8:50.

Respectfully submitted,
Dillon Gallagher, Chair

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 15, 2024 4:00-6:00 pm**

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

1. BOS reviewed mail and invoices.
2. BOS reviewed and approved Town Report Table of Contents.
3. Lorraine Wright of Sunset Strip Road came in. She is concerned about the fencing at the parking lot by the Cornish covered bridge. She had talked to Bull at the state shed. He explained that the parking lot is on Cornish property. She also stopped at the Cornish Highway Department and talked to Wayne. Merilynn Bourne pointed out that there is erosion. John pointed out that the BOS had talked to the state years ago. It was recommended that BOS look at the site. Wayne pointed out that the Town put rock in some of the eroded areas years ago. John recommended BOS call state DOT for guidance.
4. Merilynn Bourne came in to discuss the Budget Hearing. She is concerned that the candidates did not know that they would have a chance to speak because it wasn’t specified in the warning. She is concerned that it be handled differently in the future. She is also concerned about election officials promoting candidates or positions or items on the ballot. Jason asked if she was referring to an official promoting or campaigning during an election, or public meeting, or public hearing? She is specifically concerned about support for specific candidates during public meetings.
5. Wayne Gray reported that he had brought in an operator to run the grader. Dillon asked if it was a part time employee? John asked if he would come back to grade again? John asked if it might made sense to hire outside trucking for bigger projects? Dillon asked about bringing him back for spring grading. Jason suggested talking with the hire about compensation. Wayne reported that recycle was bad with mud. Highway scraped mud off and added material. BOS and Wayne discussed material. Dillon mentioned that BOS was informed by residents that Wayne had told them he didn’t have material. Jason listed

roads that had been mentioned at the February 12th Public Budget Hearing; Tiftt, Beechwood, Littell and East Road were mentioned.

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| 6. Gravel loads Tuesday and Wednesday: | 6 Wheeler | F550 Dump |
| a. Sunset | 1 large | 1 |
| b. Sunrise | 1 | 1 |
| c. St. Gaudens | 4 | 3 |
| d. Gap | 2 | |
| e. North Parsonage | 3 | 2 |
| f. Harrington | 1 | |
| g. Paget | 2 | |
| h. South Parsonage | 3 | |
| i. Beechwood | 8 | |
| j. Tiftt | 3 | |
| k. Mace | 1 | |
| l. Leavitt | 6 | |
| m. Recycle | 2 | |
| n. East | 5 | 3 |
| o. Cook | 2 | 2 |
| p. Chase Hill | | 1 |
7. Wayne reported that blue strobes had been disconnected and/or replaced with amber/white strobes on the old cruiser. Officer Vivian will collect lights that have been removed.
 8. John mentioned a call he had received about Leavitt Hill bridge. The caller asked if the Town had considered using skidder mats for the bridge deck. Caller said it could be a long-term temporary fix. Jason was unsure what the benefit might be long term. Wayne mentioned that there might be a bridge in Town with a wooden deck. Plainfield has a bridge on Camp Road with a wooden deck.
 9. Wayne pointed out that Littell Road will be next for mud repairs.
 10. Steve Parks came in and expressed interest in helping moving grounds and cemeteries.
 11. Tim Schad came in to talk about improving the roads. He mentioned a number of \$100,000 for one mile of gravel road. He suggested a process for building a road base. He suggested doing sections and doing some in different parts of Town, although less efficient. Jason asked about the \$100,000 cost. Tim said that would cover 1 mile. Material would be 12 inches plus 20% for compaction. Recommends fabric in certain areas.
 12. Chris Chilton called in regarding the Rescue Squad building. The Rescue Squad wants to buy the building and land. He asked about setbacks and subdivision regulations. BOS recommends he talk to Planning Board Chair or Secretary of Planning Board. The Rescue Squad wants to build an addition for a training room. He will follow-up with Mary at the Town office.
 13. BOS discussed road projects.
 14. Adjourned 6:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dillon Gallagher

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 19, 2024 6:30-8:30 pm**

Present: Dillon Gallagher, Chair, John Hammond

Absent: Jason Bourne

1. BOS reviewed invoices, mail and signed checks.
2. Alicia Simino stopped in to comment on the Public Budget Hearing. Alicia and John discussed the Weld Park at Trinity Church named after Clara Weld.
3. Mike Duval came in to ask about road sand. He is curious about what appears to be salt/manufactured sand stockpiled. BOS discussed road base with Mike. He explained different size in different applications. Use of road fabric in flat, wet areas is recommended. He discussed some of the gravel repairs for mud. Grading was discussed. A variety of road ideas were discussed. Mike asked why we don't pull front plows before just sanding.
4. Reyer Jaarsma came in to resign from the Heavy Equipment Committee. He will send a letter.
5. Adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Dillon Gallagher, Chair

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 22, 2024 4:00-6:00 pm**

Present: Dillon Gallagher, Chair, John Hammond

Absent: Jason Bourne

1. BOS reviewed mail and invoices.
2. Kris Fowler, NHDRA, Jaron Downes, Avitar and Dave Woodward, Avitar, were in to discuss the 5-year revaluation. Jaron described the purpose of the revaluation. It brings values up to date. He explained that it doesn't necessarily mean that taxes will go up. Avitar uses recent sales to establish values. Avitar will visit every property. Dave explained that Jaron uses a ratio to establish preliminary values then visits will happen. Residents will have a chance to discuss revaluation with Avitar. John asked if the change is the same across the board? Dave explained that new land and building values will be created. Sales have a neighborhood adjustment code (likely by the road). John asked how conservation easements are treated? They will be valued similar to current use. Starting sales analysis May 20 – 34 (tentatively). Range of dates April 1, 2023 onward. Kris (DRA) explained assessment review process. DRA makes a random selection of sales. DRA will visit 12 properties to audit Avitar and do a random sampling of all properties to check accuracy of data. They will choose a selection of building permits and send any errors to Avitar. DRA does report on changes of values. DRA will be in 2-3 days to audit forms. All current use properties require a map. DRA sends out

postcards to announce that they will come to review. Owners can contact DRA to schedule a visit. Jaron stated that Avitar does a final field review. He drives the whole Town and will drive up driveways to check accuracy which includes building quality and topography (final check). This will happen June 17-21. DRA does not do interior inspections. Mary asked about generators. Fixed standby generators with permanent fuel and hardwired are taxed as a feature. Avitar will work with Mary and all work should be completed by October 1st.

3. Wayne Gray was in. Ossipee Mountain installed the radio in the new truck. Checked the radio in the '17. Replaced power cord. Took 4 portables donated by the Fire Department to re-program them.
4. John talked about the grader operator recording conditions of concern he may notice.
5. Roads are posted. Wayne has contacted logging operations. Most are cooperative. Wayne can contact them if the roads are hard.
6. Wayne asked about voting booths. They need some repairs. Highway Department will make the repairs. There are 12 booths and 1 ADA compliant. New booths will be necessary soon.
7. Wayne stated that decals will be installed on the new truck Tuesday morning.
8. Wayne asked about an application for a driveway permit by Tony Newton. Tony Newton wants to add parking in the Town ROW on School Street.
9. Wayne asked about Chase Hill Road. A landowner wants to cut some firewood.
10. BOS asked Wayne to schedule Culvert Maintainer and Flagging classes.
11. BOS brought up ditching and water cutouts.
12. BOS asked about the new truck. Seems to be going well. Sometimes it goes into re-gen for extended time. Highway Department checked with Reeds. It is expected to happen early in the life cycle. Highway Department will monitor.
13. John asked about selling the '09. Wayne would like to keep the plows and sander as spare.
14. Tim Schad came in to talk about gravel. He plans to propose a \$150,000 increase in the gravel budget at Town Meeting. He assumes the Town will re-base and re-gravel a section of road. It would take \$90,000 in gravel, \$10,000 to lay it in with a bulldozer. John asked when is the Highway Department going to find the time to do what they need to do as is? John mentioned we have a budget people can live with. We are short handed and have catch-up work. Tim insisted that this is a good idea. John doesn't think this is the right time. Dillon agreed with John that next year would be better so the Highway Department can catch up from the July storms. Tim explained the process again. John explained that we live within our means. Tim has talked with Pine Hill about opening a pit on Mace Road. Tim got a price of under \$10/ton for 2-inch minus. Tim pointed out that he thinks the Town is overpaying for Building & Grounds and Cemetery mowing. Tim thinks that the Town should have a Capital Reserve Fund for gravel.
15. Larry Dingee came in to offer information on some municipal truck sales websites. The sites are auction sites so anyone can bid. He will forward the information to the Town offices.
16. Adjourned at 6:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Dillon Gallagher

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 26, 2024 6:30-8:30 pm**

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

1. BOS reviewed invoices, mail and signed checks.
2. John brought up the Driveway Permit application from the Newton's. Jason had not seen the sketch yet. There are questions on the location of the proposed parking expansion.
3. Selectmen discussed the proposed Town Meeting actions described by Tim Schad at the 2/22/24 BOS meeting.
4. BOS reviewed a letter from Aries regarding a proposed monitoring well on Town property near the Town Hall.
5. Joanna Scharf came in to talk about Energy Committee membership. She was surprised that the committee was not alerted earlier than it was. She questioned the selection of one member in particular. John explained the individual had showed interest. Jason apologized for the lapse in communication. Joanna asked BOS to elevate Bill Schmidt to full member to become the secretary. Jason moves, John seconds, that Bill become a voting member. Motion carries. Joanna presented a synopsis of some of the draft Energy Committee bylaws and a paragraph from the Conservation Commission bylaws. She questioned the BOS methodology for appointing members. Dillon explained that advisory committees to the BOS try to pick a fair cross section of citizens. Jason explained the need to encourage participation from many different individuals. Joanna wants interested candidates to attend at least one meeting. Joanna read from Section 4 of the draft bylaws. Jason explained that BOS reviewed the Town Meeting minutes when the Town asked the BOS to establish an Energy Committee.
6. BOS discussed the report from Eckman Engineering regarding the bridge that has a red listed deck.
7. Adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted,
Dillon Gallagher, Chair

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 29, 2024 4:00-6:00 pm**

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

1. BOS reviewed mail and invoices.
2. Mary Curtis reported on frozen ruts on Harrington Road and Clark Camp Road.
3. BOS discussed a request to hold a craft sale on the Meetinghouse lawn. Request does not provide any specifics.
4. Justin Ranney came in with follow-up information on the Feeney lot on Spaulding Hill. He presented a deed which mentions a right-of-way and a subdivision map from the Cornish Planning Board from April 3, 1974. The plat describes a 30-foot ROW

“approximate c/l of 30” ROW to be used in common with Tri-State Timberland Corp and Freemont & Delores Anderson.” BOS asked if the ROW included slopes above 15%. To be buildable access for safety services must be available. The BOS discussed the impact of the ROW to Lot 1. BOS asked if the ROW is clearly marked. There are no pins or meets and bounds on the plat. Justin said it is from the end of Pryor’s driveway on Spaulding Hill Drive. The ROW is currently used as part of the snowmobile trails. The ROW is essentially an old logging road. John suggested Justin talk with Fred Sullivan as he may have historical knowledge of the property. John asked if it had been recently harvested. Justin believes it was cut approximately 15 years ago. BOS agreed to do a site visit next Thursday.

5. BOS swore in Mike Belanger to the Cornish Energy Committee to a 3-year term.
6. Executive Session 4:55 to 4:59.
7. Marie DeRusha provided an email chain between her and Judith Kaufman regarding the Budget Hearing and the Welfare Director’s performance.
8. BOS discussed the ROW work proposed by National Grid. National Grid made a presentation to BOS on January 22nd. Mary will follow-up by keeping a copy available for public viewing and email contact information to the Chair of the Town Forest Committee.
9. BOS discussed purchasing. LaValley’s is updating the Point-of-Sale system and needs to update approved signers. Department heads shall be authorized to spend up to \$500.
10. Sherri Ackerson came in to explain the condition of South Deming Road. It is in poor condition and has frozen ruts.
11. Executive Session 5:35-5:50.
12. BOS fielded a call from a realtor regarding 511 NH Route 12A who has clients that want to purchase the property to build tiny homes for Air BNB or a wedding venue.
13. Adjourned 6:25.

Respectfully submitted,
Dillon Gallagher