

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 4, 2024 6:30-8:30 pm**

Present: John Hammond, Jason Bourne

Absent: Dillon Gallagher

1. BOS reviewed invoices, mail and signed checks.
2. Larry Dingee requested a copy of cost estimates Tim Schad had presented to the BOS. John Hammond explained that Tim never provided us with a copy of his work. Larry was asking if the BOS had a listing of all roads, culverts and other details to work from. John said he had not seen anything in the office. Road Agent Wayne Gray said that there is documentation for about 1/2-3/4 of the culverts around town, but not all of them. Larry suggested using the information we do have to build a plan for culvert replacement.
3. Wayne Gray reported on a part-time employee not wanting to work with one of the highway department employees any longer. John asked if Wayne might be able to reach out to Everett Cass for hauling material. John suggested that the BOS give the employee a call to understand the situation better.
4. John asked Wayne Gray if he was familiar with the monitoring well Aries Engineering was proposing which appeared to be in or close to the driveway from the school on the northern side, near the little Town Hall. Wayne said he was not familiar with the monitoring wells for that project, or their locations. Jason Bourne showed Wayne the proposed location on the map provided by Aries and Wayne said there was a catch basin for runoff water in that location and he suggested that we ask Aries to provide stakes where the proposed monitoring well would go.
5. The BOS returned a phone call to Corey Stevens. Corey reported that Leavitt Hill Road was nearly impassable with all-wheel drive vehicles. Corey wanted to understand what the BOS can do to plan to address the road condition of Leavitt Hill Road going forward. Selectman Bourne asked Wayne what the plan was for Leavitt Hill. Wayne said East Rd was a priority for tomorrow. Selectman Bourne suggested he would drive out to Leavitt Hill to take a look and John said he would as well. Wayne said he would take a look tomorrow so that he understands what is needed. Wayne reported on poor road conditions on Tandy Brook, Mace Road, East Road between Tiffit and Mace and from Sandy Redlands to Clark Camp Rd, Clark Camp Rd above the intersection of East Rd., Land Rd., Beechwood Acres and Cook Rd. Wayne reported that sap trucks and construction vehicles are causing road conditions to deteriorate on the East Rd and Clark Camp.
6. The BOS called Mike Duval regarding his employment by the town. Mike did not want to work in the environment of the Highway Department under staffing. John expressed his concern that we had a crisis on our hands both in terms of employees and road conditions. Mike agreed to help the Highway Department until the mud season crisis is over, but no longer. The BOS thanked Mike for working with us through this crisis. Selectman Bourne expressed concern about turnover in the Highway Department and our inability to retain Mike Duval beyond a short-term basis. Selectman Hammond suggested that Wayne have a talk with his department about the need to retain help and to adjust attitudes accordingly.

7. Wayne asked about test drilling on Hilliard Road. He suggested that the drilling rig and truck would have been overweight on a posted road with 6-ton limit. Wayne said the top of Hilliard Rd was damaged. Selectmen Hammond and Bourne suggested it was National Grid as Ginny Prince had sent a photo of the drilling rig to the Town Forest Committee.
8. Selectman Gallagher called in to the office to ask about Highway Department staffing issues and road conditions. John and Jason caught Dillon up on what had been discussed during the meeting, with Selectman Gallagher could not attend. Dillon asked if the plan was to move mud off the trouble spots. John and Jason said they would call Wayne Gray to confirm.
9. BOS called Road Agent Wayne Gray to ask about the strategy for addressing trouble spots on dirt roads. Wayne said he would windrow the mud off to the side and dropping in stone if needed. Wayne said he would also be looking at Burr Rd, Leavitt Hill Rd, and the recycling center tomorrow morning, as that also has been reported as a trouble spot.
10. Meeting adjourned 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 7, 2024 4:00-6:00 pm**

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

1. BOS met with Justin Ranney at Spaulding Hill Dr. to walk a deeded property right-of-way to review the possibility of building on a lot. Selectman Gallagher suggested that the right-of-way was not clearly defined and felt uncomfortable saying the lot would be buildable if the right-of-way could be challenged as it was not a surveyed right-of-way. Selectman Hammond and Selectman Bourne concurred. Justin Ranney was comfortable informing the interested parties that there would need to be additional work done with the planning board, the select board, and potentially a surveyor in order to determine if it was buildable.
2. BOS reviewed invoices and mail.
3. Aaron Newman, facilities manager for Cornish Elementary School, provided some additional detail regarding monitoring wells and a change in plans from Aries Engineering to relocate a monitoring well from town property onto school property. Wayne Gray confirmed that he spoke with Aaron about the prior plan. Aaron said the work would begin April 3 at 8am and informed that testing would be conducted on existing wells. Aaron provided an update on a new well for the school which is waiting for mud season to be over in order to get the equipment in. Aaron also requested that a 10-foot-long trouble spot in the driveway to the back of the school be filled in with

different material to improve the quality of that driveway prior to the well equipment coming in. BOS agreed that work should be done to facilitate the well drilling to improve water quality for the school.

4. Road Agent Wayne Gray reported on poor drainage and culvert issues on Tandy Brook Road and Harrington Road, where culverts were clogged. Wayne reported a plan to add stone to East Road if the ground firms up with cold weather. Selectman Hammond asked if the windrow plan for clearing some mud off the road. Wayne said it was effective and allowed the highway department to fill in some stone except for certain spots on Leavitt Hill which he was afraid would be damaged further by the heavy trucks. He also reported on sinkholes on Leavitt Hill, S. Parsonage and St. Gaudens Rd. Selectman Gallagher asked if these trouble spots could be GPS located and recorded for future reference. Selectman Hammond suggested using stakes and flags as well. Selectman Gallagher asked Wayne if the clogged culverts were related to the tree work being done by utility companies. Wayne informed the BOS of a plan by the Andrews family to move into their home on East Road, which is posted as a 6-ton road and which is nearly unpassable due to mud season.
5. Wayne Gray reported that Fred Sullivan described a previous access road from Laclair Dr to route 120 during the previous build of the Leavitt Hill bridge, which he reported would be a solid roadway due to the amount of rock in the field. Selectman Gallagher said it would be a good way to save money if we could get permission from the landowners.
6. Tim Schad requested maps he had provided to the town previously so that he could use them during town meeting. He suggested that the town develop a road plan and establish a capital reserve fund to rebuild the roads. Tim also suggested that Road Agent look for assistance from local people and mentioned that Mike Lemieux is interested in opening a gravel pit on Mace Road to save money on trucking and materials. Tim suggested that the BOS did not want to spend money on road maintenance beyond short-term fixes and that was why the roads are in such bad shape during now.
7. Wayne Gray reported on upcoming work by the highway department in support of School District meeting and future plans for the Town Meeting and Business Session. Selectman Bourne asked if the Highway Department has always been responsible for setting up voting infrastructure. Selectman Gallagher and Selectman Hammond confirmed that has been the tradition. Wayne asked if he should coordinate with Dan Poor for guidance on the School District meeting, reporting that Dan did not have any specific details for the highway department. Selectman Gallagher suggested that they just set up as they would for any other voting day.
8. Selectman Hammond asked Wayne Gray if any residents are complaining about the work being done to address mud season. Wayne said there was a resident on East Rd and another on Cook Rd who reported they could not drive on the road with their vehicles. Wayne pointed out that the sap trucks are having an impact on those roads. Selectman Gallagher asked about work hours for the highway department. Wayne said they were limited by the current road conditions as they did not want to run heavy equipment on very soft roads, fearing it would make the issue worse.
9. Selectman Gallagher provided, for the BOS to review, working notebooks for Town Policies and Road maintenance and laws, as well as a US Dept. of Transportation guide on gravel road construction and maintenance and suggested some of the materials could be useful to the Highway Department and for board or committee work related to roads.

10. Molly Young stopped in to invite the BOS to the Cabin Fever Coffee House music series at the former general store site.
11. Meeting adjourned at 6:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 11, 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 reminded the BOS that Town Meeting Day is a Town employee holiday. The BOS discussed cost implications of employees working on that day, for example the Highway Department. Selectman Hammond said that since the town meeting was split into two days, the intent of the Town Meeting Day holiday, which was to promote attendance at town meeting's business session, doesn't apply any longer and felt that the holiday no longer makes sense. Selectman Gallagher and Bourne agreed that Town Meeting Day should not be a holiday any longer. Selectman Bourne made a motion that starting in 2025 Town Meeting Day will no longer be a town employee Holiday. Selectman Gallagher seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Selectman Bourne informed the BOS of the approval of the joint application with Plainfield for the Broadband Matching Grant Initiative.
4. Selectman Hammond reported on the attendance numbers at the recent School District Meeting. Selectman Hammond commented on the condition of the voting booths. Selectman Bourne reported that he heard others at the meeting talking about the condition of the booths. Selectman Hammond said the booths are complicated to assemble and suggested that foldable voting booths may be available.
5. Erich Weeks asked the BOS "What are the top 3 things a governing body should make a priority for concerns for a community?" and provided paper to write answers. He then asked, "On a school grading system (A-F), if last year the roads and highway department were a D, what would you rate them right now?" Erich said his priorities were Life Safety, Property Protection, and Roads. Selectman Hammond said: "Serve voters, be fiscally responsible, and be good administrators. Selectman Bourne said: Public safety, public infrastructure (which could include roads), and access to government services. Selectman Gallagher said: safety, general well-being, and affordability. Regarding the grading question, Selectman Hammond said D, Selectman Bourne said he felt the roads were the same as last year, selectman Gallagher suggested that we would not be discussing the highway department as a personnel issue would not be discussed in a public meeting. Selectman Gallagher suggested his grade would be D, consistent with last year. Erich offered that he felt the conditions now would be an F and asked the BOS to consider where and why we are failing to maintain our roads adequately. Erich suggested that the highway department should be driving all the roads and said they are failing to do that. Erich reported that he has driven all of the roads and

reported that 80% of the roads were impassible last week. Erich suggested that half of the roads in town could have been passable by adding material earlier. Erich suggested that mud season is the time to drop larger aggregate material to build a base in the road and that the town is putting smaller aggregate material. Erich asked about the BOS hiring a person with grader experience and asked about hiring of Mike Duval to perform grading and said it would be a morale issue when a person is pulled off equipment. Erich suggested that the material that has been put down is a waste of money and that it was plowed off after the snow. Erich asked why there is a resistance to changing the way the roads are maintained. Erich suggested that hard pack gravel is the way to fix our roads. Selectman Bourne said that Erich was asking us to take his report as fact since he has not driven all of the gravel roads in the past two days. Erich suggested that the current Road Agent is a product of the environment he was working in, so change would not be likely. He also suggested that not hiring from outside is a missed opportunity to bring in new ideas. Erich asked about the highway department setting up for the voting and suggested that the highway department should have been fixing roads to ensure life and safety of citizens whose houses could not be reached by fire trucks. Selectman Bourne asked if Erich had specific examples of houses which would not have been accessible by firetrucks. Erich said East Road, houses on Gap Road, houses on St. Gaudens Road. Erich asked about roads being closed as that puts more traffic on the same muddy roads. Erich asked "Whose decision was it to pull the highway department off road maintenance to set up voting for the town?" Selectman Hammond and Selectman Gallagher said it was a BOS decision. Erich said it was a poor decision to use the highway department as it threatened public safety and said we are lucky nobody had any fires or other emergencies. Erich asked about the wind row of material as it blocked drainage from the wet roads. Erich suggested that wind rows are an older method and that the roads should have been covered with larger material and hardback. Erich suggested that the BOS should consider and be open to change in the maintenance of roads. Selectman Hammond suggested that perhaps Erich consider working for the town Highway Department. Erich said that he would not be able to work under the practices currently in place and could not influence practices as a subordinate. Selectman Hammond said that new ideas can come in from others in the department. Erich suggested that the Highway Department has a morale issue and that keeps people from wanting to work there. Selectman Hammond asked Erich to consider applying as the highway department needs CDL drivers.

6. Kellie Parry asked about replacing a carbon monoxide detector and smoke detector for the Town Hall, as well as rugs and worn tile. Kellie suggested the Town purchase 4 new traffic rugs at a cost of \$600 total in order to protect the tiles on the floor, and suggested the Town purchase the carbon monoxide and smoke detectors, which she did not have numbers for. Selectman Hammond moved that Kellie purchase these items; Selectman Gallagher seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
7. Selectman Gallagher provided thoughts on the upcoming town meeting and road conditions. Selectman Gallagher suggested the BOS consider road maintenance planning options including the possibility of a Gravel Road Committee, hiring a consultant to develop a road plan, using a short-term road plan developed by the BOS, and hiring outside contractors if our Highway Department remains short staffed. Selectman Hammond suggested that the town stockpile materials. Selectman Gallagher suggested

the roads be divided into sections and documented to identify the trouble spots for prioritizing work and identifying proper materials. Selectman Gallagher identified daily Highway Department worksheets which could be used to categorize the daily work of the department for future planning purposes. Selectman Gallagher suggested the BOS consider contracting cemetery mowing if it was cost-effective and if it allowed the Highway Department to focus on road work.

8. The BOS discussed coverage at the polls at Town Meeting Day.
9. Selectman Gallagher drew attention to an RFP template in the BOS mail folder, which could be used for developing future RFPs for the town.
10. Meeting adjourned 8:53pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 14, 2024 4:00-6:00 pm**

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

1. BOS reviewed mail and invoices.
2. Corey Fitch presented the BOS a letter of resignation from the Conservation Commission. Mary Curtis asked if there was a replacement yet for Corey. Corey said not yet, but that he felt the committee would decide who the next chair would be.
3. Fred Sullivan described a road which was made in 1971 when the Leavitt Hill Bridge, at that time, washed out. Fred described the land as very rocky and suitable to supporting a road, and said that there was a stone wall which needed to be opened and suggested, if we could use that route again, that a gate could replace a section of wall. Fred said there was a new house at the end of LeClair Dr. Selectman Hammond said it sounded like a good idea if we could get permission from the property owners. Fred said he would be happy to talk to any of the property owners if he could be of help.
4. Maynard White asked about installing a culvert in his driveway. He wanted to understand where exactly he could put a culvert. He said he didn't want to get too close to the road as he understood grading could impact the installation of a culvert. Selectman Hammond said there would not be any grading right away if Maynard wanted to install a culvert in the near future. Selectman Gallagher said that the BOS should look at it. Maynard described the terrain around his driveway and said that he just wanted to make sure he was complying with all regulations and requirements.
5. Selectman Gallagher reported that he drove Leavitt Hill Rd in his car and said it was passable. He said he did not feel that the road was a threat to public safety and suggested

that a firetruck could get up the road. Selectman Gallagher said on his way back down, he investigated Laclair Dr to see what that road looked like, with a thought that a proposed temporary road beyond that would benefit the town in the Leavitt Hill Rd project.

6. The BOS called Road Agent Wayne Gray to ask about the Highway Department taking the day off today. Wayne reported that one of the Highway Department employees had planned a day off weeks earlier to attend to his personal business. Wayne said that he did work for a few hours today. Wayne reported that he has driven the trouble spots in a 2wd truck and found the roads passable and there were still some spots on East Rd and Tandy Brook that were soft. Wayne said he was able to get some of his paperwork done during the afternoon today. Wayne reported that he visited some cemeteries to inspect downed trees.
7. The BOS discussed the sensibility of the Highway Department not working on a day during mud season.
8. Tim Schad suggested that the BOS needed a road plan and a Road Agent to develop and execute the plan. Tim suggested a capital reserve fund for gravel. Tim said that he spoke with Bill Caterino and asked "If we raised \$100,000, what would the tax impact be?" Tim said Bill's answer was \$180 for a \$300,000 home. Tim suggested a bond could be used to fund materials at a lower overall cost relative to inflation. Tim suggested that materials from Pike Industries would be superior product to what's being put on the roads now. Tim said that the current practice of dumping material on mud roads then grading it off is a waste of material and money. Tim described how a road would be built during the summertime. Tim suggested that Harold Morse was a good road agent and knew how to build roads. Tim said he understood that the market for road agents may be difficult right now. Tim said he would be reporting all of this at Town Meeting and suggest that we make changes and establish reserve funds in the coming year. Tim also suggested, again, that a gravel pit be opened on Mace Road.
9. Lyle Parry reported that Jeremy St. Pierre would be willing to come visit with the BOS regarding the quality of materials being used in town, based upon the history of their supply to Cornish. Lyle also suggested that the BOS call the State of NH DOT to ask for CDL relief in order to get operators in town trucks. Lyle offered some names of people who may be able to help if we needed part time Highway Department help.
10. Gwyn Gallagher asked if the BOS would be willing to adjust their work schedule on Monday, March 18 to participate in a recount for the recent Library Trustee election. The BOS agreed to a start at 5:30 if that worked for the rest of the Board of Recount. Gwyn asked if the BOS had heard of any proposed amendments to the Town Warrant. The BOS said there had been a suggestion for a capital reserve fund, but that they were not aware of proposed amendments to any articles. Gwyn said that the school gymnasium would be ready by 10am on Saturday. Selectman Bourne asked if the BOS should arrive early to help set up. Gwyn said that the space would be set up on Friday afternoon after 2pm. Selectman Gallagher said he would be there. Selectman Hammond also said he could be there at 2pm on Friday. Selectman Gallagher asked if a PA system was already arranged. Gwyn said he was unsure. Gwyn suggested that we contact Kevin Noble to ask if he could provide the PA system on Saturday.
11. Chris Chilton asked about Highway Department positions. Selectman Hammond suggested that there were equipment operator and truck driver positions. Selectman

- Bourne asked if Chris could describe what his interest is. Chris said he would like to be Road Agent, but since that's not available now, he would be interested in understanding other opportunities. Chris described his experience with equipment and construction. Selectman Gallagher suggested that Chris complete an application and provide details about pay and to plan to interview with the BOS in the future. Selectman Hammond said Chris should come to the BOS with any suggestions or recommendations about road work here in Cornish. Selectman Bourne suggested that those topics could be addressed during an interview. Chris asked if he could get an employment application. Selectman Gallagher said he could get one from Mary Curtis.
12. The BOS called Kevin Noble to ask if he could provide PA service at the business session on Saturday. Kevin said he needed to find some of his equipment and that he would let us know, but felt that he should be able to do it. Kevin asked what time setup could be done. Selectman Gallagher said that setup would start after 2pm on Friday. Kevin asked who he should contact when he confirms his availability. Selectman Bourne asked Kevin to email him and that he would be able to forward that confirmation.
 13. Joanna Sharf asked if she could install a thermostat in the select board office and asked questions about scheduling for that zone as well as preferred temperature. BOS confirmed that 68 degrees was comfortable for the times when they would be in the office and 50 degrees would be fine for the times they would not be in the office.
 14. The BOS called Mike Monette to ask if he could assist with setting up the PA system at the school at 2pm on Friday. Mike said that he could set up, but that he could not attend the meeting on Saturday as he was working at the Recycling Center. Mike said the key was to have brand new 9-volt batteries in the wireless microphones.
 15. Gwyn Gallagher asked what the BOS felt about notice for the recount, since there is no RSA requiring notice. Selectman Bourne said he felt that the recount should be posted on the town website. Selectman Hammond agreed. Gwyn said that was his feeling as well. Selectman Gallagher agreed it should be provided to the town through the website. Selectman Bourne asked Gwyn, who was communicating with Heidi Jaarsma about the town website, to ask Heidi to have the notice appear on the main site page under News and Announcements.
 16. Megan Formicelli called to ask if food was going to be sold at the Town Meeting business session on Saturday. The BOS said that they were not aware of any. Megan suggested that it would be a good fundraising opportunity. Selectman Gallagher thanked Megan for her suggestion.
 17. Gwyn Gallagher offered to reach out to town organizations to ask if any would be interested in providing food and beverage and fundraise during the meeting on Saturday.
 18. Selectman Bourne asked if there was additional information in a packet of informational notes selectman Gallagher had provided to the BOS in preparation for the business session and thanked him for his work on the documentation. Selectman Gallagher provided an overview of the documentation, including the table of contents and specific data regarding the sections of the document.
 19. Moderator Gwyn Gallagher and the BOS reviewed an email from Laura Cousineau regarding the upcoming recount. Selectman Gallagher said there was a request for

written notice and to explain the ballot counting methods. Gwyn said he could write up a revised notice and deliver it to the candidates.

20. Meeting adjourned 6:45pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 18, 2024 6:30-8:30 pm**

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

1. BOS reviewed invoices, mail and signed checks.
2. Selectman Gallagher recommended that an addition to the February minutes reflects a comment in a meeting with Marie Derusha regarding an email exchange between Ms. Derusha and Judith Kaufman.
3. Selectman Gallagher suggested that we reconsider purchasing the gravel material we have been getting from Stevens. Selectman Hammond suggested the material should be tested to ensure the quality of what we are getting, considering the feedback we received during town meeting regarding the roads.
4. Treasurer Heidi Jaarsma explained a Department of Revenue Administration report she had prepared for the board's review and also provided background information on a zoning question which she was aware of from a resident in town who believed that solar installations were exempt from building permit requirements.
5. Tim Schad called to ask about a Town Road Committee and if we have set a date and had a plan to communicate out to the public. Selectman Gallagher said we had not made a committee and have not discussed a committee with anyone else since the topic had been raised at Town Meeting. Selectman Bourne said that the BOS needed to determine that process. Selectman Gallagher said the BOS has the authority to start a committee. Selectman Hammond asked Mr. Schad if he could tell us where we could get road material or gravel tested for state standards. Mr. Schad said that Pike Industries and St. Pierre tests their material regularly and reports out on it.
6. Chris Chilton delivered an employment application to the BOS for a highway department position. Selectman Bourne explained that the BOS would need to communicate the interest in a town position to Road Agent Wayne Gray. Selectman Bourne asked Mr. Chilton about his heavy equipment experience. Mr. Chilton provided examples of equipment he has run in the past. Mr. Chilton clarified that he would not require insurance as he was covered under his wife's policy. Selectman Bourne asked Mr. Chilton about how his role on the rescue squad would impact his work on roads, since he had worked on the Cornish Highway Department previously. Mr. Chilton said that, on occasion, if he was in the immediate vicinity of a call for the rescue squad he would respond until someone else could get there.
7. Selectman John Hammond made a motion that Mike Boutilier be appointed fire chief for the upcoming 3-year term. Selectman Gallagher seconded the motion. Selectman Bourne said he was in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. The BOS reviewed paychecks where holiday time was recorded alongside overtime pay. Selectman Bourne said that overtime only applies for hours worked above and beyond 40 hours, exclusive of holiday or PTO. Mary Curtis said that the practice has been to award overtime if there is a holiday in the timesheet. Selectman Bourne said there was nothing in our policies outlining that practice and recommended the BOS consider whether or not we would agree to such a policy as the practice of paying overtime for hours worked under 40 hours was not standard practice. Selectman Gallagher reviewed the time cards and calculated that the overtime pay in question appeared to be actual time worked beyond 40 hours. Selectman Gallagher pointed out that the time clock appears to be inaccurate regarding time of day and dates. Selectman Hammond suggested the time clocks be calibrated. Selectman Bourne reviewed the time card and corroborated Selectman Gallagher's review that the time worked appeared to be in excess of 40 hours worked.
9. The BOS called Tony Newton to hear his perspective on the zoning ordinance regarding building permits. Tony referred to article IX section B where exceptions are provided for structures "not for human occupancy." Tony also referred to Article IX section E where "Remodeling" refers to a "Cornish Building Code," and said he wanted to know where that is. Tony said the ordinance should be clear cut and people should be able to rely on it and not have to get opinions from the town administrators. Selectman Bourne said he needed more time to review the entire ordinance. Selectman Gallagher said he was not familiar with a Cornish Building Code and would defer to the national standards. Tony said this call was related to an installation at Daisy Yatsevitch's residence, where a solar collection system was installed and no permit was applied for. Tony felt that a permit was not necessary given the exclusions in Article IX section B. Tony wanted something in writing making it clear what the expectations are for permitting from the administrators of the town. After the call, Selectman Gallagher suggested that Mary Curtis may have discovered this solar installation due to a tax abatement form, as Mary was working on those.
10. The BOS reviewed Article IX, Section B and agreed that the parenthetical exclusion applied to the phrase "or relocate a building," not to every other description of use of a lot or structures. The BOS called Tony Newton to explain our position on the language in the zoning ordinance. Tony asked what the requirement was for Daisy. Selectman Gallagher explained the building permit process. Tony asked about additional forms for inspection of solar collection systems. Selectman Gallagher said we did not have forms for such inspections. Tony asked if we had received any similar requests for more forms. The BOS could not recall any such requests.
11. Selectman Gallagher suggested a Town Roads Committee ought to be independent of the Road Agent and suggested a committee size might be five.
12. Selectman Gallagher made a motion that to approve the February minutes as amended. Selectman Bourne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
13. Meeting adjourned 8:31

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 21, 2024 4:00-6:00 pm**

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

1. BOS reviewed mail and invoices.
2. Mary Curtis provided an update on tax exemptions for elderly residents and informed that increases in social security distributions made some residents ineligible for tax exemptions. Mary reported that she discussed this with Treasurer Heidi Jaarsma and reported that there could be a town meeting if there were enough residents impacted to change the threshold for exemptions or the residents could apply for a tax abatement. Selectman Hammond asked about the current thresholds. Ms. Curtis reported for a single resident the threshold for tax exemptions was 22,000 for a single person and 30,000 for a couple. Ms. Curtis reported the thresholds were last updated in 2020 and that the exemption would reduce the taxation by \$75,000 off the appraised value and that the impact of someone not qualifying for the exemption was \$2115. Ms Curtis suggested that the town consider raising the income threshold in a warrant article in the next year and explained that Plainfield increased their thresholds from 28,000 to 35,000 for a single resident and, for a couple, from 35,000 to 42,000. Ms. Curtis reported that six residents qualified under the existing thresholds and now only one resident was thus far confirmed eligible because of changes in social security distributions.
3. Mike Boutilier called to confirm the fax number of the town office and to thank the BOS for appointing him to the position of fire chief, once again.
4. Bill Wall reported on lack of progress on the well project at the Cornish School, reporting that the first drilled well did not produce enough to service a house and that they were going to start drilling another well. Mr. Wall also reported on a federal judge ruling that illegal immigrants would be afforded second amendment rights and that it would put local law enforcement at risk. Mr. Wall said it was his understanding that Cornish was a sanctuary town. Selectman Hammond said he was not aware of that. Mr. Wall said that Chief Doug Hackett told him that it was and suggested that we speak with Chief Hackett. Mr. Wall suggested that illegal immigrants were walking through town on Rte 120 and on Rte 12A and that the town will have to pay thousands to try to get them out. Selectman Hammond asked if Mr. Wall was making an assumption that these people were illegal immigrants. Mr. Wall said that he thought they were. Mr. Wall suggested that the illegal immigrants would be occupying people's empty homes through adverse possession. Selectman Hammond said that he thought perhaps Mr. Wall was being overly reactive to this. Mr. Wall suggested that his experience as a Sheriff leads him to believe that he knows what he's seeing and suggested that we do the investigative work to ensure the safety to our law enforcement and our citizens. Mr. Wall reported on a bridge project in Lebanon where the town was planning on a temporary bridge on True's Brook Road while replacing an existing bridge and said it was so cost prohibitive that they decided not to use the temporary bridge and said it was relevant due to the town meeting discussion about Leavitt Hill Road. Mr. Wall shared an article from the Valley News regarding artificial turf fields and potential toxins and exposure to children and

athletes and recommended Selectman Bourne share the article with Kimball Union Academy, where he works.

5. Road Agent Wayne Gray delivered an application he had received for a highway department position. Mr. Gray reported on overweight traffic on roads posted with lower weight limits. Selectman Hammond asked if Mr. Gray had a list of residents where activity occurred over the posted weight limits so that the BOS could contact them about such activity. Mr. Gray reported on the nature of the traffic, including moving of heavy equipment, logging, delivery/removal of dumpsters, and sap trucks. Selectman Gallagher reiterated the request to provide a list of people to call regarding such activity. Mr. Gray reported on a driveway permit request for a property on Harrington Road and what he thought may have been a lot line adjustment through the planning board. Selectman Gallagher said he was unaware of any lot line adjustment at that property but would raise the issue at the Planning Board meeting. Mr. Gray reported on an anticipated increase in culvert cost and suggested that the town purchase culverts now rather than after the prices increase and described a recently failed culvert on Burr Rd. The BOS unanimously agreed that Mr. Gray should purchase the culverts he anticipates needing now. Selectman Gallagher asked Mr. Gray about an invoice for an F550 truck wheel. Mr. Gray described damage to the tire on South Deming Rd. Selectman Gallagher asked if Mr. Gray had gotten any training on the Highway Department's schedule. Mr. Gray said he had not. Selectman Gallagher recommended that Mr. Gray get dates on a calendar soon so that the process can start. Mr. Gray asked about getting equipment into cemeteries before the ground thaws to clean up downed limbs and trees. Selectman Hammond asked about existing road needs. Mr. Gray described work that had recently been done including roadside cleanup of downed trees and suggested that ditching would not be feasible as there may not yet be people interested in ditchings. Mr. Gray suggested that the Highway Department could clean up Huggins and Childs cemeteries if they could get equipment in while the ground is frozen. Selectman Gallagher asked Mr. Gray about his ability to collect GPS coordinates for culverts while they were out working on the roads. Selectman Hammond asked about current inventory of culverts. Mr. Gray reported on the current inventory of culverts. Selectman Gallagher asked about the gravel inventory. Mr. Gray said that he was looking at pricing from Pike to compare that to the pricing he already had from St. Pierre and Stevens.
6. Caroline Storrs informed the BOS of the upcoming Green-up Day and informed that the blue collection bags would be distributed starting April 6 and asked Road Agent Wayne Gray to be on the lookout for the bags in the near future. Ms. Storrs reported on moisture and mold mitigation at the Town Meeting House, removal of some insulation to allow the building to dry out, and the installation of sensors to monitor moisture, and that the building remains over 60% which is still too high. Ms. Storrs provided information about a dehumidifier which could be purchased for \$2150 which would bring the humidity down to acceptable levels. Ms. Storrs said she would be interested in applying for a grant to offset the cost and that she needed the 501(c)3 information to do so. Selectman Hammond suggested that Ms. Storrs could get the information from Mary Curtis.
7. Ginger Bulkley expressed interest in serving on a Town Roads Committee should one be established. Ms. Atwater reported on her work experience as relevant to such a committee.

8. Selectman Hammond asked about a permit application for the Recycling Center and Transfer Station. Selectman Bourne suggested that the permit be signed for both a recycling center and transfer station as that is the service provided at the town location.
9. Selectman Hammond asked about a current use application in the mail folder. Mary Curtis reported that the paperwork was in that folder by mistake. Selectman Gallagher reported on a meeting the BOS had with Avitar regarding property valuation and taxation while Selectman Bourne was absent, reporting that applicants for current use need to provide a survey map with any such application.
10. Tom Dombrowski brought in a septic design plan for a property off of Clark Camp Road for the BOS review and approval.
11. The BOS discussed pricing proposals for gravel, provided by Road Agent Wayne Gray and compared pricing to what the town pays from our current suppliers. Selectman Hammond and Selectman Gallagher talked about the material the town has been using and the mica content in the material as a factor in the quality of gravel. The BOS was in agreement that the town should order some gravel from Pike to compare with what we have been getting.
12. Larry Dingee asked about the Town Highway Department budget for gravel and what portion of the budget line would account for trucking. Selectman Bourne and Selectman Gallagher estimated the trucking cost at around forty percent. Mr. Dingee reported on the quality of 1-inch material that he purchased from St. Pierre for his business driveway. Mr. Dingee asked if the Town can call other municipalities and the state to inquire about where they are finding the best materials for road construction. Mr. Dingee suggested that the sense of the town was that the money should be spent on better material and suggested that Pike may be closer and trucking costs may be less if material was procured from Pike and also suggested that the Town Highway Department, should they finish up their day early, take the town trucks up to Pike to fill them for work the next day to save trucking fees. Mr. Dingee asked if the town was receiving reports of work performed by the Highway Department and if we would consider making a policy to enforce the reporting. Selectman Hammond said that the BOS has asked, but it has been a challenge to get such reports. Selectman Bourne reported that the BOS had reviewed some examples of forms used to collect such information from highway departments. Mr. Dingee shared his thoughts on the history of when the Road Agent was an elected position and the accountability to the town which may not exist in the same way under the current practice, placing more of a burden on the Select Board to be aware of and accountable for the activities of the Road Agent. Mr. Dingee said that he would look forward to notice of a Town Road Committee.
13. The BOS discussed the recommendation to haul gravel in Town Highway Department trucks versus having it delivered. Selectman Gallagher said the costs for our trucks to deliver material would be higher than having it hauled in larger delivery trucks and that lighter duty on town trucks allows the town to extend the life of the trucks. Selectman Hammond reported on other municipalities leasing their highway trucks. Selectman Gallagher suggested that the Heavy Equipment Committee review such matters.
14. Mike Duval asked about the protocol for pulling gravel back into the roads which had been pushed off during mud season. Mike said he thought the material could be mixed with better grade materials in order to improve the roads rather than putting it back in as is since the quality was not suitable to improving the road. Selectman Gallagher asked

Mr. Duval if the inch and a half material was a base material. Mr. Duval said it was more of a base material.

15. Meeting adjourned 6:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 25, 2024 6:30-8:30 pm**

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

1. BOS reviewed invoices, mail and signed checks.
2. Gillian Goodwin met with the BOS to introduce herself as a candidate for alternate on the Planning Board. Ms. Goodwin provided a brief history of her work and municipal committee experience. The BOS agreed unanimously that her background seemed to be a good fit for that position. Selectman Gallagher provided the oath of office and swore Ms. Goodwin in as alternate on the Planning Board.
3. Mary Curtis reported that the highway department time clocks need adjustment and that Road Agent Wayne Gray reported that he did not know how to adjust the clocks.
4. Selectman Bourne reported that he observed congestion on School Street by the Stowell Library at around 5pm on both sides of the road. Mr. Bourne said he was unsure if the snow banks were driving the parking further into the roadway. Selectman Hammond asked if anyone had seen the grader out to push back the snowbanks. Selectman Bourne said he had not seen a grader over the weekend, himself. Selectman Gallagher reported on the conditions of Paget Road and the snowbanks, which had been winged back by the plow trucks.
5. Selectman Hammond said that the setup and break down of voting booths is time consuming and moving them from one building to another makes that job even harder. Selectman Gallagher confirmed that the SAU 100 administration had asked that the September state primary election not be held in the elementary school gymnasium, relocating it to the Town Hall with the general election being held in the school gymnasium.
6. Selectman Gallagher reported on a Valley News article covering the recent library trustee recount, which was published today.
7. Selectman Gallagher asked the board what the Town should do about the election locations for September and November. Selectman Bourne asked what the difference was having voting in the Town Hall exclusively and suggested that, if the goal was to not move the voting equipment, either the Town asks to use the school gymnasium exclusively or opts to use the Town Hall exclusively. Selectman Gallagher suggested that the Town ask the school for the use of the gymnasium for all of the elections. Selectman Bourne asked if the voting booths are normally stored in the school gymnasium or if they would still need to be moved. Selectman Gallagher said he was unsure and selectman Hammond said that chairs are moved from the Town Hall to the

gymnasium. Selectman Bourne asked if it was feasible to have all voting in the Town Hall. Selectman Gallagher said that it was feasible, but that the school gymnasium was intended for town use as well as school use, understanding that the school board was using excessive caution regarding public being in the building. Selectman Gallagher asked that the Town decide where we wanted the elections to be held. Selectman Gallagher said he would prefer to use the school gymnasium, understanding there would be an early in the year interruption. Selectman Hammond described the setup for using the Town Hall and also pointed out that it would be nice if the voting location was consistent. Selectman Hammond suggested that the setup in the gymnasium was more complicated, requiring mats to cover the gym floor. Selectman Bourne said he would be happy to have the voting occur in the Town Hall if it meant the school was not interrupted, as long as voting in the town hall would be safe, warm, and well-lit, referring to a lighting issue during the last state primary. Selectman Gallagher said that the lighting is an issue which needs to be addressed and said that the mats in the gymnasium are a legitimate consideration, but that he didn't think the setup of the booths themselves is a consideration for the location. Selectman Bourne said that he felt fine having the voting in the Town Hall and that the school should be used by the town for large town meetings. Selectman Gallagher said that he would be happy to have voting in the Town Hall considering that the school has shown flexibility with the Town and have blocked out the March meeting for the Town already.

8. Tim Schad called the BOS to ask about mowing contracts for Cemeteries. Mr. Schad suggested Tim Godfrey from Plainfield would be interested and he asked that a request for proposal for mowing services be released. Selectman Bourne said that the Town had not developed a request for proposal and that we had an application for a groundskeeper submitted to the highway department. Mr. Schad said he had shared budget information with Mr. Godfrey and thought that he could come in lower. Selectman Hammond asked Mr. Schad where he got his budget information to share. Mr. Schad said he had used last year's cemetery budget. Selectman Hammond provided the numbers for the current proposed budget.
9. Selectman Gallagher suggested that the BOS reorganize and that, traditionally, the board member in the third year of their term take the chair and said that Selectman Hammond was in his third year of his current term. Selectman Hammond suggested that Selectman Bourne be the chair as he had been the chair numerous times. Selectman Bourne said that Selectman Gallagher had been doing a fine job of collecting materials and creating work lists for the board and that he retains the chair for another year, after which he would be happy to chair the board. Selectman Hammond made a motion that Selectman Gallagher be the chair for 2024-25. Selectman Bourne seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
10. The BOS reviewed applications and salary information for highway department employment, as well as drafts of forms for highway department weekly and daily planning and accounting for work completed. Selectman Gallagher said he was interested in understanding more about CDL training within the highway department, understanding that part of the training would need to be at a training school. Selectman Hammond said he was interested in understanding the cost of the training and said the BOS should consider whether or not the town could help to pay for training. Selectman Gallagher reported that he had been working on segmenting roads he was familiar with

for future accounting of road conditions and planning purposes, particularly if we form a Town Road Committee, and suggested that the BOS write up a formal document to direct such a committee. Selectman Gallagher suggested that the Town consider getting another GPS unit to allow the highway department to geolocate culverts in town more quickly. Selectman Hammond suggested that the BOS could do some of the data collection during site visits and to review road and ditch conditions. Selectman Hammond suggested that the Town might consider a small excavator for ditching. Selectman Gallagher said that the grader could do much of the ditching, but agreed that an excavator could be useful. Selectman Gallagher suggested that the Town consider collecting ditching's and screening it to see what the town gets back from that material.

11. The BOS discussed sections of gravel road which could benefit from being repaired and discussed material sources which could be alternatives to what has been recently put on the roads.
12. Meeting adjourned 8:41pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 28, 2024 4:00-6:00 pm**

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

1. BOS reviewed invoices, checks, and mail.
2. Road Agent Wayne Gray reported on gravel road conditions, pointing out that Lang Rd seems to be the softest road in town currently. Selectman Bourne asked Mr. Gray if the material being put down on gravel roads is the same that was discussed as inferior at town meeting. Mr. Gray said it was a mixture of product from Stevens and St. Pierre. Selectman Bourne asked if a recent quote from Pike Industries for 3,000 tons of 1-1/2" crushed stone was a reasonable estimate of the amount of base road material the highway department might use in a year and Mr. Gray confirmed that was around what they would need in a year. Selectman Bourne asked what type of material the highway department would anticipate using since the Town Meeting, given the complaints we heard about the road materials at that meeting and since the sense of the meeting was that the town should spend more money on higher quality material. Mr. Gray said he would be comparing product at St. Pierre and Pike. Selectman Hammond asked Mr. Gray if he had been putting any hard-pack down on the roads. Mr. Gray said he had not this year. Mr. Hammond asked if the use of hard-pack would be considered given its finer materials for a firmer road in some of the trouble spots. Mr. Gray described prior applications of hard-pack on Root Hill and Tandy Brook roads and reported on varied performance in the recent mud season, stating that this mud season was different than others. Selectman Hammond asked if Mike West is still grading. Mr. Gray confirmed he had. Selectman Bourne asked if Mike Duval has been working with the Highway

Department this week and Mr. Gray said that he had not been. Mr. Gray reported on cleanup on the north side of town due to the recent snowstorm and plowing of materials off the edge of the roads. Mr. Gray reported on lighting work performed on the backhoe and tractor. Mr. Gray reported on monitoring wells being drilled for testing purposes at the school on Wednesday, April 3. Mr. Gray reported on upcoming meetings with tree service representatives pertaining to cuttings left in ditches recently. Mr. Gray commented that the work being done by Asplundh along Town House Rd between S. Deming and Parsonage seemed to be a slow process and not much visible progress occurring. Mr. Gray asked if the BOS would like him to keep track of the amount of time the Highway Department is spending doing work at the recycling center, including plowing and crushing of material using the backhoe. The BOS agreed that would be a worthwhile accounting exercise. Selectman Hammond asked about beaver dams around town and Mr. Gray described problems with blocked culverts on Tandy Brook, Clark Camp, and Parsonage Roads. Mr. Gray asked if the BOS wanted him to contact any of the recent applicants for highway department positions. Selectmen Bourne and Hammond said that he should contact them. Selectman Bourne asked Mr. Gray if he recalled the pay rate, we had previously discussed for new CDL drivers. Mr. Gray confirmed he was aware of the starting pay rate previously discussed. Mr. Gray asked if the BOS had done any work on seeking bids for cemetery work. Selectman Hammond said that the BOS had not yet. Selectman Bourne suggested Mr. Gray contact the applicant looking for work as a groundskeeper. Mr. Gray reported on the upcoming closure of D&B, a local Husqvarna dealer. Selectman Bourne asked what that meant for the Highway Department. Mr. Gray explained that D&B was the dealer the Highway Department worked with and said that the next closest dealer was in Bethel VT. Mr. Gray suggested that the Highway Department could try to stock up on parts and filters for their equipment now. The BOS agreed that the Highway Department should stock up on what they need for the current year. Mr. Gray reported on maintenance work needed for the 2017 dump truck, which required a new fuel filter.

3. Tim Schad called to ask if Tim Godfrey should come in to speak with the BOS about his interest in a mowing contract for cemeteries. Selectman Bourne said he could come in any time up until 6pm and that there was a draft request for proposal (RFP) that was a work in progress which described the properties which needed mowing if he was interested in understanding more about what would be presented in the RFP, but that we had not finalized an RFP yet. Mr. Schad asked if an RFP was ready for the bridge at Leavitt Hill Rd as his company was interested in bidding that project. Selectman Bourne said that it would be a competitive bid and that the Town would post more information when the bids were being solicited, but that the Town was not ready for that at this time.
4. Selectman Hammond asked Road Agent Wayne Gray about the types of material he has put down on roads so far this year. Mr. Gray reported that he had used 1-1/2" stone, 1-1/2" gravel and 5" minus. Selectman Hammond asked which are the worst condition roads right now. Mr. Gray reported that Lang and Leavitt Hill roads are the worst, but that they aren't in poor condition currently. Road Agent Wayne Gray reviewed a draft RFP for mowing and described additional work which needed to be done in terms of maintenance, beyond mowing. Selectman Bourne suggested that the draft RFP be modified to include property maintenance since not all of the work would be mowing and asked Mr. Gray to write in the omissions on the draft document. Selectman Hammond

described a cemetery off of Town House Rd. Mr. Gray said he had not been to that cemetery. Selectman Bourne suggested that the BOS should be talking with the Town Sexton about cemetery maintenance needs before releasing a request for proposal. Selectman Bourne asked about employees who mowed prior to the highway department took over the mowing. Mr. Gray provided a brief history and explained that those employees had retired. Selectman Hammond asked Mr. Gray about calibrating the Highway Department time clocks. Mr. Gray said there was a manual for the time clocks on the refrigerator in the Highway Department office. Mr. Gray reported that the programming for radios donated by the fire department had been completed and said he was considering sending someone to pick them up from their location near Nashua, a three hour round trip. Selectman Hammond suggested Mr. Gray have the radios shipped to save time and money.

5. Selectman Hammond reminded the BOS that Mike Lemieux may be interested in opening a gravel pit off of Mace Rd. Selectman Bourne asked what the process was for a person to open a gravel pit. Selectman Hammond said there were some tax implications on the land use and said it might be of value to reach out to Mr. Lemieux to inquire about his interest.
6. Tim Godfrey came in to meet with the BOS to discuss contract mowing. Mr. Godfrey provided examples of bids he has submitted to other municipalities. Selectman Hammond showed Mr. Godfrey the draft request for proposal so that he could understand the scope of the work. Mr. Godfrey described how he has billed for mowing services in the past.
7. Brad Bonneau inquired about registration fees since he had sold his business truck and purchased a personal truck and wanted to transfer the business registration to her personal truck, but was told that was not possible by the Town Clerk. Mr. Bonneau said that the Town Clerk directed him to discuss the town fees with the BOS. Selectman Bourne said that he was unsure of a mechanism to transfer a registration from business to personal and said that there was nothing we could do in the moment to address his concern. Town Clerk Paula Harthan explained that there was not a way to transfer from a business to a personal registration. Selectman Bourne asked if Mr. Bonneau could register it in his business name instead. Mr. Bonneau said a business loan would be a higher APR, so it would cost him more money to buy the truck as a business truck and that he did not have time to make any changes since his registration was due today and he said he thought the town owed him money for a registration he just paid for his business truck in January. Mr. Bourne said that the BOS could look into it further, asking the State DMV for clarification on the matter, but that there was nothing that could be done at this hour.

8. Jim Strout asked the BOS about the Leavitt Hill Rd bridge project and whether a temporary bridge could possibly work to allow work the existing bridge to be worked on. Selectman Hammond said that the town had approval for funding a two-part replacement, keeping one lane open on the existing bridge, but that all options would be considered to get the work done within or under budget. Mr. Strout said he thought the gravel roads in Cornish are looking good and that other towns around Cornish were in worse condition.
9. Meeting adjourned 6:01pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne