

AS 2/6 JGH.

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 27 2024 4:00-6:00 pm**

Present: Dillon Gallagher, Chair, John Hammond

Absent: Jason Bourne

1. BOS reviewed invoices and mail.
2. John Drye came in for replacement of lighting in the Cornish Flat fire station. He has 3 quotes and Rockingham Electric was the low bid. Liberty Electric will cover the cost of replacements. An invoice will be sent after installation and the bill will be paid.
3. Wayne Gray came in to discuss road issues. He would like to hire Mike Duval and his excavator for another day ditching on East Road. He said that the process works better than with the backhoe. Gallagher Tree will cut low hanging branches on Jackson Road so the paving can commence. Way has also contacted Vt. Road Works to do crack sealing. They will provide a quote. This would include Platt and East Roads. Wayne has contacted 3 vendors for price quotes. Tomorrow the crew will fill pot holes on the paved roads with cold patch asphalt. The state came in and tested the fire station well. It tested for e coli. Wayne posted signage not to drink the water.
4. Barbara Cieslicki came in to see about getting a cart for the Plainfield 4th of July parade. The BOS referred her to the school library.
5. Troy Simino came in to discuss the repair of the Leavitt Hill Bridge. He felt the replacement of the deck was more cost effective than the use of precast decks. Troy has a portable bridge that could span the current length of the bridge.
6. BOS did a site visit.

Respectfully submitted,

John S. Hammond

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 24, 2024 6:30-8:30 pm**

Present: Dillon Gallagher (chair), Jason Bourne, John Hammond

1. BOS reviewed mail, checks and invoices.
2. Selectman Hammond reminded the Board that we had scheduled a working meeting with the Library Trustees. Selectman Bourne confirmed that the date of July 1 had been established, but we had not chosen a time and asked the other members to confirm with the Library Trustees so that it could be warned properly. Selectman Gallagher confirmed that it would be warned as a working meeting, open to the public but with no public comment.
3. Joanna Sharf asked if the LFRF "Covid" money previously discussed would be used for work on the Town Office, stating that the Eversource funding would only cover 50% of the costs of the building envelope work. Ms. Sharf said that the exterior work on the brick would be required if the town wanted to insulate the exterior walls. Ms. Sharf suggested that the building is losing heat through the walls and that the building envelope work would be a benefit to the town. Ms. Sharf said that Eversource would not cover any of the brick work and that insulating the outside of the building was estimated at \$88,000 after the brick work was secured. Selectman Hammond asked if that included windows. Ms. Sharf said no. Ms. Sharf reminded the BOS that there should be some work to deal with bats as part of the proposed work. Ms. Sharf said that the building envelope work would be a good way to deal with changing climate and energy conservation. Selectman Bourne asked if the Eversource funds would likely be the 50% she referred to. Ms. Sharf said that Eversource provides up to 50%, but that it depends on the amount of work that would be done, and that the full plan, with exterior insulation, would get us in the threshold of the 50% grant from Eversource, but that if the Town chose not to do the outside insulation, it would likely be less than 50%. Ms. Sharf asked if the LFRF funds were already allocated to the Stowell. Selectman Hammond said there was a misconception that it has been obligated but that we had not decided where the funds go. Selectman Bourne agreed. Selectman Gallagher explained that the idea was to address a long-term issue with a town building. Ms. Sharf said that she thought the library bathroom issue would not likely persist when the library moves. Selectman Gallagher said that there was a lot of unknown and there were no guarantees. Mr. Gallagher said that it may be likely that the library moves, but that's not a guarantee. Ms. Sharf reported that her energy audit consultant, Margaret Dillon, suggested that a structural engineer be hired to inspect the building facade to recommend structural repair. Selectman Gallagher asked if Ms. Sharf could forward the email from the consultant. Selectman Gallagher asked Ms. Sharf if the Energy Committee had considered looking at the Town Hall for an energy audit. Ms. Sharf said that Margaret felt that the Town Hall might not qualify for such funds due to infrequent usage. Selectman Hammond said that the Town Hall does get regular use, perhaps two or three times per week. Ms. Sharf said she was not sure that the funds would be applicable for infrequently used buildings. Selectman Bourne suggested that the Highway Department building gets regular use. Selectman Gallagher described the condition of

the roof of that building. Ms. Sharf said that Margaret's energy audit would not be free for the Town Hall since it was considered too infrequently used. Selectman Gallagher referred to some work that had previously done at the Town Hall, in which storm windows were left off and he asked if, perhaps, Ms. Sharf could follow up with Richard Thomson regarding those as part of an energy conservation effort in that building. Ms. Sharf said she would follow up.

4. Selectman Bourne suggested that the BOS prioritize the Leavitt Hill Bridge project, as several other topics have been distracting the board from this project. Selectman Gallagher stated that the bridge was the most important project the BOS had on their plate. Selectman Hammond said that we were running short on time. Selectman Bourne attempted to contact engineer David Eckman.
5. Alan Marsh delivered a check for a building permit. Selectman Gallagher explained that the house Mr. Marsh was building could not exceed 35% of the primary dwelling, but also could not be restricted to less than 750 sq ft, so his planned building was compliant with the zoning ordinance, but if he planned to change or expand, he should just know that 750 sq ft would be the limit based upon the reported square footage of the primary residence. Mr. Marsh said that he did not intend to change the plan or expand the building.
6. Selectman Bourne asked the BOS if we were asking David Eckman, the sole bidder for engineering services, after our formal RFP expired, to conduct all options in his proposal, including seeking the bids for construction. Selectman Gallagher said that he wanted to speak with Mr. Eckman another time to understand if there might be alternate engineering solutions for the repair, should another construction company provide their own engineered solution, which perhaps he could review. Selectman Bourne said that Mr. Eckman's proposal was to create the engineering plan and that review of other engineering plans was not in the proposal and may cost more money. Selectman Gallagher said that he felt a conversation with Mr. Eckman could help to clarify the possible solutions. Selectman Bourne said that we could also ask Mr. Eckman if there were other solutions he had not brought forward, but suspected that his solutions were long-term and if, based upon feedback from townspeople who have previously asked about it, we opted for a simpler solution that met standards at a lower cost, that we may simply be putting the full replacement off until a later date. Selectman Gallagher said that was not what he wanted to do, he just wanted to understand all of our options better.
7. Selectman Gallagher asked about a visit from Wayne Gray on June 20. Selectman Bourne read the minutes from June 20 to the BOS, since they had not been distributed as Mary Curtis was out today. Selectman Bourne explained that the BOS had reviewed a building permit which had not had a DigSafe permit where concrete was already in the ground.
8. Selectman Hammond expressed concern that it may be difficult to find contractors to reconstruct Leavitt Hill Bridge given the remaining construction season.
9. Selectman Gallagher asked about pavement repairs on East Road and what the quote from Northeast Infrared entailed. Selectman Bourne said it sounded like the potholes would be filled but that some of the shallow spots would not be filled because there was not enough material to hold to.
10. Selectman Hammond asked the BOS about thoughts on Joana Sharf's recommendation about building improvements at the Town Offices. Selectman Gallagher said that the

cost of brick repair on the building would likely greatly exceed the amount of money available from LFRF. Selectman Bourne asked which buildings were being considered for the historical registry, as he thought that Heidi Jaarsma said the Stowell, the Town Offices, and the Town Hall may be candidates and that this could open other sources of funding for building repairs and that it made sense to spend money where we may not be able to find other sources and that spending money on a project that saves the town money in operating costs would be his preference, so if energy savings could accomplish that, it may be a good way to spend the funds. Mr. Bourne said he did not think a well and septic at the Stowell with no bathroom was a good idea and that the divide around the library appeared to be a component of the discussion at the meeting with the library trustees and that he felt it would not be good for the town to be fanning those flames if there are other projects which would be less controversial. Selectman Gallagher said that he felt the Stowell was the best built building in town and that some felt it would naturally be the Historical Society building, although there were no guarantees, but that the building would be a building used by the town either way. Mr. Gallagher said that the town vaults were full and there was potential for some storage at the Stowell and that the Stowell would be used by the town if the library moves. Mr. Gallagher said that it would be good to talk with Ms. Jaarsma about the potential for grant funding under a historical register. Selectman Hammond asked about the James Kibbie trust, which included \$81,059, which was potentially available as a funding source. Mr. Hammond said that a meeting with the Trustees of the Trust Fund would be required to understand how those funds could be used.

11. Meeting adjourned 8:31pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 20 2024 4:00-6:00 pm**

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

1. BOS reviewed invoices and mail.
2. Caroline Storrs asked about the timing of the 2024 rules for LFRF funds being explained to us. Selectman Bourne said he thought it was in the March-April timeframe. Selectman Hammond agreed it was in the same timeframe. Ms. Storrs asked why the BOS had not held a public forum to solicit ideas for the use of such funds. Selectman Hammond explained that the BOS had some priorities including the Town Hall and the Stowell. Ms. Storrs asked what the criteria were for establishing priorities. Selectman Bourne said that the BOS was aware of maintenance needs in buildings including the Town Hall and the Highway Department. Ms. Storrs expressed happiness with the idea of renovating the Town Hall, adding that the floor tiles may be asbestos. Ms. Storrs suggested that a solar installation with net metering could be considered as an option to save the town operating costs. Selectman Bourne said that Joanna Sharf had brought that type of project to our attention and suggested it could be grant funded and also explained that the Energy Committee had an energy audit and was close to defining a scope of work for building envelope work in the Town Offices, which was also being presented to Eversource for grant funding, so the BOS did not know what the actual cost would be, so did not consider that immediately for the LFRF funding. Ms. Storrs said that the brick and mortar work on the Town Offices needed to be addressed, as there were cracks forming in the facade. Selectman Hammond said that the plowing practices in the past have allowed the ground at the base of the Town Offices to freeze, heaving the ground and cracking the bricks. Ms. Storrs suggested that the masonry be a priority to save the town money in such a repair. Ms. Storrs suggested that work on the Stowell would benefit a few, where other buildings, such as the Town Hall, which would benefit more. Selectman Bourne clarified that the Stowell was not the only idea the select board was considering and that the meeting with the Library Trustees was required because the BOS did not have purview to explore such a project without approval of the Library Trustees. Selectman Bourne stated that he felt the installation of a septic and well with no interior plumbing to utilize the investment did not sound like the best idea to him and that the installation of a bathroom as part of the project made more sense to him, but recognized the discussion with the Library Trustees was limited to the septic and well. Ms. Storrs asked if the public can be part of the discussion when the BOS is prioritizing the options for the LFRF funding. Selectman Hammond said he was uncomfortable just springing ideas on people without them having any idea what the BOS is considering and said that the exploration of costs for projects to be considered, including the well and septic at the Stowell, made sense to see if the costs could be covered. Selectman Bourne said that the BOS does not post an agenda, which is a challenge for making people aware of such topics, but that the BOS would try to be as transparent as possible. Selectman Bourne said that the less-formal BOS meeting format provides flexibility so that we can have discussions such as this one without interrupting

another agenda item, but agreed that a warned agenda for each meeting would be helpful for transparency. Ms. Storrs asked why the BOS did not post minutes to the town website until the end of each month, stating that it is less transparent when ongoing business can't be reviewed in a timely manner, with a monthly interval requiring that the public come to the town office regularly in order to understand what is being discussed and cited other board and committee minutes being made available on the town website in a more timely manner and further questioned the legality of waiting until the end of the month to approve minutes from prior meetings. Selectman Hammond suggested that the Board could consider changing that practice.

3. Marie Derusha requested a work meeting between the Select Board and the Trustees of the Library on July 1, 2024. Ms. Derusha suggested that the Library Trustees may be willing to pull funds from the Capital Reserve Fund for an ADA compliant bathroom should the cost of a well and septic be acceptable for LFRF funding. Ms. Derusha referred to an email which would be shared at a later date regarding fencing around a septic at the Stowell. Ms. Derusha suggested that LFRF funding is given to the Town and that the ultimate responsibility for those funds lies with the Select Board.
4. Road Agent Wayne Gray asked if the BOS had seen the estimate from Northeast Infrared for paving repairs on East Rd. The BOS had seen the quote. Mr. Gray said there were two trees on Cornish Stage Rd which were hung up over the roadway and said that they would require a bucket truck to cut them. Mr. Gray said Gallagher Tree could remove them on Tuesday, June 25. Mr. Gray said that tree work on Jackson Road was necessary for upcoming paving work and suggested that Gallagher Tree for \$420/hr for his crew and equipment. Selectman Bourne asked Mr. Gray if he could get competitive quotes to comply with the Town Purchasing Policy. Mr. Gray asked if the Town could contract Mike Duval and his excavator for a day of ditching on Jackson Road and East Rd. Selectman Bourne asked what the cost would be. Mr. Gray said it would cost \$1000/day. Selectman Bourne said it sounded reasonable. Mr. Gray reported that he has not had luck with chip sealing quotes. Mr. Gray reported that he contacted Claremont DPW to ask about the possibility of CDL training for Cornish employees and found that they could only train Claremont employees. Mr. Gray explained competitive quotes he received for excavator rentals, proving that Mike Duval's price per day was a good deal for the Town. Selectman Bourne and Selectman Hammond agreed the price was fair to the town and thanked Mr. Gray for providing the comparable costs. Selectman Bourne asked about beaver activity updates. Mr. Gray reported that the recent work to install a baffle on Tandy Brook Rd has been built up again and said that the baffle was partially obstructed now. Selectman Bourne asked if Mr. Gray could contact Cory Fitch, who had expressed interest in getting the baffle working correctly. Mr. Gray reported that roadside mowing was underway and said that traffic was not being very respectful of clearance of the mowing equipment. Selectman Hammond asked if Mr. Gray had "Roadside Mowing" signs in place. Mr. Gray said he did not. Selectman Hammond asked if Mr. Gray had locations for ditching materials to be deposited. Mr. Gray described several properties who expressed interest in ditchings. Mr. Gray reported that he purchased a bale of hay from Lyle Parry for the purposed of mulching after ditching.
5. Michael Monette asked Road Agent Wayne Gray if highway department personnel might be interested in working at the recycling center as Myron Kuhre would not be working for a few weeks. Mr. Monette told the BOS he would be needing to hire someone to fill

in the vacancy. Mr. Monette said that the signage at the Recycling Center is in need of replacement and asked if the BOS would approve of the purchase. Selectman Bourne reminded that there was a purchasing policy and if the cost was below \$500, it was his discretion to make the purchase. Mr. Monette said it would be less than \$500 and that he liked to keep the BOS informed. Selectman Bourne thanked Mr. Monette. Mr. Monette asked if picket fencing could be removed from Edminster Cemetery. Selectman Bourne asked if the fence condition was poor. Mr. Gray said it needed repair. Mr. Monette described other cemeteries where the fencing had been removed and there had not been complaints. Mr. Bourne asked if the fencing was salvageable. Mr. Monette said the fence was not salvageable. Selectman Hammond asked if the fence had been built in place or purchased in sections. Mr. Monette said it had been built in place by Jack Rock. Selectman Bourne asked how much fence needed to be removed. Mr. Monette said it would be a dump truck load. Selectman Bourne suggested that the BOS do a site visit to understand the condition.

6. BOS received a phone call from Al Diantonio regarding a building permit he had submitted.
7. BOS conducted a site visit for a building permit on Dingleton Hill Road.
8. Meeting adjourned 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 18 2024 5:04 – 6:04pm**

Present: Dillon Gallagher (chair), Jason Bourne, John Hammond

June 18, 2024

Present: Dillon Gallagher (chair), John Hammond, Jason Bourne, Laura Cousineau, Marie DeRusha, Kathi Patterson

Selectboard Chair Gallagher called the meeting to order at 5:04pm

Selectman Gallagher read a letter sent to the Library Trustees by the Selectboard regarding the possibility of using LFRF federal funds for the purpose of installing a well and septic system at the location of Stowell Library, pursuant to a purchase of land, voted on at town meeting in 2022 for this purpose.

Selectman Gallagher explained that the meeting was a first step in exploring options for committing these funds, understanding that it would take time to understand the costs.

Treasurer Heidi Jaarsma presented a slideshow explaining the LFRF funding and the funding which Cornish received, totaling \$169,283.16 in two \$84,641.58 payments. Ms. Jaarsma explained the funding requirements and prohibited expenditures, which allows the town to spend funds on normal town expenses, not for debts or legal fees or in conjunction with any financed funds. Ms. Jaarsma explained that all funds had to be obligated by December 31, 2024. Ms. Jaarsma explained funds already expended and provided a \$91,368.39 balance which could be expected to be available for use in the current calendar year.

John Dryfout asked if the Burr Road Repeater was paid for on January 30, 2023. Ms. Jaarsma explained that the funds were obligated but that the repeater was an ongoing project.

Caroline Storrs asked about the school water filtration system and whether these funds paid for that. Ms. Jaarsma explained that the school had received roughly twice the amount that the town received, under the ESSER grants, in addition to a \$200,000 NH DES Grant for the water treatment and well project. Ms. Storrs asked if the funds fully paid for the water treatment. Ms. Jaarsma explained that the DES grant included the filtration.

Stuart Hodgeman asked if there were other costs we could expect that we might use these funds for.

Laura Cousineau asked about the scope of the project and whether or not the project would include interior plumbing and asked Kathy Patterson if she recalled prior plans to address the addition of the bathroom.

Selectman Gallagher explained that the meeting was to gauge interest from the Library Trustees in moving forward with such a project, but that the scope would still need to be discussed so that we could determine the projected cost.

Kathy Patterson explained the original septic design and well plan and acquisition of property.

Ms. Cousineau asked if the plan was to put a bathroom and sink in the basement of the Stowell.

Ms. Patterson said we should see what the costs are for a well and septic.

Mr. Gallagher agreed that we needed to understand the costs of the well and septic.

Ms. Cousineau said that it would provide service to the town regardless of the use of the building.

Larry Dingee said that, to his recollection, the estimate previously, for well and septic at that location was around \$60,000.

Kim Patterson asked about a future renovation, stating that the plan to add well and septic would be committing to future building changes, including accessibility.

Selectman Gallagher stated that we are discussing a well and septic, no other building changes.

Ms. Jaarsma explained that ADA compliance can happen in phases, and that any bathroom to be installed would need to be ADA compliant. Ms. Jaarsma suggested that an architect be consulted for the bathroom plan.

Ms. Storrs asked if other town buildings had been considered, including the Town Offices masonry and thermal insulation and the Town Hall which had potential for asbestos abatement.

Selectman Gallagher explained that the BOS had considered maintenance needs at multiple buildings and did not anticipate needing all of the funds for the well and septic.

Richard Thompson stated that he recommends the money be spent on efficiency in the Town Offices.

Nancy Newbold stated that the lack of a bathroom and well at the Stowell has been discussed for years and that it should be addressed.

Ms. Cousineau anticipated a new library may be available to the town in the fall of 2026, and suggested that we consider what the future use of the Stowell might be.

Cheston Newbold suggested that the meeting stick to the topic of whether or not the Library Trustees were interested in receiving funding for the project.

Ms. Cousineau said she felt it was important to hear other potential uses in making her decision.

Ms. Patterson said she felt that having a bathroom in the basement would not be ideal, but that if the funds were available and not taking anything away from the town, then it should be done.

Ms. Cousineau suggested that the Trustees meet to discuss this further. Ms. Cousineau asked if the expense was more than the LFRF funding, if the town would pay the balance.

Mr. Gallagher said the town would not pay more than the LFRF budget.

Mr. Dingee suggested that the Trustees vote during this warned meeting. Ms. Cousineau said she chose not to.

Kate Freeland suggested that the town consider spending the money on roads.

Kim Patterson said she had worked in a location without plumbing and that chemical toilets can be a solution without spending money on a well and septic.

Nancy Newbold said that it was frustrating that the Library Trustees wanted to move out of a building partly because there was no water and septic but now could not agree to investigate the solution further.

Ms. Cousineau said there were a variety of reasons the Trustees recommended a new library rather than trying to retrofit the Stowell and stated that the Library Trustees value the Stowell as a building.

Ms. Jaarsma suggested that the funds were not sufficient for larger project and should be spent on something that will last a long time rather than on operations.

Richard Thompson said that he understood that the ADA status of the Stowell is a liability to the town and asked why the town wasn't prioritizing ADA compliance.

Ms. Cousineau said that the meeting was straying from the warned purpose.

Marie Derusha moved that the trustees work with the select board to get quotes for a well and septic. Kathy Patterson seconded the motion.

Peter Storrs suggested that the entire project, including plumbing, needed to be defined before quotes could be received.

Kim Patterson asked where the costs of plans would be coming from.

Selectman Gallagher said the septic plan has been paid for.

Kathy Patterson said the septic plan was in place already and had been paid for.

Selectman Bourne asked about an ADA compliant bathroom design from an architect and those costs.

Ms. Jaarsma said that the town could get a quote for the cost of the plans.

Ms. Cousineau said that this didn't sound like a plan to improve the library and asked if this decision required the Library Trustees.

Selectman Gallagher suggested that a motion was on the floor and asked Ms. Cousineau if she would like to proceed with that.

Ms. Cousineau said there was discussion underway.

Ms. Cousineau said she would like to ensure that the select board was covering any fees associated with the quotes.

Ms. Storrs asked if the BOS was prepared to cover all costs associated with the feasibility study of the project.

Selectman Hammond said that we needed to start by getting 3 quotes for the well and septic installation.

Ms. Storrs said that the bathroom costs needed to be included in the project and that it would cost money to develop.

Selectman Gallagher said the offer was for a well and septic, not inside plumbing and a bathroom.

Karen Gillock stated that she felt it would be a good service to the town and that the funds should be allocated for that purpose.

Ms. Cousineau said that she felt it would make more sense to spend the money on a town building that will have ongoing use and that she felt it would not make sense to have a well and septic at the Stowell with no bathroom in the building.

Selectman Hammond said that the town just needed to get the quotes for a well and septic.

Nancy Newbold said that the Town Hall gets a lot of use, but felt that the Stowell is in greater need.

Laura Cousineau called the question. The motion passed with a vote of 2-1.

Meeting adjourned 6:04pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne

Members of Public Present

Kim Patterson
Caroline + Peter Storr
Kathi Patterson
Laura Cousineau
Nancy + Cheston Newbold
Larry Dingee
Stu Hodgeman
Alicia Simino
Richard Thompson
Cindy Demers
Fred Sullivan
Karen Gillock
Kate Freeland
John Dryfoot
Michael Fierst
Brenda Freeland

6/12/2024 Joint Meeting
BOS / Trustees of Library

Attendance list

Alicia Jaarsma, Treasurer

BOS Dillon Gallagher, John Hammond, Jason Bourne

Trustees of the Library

Kathi Patterson, Laura Cousineau, Marie DeBushe

Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 17, 2024 6:30-8:30 pm

Present: Dillon Gallagher (chair), Jason Bourne

Absent: John Hammond

1. BOS reviewed mail, invoices and checks.
2. Heather Meeks reported that she asked Treasurer Heidi Jaarsma about LFRF/COVID funding and how it could be used. She expressed concern that utilization of COVID funds for septic and well at the Stowell could be creating a new project rather than “normal business.” Ms. Meeks felt that such a project is outside of normal business. Ms. Meeks expressed support for the Stowell having a well and septic, but felt that there were higher priority needs in the town. Ms. Meeks expressed that road maintenance or building maintenance could be a normal expense that could use funding and also mentioned that the school needs a well. Selectman Gallagher suggested that not all of the funds would need to go to the Stowell in our proposal. He also pointed out that the town voted to acquire land for the purposes of establishing a well and septic at that building. Selectman Bourne suggested that the vote may have established this as a need for the town, making it an ongoing project. Ms. Meeks asked if the BOS had other ideas besides well and septic at the Stowell. Selectman Gallagher suggested that he was interested in building maintenance. Ms. Meeks asked about highway needs and bridges. Selectman Gallagher explained that the town has funds for highway and bridges and the town is understaffed, so excess money may be in their budget already. Ms. Meeks asked about building maintenance in the Town Offices, pointing to the condition of the floors in the building. Selectman Gallagher provided the history of recent maintenance on town buildings, explaining that the Town does have maintenance plans. Selectman Bourne said that there were a number of town buildings being considered for maintenance with these funds, including the Town Hall, the Highway Department roof, and the Stowell, currently, but that we didn't know how much each of those projects would cost and cited that we had around \$86000 to commit under this funding. Ms. Meeks said she was happy to hear that the BOS was considering other maintenance needs.
3. Joanna Sharf reported that she and Richard Thompson visited the attic of the Town Offices and saw that the insulation appeared to be in good condition and that there were bats in the attic, but that the guano situation was not significantly terrible. She reported that there was a bat removal specialist who could conduct an inspection for \$250 and then would recommend a solution. The specialist reported a typical residential solution would cost around \$2500, but that the Town Offices were much larger than a residence. The specialist is David Kondrup of NH Bat Control. Selectman Gallagher asked if the sealing work being proposed could be done without removing the existing insulation. Ms. Sharf said that it was her opinion that could be sealed without removing the insulation. The BOS agreed that an inspection would be good for the \$250 fee. Ms. Sharf said that his work would be guaranteed for 2 years and would include another inspection and remediation if bats returned within that time. Ms. Sharf reported that a grant she had brought to the BOS previously was restricted to 60kw, which was small for a ground-

mount solar array, and that the stipulations for that grant were more restrictive than it was worth. Ms. Sharf asked about the possibility of a roof-mounted solar array which could produce enough energy to power the town hall, the highway department, and the fire/police station. Selectman Gallagher said a comprehensive plan would need to be presented to the BOS for approval. Ms. Sharf wanted to get approval to get such a proposal. Selectman Gallagher said he did not personally approve of roof mounted solar due to the possibility of compromising the roof. Selectman Bourne said that he was not opposed to roof-mount solar, per se, but that he would want to get more feedback from committees or townspeople to understand how the town felt about the change of a historical building. Selectman Bourne asked if Joanna had considered the Police Department building or the Highway Department building for a roof-mount solution. She reported she had not, but would consider those buildings. Ms. Sharf asked about a future meeting with Community Power Coalition of NH. Selectman Bourne reported that CPCNH representatives would be attending the July 8th meeting.

4. Selectman Bourne reported that CPCNH is currently working with Sullivan County on a County-wide power agreement which could simplify the Town's participation in the program.
5. Joanna Sharf reported that Everett Cass resigned from the Energy Committee leaving alternates Myron Kuhre, Bill Cable and Dan Poor. Joanna recommended Myron Kuhre be promoted to full member from alternate. Selectman Gallagher suggested that the BOS wait until John Hammond is back in the office.
6. Merilynn Bourne asked how CCI might get a link on the Town Website. Selectman Gallagher said that the BOS is in charge of the website and that Heidi Jaarsma was responsible for maintenance. Selectman Bourne asked what a link would go do. Ms. Bourne pointed out that the Garden Club, Quilting Club and other "community" organizations had links on the Town Website. Ms. Bourne said that the Town website is used by people who may not be using the Connect Cornish mail list. Ms. Bourne said that the CCI was receiving some feedback that they were not as transparent as they could be and that a link from the Town website to the CCI website. Ms. Bourne said there is not currently a link on the website. Selectman Gallagher asked if Ms. Bourne was here to formally request a link on the website. Ms. Bourne said she was asking about the process. Selectman Gallagher got a copy of the town website policy for Ms. Bourne and suggested that the Town website was not providing a forum for commercial promotion or political promotion. Selectman Bourne said that the current town website does link out to sites which we do not administer. Selectman Gallagher said that the BOS should reconsider links to external sites. Mike Fuerst suggested that the town vote on the library initiative establishes a link between the Town and the CCI. Selectman Gallagher suggested that CCI is a non-governmental organization and does not need to comply with 91A requirements so there are not the same reporting requirements, which differs from the Town's requirements. Mr. Fuerst said the link would not need to be connected to 91A requirements. Selectman Bourne said that the BOS had considered putting disclaimers on links to external sites, acknowledging that we had discussed it during our review of the website policy. Ms. Bourne pointed out that the CCI website is designed to be transparent to the community and that it would be valuable to the town to share that link through the town website. Ms. Bourne suggested that misinformation regarding the existence of a link on the town website resulted in a vote of the Library Trustees to not

permit a link from the Stowell Library website to the CCI webpage. Selectman Bourne asked for clarification on a vote of the Library Trustees to approve a link on the Town website, which is the purview of the BOS, and suggested that the BOS should be making those decisions. Ms. Bourne suggested that the vote may have been to recommend that such a link be created.

7. Mike Fuerst, Chair of the Broadband Committee, reported that as long as the list of addresses for the Broadband Matching Grant Initiative does not change by more than 20% there would be no need to renegotiate the contract with Hub66 and we could have a contract in place by August. Selectman Gallagher asked what would happen if a renegotiation was required. Mr. Fuerst said that it would be possible that the amount of the grant would be reduced and the contractor might not want to enter into a contract.
8. Jed Wilbur called about a building permit. Selectman Gallagher told Mr. Wilbur that the building permit had not been in the folder on Thursday when we conducted site visits. Selectman Bourne suggested that we could do a site visit tonight. Selectman Gallagher offered Mr. Wilbur a visit tonight.
9. BOS conducted a site visit on East Road.
10. Meeting adjourned 8:35pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Jason Bourne

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Saturday, June 15 2024 Noon – 1:05pm**

Present: Dillon Gallagher (chair), Jason Bourne, John Hammond

BOS traveled to Lucy White's residence on Platt Road to deliver the Boston Post cane to her as our oldest town resident. The BOS was treated to brownies and lemonade and discussed the history of the Boston Post canes with Daphne White, Lucy, and her guests.

Meeting adjourned 1:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne

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**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 13 2024 4:00-6:00 pm**

Present: Dillon Gallagher, Chair, Jason Bourne

Absent: John Hammond

1. BOS reviewed invoices and mail.
2. Heidi Jaarsma reminded the BOS that a capital reserve fund was available for repairs for the Town Office building. Ms. Jaarsma reported that one of the interior doors to the downstairs does not latch properly and that the rear exterior door lock is sticking. She recommended a locksmith and a carpenter look at the doors and she suggested that an outlet be relocated in the BOS Assistant's office to accommodate a window-mounted air conditioning unit. Mary Curtis said she would reach out to local contractors for these smaller jobs.
3. Bill Wall informed the BOS of a newspaper article regarding increasing tax burdens on homeowners and provided a copy of a statute regarding a 10 year limitation on litigation regarding tax-deeded properties.
4. Louise Marsh delivered a copy of a map pertaining to her recent building permit application.
5. BOS reviewed building permits.
6. Jesse Cook visited with the BOS regarding his building permit. Selectman Gallagher said that the septic plan was too vague for the BOS to understand if it is adequate for the addition. Mr. Cook said he had no further information about the system, but that he was aware there is an outflow from the tank. Mr. Cook said the system had been inspected by Herrin's Septic prior to purchasing the property. Selectman Gallagher asked about the number of bedrooms. Mr. Cook said the number of bedrooms would remain four. Selectman Gallagher asked for a copy of the septic inspection report. Mr. Cook said he would print one and leave it at the property.
7. BOS conducted site visits for a report of a dangerous door at the Meeting House and for building permits.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne



**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 10, 2024 6:30-8:30 pm**

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

1. BOS reviewed invoices, mail and signed checks.
2. Selectman Bourne made a motion to accept a \$2650 grant from the James Tasker Covered Bridges Fund and to transfer the funds to the Meetinghouse Trustees for the purpose described in the award letter. John Hammond seconds the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Selectman Gallagher reminded the BOS that we agreed to have chimneys in the Meetinghouse inspected and suggested that a recommended inspector be contracted to perform the inspections.
4. Stuart Hodgeman inquired about the possibility of resetting the tombstone of General Jonathan Chase to restore its setting above the ground where it is currently level with the ground. Selectman Hammond said that some work was being done by Stone Vault to address other tombstone maintenance. Mr. Hodgeman was interested in knowing how the town might address it and who might be able to do such work. Selectman Hammond suggested a mason, Caleb Belford, may be capable of doing the work. Mr. Hodgeman asked if there were funds available. Selectman Hammond thought there may be, depending on whether it was in perpetual care. Selectman Gallagher said that the budget for maintenance had been allocated to the repair work Stone Vault will conduct. Selectman Gallagher suggested that Mr. Hodgeman contact the Sexton to inquire about preliminary excavation to determine stone thickness and the possibility of there being bricks or footings beneath the stone.
5. Everett Cass informed the BOS that he would be resigning from the Energy Committee effective this evening.
6. Selectman Bourne suggested that the BOS renew investigation into the Community Power Coalition, as it was aligned with the goals of the creation of the Energy Committee, which the BOS had previously reviewed, and offered to contact Evan Oxenham to have him in to a future meeting to provide further information. Selectman Hammond agreed that it would be a good idea to have more information. Selectman Gallagher said that more information would be good and also suggested that the BOS review the Energy Committee charter as well, as there were recent revisions which the BOS had not approved.
7. Selectman Gallagher presented the BOS with a proposed agreement to send to Stone Vault to commence work in cemeteries and a proposed committal of federal funds to follow-through with the installation of a septic system and well at the Stowell Library. Selectman Bourne asked about the balance of the funds and suggested the Town Hall heating system should be updated to make the building more usable. Selectman Hammond suggested also sprucing up the interior. Selectman Gallagher agreed the Town Hall was also a priority and suggested a site visit. Selectman Gallagher suggested thermal envelope and possibly mini-splits in the Town Hall and possibly the completion of roof work at the Highway Department. Selectman Gallagher suggested that the BOS communicate with the Library Trustees.

8. Selectman Hammond asked the BOS if Saturday at noon would be an acceptable time to present the Boston Post Cane to Connie White. Selectmen Gallagher and Bourne agreed the time would work and that we should meet at the Town Office at noon.
9. Selectman Bourne reminded that Selectman Gallagher had suggested considering the use of chain for cemetery fences and said that the City of Lebanon has chain around a cemetery on School Street, woven through granite posts. Selectman Gallagher said that some Cornish cemeteries have granite posts.
10. Steve Parks met with the BOS to discuss mowing needs at town facilities and suggested that the Highway Department property be left to the Highway Department since their equipment is already there rather than contracting it out. Steve recommended a schedule and frequency for mowing. Selectman Bourne said the BOS still needed to review the budget with Mr. Parks' estimate and proposed schedule.
11. Selectman Hammond reviewed a bid for the sale of Town Property to ensure that it was in fact later than the submission deadline, as it had been left in the town drop box. The check had been drawn a day later than the deadline. Selectman Bourne suggested that the property listing be posted again so that the bidder could have an opportunity to submit on time.
12. Selectman Gallagher reviewed a list of names of people interested in a Town Road Committee and suggested that we organize that committee soon. Selectman Bourne suggested the town also move quickly on the bridge repair. Selectman Gallagher recommended that we contact Eckman engineering on Thursday. Selectman Gallagher reminded that the town would like to see gravel road work done this year and highlighted trouble spots on East Road and Leavitt Hill Road which could be repaired with new material.
13. Selectman Hammond asked if the Town would be interested in selling a parcel on Town House Road which had been tax-deeded more than ten years ago, which currently has a driveway and right-of-way across it to an abutting landowner's property. The land owner had expressed interested in purchasing the land.
14. Selectman Gallagher suggested an email be sent to the Library Trustees asking about their interest in work to improve the Stowell Library using federal funds currently available.
15. Mike Belanger asked if the Town had access to a SAMS account for federal grant applications. The BOS said they were not aware of any such account. Mr. Belanger reported on the need for a new Energy Committee member and suggested Frank Parks.
16. Meeting adjourned 8:39pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne

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

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

1. BOS reviewed invoices, checks, and mail.
2. Bill Wall reported that Plainfield residents are upset about rubbish removal since it happens only once every two weeks and expressed concern about Plainfield residents using the Cornish Recycling Center to get rid of their recycling, costing the town money. Selectman Hammond suggested the town could issue resident stickers. Mr. Wall said he was interested in blocking out of state rubbish carriers from bringing waste into New Hampshire. Mr. Wall presented a newspaper article.
3. Fire Chief Boutilier reported that Engine 2 is rusting at the undercarriage and expressed concern that it may only have a couple more years. Selectman Gallagher asked if this was the same truck previously reported as being in good shape. Chief Boutilier said that Reeds had the truck up on a lift and pointed out rust. Selectman Gallagher asked what the cost of a new truck is, roughly. Chief Boutilier said around \$450k. Chief Boutilier expressed concern about new emissions standards are coming in 2027 and recommended the town look at purchasing at least a chassis before then so the town did not need to experiment with new emissions standards. Chief Boutilier said he was not familiar with the process for getting a new truck. Selectman Gallagher said that it would need to be approved at a town meeting. Selectman Hammond said that there would be about \$500K in the reserve account. Chief Boutilier recommended a 4-wheel drive chassis. Chief Boutilier said that John Drye found a grant from Liberty Utilities to fund the replacement of all lighting fixtures and suggested that the Fire Department upgrade their lighting to LED, which he said would be reimbursed by the grant, up to \$10,000. Selectman Gallagher asked for confirmation that the expense would be fully reimbursed. Chief Boutilier said it would. Chief Boutilier suggested that a new fire truck would be similarly configured to Engine 1 so that firefighters would have a similar experience. Selectman Gallagher asked about the condition of other Fire Department vehicles. Chief Boutilier said other vehicles were in good shape. Chief Boutilier reported that the Car Show this past weekend was record-breaking. Bill Harthan said that the new standards for firetrucks includes new controls as well as emissions. Bill Harthan asked for approval from the town to proceed with ordering a Chassis. Selectman Gallagher said that he understood that Larry Dingee had offered to purchase the chassis to hold in the event he was awarded an order, but that the town would need to get proposals and vote to appropriate such funds. Mr. Harthan reported that the School Street dam was full. Selectman Hammond said that the town was planning on addressing that during the bridge repair. Selectman Gallagher asked about the new helmets. Chief Boutilier said that they were all in but two needed to be exchanged as they were too small for anyone to use. Chief Boutilier reported that the Fire Department received a \$500 grant from Claremont Savings Foundation which was used to purchase battery kits for their electric chainsaws. Selectman Gallagher asked about a generator and mini-split grant and Bill

Harthan confirmed that it was complete and would proceed further after the end of school.

4. Selectman Gallagher asked Road Agent Wayne Gray if he could place any boulders in the embankment behind the fire station in Cornish Flat. Road Agent Wayne Gray reported that grading was not complete, but that the highway department has begun ditching as well. Mr. Gray reported that he met with Stone Vault and Sexton Michael Monette to discuss cemetery maintenance. Mr. Gray reported that work may begin in Childs Cemetery as early as next week. Selectman Gallagher asked what the BOS needs to do to support the work. Mr. Gray said Stone Vault needed a signed agreement to start the work, then Stone Vault would begin work and would report back, with photos, as each cemetery project is completed. Mr. Gray reported that the recycling staff took the Ford F550 to Springfield to deliver returnables, requiring two trips and 6.5 hours.
5. John Drye provided some clarification about the Liberty Utilities incentive program to replace light fixtures. Mr. Drye said that the Fire Department would perform the labor and the materials would be fully reimbursed. Mr. Drye asked which budget the initial expense would come from. Selectman Bourne asked about the budget for lights for the fire station, as he heard Chief report it would be covered up to \$10,000. Mr. Drye said that Liberty will cover up to \$10,000 and estimated about \$2000 would cover the lights in the fire station at Cornish Flat. Selectman Bourne asked if the installation would require a licensed electrician. Mr. Drye said that the fire department has licensed electricians among their membership.
6. Road agent Wayne Gray asked if the town would be using Frank Parks for building and grounds. Selectman Hammond asked if the properties could be mowed less frequently. Mr. Gray said it depended on weather, but it was past practice to mow as needed and could be every other week, potentially. Mr. Gray reported on beaver dams near Tandy Brook Road and efforts to remove some of the dams to keep water from encroaching and undermining the road. Selectman Hammond asked if baffles could be moved from another location on Tandy Brook Rd. Mr. Gray reported that the fuel pump at the Highway Department is obsolete and expressed concern that, should it fail, the Highway Department doesn't have a backup plan, so he has asked for pricing for new pump systems. Mr. Gray reported that he was waiting to hear from Springfield Paving about schedules for paving work. Mr. Gray reported that street sweeping was underway. Mr. Gray reported that he is waiting on a quotation for pothole work from a local contractor and that there could be some infrared work to resolve heaving culverts. Selectman Bourne reported that Kevin Noble stated that the patch work on Center Road was rough. Mr. Gray explained that the patch work was incomplete as they ran out of material and that it takes some time and cars driving over the patch to settle it in. Mr. Gray reported on a tree which fell on Center Road and reported that the landowner was upset that someone had cut it down after it was hung up in the power lines, using her property to remove the tree. Mr. Gray said it was not the Town that did the cutting and reported that the landowner wanted the rest of the tree removed by the Town.
7. Selectman Gallagher recommended that the BOS review returnable deliveries with the Recycling staff, review invoices and time estimates from Frank Parks, and follow up with Jim Fitch regarding relocation of beaver baffles. Selectman Hammond said he would like to call Daphne White regarding scheduling a Boston Post Cane handoff.

8. Corey Fitch and Jody Schubert delivered a draft copy of a Natural Resources Inventory for BOS review. Mr. Fitch described that this should be done every 10 years. They asked if the BOS could review the document before the Conservation Commission's next meeting on June 26. Mr. Fitch asked about the town digging out beaver dams close to the road since it causes erosion. Selectman Gallagher said that the equipment they had limited how far back they could work. Mr. Fitch suggested that the dams could be removed manually further from the road to stop erosion. Mr. Fitch asked if the highway department consults the BOS before work is done on beaver dams. Selectman Bourne said often times the BOS would receive reports of work already done, but clarified that the sites in question were generally presented to us in advance initially, then follow-on work would be reported after the fact. Mr. Fitch provided a diagram of alternate ways to keep culverts clear where there is beaver activity and asked if the BOS would like him to install beaver baffles in the Tandy Brook Road area. The BOS agreed that any help to address the issue would be appreciated.
9. BOS conducted site visits for building permits.
10. Meeting adjourned 6:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 3, 2024 6:30-8:30 pm**

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

1. BOS reviewed invoices, mail and signed checks.
2. Road Agent Wayne Gray provided updated pricing from Stevens for sand, which was \$1 per ton higher at \$16.75 per ton should the town purchase less than 5000 tons. Mr. Gray provided an update from Stone Vault, a contractor who is proposing repair work in cemeteries and suggested that they could begin working in Childs, Cummings, Edminster and Trinity cemeteries. Mr. Gray said that Stone Vault can also work within our budget. Selectman Gallagher said that the town needs to just determine which stones are perpetual care in order to fund it appropriately. Selectman Hammond suggested that some of the stones are marked as perpetual care. The BOS agreed that a decision on cemetery maintenance could be accomplished on Thursday, June 6.
3. James Liggett presented a change to a building permit to add 240 square feet to his existing permit. Selectman Bourne asked about the maximum square footage allowed under the special exception. Mr. Liggett stated total square footage as being below the maximum allowed. Selectman Gallagher stated that he would support the change provided it is below the maximum square footage allowed. Selectman Bourne stated that he would similarly support a compliant change.
4. Steve Parks provided an hourly report of mowing done on town properties. Mr. Parks suggested that the second week of mowing would be more typical than the first week and estimated around 12 hours per mow might be typical. Selectman Gallagher said that the mowing at the meeting house looked very good.
5. Jed Wilbur brought in a building permit for BOS review. Selectman Bourne asked about setback measurements. Mr. Wilbur stated that the deck he's proposing would be out of any setbacks as it is further from the road than the existing structure. Selectman Bourne asked for the form to be filled out with best estimates for setbacks and Selectman Gallagher stated that we would do a site visit anyway. Mr. Wilbur provided payment for the building permit.
6. Chief Hackett reported that he had moved some "free" items from the South side of Perkins Rd. to the North side of Perkins Rd. to address the hazard Selectman Bourne had emailed him about. Chief Hackett reported that he was posting in Connect Cornish to advise people not to place free items on the roadside. Chief Hackett reported on a fatal bicycle accident on Rte. 12A over the weekend. Chief Hackett reported that he would need to purchase a new bulletproof vest due to his own weight loss. The estimated cost would be around \$1500, so Chief Hackett would need approval from the BOS. Selectman Bourne reminded Chief Hackett of the purchasing policy and asked if he would be able to get 3 quotes. Chief Hackett said he would do his best.
7. Chris Chilton reported data on ambulance calls, stating Golden Cross has done 52 calls and Windsor has also done 52 calls over the last 12 months. Selectman Gallagher asked Mr. Chilton if he had an email chain regarding Mr. Chilton's request for an explanation from Golden Cross regarding a complaint filed about one of their drivers not transporting a patient to Dartmouth Health. Mr. Chilton reviewed his emails and said he had not

received a reply from a request he sent in April. Selectman Bourne asked if Mr. Chilton had sent a follow-up email to his April inquiry. Mr. Chilton said that he had called and left a voicemail and did not hear back from Golden Cross. Mr. Chilton described other complaints regarding Golden Cross. Selectman Gallagher asked if Mr. Chilton had any documentation regarding other complaints. Mr. Chilton said he only had one documented formal complaint. Selectman Hammond asked if it would be helpful to have a formal agreement between the town and Golden Cross to confirm that they would transport patients to their hospital of choice. Mr. Chilton said that he already had an email from Golden Cross confirming that is the standard operation procedure.

8. Mr. Chilton reported that the Edsons were willing to donate a .38 acre parcel of land for the rescue squad to retain the land they are using currently. Mr. Chilton suggested that the rescue squad would like to build an addition, but did not want to start anything before understanding whether such a subdivision would even be possible. Selectman Gallagher suggested that Mr. Chilton contact Heidi Jaarsma to get on an agenda for the Planning Board so that he could ask those questions and get advice. Selectman Bourne suggested that Mr. Chilton get setback information from the wetlands and roads surrounding the parcel.
9. Mr. Chilton asked about the Highway Department, based upon his interest in exploring employment, and whether any hires had been made. Selectman Gallagher said that the town had hired a non-CDL applicant. Mr. Chilton said that Road Agent Wayne Gray had reported a starting pay rate of \$27.00 per hour, which was too low for him to be attractive and wondered if there was any flexibility. Selectman Hammond asked Mr. Chilton how much he had been paid previously by the Town of Cornish. Mr. Chilton reported that he had been paid \$15.50 twelve years ago as a CDL driver. Selectman Gallagher confirmed that the pay rate had been agreed upon by the BOS as a competitive wage.
10. Joanna Scharf reported that the setback from the ROW for her proposed solar installation on her barn would be 30 feet 5 inches.
11. Selectman Hammond asked about getting the Boston Post Cane to Connie White, considering she would not be available during meeting times and that her daughter Daphne, from Connecticut, could assist her mother to receive the cane, but only on the weekend. Selectman Gallagher suggested trying to arrange a Saturday morning event. Selectman Hammond said he would call Daphne to arrange.
12. Selectman Gallagher asked for thoughts on the Steve Parks mowing proposal. Selectman Bourne said the numbers need to be run to see what the budget supports. The BOS reviewed the hours and locations on Mr. Parks initial invoices. Selectman Bourne said that the Highway Department budgeted for 5 full-time employees so there would be money if we needed to use a contractor for this service. Selectman Hammond suggested that the mowing intervals could be extended to cut down on the total hours contracted.
13. Selectman Bourne provided an update from the Broadband Committee meeting he had attended, stating that the grant was subject to challenges of address to serve.

Meeting adjourned, 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne