

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 3, 2024 4:00-6:00pm**

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

1. BOS reviewed invoices and mail.
2. Joe Hoebeke stopped in as the new rep for Eversource. He works with towns for events and hazard issues. He has worked with Chief Hackett in the past when he was in law enforcement.
3. Bill Wall came in with a copy of the Plainfield hazard mitigation plan projects for the future.
4. Bob Cushman came in to talk about his application as Road Agent. He wanted to speak with the Road Agent and Selectboard to give his side of the story on Wayne's calls for reference.
5. Wayne came in to talk about the Highway Department. Wayne said that he had told Mr. Cushman that he would not be a good fit for working for the Town. Some references are:
Dan Collins 603-381-0430 Selectman in Canaan
Steve Landon 802-356-6299
Chris Barr 802-457-2233 Woodstock
6. The road crew worked on beaver dams on Jackson and Tandy Brook Roads. Wayne will be meeting with Patten's Driving School for the CDL certification. Wayne met with the logger on St. Gaudens Road and said that the landing for access needed to be closed to the original site. A driveway permit would need to be issued to make it a permanent access. Culvert locations were discussed and GPS mapping can be done by other agencies. UVLSPC and SADES (UNH) have programs. The sander has been put in the '09 town truck. It is a salt/sander spreader.
7. Corey Fitch came in to talk about the beaver dam on Jackson Road. He recommended calling Skip Lyle who is the beaver baffle installation expert. He will get together with Wayne to look at the beaver activity on Jackson and Tandy Brook Roads.
8. The BOS called a couple references for an employment application.

Respectfully submitted,
John S. Hammond

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 7, 2024 6:30-8:30pm**

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

1. BOS reviewed mail, invoices, and signed checks.
2. Keith Beardsley came in with a new septic plan to have stamped.
3. Dillon had copies of the Road Committee minutes.

4. Sylvia Platt came in to discuss a piece of property she is being taxed on but doesn't own. The survey map was prepared by Chris Rollins of Plainfield. The BOS encouraged her to speak with the Planning Board.
5. Mike Duval came in to say he will be doing fall grading on Friday. He mentioned that the 2 newest employees are very interested in getting their CDL licenses.
6. Susanne Haseman came in to be sworn in as a member of the Energy Committee. Frank Parks was sworn in as well. Both will be alternates. Motion made by Jason seconded by Dillon. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.
7. Joanna Sharf came in to talk about bat removal in the Town office. John made motion to hire Burke Paterson to do the bat removal and clean up in the attic. Seconded by Jason. Voted unanimous in the affirmative.
8. The BOS had a continued discussion on the culverts in Town. Having an independent person do the inventory might be an option.
9. The BOS discussed the option of having the 2 employees go to school to acquire a CDL. There is a 2 week course in Chester in October at Northeast Driver Training.
10. Jason moved to accept the September minutes. Seconded by Dillon. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
John S. Hammond

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 10, 2024 4:00-6:00pm**

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

1. BOS reviewed invoices and mail.
2. Wayne Gray came in to talk about grading East Road from Tiff to Mace Roads. The ditching was distributed to neighbors along East Road. Mike Duval spot graded along stretches of East and Clark Camp Roads. The loader has improved lifting power since it has been fully serviced. The '09 truck has been prepared for being sold. The beaver dams continue to be a problem on Tandy Brook Road. Jim Rogers from Jackson Road has a problem with a dry well because of a beaver dam contaminating the well. Wayne has reported that Northeast Driver Training School can have the 2 drivers ready for certification of CDL license by the end of October.
3. Jim Rogers came in to talk about his well being contaminated by a beaver problem. The beaver has plugged up a culvert. The BOS encouraged Jim to contact Larry Duval who has done removal of problem beavers. Jim would like to have a drilled well on his property. He said that the proposed site would be closer than 75 feet from his leach field. He wondered if he needed a waiver to put in the well.
4. Justin Ranney, Cornish School Board, came in with Dr. Sydney Leggett, SAU 100 Superintendent. They are looking at a middle school study regarding combining with Plainfield. Justin reported that the water tested clean after being filtered. Dillon asked if the Town Hall water had been tested to be drinkable. Justin didn't know if it had been

tested. Testing will be done at all the access sites and the water lines will be flushed for an hour as they have not been used regularly. The Town Hall will be flushed and tested as well. Testing for lead and PFAS will be done. Sydney has been assessing the school, including a renovation, or new building. They would be looking for 5 acres if a new school was built. For a renovation they would request building aid from the state, up to 30% of the total cost for a major renovation. An architectural engineering group has been hired to do the study on the school building.

5. Jason met with Dan Michaud to look at the Town Hall interior walls. Further investigation needs to be done to see how the repair would be done.
6. The new election booths have arrived. There are 12 voting stations.
7. The BOS reviewed the employee retention agreement for class B CDL licenses. A couple adjustments may be made in the wording that apply to the individual signing.

Respectfully submitted,
John S. Hammond

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 14, 2024 6:30-8:30pm**

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

1. BOS reviewed mail, invoices, and signed checks.
2. Joanna Sharf came in to talk about some handouts for Cornish Community Power public hearings. They are proposed for 11/14 and 12/3 from 6:30-8:00pm at the Town Office. This will allow citizens to ask questions and learn more about how Community Power works. The voters, if approving, would allow the Selectboard to enter into the CPCNH. CPCNH is currently the second largest electricity supplier in New Hampshire. Joanna would like to hand out fliers at the Recycle Center on Saturday as a way to get the word out. She will send a copy of the Cornish Community Power Plan to the BOS for their review. The BOS will have it reviewed by 10/24.
3. Jason made a motion to give a Town employee a \$1.00/hr raise after reviewing a positive 90 day review. Seconded by Dillon. Voted unanimous in the affirmative.
4. Jason reported that Justin Walker will have an estimate on replacing the heating in the Town Hall by Thursday.
5. The BOS discussed projects that need to be addressed to Town buildings using LFRF money. Commitments need to be made by the end of the year.
6. BOS called Mike Boutilier about requesting receipts for purchases of items for the Fire Department.
7. BOS called an employee to see how they were feeling.

Respectfully submitted,
John S. Hammond

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 17, 2024 4:00-6:00pm**

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

1. BOS reviewed invoices and mail.
2. Wayne was in the meeting and said that Tristan and Kyle are signed up to start the CDL course in Rockingham. Jason and John will meet Friday at 12:30 to have them sign the Town's retention contract and have it notarized by Mary.
3. John replaced the American flag on the Town Office flag pole.
4. The Road Crew removed the beaver dam on Jackson Road. It has dropped the water level. The dam on Tandy Brook Road has continued to grow in size. A couple large cherry trees are half chewed by the beavers. If they fall it will block the road. The BOS will do a site visit. The plows and wings are sanded and painted. Spot grading was done on various roads in Town. A driveway on Dodge Road was paved and ends in the Town's right of way. Wayne has concerns with water drainage into the Town road. Wayne would like to have the glass hauled from the Recycle Center. Two of the Highway Crew will be in CDL class for 4 days a week for the next 2 weeks. The BOS okayed Wayne to engage in a plowing contract with Gallagher Tree Service. A quoted price was requested on the contract.
5. The BOS left the office for site visits.

Respectfully submitted,
John S. Hammond

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 21, 2024 6:30-8:30pm**

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

1. BOS reviewed mail, invoices, and signed checks.
2. The BOS discussed the need to have a permit to install an EV charger. The feeling was that a record of installation was important but as it was not a building, the fee could be waived.
3. The BOS discussed the concern of Brian Meyette having the CCC saying that he could not sell off a parcel of his land that had an easement. Brian claims that 3 individuals took it upon themselves to meet with the BOS instead of having a commission meeting to decide on a plan of action. Mr. Meyette feels that those people acted illegally and should be removed from the CCC.
4. The BOS had a discussion concerning the replacement of Larry Dingee on the Historic Building Committee. There is a need to have the position filled. A couple of individuals have expressed an interest in the position. The main concern is to have a committee that can work together.

5. The BOS had a lengthy discussion on what needs the Town Hall could have to make it a more efficient and attractive building. The service panel for power needs to be upgraded to 200 amp service.

Respectfully submitted,
John S. Hammond

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 24, 2024 4:00-6:00pm**

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

1. BOS reviewed invoices and mail.
2. Heidi Jaarsma came in to talk about the tax rate. The preliminary tax rate is \$16.19. Last years tax rate was \$26.23. The year was a new 5 year revaluation. The Town rate is up 2.095, state and local school tax is 9.18% and county tax rate is up 33.74%. The overall tax bills will be up 10.30%. The revaluation change from 2023 to 2024 is up 78.57%. A \$250,000 home in 2023 is now worth on average \$446,425 and will increase by \$670 in 2024. The current fund balance has been about 17%. The revenues and budgets are set. Fund balance has usually been used for a reduction in taxes. \$3,500 of fund balance spent will reduce the tax rate by a penny. Last years uncollected taxes were up 20% from the previous year. John made a motion to spend \$75,000 in fund balance to set the tax rate at \$16.19. Seconded by Jason. Voted in the affirmative.
3. Stowell Library, records building, Town Hall, Little Town Hall and the Town Office draft applications have been submitted to the State Historic Registry.
4. Wayne Gray came in to talk about the road issues. The beavers have been building up the dams on 2 places on Tandy Brook Road problem spots. There is an unused beaver baffle in the CREA barn. The two taking the CDL course will be working for the Town on Friday. Lucas Tree is clearing out trees on Leavitt Hill. The wood will be hauled by the Town to the Recycling Center for the public who are in need of firewood. Wayne will be setting up the new voting booths in preparation of the upcoming voting.
5. Joanna Sharf came in to talk about the Cornish Community Power. She has requested the Energy Committee have CPCNH put on the Town of Cornish website. At the 2 public hearings the Energy Committee will advocate going with CPCNH as the energy broker. As a member of CPCNH the Town would have a voice how decisions are made. Another broker would not allow the Town to have a voice. Jason made a motion to include CPCNH on the Town website. Seconded by John. Jason and John voted yes. Dillon abstained feeling that it bordered on advocacy.
6. Dillon reported on a meeting of the Town Road Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
John S. Hammond

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 28, 2024 6:30-8:30pm**

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

1. BOS reviewed mail, invoices, and signed checks.
2. BOS reviewed the overtime line in the budget to date for the Highway Department. The overtime line is down from last year.
3. Dillon reported that the state has a class called "Snow Plowing 101" in the first and second week of November in Portsmouth and Stratham.
4. The BOS discussed the substantial increase in the Avitar assessment 5 year contract. It amounts to a 34% increase over the last 5 year contract.
5. Jason and Dillon reported on the inspection of replacing the acoustic panels in the Town Hall. 34 sheets for the walls and 40 sheets for the ceiling. It needs a new 200 amp service panel. There would be two 30 amp service panels for mini splits for heating cooling units. An electrician would be needed for installation. Willing Hands donated a new freezer. The envelope of the entrance of the Town Hall needs to be tightened up.
6. Joanna Sharf came in to see if it would be okay if she became the alternate member of the CPCNH group. Jason made a motion to make her the alternate. Seconded by John. Vote unanimously affirmative. The BOS discussed with Joanna thoughts on upgrading the electrical service panels, lighting, and wiring for the mini splits. Joanna gave the BOS names of two firms that do commercial generator installations.

Respectfully submitted,
John S. Hammond

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 31, 2024 4:00-6:00pm**

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

1. BOS reviewed invoices and mail.
2. The EMPG grant for the heat pump and generator was voted in favor by the Town in 2024. The funds won't be received until 2025. The prices have increased. The quote for \$15,032 is for the generator. This was to be installed at the Cornish Flat Fire Station. The station is ADA compliant. Heidi Jaarsma said that the BOS should consider using LRFR funds. Heidi will get new estimates on the heat pumps and generator.
3. Mike Boutilier and Bill Harthan came in to talk about Fire Department issues. Mike came in to question why the dredging of the fire pond came out of the department budget. The previous payment was voted on by a warrant article. The department has need of 2 new sets of gear and would like to purchase with money in their budget.
4. Wayne Gray came in to report that Kyle and Tristan have passed the CDL exam and will receive licenses. Wayne and the crew have erected the new voting booths. They will be ready for voting on Tuesday. The bucket for the Kubota needs to be replaced. The

grader needs to have some new tires on the rear end. Stevens is hauling winter sand. They have delivered about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the total needed. Wayne has gotten 2 quotes for hauling glass to recycling. Wayne has made an agreement with Gallagher Tree Service as a back up for plowing the Town roads. The trucks and sanders are all ready to go.

5. The BOS discussed the pay raise for the 2 employees that just passed the CDL exam.
6. The BOS left for 2 site visits.

Respectfully submitted,
John S. Hammond