

Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday November 24, 2025 6:30-8:30 pm

Present: Jason Bourne, (Chair), Dillon Gallagher, Keith Beardslee

Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30

Gwyn Gallagher and Skip Erskine met with the BOS to discuss Highway Department. Mr. Gallagher asked how the highway department was being run currently. Selectman Bourne explained that Mike Duval is the highway foreman on a part-time basis. Selectman Beardslee explained that Mike Duval was wanting to train a new employee who had no plowing experience. Mr. Gallagher explained that he was not interested in competing with Mike Duval for planning plowing, stating that the recent weather event made it clear that Mike was still in charge. Selectman Beardslee stated that he felt Mr. Duval would be happy to not have the burden of planning for snow events. Mr. Gallagher said that the additional planning and coordination would be billable hours and asked what the current foreman was being paid. Selectman Bourne explained that he was part time and not eligible for benefits, so he was making a higher part-time wage of \$40. Mr. Gallagher said that the rate would be too low for Gallagher Tree and suggested that perhaps \$50 would work at a slight loss for Gallagher Tree. The BOS agreed to discuss the matter with Mike Duval and then get back to Gallagher Tree Service. Selectman Gallagher asked how much time was estimated in planning. Mr. Erskine said it was too early to tell. Selectman Bourne said that the town was looking for part-time seasonal plowing employees, so the roster of the highway department might change. Selectman Beardslee asked if Mr. Gallagher had the plow routes prepared. Selectman Beardslee said that the parking area near the Cornish-Windsor covered bridge is the state's responsibility, citing that some material needs to be added to that lot to transition from the newer paving work done there. Mr. Erskine said that the town used to maintain the parking area. Mr. Gallagher suggested a call to Mark Avery at the State highway office in Cornish could clear up the matter.

Kristina Griffin met with the BOS to discuss a driveway permit on a class VI road. Selectman Gallagher explained that Ms. Griffin had met with the Planning Board and the Planning Board wanted the Town to weigh in on the use of the class 6 road. Mr. Gallagher explained that a house was built on the class 6 road and that the road is maintained by the residents. Selectman Beardslee said that it would be difficult to tell how much damage logging trucks would do, but that they would do some damage to the roads. Selectman Gallagher said it would be important for the town to consider the impact of logging given that residents on the road maintain the road at their cost. Selectman Beardslee said the town might consider allowing logging use in the winter only. Selectman Gallagher said that he would not be inclined to restrict to winter only given that landowners have a right to use their own land. Selectman Gallagher asked Ms. Griffin if she had spoken with the residents at the end of the road. Ms. Griffin said she had not. Selectman Gallagher suggested that a letter from the residents would be helpful. Selectman Beardslee said that the permit would transfer to whoever owns the property in the future. Ms. Griffin explained that she would like to be harvesting some timber every year. Selectman Beardslee asked which forester Ms. Griffin was using. Ms. Griffin said New England Forestry Consultants from Marlow, NH. Selectman Gallagher asked who would be logging. Ms. Griffin said that they would be doing it themselves. Selectman Beardslee asked if Selectman Gallagher wanted to put any restrictions on the use of the road. Selectman Gallagher did not have restrictions immediately on his mind but said that he would not want the road to be damaged by the activity of logging. Selectman Bourne said that the Board seemed to be struggling a bit with the fact that a residence had been built on a class VI road and wanted to look out for the investment the residents have put into a class VI road and said that he

did not feel the need to restrict the use of the road. Selectman Beardslee agreed. Selectman Gallagher agreed that no additional restrictions from the town would be required and it would be up to the Planning Board. Ms. Griffin asked what the next steps would be. Selectman Gallagher said that it would go to Bill Lipfert next at the planning board, then on to the fire chief and highway foreman.

Alex Carpenter explained that he would be solely responsible for his 3 children for the next 90 days while his wife was in rehab. Selectman Bourne asked if Mr. Carpenter was planning on working during that time. Mr. Carpenter said that his logistical struggles would be making it to work on time as he had kids to get to school.

Erich Weeks asked what the town was doing with the open road agent position for the past 3 months. Selectman Bourne explained that Mike Duval has been acting as highway foreman and that the quality of work that the highway department has improved. Mr. Weeks claimed that the lack of a permanent full-time road agent was detrimental to the highway department. Selectman Bourne said that the highway department had been more productive with Mike in charge. Mr. Weeks said that the lack of stability in the highway department would have an impact on the morale of the crew and that the current highway department was without clear directives on plowing routes, as an example. Selectman Bourne stated that interactions between Mr. Weeks and the board seemed confrontational at times and that has had an impact on his consideration of his employability. Mr. Weeks said that he should be able to come in to complain as a tax payer and not have that held against him regarding employment. Selectman Bourne said that adversarial conversations do have a lasting impact. Mr. Weeks said that he hoped the Select Board could recognize that his standards for road conditions is high and that his frustration with the town is based on his standards not being met, both as a taxpayer and as a highway professional.

Mike Duval said that he heard that he was not to have sanded and salted last night and expressed frustration with that criticism since the roads were completely iced over. Mr. Duval explained that a water line in the highway department bathroom leaked and a repair had been made by Doug Freeland. Mr. Duval explained that the plow light on the 550 plow truck was being replaced in the shop. Selectman Bourne said that shoulder work was done on Perkins and East Rd. Selectman Beardslee said that the paving bill can be paid now. Selectman Bourne asked Mr. Duval if he was comfortable with Gallagher Tree organizing the plow routes and calling the crew out for plowing. Mr. Duval said he was fine with that plan.

Selectman Gallagher asked about a note from Mary Curtis to talk to Mike Fuerst regarding Jim Liggett's building permit. Selectman Bourne said that the dimensions on the building permit are again incorrect. Selectman Gallagher suggested the BOS write up a summary of what is wrong with the building permit to accompany a denial. Selectman Beardslee asked if Selectman Bourne would draft the letter. Selectman Bourne said he could draft the letter. Selectman Gallagher suggested that Mary Curtis could send Selectman Bourne a .pdf copy of the building permit.

Selectman Beardslee moved to adjourn, selectman Gallagher seconds, motion passes.

Meeting adjourned 9:34pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 20, 2025 4:00–6:00 pm**

Present: Jason Bourne, (Chair), Dillon Gallagher, Keith Beardslee

Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00pm

BOS reviewed invoices and mail.

Justin Ranney met with the BOS to ask about protocol for inclement weather, stating that the superintendent would normally meet with the Road Agent. Selectman Bourne said that the search for a road agent continues and that a contract with Gallagher Tree Service for plowing services and that there was information still to come from Gwyn Gallagher regarding the start/stop times of plowing and getting road conditions for this purpose, and said that he could be the primary point of contact for road conditions until a Road Agent is hired. Selectman Gallagher asked Mr. Ranney for a copy of the bus routes. Kyle Riley, superintendent of SAU 100, introduced himself to the BOS and Mr. Ranney explained the conversation which had transpired.

Marie Derusha presented a food pantry invoice from Plainfield, NH. Ms. Derusha clarified that there has been no change to the elderly tax exemption, contrary to a prior email which had been sent to the BOS.

Fire Chief Mike Boutelier, Bill Harthan, John Drye, and Walter Scott met with the BOS to discuss end-of-year purchases. Mr. Drye explained that the dispatch invoices were less than the amount currently posted to the budget line for dispatch. Selectman Beardslee asked Mary Curtis to run a report for the budget account. Mr. Drye requested allocating some of the remaining LFRF funds to cover an unexpected expenditure related to a generator purchase which had been initiated by Emergency Management, which was unexpected to be charged to the Fire Department. Selectman Gallagher asked why the generator cost more than anticipated. Mr. Harthan said that there was a delay between the quote and the funding and that prices increased by the time the funds were available. Mr. Drye expressed his frustration with unexpected expenses hitting Fire Department accounts. Selectman Gallagher asked how Emergency Management and Fire Department were coordinating the generator project, since it was grant funded and was not supposed to cost the town, when ultimately it did cost the town. Mr. Scott said that the Fire Department does not get a chance to review the items which are being billed to the Fire Department accounts. Selectman Beardslee said that it would be easy to generate a report on a monthly basis to report on expense against these accounts. Selectman Bourne said that the Fire Department was asking for the opportunity to review invoices before they hit their accounts and that would not be simple given the platform we use. Chief Boutelier and Mr. Drye said that there was not much communication between Dale Lawrence and the fire department regarding the generator project and only found out about it when the project started. The BOS and FD discussed emailing reports. Mary Curtis said that she could work on generating reports. Mr. Scott presented a list of equipment the FD would like to purchase. Mr. Drye explained the equipment needs. BOS had no objection to the list. Mary Curtis provided a report of the Fire Department accounts and Mr. Scott reviewed the expenses. Chief Boutelier requested a department credit card. Mr. Scott said that some costs were being covered by department members because the reimbursement process is onerous. Selectman Bourne and Selectman Gallagher said that the board would discuss with Treasurer Heidi Jaarsma. Mr. Scott said that the FD was not receiving inspection reports. Selectman Bourne asked if the FD has contacted SG Reed. Mr. Harthan said they had not yet, but that they could try contacting them.

The BOS discussed the highway department positions and how to generate more visibility for currently posted openings, including escalating the employment opportunities on the town website, ensuring that our job postings are on the NHMA employment site as they don't currently appear there, renewing Indeed postings, even if it costs some money, and posting on the Valley News employment website. Selectman Beardslee suggested that Indeed can be configured to target geographic areas to avoid receiving applications from Texas, and said that it might make sense to work with Valley News to target candidates since they claim to specialize in such ads.

Selectman Beardslee reported on having discussed seasonal plowing with Dave Worth and confirming that he was not currently interested.

The BOS acknowledged that there was a mistake in the minutes from September 11, 2025 in which the name West was used instead of Weeks, which was not caught during a prior review of minutes.

The BOS called Mike Duval to check in on highway department matters. Mr. Duval said that Bob Johnson was a hard worker and that the crew had done a lot of clearing on Burr Road. Mr. Duval reported on shoulder work to be done on the paved road. Mr. Duval reported on a missing Milwaukee electric chainsaw, battery, and a missing jump pack from the Highway Department inventory. Mr. Duval reported on a plow headlight being out which requires a new relay. Mr. Duval reported on the need for a new garage door opener. Mr. Duval said that he would be able to help identify when the roads need to be plowed and could work on plowing with light snow when he did not need to plow his customers out.

Selectman Beardslee moved to adjourn, Selectman Gallagher seconds, motion passes.

Meeting adjourned 6:43pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Jason Bourne

KJB JB

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday November 17, 2025 6:30-8:30 pm**

Present: Jason Bourne, (Chair), Dillon Gallagher, Keith Beardslee

Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

BOS reviewed invoices, mail, and checks.

Jim Liggett visited the BOS to report on what he found for documentation pertaining to the building on Leavitt Hill Road. Mr. Liggett provided a building permit from 2016 as well as documentation he received from the Zoning Board of Adjustment including an addition which he said had been approved by the ZBA as well as a porch which had been denied. The BOS reviewed the minutes from ZBA Case 16-04 which allowed for an addition on the side of the structure as a special exception under Article 7.C.5. Mr. Liggett said that the porch had been approved by the select board subsequent to the Zoning Board's approval of an addition. Selectman Bourne pointed out the fact that the building permit dimensions as written on the permit included only the footprint of the original structure and did not include the footprint of the porch, which would need approval by the Zoning Board. Mr. Liggett said that he had written only the dimensions of the previously approved structure and that he provided the drawing to support where the addition would be added to the existing structure. Selectman Gallagher confirmed that the permit dimensions were what was approved. Mr. Liggett stated that the prior Selectboards never corrected the permit and stated that the zoning board also did not correct the error on the building permit. Selectman Bourne said that the Zoning Board does not review building permits, only appeals of denied building permits. Mr. Liggett presented an additional building permit he had approved in 2019 for the same property with the dimensions slightly larger than what had been approved previously. Mr. Liggett corrected the dimension to the originally approved 37x32 structure, as approved previously by the Zoning Board. Mr. Liggett expressed frustration with the different interpretations of building dimensions between boards. Selectman Bourne explained that the permit dimensions are what the board can consider and that he would need to submit a new building permit for a porch which would be denied and would then need to go to the Zoning Board for approval.

The BOS discussed the open Road Agent position and compensation options as part of the hiring process. Selectman Beardslee explained a modification to the employment documentation to make it more clear to the Town and the employee the terms of employment and compensation rates. The BOS discussed maintenance needs in the Highway Department. The BOS discussed seeking part time plowing help from Chris Chilton and Dave Worth, who may be interested in helping out this winter. Selectman Beardslee offered to stop in to see if Dave Worth was interested. Selectman Bourne reached out to Chris Chilton to ask him to complete part time employee paperwork. Selectman Bourne asked the BOS how the Board would like to follow up with Bob Cushman, who applied for the Road Agent position but was not interested at the pay rate as stated in our interview. Selectman Gallagher suggested that Mary Curtis could call Mr. Cushman to understand what his thoughts were on a rate of pay for a municipal road agent and to understand if the only reason he was not interested was due to pay rates previously stated, or if there were other reasons in addition to the pay rate. Selectman Bourne and Selectman Beardslee agreed that Mary Curtis should contact Mr. Cushman for further discussion.

The BOS discussed highway department budget.

Selectman Gallagher referred to RSA 72:39-a, brought to his attention by Marie Derusha, which pertains to tax credits for elderly residents as a topic the Board should consider reading up on. Selectman Gallagher said that Ms. Derusha would visit with the BOS on Thursday.

Selectman Beardslee moves to adjourn, Selectman Gallagher seconds. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned 9:15pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne

KEB JB

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 13, 2025 4:00–6:00 pm**

Present: Jason Bourne, (Chair), Dillon Gallagher, Keith Beardslee

1. BOS reviewed mail and invoices.
2. Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00pm
3. Jim Liggett met with the BOS regarding a building permit from 2019 which he was asking to be extended. Mr. Liggett claimed that the BOS had previously extended the building permit through 11/21/2025 and it was about to expire. Selectman Bourne said that he did not recall extending the building permit in the last year. Mr. Liggett said that was because Selectman Bourne was not on the board at the time. Selectman Bourne said that he was in fact on the board last year. Mr. Liggett said that it was approved and should be in the minutes. Mr. Liggett provided an updated building permit and a list of tasks completed for the house building project, which included 2 additional building permits as having been approved. Selectman Gallagher said that the building was non-conforming and would have to have been approved by the Zoning Board. Mr. Liggett said that he had approval from the Zoning Board. Selectman Bourne said that he had served on the Zoning Board prior to being elected to the select board and could not recall any variances for that property and did not recall any building permit applications for the property in recent years. Mr. Liggett asked if the BOS could find the variances. Selectman Bourne asked Mr. Liggett if he could ask Mary Curtis to pull the property file to see if there was any variance or building permits for the property. Selectman Bourne reviewed minutes from 11/21/2024 and the rest of the minutes from November 2024 and found no minutes regarding Mr. Liggett. Selectman Bourne reviewed the Zoning Board minutes from 2019, the year of the original building permit and found no minutes regarding Mr. Liggett's proposed additions on the non-conforming property.
4. Charlie Woodman brought two septic system plans for the BOS to review. Mr. Woodman described the jobs and the materials being used. Mr. Woodman explained that ventilation is important to the new systems.
5. Jim Liggett said that he had begun foundation work at the building site in question, so he felt that the building permit previously approved and extended should be adequate.
6. Selectman Bourne moved to enter non-public under RSA 91-A:3, II(b) Selectman Beardslee seconds. Motion passes.
7. Non-public session begins at 4:49pm.
8. Meeting adjourned 6:45pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Jason Bourne

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday November 10, 2025 6:30-8:30 pm**

Present: Jason Bourne, (Chair), Dillon Gallagher, Keith Beardslee

1. Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30pm
2. Selectman Beardslee moved to approve minutes for October, Selectman Bourne seconds, motion passes unanimously.
3. Heather Meeks, Jeff Proehl and Steve Bobin of the Trust Funds met with the BOS to discuss a gift to the Town from a trust. Selectman Gallagher asked if the trustees would be contacting the charitable trust unit to ask if the town would be bound to maintaining a fence at Chase Cemetery if the gift is accepted. Heather said that the trust needs to followed to the letter of the law. Selectman Beardslee asked if the trust could be used to buy fence. Heather said that the trust is not expendable, so the principal balance could not be expended, only interest. Selectman Gallagher asked if the fence specified in the trust is picket fence but the town wants to use a different fence, would the gift be available. Heather said that could go to the court to make a determination that the use was similar enough. Selectman Gallagher asked if the trustees could just confirm with charitable trust unit to ask if they have an opinion. Jeff said that the trust cannot require the town maintain the fence, but if the town wanted to use the gift, it would only be available for fence maintenance. Heather asked if the BOS had accepted the gift for the library in our minutes from October 20. Selectman Bourne said he did not recall having formally voted. Selectman Beardslee moved to formally accept the \$20,000 gift from Norman A. Schuele III to be given to the new library. Selectman Bourne seconds. Motion passes.
4. Heather said that the BOS would need to accept a \$1500 gift for perpetual care for cemeteries in the near future. Selectman Gallagher asked how much it would cost to put all plots into perpetual care. Heather said there are different models the state of NH allows for maintaining cemeteries and said she could look into that.
5. The BOS discussed what was needed to have a productive conversation with Joseph Danyou regarding a tax-deeded property.
6. Tom Caselli called the BOS to talk about a cemetery on his property. Tom said that several stones are broken and suggested that an epoxy product exists for stone repair. Tom said that there was aluminum channel around from a prior maintenance attempt by Dale Lawrence. Tom asked if some repair work and cleanup could be done by the cemetery maintenance crew. Selectman Bourne said that the town has a maintenance contract with Stone Vault and that this cemetery was not on the list for maintenance at this time. Tom reported that Avitar had not been inside his house and asked if that would negatively impact his tax bill. Selectman Bourne suggested that he contact Avitar to ask about the process when they cannot access the house.
7. Mike Duval reported on equipment maintenance including grader tires and a waste oil furnace service which is scheduled. Mike reported on culvert maintenance on East Road and South Parsonage Road. Mike reported on minor damage on Squag City bridge. Mike asked if the BOS had a plan for the Highway Department. Selectman Bourne said the BOS has interviewed a candidate recently. Mike reported on the lack of experience in the current highway department.
8. Mike asked if an agricultural access point to a field on a property on Dingleton Hill would require a driveway permit. Selectman Bourne said that driveways are purview of the Planning Board. Mike said he would call Bill Lipfert to ask him about it.

9. Mike said that the winter fuel mix will not be delivered until next month, so he treated the existing fuel. Mike talked to the BOS about tire chain options for winter truck setup. The BOS approved of Mike placing an order for tire chains.
10. The BOS discussed maintenance needs at the highway department and considerations as it pertains to interviewing candidates for Road Agent.
11. Selectman Gallagher reported that 779 Center Road has an addition which had been previously denied in a building permit.
12. Meeting adjourned 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne

REC-6/13

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 6, 2025 4:00–6:00 pm**

Present: Jason Bourne, (Chair), Dillon Gallagher, Keith Beardslee

1. The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.
2. Selectmen reviewed mail and invoices.
3. Bill Wall reported his concern regarding legislation which might require the town to upgrade class 6 roads and bridges. Selectman Bourne said that he understood the legislation required that residents building on a class 6 road would be required to waive any services from the town. Selectman Bourne recommended that Mr. Wall reach out to our representatives in Concord. Selectman Beardslee expressed concerns about door to door transportation for students on such a road.
4. Selectman Bourne moved to enter non-public under RSA 91-A:3, II(b) Selectman Beardslee seconds. Motion passes.
5. Selectman Beardslee moves to adjourn, Selectman Gallagher seconds, meeting adjourned 6:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jason Bourne

KEB JLB

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday November 3, 2025 6:30-8:30 pm**

Present: Jason Bourne, (Chair), Dillon Gallagher, Keith Beardslee

1. Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30pm
2. BOS reviewed checks, mail, and invoices
3. Jacob Simino delivered an electrical wiring diagram for the fairgrounds to the BOS.
4. Selectman Beardslee reported that Frank Parks suggested NH Broadband NH Electric Co-op was seeking equipment housing on the Fair Grounds and asked if Mr. Simino was aware of such a request. Mr. Simino said he was not aware of any such request. Mr. Simino explained the lease agreement the Fair Association has with the Cornish School who owns the property.
5. Chief Hackett reported on the resignation of Corey Stevens after 24 years of service to Cornish effective 10/31/2025. Chief Hackett suggested he would purchase a gift and organize a reception. The BOS approved of the expense. Chief Hackett reported on a NH Chiefs of Police conference and said that he could include Lieutenant Vivian as an Associate member. The BOS approved of the conference and membership fees to include Lieutenant Vivian.
6. Selectman Bourne asked Selectman Beardslee how he would envision employment offers and associated documentation. Selectman Beardslee suggested that a job description, starting pay, date of hire, probationary period (where applicable), pay after probationary period (where applicable), and a signature line to confirm all of the above be drafted for each position offered. Mary Curtis said she could draft that up when the requirements are written up. Selectman Bourne said he would put the description in the minutes for Ms. Curtis.
7. The BOS discussed the former Dana Brooks property in Mill Village and further about the tax-deeding process. The BOS expressed an interest in understanding, step-by-step, how tax liens and tax deeds are executed.
8. The BOS discussed a gift offered to the town for the maintenance of a cemetery fence. Selectman Gallagher suggested reaching out to the charitable trust unit for review.
9. Selectman Gallagher asked Mary Curtis if she had sent the Venditto property line dispute to Avitar. Ms. Curtis said that she had, but had not heard back from them.
10. BOS called an applicant for a highway department position.
11. BOS agreed to relist a town truck on Municibid.
12. Selectman Beardslee suggested planning for part time plowing work. Selectman Bourne said that he heard from a local resident with a CDL who was potentially available for part-time plowing. The BOS discussed compensation for part time plowing employees.
13. Joanna Sharf and Richard Thompson reminded the BOS of a Zoom-based energy committee event about moisture in home construction. Joanna and Richard informed the BOS that Myron Kuhre has stepped down from the Energy Committee as a regular member and asked to be an alternate. Joanna said that Keith Foston was interested in serving the energy committee. Richard Thompson offered to secure the vent cover upstairs in the town office building.
14. Meeting adjourned 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne