

KB JB

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday January 29, 2026, 4:00-6:00 pm**

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

1. Selectmen reviewed mail and invoices.
2. Chairman Bourne called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.
3. Scott Baker came in to discuss the scheduling conflict with the school's rescheduling of the school budget hearing to February 2nd, the same day the Town had previously warned and scheduled for the 2nd. The BOS moved and agreed to reschedule the Budget Hearing to the next Monday, February 9th at 7:00pm.
4. The BOS will reschedule the regular BOS meeting from the 2nd to the 3rd at 6:30pm so the BOS members can attend the school hearing.
5. Bill Wall came in to share a newspaper article regarding waste management and new laws. He discussed education and the value of trades education. He explained Title IX as a value to women in the trades.
6. Joanna Sharff came in to ask if the BOS had changed their minds and decided to place Community Power on the warrant. Dillon explained his position that an article would be premature. Keith discussed risk assessment and emergency reserves and that CPCNH is not necessarily ready. He doesn't think it is a good time for the Town to vote. He said he supports the concept but thinks it is premature.
7. Joanna asked about a statement the Energy Committee voted 4-1, to request to publish on the Town website. Dillon expressed concern that the Committee is advisory and should report information to the BOS. He doesn't think committees and boards should endorse any political position. Jason quoted from the Town website policy and that the statement contains opinion as well as fact and the statement would violate the policy.
8. Jason asked about Road Agent search status.
9. BOS reviewed the budget and warrant.

Respectfully submitted,

Dillon Gallagher

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday January 26, 2026, 6:30-8:30 pm**

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

1. Chairman Bourne called the meeting to order at 6:30pm
2. BOS reviewed checks, mail, and invoices.
3. Treasurer, Heidi Jaarsma, was in to discuss Town finances. She provided a balance sheets, tax rate computation, and fund balance retention. December 2025 assets and liabilities are \$4,039,809. Unredeemed taxes are up from \$45,986 to \$64,444. Estimated tax rates for 2026: Town 2.88, School 12.41, State School rate 1.06 and County 2.02.
4. The Treasurer presented a draft Warrant including several articles proposing the use of unassigned fund balance for Fire Department purchases. Also, the BOS would like to purchase a Buffalo Turbine Blower for the Highway Department.
5. Jason relayed some general information from the ZBA case and hearing on Tuesday. The case regards James Liggett and his property on Leavitt Hill Road.
6. BOS discussed scheduling a meeting with Hub66 to follow up on progress or lack thereof on Broadband in Cornish.
7. Keith moved, Dillon seconded to adjourn. Motion carried 3-0.
8. Adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Dillon Gallagher

Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday January 22, 2026, 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. BOS discussed the Avitar request to sign off on property value ratios.
4. Heidi Jaarsma came in to appoint Dale Lawrence as Deputy Treasurer. Keith moved, Dillon seconded to approve the appointment. Motion approved 3-0.
5. BOS called Skip Erskine to discuss the F550. It needs ball joints, alignment, steering stabilizer, multi-function switch, front pinion seal, and more. BOS approved Ford to repair a portion of the list. The remainder can be handled by the Highway Department.
6. Chief Boutillier, Bill Harthan, John Drye, and Walter Scott came in to discuss the LFRF, specifically the repeater relocation allocation. They provided bullet points and opinion provided by former Police Chief Doug Hackett. Chairman Bourne described the bullet points and expressed concern that the money was allocated to relocate the repeater from Green Mountain. The language in the actual grant description will be forwarded to the BOS. The Fire Department describes the new mobile radios are also considered mobile repeaters. Walter Scott interrupted the Chair. The Chief and Deputy Chief signaled that they would forward information necessary to the BOS. Dillon expressed his previously verbalized support for the Department and explained that an approach such as tonight's was counter-productive.
7. Treasurer Jaarsma came into the office to discuss budget numbers.
8. Dillon moves, seconded by Keith, to increase the wholly service related disabled veterans tax credit from \$1,400 to \$5,000 and to place the article on the Warrant. Affirmative 3-0.
9. BOS went to the upstairs conference room to meet with the Finance Committee.
10. Finance Committee members Bill Caterino, Scott Baker, Everett Cass, Lyle Parry, and Ginger Bulkeley were in attendance. Also in attendance was Treasurer, Heidi Jaarsma.
11. Chairman Bourne directed the group to page 4 (Itemized Statement of Appropriation and Expenditures w/2026 proposal).
12. Ginger asked about Tax Collector salary and Heidi explained her income is also supplemented by transactions.
13. Election is up due to 3 elections in 2026 versus 1 in 2025. Also, Town is obligated to pay for ADA voting device.
14. Audit is contracted.
15. Buildings & Grounds is decreased to reflect actual expenditures.
16. Cemetery fences were discussed. Lyle suggested a pilot program to have barrier chain fence at one cemetery.
17. Ginger suggested the BOS and Police should provide more explanation on hours of coverage.
18. Everett suggested having more part-time help for the Police Department.
19. Under Community & Recreation, Scott Baker wondered if it was time to clean the swales at CREA and how much it would cost. Lyle Parry asked if anyone was taking the time to control the wild roses.
20. Tim Schad showed up at 5:44pm.

21. A minor error was corrected zeroing out the pager line as it had been moved to radios & pagers. The budget also shows a new line for PPE. Everett suggested the PPE be tested for contamination.
22. Highway Department – Salaries full time increase due to 3% cost of living and bumped up money in anticipation of hiring a new Road Agent. Keith spoke about overtime. Bill Caterino asked about medical insurance. He thought an increase of 3.5% was small. Everett suggested a hard-hat rule for the department. Everett asked about the Road Improvement project. He suggested that the project should not be done by the Town. It should be done by a contractor. Scott Baker asked about the sand line. Dillon explained the Town was switching to manufactured sand the we want to budget enough to put up a fair stockpile. Bill Caterino asked about Road Supplies/Bridge category. It was raised to repair covered bridges damaged by delivery truck.
23. Keith moved, Dillon seconded, to adjourn. Motion approved 3-0.
24. Adjourned at 7:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dillon Gallagher

KEB JB

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday January 19, 2026, 6:30-8:30 pm**

Present: Jason Bourne, Chair, Keith Beardslee
Absent: Dillon Gallagher

Chairman Bourne called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

BOS reviewed checks, mail, and invoices.

Mary Curtis provided documentation which had been submitted in support of an LFRF grant for a repeater installation on Green Mountain and the relocation of a repeater to Burr Road.

The BOS discussed the retirement party for former Chief of Police Doug Hackett.

The BOS reviewed transaction reports from accounts previously questioned during a budget review on January 15th.

Selectman Beardslee recommended keeping the Town Office maintenance budget level at \$3100.

Mary Curtis explained that postage for the Town Offices was underspent due to a stockpile of stamps she had been using from a prior year's purchase.

The BOS reviewed changes to the proposed budget.

The BOS discussed manufactured sand and potential beneficial impacts on gravel roads.

Selectman Bourne reviewed a vote on Article 2 of the warrant from Town Meeting in 2022 where the town voted 206-101 in the affirmative to have two separate sessions for Town Meeting; one ballot session and a separate business meeting. Selectman Bourne suggested the vote indicates a substantial preference for holding the business meetings on Saturday, reinforcing the BOS decision to continue that practice. Selectman Beardslee stated that he felt more residents would be able to attend a Saturday business meeting.

BOS discussed preparations for the upcoming Town Meeting and the need to prepare warrant articles and talking points for discussion.

Selectman Beardslee moved to adjourn. Selectman Bourne seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
Meeting adjourned 8:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne

KEB JB

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday January 15, 2026, 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. Jason moved, Keith seconded, that the BOS accept the Cornish Police Highway Safety Grant Agreement for FFY 2026. The vote was affirmative 3-0.
4. The Selectboard, in a majority vote, accepted the terms of the Highway Safety Grant as presented in the amount of \$1,600.00 and the amended grant terms in the amount of \$1,792.50 as presented in the Grant Agreement Amendment Notice for an adjusted total grant limitation of \$3,392.50.
5. Chief Boutilier, John Drye, Chris Chilton, and Walter Scott came in to discuss LFRF funds for the relocation of the repeaters from Green Mountain to the Town House Road Fire Station. The Town was overbilled. Doug Hackett had made arrangements with Burlington Communications for the refund due the Town to secure mobile radios for the Fire Department. The BOS did not allocate LFRF for mobile radios, thus the money cannot be used for the purpose. John Drye indicated that the mobiles may have capabilities as local repeaters. The issue will be resolved after the LFRF language is reviewed and clarified and the capabilities of the mobile radios are clearly defined. The Fire Department will follow up with the BOS.
6. BOS worked on the 2026 budget.
7. Keith moved to adjourn. Jason seconded. Vote was in the affirmative.
8. Adjourned at 7:57.

Respectfully submitted,

Dillon Gallagher

10/27/26

Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday January 12, 2026, 6:30-8:30 pm

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

1. The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. Board members signed checks and reviewed the mail and invoices.
3. Joanna Sharf was in to follow up on email she had sent to the BOS regarding language surrounding the proposed Warrant Article for Cornish to adopt Community Power. The BOS explained what a warned meeting is. Keith reminded her that there was always the opportunity to get an article on the Warrant. The deadline is February 3, 2026.
4. BOS called Skip Erskine to ask about sander parts. He explained that the Town has 2 types of sanders and need 2 types of spinner motors. He asked about truck tires. He needs rears to run with chains. He has enough on hand to replace the rears on the '02. He will need 4 rears for the '17 truck. Skip asked why Trinity Church has not been on the list of Town buildings to be plowed. BOS thought it would be good to keep open. Skip will take care of it.
5. BOS turned their attention to the budget.
6. Keith moved, Dillon seconded to adjourn. Affirmative 3-0.
7. Adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dillon Gallagher

Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday January 8, 2026, 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 brought in a newspaper article. He told the BOS that New Hampshire is in bad shape energy wise. He wants BOS to complain to state elected officials about the state of affairs.
4. John Carlson came in to ask for a Warrant Article to increase the tax credit for 100% disabled vets. The possibility to raise the credit to \$5,000 from \$1,400 was previously brought up by Treasurer, Heidi Jaarsma.
5. Marie DeRusha came in to follow up on the information she had brought to the BOS. Keith thanked Marie for the information.
6. Chief Vivian came in to follow up on the Highway Safety Grant.
7. Jason moves that the BOS accept the \$3,392.50 Highway Safety Grant. Keith seconds. Vote in the affirmative 3-0.
8. The Board of Selectmen, in a majority vote, accepted the terms of the Highway Safety Grant as presented in the amount of \$3,392.50.
9. Phyllis Edwards, representing Bone Builders, came in to request that the group move to the upstairs of the Town Office Monday and Thursday mornings from 9-10. She wants to put the weight tub in the "storage area up front". Jason pointed out that the Town has had multiple requests to store items for other groups. Phyllis pointed out that it wasn't really storage. Jason pointed out that there are 2 requests on the table. 1. Use of the Town Office, 2. Storage of the weight tub. She wants to use the Town Office because it is warmer. Jason asked if access would be a problem. She said most of the clients would use the stairs. She reported that the Town Hall is very cold. The Modine heaters are set to the lowest setting. BOS pointed out that the mini-splits are very inefficient at temps lower than 20 degrees. Keith mentioned the Flat Fire Station. He thought that the quilters used it. Phyllis doesn't think there is sufficient parking and not enough space for the exercise. 10-12 quilters with sewing machines barely fit. Keith thinks that the issue for the venue is the heat. He thinks that if the heaters were run according to a set of instructions so they could provide more heat. She pointed out that it was the group's idea to use the Town Office. Jason thought programmable thermostats might improve the situation. Jason asked the Board their opinion on the situation. Keith pointed out that there are many historical items, especially on the walls. Phyllis went upstairs to look at the walls. She reported that the area seemed adequate. She agreed that the Town Hall would still be the proper site.
10. BOS discussed Emergency Management planning.
11. Jason moved, BOS approve, December minutes. Dillon seconded. Affirmative 3-0.
12. BOS called Emergency Management Director Dale Lawrence. The BOS had 2 questions. 1. Is there anything materially different in the contract from the proposal. No. 2. The BOS asked about Emergency Management and shelters.
13. The Flat Fire Station can accommodate 40. The Town Hall could also serve as an emergency shelter. Jason asked about the school being listed as an emergency shelter. She believes that it became a shelter in the 90's. The school was able to get a backup generator if it was designated

as such. Dale asked the state if the Town could update the EOP ourselves. She will update the Board on Monday.

14. Jason moves that BOS approves signs to be placed on Town property to announce former Chief Hackett's retirement celebration as per Kellie Patterson-Parry's request. Dillon seconds. Vote in the affirmative 3-0.
15. BOS asked Kellie if she could provide a summary of tasks in her cleaning routine in the Town Office and Town Hall. Town Hall 1-2 hours to vacuum, clean bathroom and remove garbage. BOS asked her about the Town Hall vacuum as Audrey Jacquier reported that Willing Hands could not find the vacuum. It was an older Electrolux commercial.
16. BOS called Jeff Ketchen regarding the Health Officer position. He is willing to serve as the HO again. The BOS expressed their gratitude.
17. BOS asked Heidi Jaarsma, Treasurer, about LFRF funds. Heidi asked about the Treasurers stipend. Heidi recommended the website administration should receive a minimal stipend so she will be covered under the Town's liability Insurance.
18. Keith moved, Jason seconded. Adjourned at 6:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dillon Gallagher

Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday January 5, 2026, 6:30-8:30 pm

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

1. The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. Board members signed checks and reviewed the mail and invoices.
3. Troy brought in intents to cut to be signed.
4. Heidi Jaarsma, Treasurer, came in to discuss timing of Finance Committee, Budget Hearing, and Town Meeting. Possible Finance Committee dates are January 19, 22, or 29. Possible Budget hearing dates are February 2nd or 9th. Town Meeting ballot session will be on March 10th. BOS discussed timing of Town Meeting: traditional Tuesday, or Saturday the 14th. BOS agreed this year the meeting will be held on the 14th at 10:00am. The Budget Hearing will be on February 2nd at 7:00pm and Finance Committee Meeting will be 1/22/2026 at 5:00pm.
5. Heidi brought up total disability Veteran's tax credits. In 1991 the Town enacted an amount of \$1,400.00. The maximum for a totally disabled (from service) credit is \$5,000.00. Any change would need to be on the warrant. She also brought up elderly taxes. She has had a request for a photo to be on the Town Report cover of the Meeting House Clock. It has been a black and white graphic for about 10 years. Finally, she talked about the website policy. BOS will review the policy.
6. Maria DeRusha, General Assistance, came in to give information on Town Welfare applications and paperwork. She gave a brief description and explained she could offer more information soon if necessary.
7. Dillon Gallagher swore in Justin Vivian as Police Chief.
8. BOS and Chief Vivian reviewed the Highway Safety Grant. The Chief and the BOS will follow up on Thursday.
9. Joanna Sharff came in to tell BOS that the Committee had voted 4-1 to recommend that an article to establish Community Power in Cornish be placed on the warrant. Dillon asked if we were in a similar position as last year as far as rates were concerned. Yes. Joanna explained it wasn't vote on at Town Meeting last year because of some risk management concerns. The Committee feels that CPCNH is in a better position. Joanna stated that there are other potential benefits to CPCNH. Dillon asked about these benefits: weatherization, solar projects, advocacy at the state level to name a few. She thinks prices may be more stable in the long run, but will vary and may become higher than the utilities at times. Jason explained CPCNH's policy now does not count revenue as an asset as they had in the past.
10. Tim Schad called. He asked about gravel road improvement. He reiterated his desire for improvements.
11. Jason made a motion to reflect that on December 4th the BOS accepted a check from Tristan Robison of the prorated money owed to the Town for CDL B training and that the minutes shall reflect the correction. Keith seconded, vote in the affirmative 3-0.
12. Jason pointed out that the website had been updated to reflect "Open Position: Town Health Officer." BOS wondered about other methods to share the news.
13. BOS will call Dale Lawrence on Thursday to confer on the proposed contract between the Town and Dingee Machine.
14. BOS discussed the Town website policy as necessary to adapt to the new .gov domain.
15. Keith, Jason voted to adjourn. Motion unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 9:27.

Respectfully submitted,
Dillon Gallagher