

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

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30. Board members reviewed mail, invoices and signed checks.

Bill Harthan stopped in. Following the recommendation of Chief Boutelier and Bob Rice and earlier discussion among the Board members, the Chair asked Bill if he would be willing to serve as Fire Chief. He agreed. He will be officially sworn at the next Select Board meeting on Thursday but the Board will consider the appointment effective as of April 1. When asked, Bill concurred with Chief Boutelier's recommendation that Leo Maslan be appointed Fire Warden saying "many towns would be delighted to have him. He's all about fighting forest fires." The position of Deputy Chief will be determined by vote of fire department members at the next meeting.

Bill told the Board he is moving forward on getting the department air bottles pressure tested and the air compressor serviced ASAP. Research and calculations on how best to project the cost for a replacement fire truck in 15 years is ongoing.

Richard Thompson chair of the Energy Committee came in with Bill Schmidt. As Chair, Richard asked that Bill be appointed as an alternate representative to CPCNH. Jason moved Bill Schmidt be appointed as alternate representative to CPCNH. Dillon seconded. Motion approved.

The Energy Committee would like access to a Zoom account. The Town doesn't have a Zoom account. Richard will research what a ZOOM account would cost the Town. Energy Committee will meet again on April 12. The Energy Committee would like to reimburse Johanna Sharff for the money she spent for the ZOOM account the Committee has been using. He was given the procedure for doing that. He asked if the Board had reviewed the Committee's statement regarding CPCNH. It has not.

David Monette asked for clarification on the required setback for a proposed addition to an existing building. On a site visit the previous Thursday the Board had determined the wall of the existing building was at approximately 30' from the ROW as determined by the Board. He asked about contacting the road agent as far as rebuilding the retaining wall. He also asked about how to register a managed forest plan. The Board directed him to Administrative Assistant, Mary Curtis.

Chris Chilton came into inquire about the deciding qualifications and factors the Board took into account when making the appointment for a new road agent.

Linda Fuerst and Jason Tetu came in to address the possibility of using part of the CREA property to drill a well. The grant used to purchase the property came with restrictions governing how the property can be used. Using even a small portion of the property for a well to supply water for the school, the town hall, the fairgrounds and the building housing the fire station and police station would require filing a request for a conversion.

Because the Select Board is responsible for all Town property, a conversion request would need to be initiated by the Board. A request for a grant for the well would also need to come from the Town. Jason

Tetu said he could lay out the steps for the Board and both indicated they would be willing to help facilitate the process.

Board members asked a number of questions. Why, given the dry wells the school has dug on school property in the past, did they think a well dug on CREA property, across the road from the school would yield an adequate water supply? Jason Tetu replied that in the discussions with DES during the last attempt to drill for non-polluted water, the hydrologist had indicated the likelihood of finding water there was very high given the underlying geology. The location was not pursued at the time because the grant the school had received stipulated the well had to be on school property. Linda and Jason had brought along a map which they left for the Board on which they pinpointed a location to the left of the baseball field.

They were asked if they believed grant money was available for the well. They believe it is a possibility.

They were asked how they envisioned the water would be pumped from the new well to the users. They outlined the course believed to be the most efficient.

Dillon asked if they knew if the water in the Town Hall is potable. Neither knew the answer. The water currently used by the school is also the source of water for the Town Hall. Water for the school currently is filtered through a filtration system to remove PFAS substances. The Board has asked former school supervisors for test results showing the water in the Town Hall is potable but has never received that information.

Board members will discuss how the Board wants to proceed with the request.

Dillon said Skip had brought a couple of issues involving Town roads to his attention. Water is coming up through the road in a section of West Pass Road. The source of the water is unknown but the issue needs to be addressed because if the volume increases it could wash out the road. There is a 4' squash pipe on Burr Road that is exactly as wide as the road, that is, it is too short. The squash pipe is in bad shape and needs out flow header to be improved.

The Board called Justin Walker about driveway material (crushed rock) located where he intends to put a driveway to access the barn for which he has filed a building permit. He was reminded he needs a driveway permit from the Planning Board. He was also asked to move the material a bit as, at the moment, it would divert water running down the ditch into the Town road.

The Board decided to meet with Erich Weeks, the new road agent, at the highway department garage at 7 a.m. on Wednesday. Board members wrote notices to warn the meeting and posted them at the Town Office and Town Hall on the way home.

At 8:52 Keith moved to adjourn the meeting. Dillon seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Keith Beardslee

JB KEB

**Town of Cornish**  
**Selectmen's Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, March 26, 2026 4:00-6:00 pm**

Present: Dillon Gallagher Chair, Jason Bourne, Keith Beardslee

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

The Board made a site visit to David Monette's property on Dingleton Hill. He wants to re build a stone wall that once served as the foundation to a barn that is now gone but now serves as a retaining wall for the town road. The wall is on his property but in the town ROW. The board advised him to coordinate with the Road Agent.

The Board made site visits to Mastlands and the Justin Walker property to ensure the proposed structures meet Zoning set back requirements.

The Board arrived at the Town office at approximately 5:30. Board members read the mail folder and reviewed invoices.

Include in the mail was documentation that a bond for the tower on Burr Road had been issued to the new owners.

Included in the mail was a message from Troy Simino requesting the Board contact him in regards to work on a driveway.

Steve Monette asked if he could begin shortly in preparation for spring work on cemeteries. The Board approved him doing so. He reminded the Board that Child's cemetery exit drive needs to be addressed and an ash tree needs to be removed. The Board has been asked repeatedly by residents to address grave stones that have broken and been moved to the perimeter of cemeteries. The Board suggested that while Steve is in the preparation mode for Spring, he could find and uncover them for the Board.

Bob Rice stopped in briefly and offered his opinion as to who the Board should appoint as Fire Chief.

Board members discussed next steps to take in appointing the next Fire Chief and approved the Chair acting on its behalf take the next step in order to facilitate moving forward with the appointment.

The Board called Troy Simino. Although the Board does not issue driveway permits, it is responsible for town roads and in that capacity, in a previous meeting, had suggested that Troy Simino halt work on installing a driveway until the owner received a driveway permit. Troy, acting as the owner's agent had requested the permit. The Chair of the Planning Board and the acting road agent had approved the permit. The Fire Chief had required modification to the entrance before he would approve the permit. The Board approved proceeding with installing the drive.

The Board reviewed a draft of a notice of noncompliance with the Zoning Ordinance and determined next steps to take prior to issuing the notice. The Board authorized the Chair to take the next step.

Board members discussed the building permit document and how best to inform residents that a change of use to an existing building requires a certificate of Zoning compliance.

Board members discussed a way to improve timeliness and access to drafts of the Board's minutes on the part of the public without adding to the workload of those who maintain the Town's website.

At 7:31 Jason moved the meeting adjourn. Dillon Seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Keith Beardslee

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30. Board members reviewed mail, invoices and signed checks.

Bill Wall brought the Board's attention to an article about a possible landfill closing in Vermont.

An email from the Energy Committee inquired about the existence of a Town Zoom account. Dillon recalled the Town had one during the pandemic but doesn't know if the subscription has been renewed. The Town Treasurer will probably know.

At the request of the Energy Committee Board members signed a letter in support of legislation that extends the time frame for net metering to 20 years after a solar project is built.

Board members discussed possible candidates to be appointed to the Energy Committee. The Board decided to review the Energy Committee's statement of purpose before appointing new alternates.

Board members discussed a draft notice of noncompliance the Board may possibly issue to the holders of a camping permit. They also reviewed the property file which contains letters from the Select Board to the property owner dating back as early as 2010. The letters addressed noncompliance with the Zoning Ordinance on the part of the property owner and one noted the violation of NH RSA 483-B otherwise known as the New Hampshire Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act.

Board members reviewed and made a modification to the Road Agent Employment Agreement it had earlier approved so that the Employment Agreement accurately reflects the offer the Board had extended in the previous meeting. They also made minor edits to the Highway Department Policies document.

Board members discussed buying a cell phone for the road agent. The phone would belong to the Town and would be used solely for town business. The Town would then have full access to all the cell phone data. The cell phone would allow the road agent to make and receive work related phone calls from his house without compromising the privacy of his personal land line or cell phone.

They went on to discuss using google work space as an environment for forms, spread sheets etc. to collect and store data. A tablet using a Chrome browser would allow the road agent to record data in the field that would later automatically upload to google work space.

At 8:00 citing RSA 91-A: 3, II(b) Jason moved the Board enter executive session. Dillon Seconded. Keith, Aye, Jason, Aye Dillon Aye.

Having exited nonpublic session, Jason moved to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session held on March 23, 2026. Dillon Seconded. Keith, Aye. Jason, Aye. Dillon, Aye.

At 9:20 Jason moved to adjourn. Dillon Seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted, Keith Beardslee

KAB ~~DB~~ C/B

**Town of Cornish  
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, March 19, 2026 4:00-6:00 pm**

Present: Dillon Gallagher Chair, Jason Bourne, Keith Beardslee

The chair called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

Board members reviewed the mail folder and invoices.

Include in the mail was payment from the responsible party for damage done to the covered bridge in Squag City.

Skip reported highway department spent the last few days filling in ruts. There is no bad mud. Harrington Road has a bad spot which he addressed. It may be because the ditch is insufficient. The ditch is insufficient because a big maple is in the way. He is keeping in touch with Reed's re the rear hubs for 02. They have everything they need except the hubs. The Town will get a bill from Windmill for nuts for the grader wheels. The existing ones are all done.

David Monette 171 Dingleton Hill Road had a number of questions for the Board. One regarded rebuilding a stone wall on his property but possibly in the Town ROW. The Board will make a site visit to the property next Thursday at 4 pm.

He asked if renovating an existing shed without changing the footprint requires a permit. The answer was no. Interior work on an existing house does not require a building permit either.

He asked whether burying a power line adjacent to the property line was permitted or does he need to meet setback requirements. The Board didn't have an answer for him.

Bill Harthan reported he is doing research in an attempt to arrive at a realistic number for the cost of replacing the second fire truck 15 years from now. This effort is being made in anticipation of the need to increase the amount in the annual warrant article for the Fire Department capital reserve fund. He is also reviewing cost of testing the air tanks. The tanks should be tested every three years and it's been five. The FD has 28 tanks. The compressor that fills them is co-owned with Plainfield FD and resides in the Townhouse station. The FD will try to split the cost of the trip charge with Plainfield FD.

The Board reviewed section 8A- 5 of the zoning ordinance which addresses campsite permits. The cash receipt for the camping permit issued to campers who have not renewed the permit but have continued to camp on the property was issued 11/4/2025.

At 5:02 citing RSA 91-A: 3, II(b) Jason moved the Board enter nonpublic session. Dillon seconded. Jason Aye, Dillon Aye, Keith Aye.

Having exited nonpublic session Keith moved to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session. Jason seconded. Jason, Aye. Dillon, Aye. Keith. Aye.

The Board briefly discussed the "Nonpayment of Bond premium" notice the Town has received. The Bond to ensure decommissioning costs were borne by the owner was required by the Zoning Board when it granted approval for the Tower on Burr Road.

Keith moved to adjourn at 6:48. Jason Seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Keith Beardslee

**Town of Cornish  
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 16, 2026 6:30-8:30 pm**

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30.

Board members reviewed mail, invoices and signed checks.

Administrative Assistant Mary Curtis reported Gillian Goodwin came in with minutes from last year in which the Board's correspondence with town council regarding the library project was mentioned. Ms. Goodwin asked to see the correspondence. Mary refused the request on the basis of attorney client privilege.

Mary reported Rob Gendron had informed her he can start work on April 1.

Chief Boutilier came in to report on a brush fire that required a response from the Fire Department. The department had received a call about an unattended brush pile fire. The smoke and fumes from the fire were toxic enough to require the fire fighters to wear air packs. The owner had been warned last Fall not to burn the pile because of what was in the pile. The Chief called DES and the Forest Ranger.

Chief Boutilier recommended the Select Board appoint Bill Harthan as Chief and Leo Maslan as Fire Warden.

The Town had received reimbursement from Burlington Communications since the last Board meeting. Board members briefly discussed the lack of a credit memo from Burlington Communications detailing how the figure was determined.

The Town had also received notice that the party responsible for the tower on Burr Road has failed to make payment for the bond required by the Town when permission was granted to install the tower. Board members discussed what action to take.

In accordance with the prevailing practice of the Board in which the Board member beginning the third year of his/her term serves as Chair, Jason nominated Dillon to serve as Chair for the upcoming year. Keith seconded. Motion approved.

Dillon brought up items for the Board to address when thinking about cemeteries this year: over turned and/or discarded grave stones, green burial, fencing, and paving the entrance to Childs cemetery. The Board also needs to look at a town cemetery on private property.

A camping permit that was issued in November has not been renewed. Camping permits are issued for 30 days and this permit has not been renewed. Mary will pull the permit so the Board knows exactly when it was issued when it addresses the permit holder.

Jason made a motion to adopt the Highway Department Policies and the 2026 Goals and Objectives for the Highway Department, both dated 3-15-26. Keith seconded. Motion approved.

Jason made a motion to adopt the Road Agent Job Description as amended. Keith seconded. Motion approved.

Board members discussed the next steps to follow up with an applicant.

At 8:40 Keith made a motion to adjourn. Jason seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Keith Beardslee

**Town of Cornish**  
**Selectmen's Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, March 12, 2026 4:00-6:00 pm**

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

The chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Board members reviewed the mail folder and invoices.

Since Keith was late for the meeting, Dillon took minutes for the following portion.

Fire Department Chief Boutillier appeared and expressed his concern about Warrant Article 19. He is concerned that should the Warrant Article be approved as presented it will eliminate the possibility of securing one or more grants to replace the hoses. He asked about the best way to address the problem.

He also announced he is stepping down as Chief at the end of the month.

Bill Harthan, Deputy Chief was also present to follow up on the issues surrounding Warrant Article 19. He had come before the Board in the previous meeting to address the same concern. He stated that at a point in the near future, any hose manufactured before 06 will no longer be considered serviceable. He has researched grants and the Fire Department will be applying for some this year. He feels they have a 3 year window to seek grants. He will make a motion to amend the article so the requested funds can be used as matching funds if a grant is received. Keith, having arrived in time to hear Bill's presentation suggested he write out a draft of the amendment. Keith said having heard Bill's concern at the previous meeting he had had a brief discussion with Town Moderator Gwyn Gallagher about the subject and Gwyn was happy to help Bill with the wording of the amendment. Gwyn also told Keith the wording is important because the State DRA reviews the warrant articles passed at Town Meeting and can reject articles that aren't properly worded.

Bill was also told Town Treasurer, Heidi Jaarsma might also be able to help with the wording since she is very familiar with the wording required for warrant articles.

Bill brought up his concern that the current amount requested annually for the capital reserve fund will be insufficient to buy a new fire truck when it is needed. Dillon suggested the Fire Department attempt to estimate the cost of a new Fire Truck 15 years from now. Keith suggested a thorough presentation that provides some detail as to how the estimate was created would make it more likely voters will approve an increase.

Skip Erskine reported the roads are holding up well to date with the exception of some muddy sections on East Road and Lang Road.

He reported a truck delivering drywall to a house under construction at the bottom of Perkins Road had disregarded the "Road Posted" sign. He called Police Chief Justin Vivian who came to the location took down the information necessary for the Town to pursue the issue.

On Friday Skip will have the road crew set up the school gym for the Business portion of Town Meeting.

The forecast indicates a bit of snow late Friday and early Saturday. Skip will have the road crew plow the paved roads. The gravel roads will not be plowed but will be sanded. All Board members agreed this is the prudent approach.

Keith took over the responsibility of writing the session minutes.

At 4:29 citing 91-A: 3, II(b) Jason moved the Board enter nonpublic session. Dillon seconded. Jason Aye, Dillon Aye, Keith Aye.

Immediately upon re-entering public session at 5:22 Jason moved we seal the minutes from the nonpublic session. Dillon Seconded. Motion approved.

The Board approved a request from the school nurse to store bikes in town hall overnight on May 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>. The request was made in conjunction with a school activity. Jason will inform her of the Board's decision and ask her if she knows of any students who might act as microphone runners at the Town Meeting.

Jason suggested we discuss answers to some questions that may be raised at Town Meeting during discussion about specific warrant articles. The Board discussed possible paving projects for 2026. It discussed the reasoning behind the projected increase in labor costs in the highway department over the amount budgeted in 2025. It discussed the reasons for the underspend in the highway department, the entire budget and capital reserve funds.

Jason recused himself at 6:31 so the Board could discuss road agent candidates.

Dillon and Keith discussed the qualifications of the candidates.

Dillon moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:40. Keith seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dillon Gallagher  
Keith Beardslee

KEB QB

**Town of Cornish  
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 11, 2026 5:30-7:50 pm**

Present: Dillon Gallagher, Keith Beardslee

Dillon called the meeting to order at 5:31.

Dillon immediately made a motion to enter nonpublic session citing 91-A:3,II (b). Keith Seconded. Dillon, Aye. Keith, Aye.

Having exited nonpublic session Keith moved to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session. Dillon seconded. Dillon, Aye. Keith, Aye.

Dillon makes a motion to adjourn at 7:52. Keith Seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Keith Beardslee

*JLB* *KEB*

**Town of Cornish  
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 9, 2026 6:30-8:30 pm**

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

The chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Board members signed checks, reviewed the mail folder and invoices.

Bill Harthan to discuss the Warrant Article 19 which if approved would authorize spending \$15,040 for the purchase of hose for the fire department. The Fire Department officers met recently and decided they would like to avoid buying half what they need and instead go for a grant that would allow the Department to replace all the hose that needs replacing. Apparently, the department may need matching funds for that grant. The amount of matching funds needed is, as of now, undetermined. Bill asked how to go about changing the warrant article with wording that would allow the money to be used for matching money for the grant. The board suggested Bill should talk to the moderator about how to address the wording in the warrant article.

Kevin Noble is setting up the sound system for the business portion of Town Meeting on Saturday and came in to ask about a couple details. The Board needs to find a couple of runners for the portable microphones. Jason will take care of contacting the school to be certain Kevin can have access to the Gym at 8 a.m. Saturday morning. Kevin also mentioned that Sullivan County will be joining CPCNH next month. He asked if it would be appropriate to announce this at Town Meeting. Residents who want to join could do so after Sullivan County joins CPCNH. Jason mentioned that at the moment there will be no financial advantage to the resident in doing so.

Johanna Sharf and Susanne Haseman appeared asking the Board to sign the letter to support the bill SB538 extending net metering for 20 years rather than ending in 2040 as is now the case. The bill originated in the senate. The letter would support the bill when it goes to the house. They also asked about the wording in the statement regarding developments at CPCNH that the Energy Committee would like to put on its web site page and in Connect Cornish. The Board couldn't find the statement so Johanna re-sent the email to the town office and individual members.

Keith moved to approve February's minutes as amended. Dillon seconded. Motion approved.

Board members discussed how to address the inclusion of the District 1 Executive Councilor's statement in the Town report. Dillon said we should mention it at Town meeting so it will be included in the minutes and make printed copies of the District 2 Executive Councilor's statement readily available. Jason suggests it may be possible to include an addendum to the digital copy that goes to the State to correct the record.

Jason recused himself at 8:00 pm.

Dillon moved the Board enter non -public session citing 91-A:3,II(b). Keith seconded. Keith Aye. Dillon Aye.

Having exited non-public session at 9:30, Keith moved to seal the minutes of the non public session. Dillon seconded. Dillon Aye. Keith Aye.

At 9:30 Keith moved to adjourn. Dillon seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Keith Beardslee

**Town of Cornish  
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, March 5, 2026 4:00-6:00 pm**

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

The chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Board members reviewed the mail folder and invoices.

Todd Goad from Burlington Communications called in response to a request from the Board for a progress report on the refund the Town is due for over payment for the transmitter relocation and installation project. Mr. Goad responded that locating the documentation for the entire project has been challenging because the order was placed by former Police Chief Doug Hackett through the Hanover PD account. He said Mr. Hackett facilitated purchasing from Burlington Communications for a number of towns in his position with Hanover Dispatch and that added to the difficulty locating the documentation for the Cornish project.

The Board offered to email information on the two payments the Town made to Burlington Communications and Mr. Joad said that would be helpful. He said the original quote made out to Mr. Hackett and dated July 10, 2023 was for \$62,040.

The Board requested all documentation relating to the original proposal, the change order when the transmitter formerly located on Green Mountain was moved to the Townhouse Fire Station, the credit memo reflecting the amount to be refunded and all email exchanges that took place about the Cornish project between Mr. Hackett and Burlington Communications.

In the course of the conversation with Mr. Goad it became apparent that the transmitter installed on Green Mountain reaches VT towns along the river and that Hanover Dispatch may act as a backup for some of those Towns. Mr. Goad didn't know if the transmitter on Green Mountain was used by Hanover Dispatch to serve towns other than Cornish. Mr. Goad said the Board would need to ask Mr. Hackett or Hanover Dispatch to find out if that is occurring.

Mr. Goad expressed that Cornish must own the repeater. The subject came up for discussion because Board members have wondered, given the fee the Town pays Hanover Dispatch for its service and given the cost to the Town of the new transmitter on Green Mountain, if Hanover Dispatch is using the transmitter to offer service to other towns. In a brief discussion following the phone call, Dillon noted the Board should determine who owns the transmitter.

Executive Councilor Karen Liot-Hill appeared before the board to introduce herself and present her yearend statement. Earlier in the week Town residents had noticed and expressed concern that year end statement from Executive Councilor Joe Kenney appears in the Town Report. Mr. Kenney represents District 1. The Town of Cornish is in District 2. The District Boundaries were changed in 2022 following the 2020 census and the inclusion of Mr. Kenny's statement in the Town Report is a mistake.

Dillon suggested Executive Councilor Liot-Hill's yearend report be printed and available to all at Town Meeting.

Citing RSA 91-A:3, II (b) Jason moved to enter nonpublic session at 4:28. Dillon seconded. Motion approved.

See minutes from the nonpublic session held on 3-5-2026.

Noting Skip's conflict of interest as an employee of Gallagher Tree Service, Jason and Keith acting as the majority of the Board approved the Gallagher Tree Service proposal to remove a tree on Center Road that is split. The tree cannot be removed by the highway department due to its location and nature of the damage.

Jason will contact Hub 66 to check on schedule.

The Board reviewed and edited the draft of the Employment Agreement.

Richard Thompson stopped in to inform the Select Board that he is now Chair of the Energy Committee. Acting on behalf of the Energy Committee he requested Susanne Haseman be appointed a full member and Stuart Foote be appointed an alternate member.

Jason moved to appoint Susanne Haseman as a full member of the Energy Committee. Dillon seconded. Motion approved.

Richard also asked if the Board would sign the letter, it had received supporting a bill that enables 20 year financing for municipal solar projects. The Board deferred action for the moment.

The Board finished editing the Employment Agreement and Jason emailed the edited version to Dillon and Keith.

Jason recused himself from the meeting at 6:35.

Dillon and Keith discussed times to interview the two finalists for the road agent position.

At 6:55 Dillon moved to adjourn. Keith seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Keith Beardslee

**Town of Cornish  
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 2, 2026 6:30-8:30 pm**

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

The chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Board members signed checks, reviewed the mail folder and invoices.

At 6:33 Chairman Bourne moved to enter nonpublic session citing RSA 91A:3 II (b). Dillon seconded. Motion approved.

At 7:01 Jason moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session. Dillon seconded. Motion approved.

In a meeting with the Board on Thursday February 26, Skip had suggested, given the weather forecast, the Board direct him to post the roads at the beginning of this week. Dillon moved to post roads effective midnight Monday March 2. Jason seconded. Motion approved.

The Board called Skip. Skip had been in touch with the road agent in Plainfield and coordinating with Plainfield will post the roads on Wednesday.

Skip reported the 02 truck is temporarily out of service while waiting on parts to change over the rear dual rim assemblies. Alex Carpenter resigned his position without notice at the end of last week so the Town is short a truck driver. Skip will reach out to Steve Monette who earlier this winter offered to help out and see if he is available to drive the 550. The 550 could open up the roads on the route Alex has been plowing until one of the large trucks could plow it properly.

A rear tire on the backhoe is at Bellows Falls Tire to have the tube replaced. It should be back on Tuesday. Skip noted that Bellows Falls Tire is less expensive than Pete's Tire Barn.

Skip would like to have the highway department crew move the voting booths from the Town Hall to the school on Thursday rather than Friday because rain is forecast for Friday. He was advised to coordinate with the school.

Jason reported that after multiple attempts he was able to talk with Sara Freeman, Associate at Drummond Woodsum, on Thursday regarding the Board's need for an employment contract for the Road Agent. Acting as Chair and on behalf of the Board he authorized Ms. Freeman to draft an employment contract. The draft of the employment agreement was in this meeting's mail folder. Board members briefly discussed its features and agreed each need to thoroughly review it before proceeding.

Keith moved to authorize the Chair to send a letter to Ekman Engineering authorizing it to proceed with submitting NHDOT form 4 Load rating to NHDOT for bridge #175-143 (Leavitt Hill Road bridge over Blow me Down Brook). Dillon seconded. Motion approved. Dillon noted that when the bridge proposal from Ekman Engineering was presented to the Town, filing the Form was presented as an option, not as mandatory. Since filing the Form costs the Town \$2,400 and does not benefit the Town, the Board at that time didn't choose that option. The recent urgent request from NHDOT via Ekman Engineering makes it appear the Form is, in fact, necessary.

The Chair sent an email to Kurt Biron at Eckman Engineering authorizing filing the form.

Board members discussed the issues factoring into appointing a new road agent.

Burlington Communications has not been prompt in refunding the money it owes the Town. The Board will request Mary Curtis, Administrative Assistant, to schedule a phone call with the Burlington Communications contact during the Board's meeting on Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Board members discussed their disappointment with the lack of accuracy in the new tax maps from Avitar and, given the amount of money the Town annually pays Avitar for accurate property assessment, Avitar's overall performance.

At 8:41 Dillon moved to adjourn the meeting. Jason seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Keith Beardslee