

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday August 3, 2026 6:30-8:30 pm**

Present: Dillon Gallagher (chair), Jason Bourne

Absent: Keith Beardslee

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

BOS reviewed invoices, checks, and mail.

Road Agent Erich Weeks reported that Bellows Falls Tire was looking for payment on an invoice which did not appear to be for the Highway Department. Eric thought that they may be confused with a returned tire.

Mary Curtis told the BOS that Steven Monette wanted to purchase new flags for the cemeteries. Mary reported that Steve is getting free assistance from the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee regional planning commission to complete a plan for the recycling center.

David Monette brought in some metal brush bristles left behind after the chip sealing and reported that there are many more. He asked if the metal could be a hazard. Selectman Gallagher asked Mr. Monette what he thought of the chip sealing on Dingleton Hill. Mr. Monette reported it was interesting and somewhat spongy. Selectman Gallagher explained the intent was to preserve the pavement.

Matt Dunn from East Road visited with the BOS to discuss gravel road work proposed for East Road. Selectman Gallagher explained the challenges blending a raised road into a paved driveway and asked Mr. Dunn what his thoughts were. Mr. Dunn said that he was not a fan of raising the driveway to make it steeper and asked if it would be possible to dig material out to maintain the height of the driveway. Selectman Gallagher said that taking material out in front of his driveway could potentially create a funnel leading to water running off into the property. Mr. Dunn said that water already runs into his property from his driveway and he would not want to make it worse. Mr. Dunn asked how far back from the driveway the town need to dig material out if that was feasible, without creating a funnel. Road agent Erich Weeks said in order to avoid creating a funnel, the town would need to dig further out, the further the better. Mr. Dunn asked if there was any expectation that the road remain the same height and what the town would do if all the driveways were paved. Selectman Gallagher said that the Town needs to address paved driveways where they intersect with gravel roads at the permitting level and explained that the town maintains a right-of-way which allows the town to perform maintenance which could include removing pavement in the ROW, if necessary. The BOS and Mr. Dunn agreed to meet at the driveway at 4pm on Thursday August 6.

Selectman Gallagher asked Road Agent Erich Weeks about measurements for the '02 truck. Erich reported that the truck was being measured for new hubs and that oil consumption was being inspected. Erich reported that he reached out to Osgood Welding regarding ladders for the plow trucks and was hoping to hear back soon.

Road Agent Erich Weeks reported that the highway department put another half-ton of hot patch on the bump on Stage Road.

Erich reported that Jacob Simino worked with the loader and has proposed repacking the steering pump cylinders and inspecting valves. An estimate of \$1400 plus or minus was provided. The BOS agreed it should be repaired by Mr. Simino. Selectman Gallagher asked if Mr. Simino would be able to rebuild plow hydraulic cylinders as well. Erich said he would ask Mr. Simino.

Erich Weeks reported that he had four more street signs to order.

Justin Walker met with the BOS to discuss heating controls for the Town Hall to lock out the heat pumps when the outside temperature dropped below efficient levels. Justin said it would be about \$1500 for parts and possibly a day to a day and half for labor, estimating about \$2000-2500 for labor. Selectman Gallagher suggested that the BOS approve the work. Selectman Bourne said that Selectman Beardslee was vocally in support of doing this to save electricity costs in the winter. Selectman Bourne said he was in support of the project. Mr. Walker said he would order parts and plan in the project.

Justin Walker said that he reviewed heating solutions for the Highway Department. Justin said a central heater would require cleanup of the mezzanine, which is loaded with supplies. Justin said Rinnai wall-mounted heaters could be installed at a cost of \$2500-3000 per unit installed, totaling roughly \$10,000.

Selectman Gallagher reported that Lyle Parry had received a call from Stone Vault asking if the Town would be needing more cemetery restoration work. Selectman Gallagher said that there was perpetual care budget and thought it would be good to understand what has been done already as there was not much documentation, if any, presented to the BOS.

BOS discussed a letter from NH Municipal Association regarding utilities and permits for installing poles and conduits in the Town's right of way.

Mike Duval visited with the BOS. Mike said that he thought the chip seal work done in town looked very good and said that the crack sealing done in advance of the chip seal improved the outcome. Mike provided historical perspective on paved road work in Cornish, based upon his recollection of how the roads were maintained including sections of Center Road and Dingleton Hill. Mike suggested that posting roads early in the spring to keep heavy trucks off of paved roads to preserve them.

Mike Duval asked about CREA property mowing. Selectman Gallagher asked what Mike would be mowing. Mike said anything that isn't hayed. Mike said he would wait until the haying was done and would mow what was left.

Mike reported having traveled the gravel roads with Road Agent Erich Weeks to locate grade stakes and under drain locations on East Road.

Selectman Bourne moved to adjourn. Selectman Gallagher seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned 8:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 6, 2026 3:30-6:00 pm**

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

Chair called the meeting to order at 4pm.

BOS met with Matt Dunn and Road Agent Erich Weeks on East Road to discuss proposed gravel road improvements and the transition of a built-up road to Mr. Dunn's paved driveway. Erich suggested a cut and removal of a small portion of the end of Mr. Dunn's paved driveway that is in Town's ROW to allow for a smoother transition from the road to Mr. Dunn's driveway using hardpack gravel. Mr. Dunn expressed some concern regarding the loss of pavement in his driveway but agreed that a transition from the road to the paved driveway would be best accomplished with the section of pavement removed.

BOS reviewed mail and invoices.

Selectman Beardslee reported on the cost of gravel road improvements, estimating a materials cost of \$1000/inch/tenth of a mile. Selectman Beardslee said that he felt transitions from newly improved gravel roads to sections which were not improved was nearly imperceptible. Selectman Beardslee and Selectman Gallagher discussed grading and the use of the grader for ditching.

Kathleen Maslan and Natasha Goodwin met with the BOS to discuss the use of Town property to conduct yoga classes. Ms. Maslan said that they had been using the space and were provided a key from Mary Curtis. Selectman Gallagher said that the BOS had not made any decision about that and that their use of the Town offices was not yet approved by the BOS. Ms. Maslan said that there was a scheduling conflict with Bone Builders at the Town Hall. Selectman Gallagher suggested that they be more flexible with their schedule and use the Town Hall. Selectman Beardslee said that the Town Offices contain items which could not be replaced, so the space should be limited to official Town activities. Ms. Maslan said that she would check the schedule with Mary Curtis to see when they might be able hold yoga classes there.

Selectman Gallagher said that a home was being delivered to a lot on North Parsonage Road with no building permit. Selectman Bourne asked if a permit had been submitted in the mail folder, then stated that there should not be one since the property did not have a 911 address yet due to a

driveway permitting issue. Selectman Gallagher said he would be following up on that issue at the next Planning Board meeting.

BOS called Drew MacDermott to discuss a request for any surveys or other sources which leads the Town to determine that a site on Town House Road is unbuildable, the Chearino/McSwain property. Mr. MacDermott said that the current residents were investigating plans for a small cabin on the property. Selectman Bourne referred to prior Zoning Board denials of applications for a variance for a smaller shed. Selectman Gallagher described the DOT driveway permit and the state ROW being 50 feet from the center line and referred to the 100' setback from water via the wetlands overlay district with the property being listed at 135' at the widest, creating an overlap of setbacks on the property and suggested that the owners could have the property surveyed if they like. Mr. MacDermott asked why the Zoning Board had denied a variance previously. Selectman Bourne said that it was due to the proposed building not meeting any setback requirements and the property having been listed and sold as unbuildable. Mr. MacDermott confirmed that he had a copy of the deed and a copy of the Zoning Ordinance and thanked the BOS for discussing the property with him.

BOS discussed cemetery and Town property maintenance and agreed that a meeting with Steven Monette and Dale Lawrence would be helpful to understand the maintenance needs better.

Selectman Gallagher shared a transportation proposal from a draft of the Master Plan which recommended that the Town create a permanent committee to prioritize highway maintenance projects. Selectman Gallagher stated that he was not in favor of a permanent committee, stating that he felt it would be difficult to attract and retain a Road Agent if it appeared that the Town Highway Department was run by a committee. Selectman Beardslee said that the BOS holds all of the authority and felt that a committee could benefit the Town by providing information to the BOS, who has the authority and responsibility to decide what to do and what not to do. Selectman Bourne asked if the recommendation provided any data regarding which towns are doing this and how that is going. Selectman Gallagher said it did not provide that data, but said that "many towns" are doing this.

Selectman Bourne moved to adjourn, Selectman Beardslee seconded, motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday August 10, 2026 6:30-8:30 pm**

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

Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

BOS reviewed checks, mail, and invoices.

Bill Wall reported that the landfill in Lebanon is costing the towns using it millions of dollars. Mr. Wall said that Cornish has escaped any of that liability by running the transfer station independent of the Lebanon landfill. Mr. Wall also reported that electric costs are going to be increasing due to the infrastructure costs.

Sexton Dale Lawrence, Steven Monette and Road Agent Erich Weeks met with the BOS to discuss cemetery maintenance. Selectman Gallagher reported that Stone Vault reached out to former Selectman Lyle Parry to offer availability for stone maintenance. Dale said any stone work that could be done within the budget would be a good idea. Selectman Beardslee asked Mr. Monette what he has been doing for maintenance of stones. Mr. Monette said that he has been able to do some smaller work to stabilize stones with dirt, but that a number of stones in Chase Cemetery needed to be reset. Mr. Monette said that there are a number of stones which have worn down with no names visible leaning on other stones. Selectman Gallagher asked if Mr. Monette had kept track of which stones he had maintained. Mr. Monette said he had not and would have to go back to look at them if that was necessary. Selectman Beardslee asked Selectman Gallagher what his approach would be for ordering new work from Stone Vault. Mr. Monette said that he could make a list of stones needing work. Selectman Gallagher said that the Town never received a list of work Stone Vault had done. Selectman Beardslee said that a description of the work needed could help the Town get a cost estimate. Steve Monette said that he felt Chase would be a good cemetery to focus on because of the visibility and prominence of certain stones. Selectman Gallagher asked Mr. Monette which cemeteries needed loam. Mr. Monette said Chase, Trinity, and Edminster needed loam. Mr. Monette said that he could check to see what it would cost for Mike Duval to truck his loam to the cemeteries. Selectman Beardslee said that he understood the quality of Mr. Duval's loam and asked if some holes could be filled with ditching and top-coated with loam. Mr. Monette said that could work. Selectman Gallagher said that the Town would benefit from better records regarding maintenance needs in the cemeteries and asked Mr. Monette if he could keep notes on these needs. Road Agent Erich Weeks said that he could screen some of the ditching to clean it up a bit before delivering it to any cemeteries. Selectman Gallagher asked if a list of driveway maintenance needs could be made for paved and gravel driveways in cemeteries. Mr. Monette suggested potentially moving the driveway in Childs Cemetery. Ms. Lawrence said that she would need to see the Childs Cemetery to understand the proposal. Mr. Monette said that the Highway Department was very helpful cleaning up a downed tree in the cemetery. Selectman Beardslee asked Mr. Monette about picket fence needs. Mr. Monette said that he had already taken down the rotten sections of picket fence in all of the cemeteries, but the Town ought to prioritize finding a

solution for highly visible cemeteries like Chase Cemetery and on School Street. Mr. Monette recommended flag poles in our cemeteries. Mr. Monette said that the Town's Kubota tractor was not running well and recommended maintenance. Dale Lawrence reported that a capital reserve fund was created in 2013 to replace the mower and the balance of the fund was over \$49,000. Mr. Monette suggested that the Town consider replacing the cemetery trailer and the truck to provide the Cemetery crew with the ability to haul and dump material.

Road Agent Erich Weeks reported that the bump on Cornish Stage Road had been repaired using a chip-seal emulsion product and stone chips. Mr. Weeks asked if any signs should be posted on North Parsonage Road before the Fair. Selectman Beardslee said it would be frustrating for residents on the road if people were driving down and turning around in their driveways.

Mr. Weeks reported on maintenance needs on the 2002 truck at Reeds and they said the brakes needed maintenance and that lights needed to be replaced in addition to the oil pump needing to be replaced at a cost of \$3856.25. The BOS agreed the maintenance should be done.

Brad Wilder, attorney for Glen McKinstry, called the BOS to ask about the status of a building permit at Debra Adams property on North Parsonage Road. Selectman Gallagher reported that the driveway permit was being updated by the Planning Board and the driveway would need to be inspected and approved by the fire chief, the road agent, and the Planning Board. Mr. Wilder asked how long it might take to get the building permit. Selectman Gallagher said that the review could happen any day and that the BOS would need to conduct a site visit, which could theoretically happen this Thursday if everything else lined up, but could not guarantee, stating we would do our best. Mr. Wilder asked if anyone was waiting for any information from Mr. McKinstry. Selectman Gallagher said that the driveway needs to comply with the conditions of the subdivision and it was very clearly explained to him what those conditions are. Mr. Wilder asked if the BOS would be contacting Mr. McKinstry to arrange the site visit. Selectman Gallagher said that we did not have Mr. McKinstry's contact information. Mr. Wilder said he would get his contact info to the Town Office.

Selectman Beardslee suggested that the Town consider seeking an alternate contractor for the Highway Department roof project.

Selectman Beardslee reported that he and Erich Weeks reviewed gravel roads including Mace Road and Edminster Road as potential candidates for improvement. He reported that the cost of materials would be \$177,000. Selectman Beardslee said that he discussed the importance of maintaining a reasonable road width and to be careful not to widen the roads. Selectman Beardslee reported that he suggested the use of the grader for ditching this time of year as a time-saver and that Erich had some concern regarding organic materials making its way into the roadway. Selectman Gallagher said that the roads were hard this time of year, so material would not easily penetrate the gravel roads.

Selectman Beardslee moved to approve the minutes of July 2026. Selectman Bourne seconds. Motion passes.

Selectman Beardslee suggested that the BOS respond to a request for confirmation of a road status, stating that we cannot confirm the status of the road in questions.

Selectman Beardslee asked if the BOS received a response from Town Counsel regarding a request from Cathy Parks. Selectman Gallagher said he had not received any response yet.

BOS discussed site visits for the Thursday August 13 meeting.

Selectman Beardslee moved to adjourn. Selectman Gallagher seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 8:49pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 13, 2026 3:30-6:00 pm**

Present: Jason Bourne, Keith Beardslee

Absent: Dillon Gallagher (chair)

Selectman Bourne called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

BOS reviewed mail and invoices.

Road Agent Erich Weeks reported that a plan was provided for burying fiber optic cable along School Street and Leavitt Hill Road. Erich said that TDS was aware that they needed to bury 6ft beneath the roadway at crossings and that he was working with them to identify the plan along the ditch line.

Erich said that the loader steering issue persists and that he was looking for a service manual for the machine which he would share with Jacob Simino to conduct a diagnostic assessment.

Jacob Simino presented a road closure sign to the BOS for signatures. Jacob said that carnival trailers would be arriving at the fairgrounds this weekend. Jacob said that the Fair Association would supervise the parking of trailers near the Highway Garage. Jacob asked if the Town would allow him to put game cameras on Town property. Selectman Beardslee said that would require a discussion of the three BOS members. Selectman Bourne asked if the cameras could be on Fair property. Jacob said he would investigate that options. Jacob said he would be placing warning signs near the bridge between the CREA property and the baseball field as that footbridge is in disrepair.

Larry Schissel visited with the BOS to introduce himself as a candidate for NH State House. Selectman Beardslee asked which district he is running in. Larry explained that District 7 is the floterial district consisting of 5 towns, Newport, Unity, Charlestown, Cornish, and Plainfield. Larry said that he was hoping to find better ways for Concord to support our towns.

BOS discussed building permits and reviewed the Zoning Ordinance relative to maximum coverage on a .5 acre lot on Center Road. A proposed addition appeared to exceed the maximum building footprint on that property.

BOS conducted a site visit on Rte 120 to review setbacks.

Selectman Beardslee moved to adjourn. Selectman Bourne seconds. Motion passes. Meeting adjourned 6:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Bourne

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday August 17, 2026 6:30-8:30 pm**

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

Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

BOS reviewed checks, mail, and invoices.

BOS discussed a building permit on Center Road and reviewed tax cards to determine the total coverage of buildings on the half-acre lot. The buildings which are non-agricultural appear to cover four percent of the lot and the proposed addition in the building permit would exceed the two percent restriction on building footprint as defined in Article V of the Zoning Ordinance.

BOS discussed Article V of the zoning ordinance, maximum footprint of a building, and maximum lot coverage in rural, residential and village districts and reviewed the map in the ordinance which defines those districts.

Selectman Bourne reported on a site visit on Route 120 on Thursday, August 13th, where the applicant needed to consider alternatives to his original plan due to setback from a man-made pond on the site.

Selectman Bourne asked Selectman Gallagher about the status of an invoice for recent chip seal work on paved roads. Selectman Gallagher said that he had exchanged email with the contractor and was waiting to hear back on any potential revisions to the existing invoice.

BOS discussed a driveway permit and review process underway at a property on North Parsonage Road, which required review by the Fire Chief and potentially the Chair of the Planning Board and the Road Agent, which did not directly involve the Select Board and discussed a future site visit.

Greg Stevens visited with the BOS regarding a building permit on Old Stagecoach Road. Selectman Bourne said that the BOS may be able to visit on Thursday, August 20, but that there were some other building permits which had been in the queue a bit longer.

Selectman Bourne moved to adjourn, Selectman Gallagher seconds, motion passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 8:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 20, 2026 3:30-6:00 pm**

Present: Dillon Gallagher (chair), Jason Bourne
Absent: Keith Beardslee

BOS reviewed invoices and mail

Chair calls the meeting to order at 4:00pm

Nico Tampasis visited with the BOS and inquired about a Town-owned property abutting his property on Town House Road. Selectman Bourne said that there had not been recent discussion about that property. Mr. Tampasis said that he was maintaining the property as it contains his right of way and driveway and he wants it to look nice. Mr. Tampasis said that the driveway would need to be repaired soon. Mr. Tampasis said that he did not want to get into a bidding war over property he was already maintaining. Selectman Gallagher said that the Town learned that property can be sold directly to an abutter. Mr. Tampasis said that if the price was right, he would be interested in purchasing the abutting properties. Selectman Gallagher said that it would need to be fair to the Town and that for such a decision, the BOS would want all three members here. Selectman Gallagher invited Mr. Tampasis to propose an offer.

Selectman Gallagher asked Road Agent Erich Weeks about a plan from TDS Telecom for burying fiber optic cable along Leavitt Hill Road. Mr. Weeks provided the plan for the BOS review. Selectman Gallagher asked if the contractor was aware that the Town has catch basins on both sides of school street. Mr. Weeks said that he was unsure, but that he would be connecting with the job foreman. Selectman Bourne said that it would be of interest to him to meet with the foreman on a site visit. Selectman Gallagher agreed.

Mr. Weeks reported on another fiber optic cable burial permit application on Beechwood Acres and tree work being done along East Road by another fiber optic contractor and trimmings left in the road right of way. Mr. Weeks will follow up with the contractor doing the trimming. Mr. Weeks said that he would email a copy of the maps TDS provided to the BOS and Mary Curtis.

The BOS reviewed a non-disciplinary warning submitted to a Highway Department personnel file related to compliance with workplace safety policy.

Erich Weeks reported that he took two online courses including Pavement Preservation and Grants 101. Mr. Weeks said that Bob from the Highway Department was interested in taking a Plowing 101 course on November 12th in Rochester, NH, which would require a Town truck equipped with a plow and wing. Mr. Weeks said he would see if they could offer that course up here for local departments.

Erich Weeks reported that he has been in contact with DPW in the City of Claremont to discuss an agreement to maintain sections of each other's roads where that made sense, like Claremont's section of Tandy Brook Road and Cornish's section of White Water Brook Road.

The BOS conducted site visits for building permits on Platt Rd, Old Stagecoach Rd., Rte. 120, and Hawkins Rd.

Selectman Bourne moved to adjourn, Selectman Gallagher seconds, motion passes unanimously. Meeting adjourned 6:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday August 24, 2026 6:30-8:30 pm**

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

Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

BOS reviewed mail, checks, and invoices.

BOS discussed an invoice for chip sealing and crack sealing recently done, noting that a revised invoice was lower and quantity of chip seal had been reduced on the invoice.

BOS spoke with Terry McNamara regarding Map 11 lot 117 and she asked if the lot was buildable. Ms. McNamara asked if the Road Agent issued driveway permits. Selectman Bourne said that the Planning Board issues those permits with feedback from the Road Agent and the Fire Chief. Selectman Gallagher explained that there would need to be clear lines of sight. Ms.

McNamara asked who could confirm whether or not a driveway was feasible on the property before she makes a decision to purchase or not. Selectman Gallagher recommended contacting the chair of the Planning Board. Selectman Bourne explained the setback requirements. Selectman Gallagher invited Ms. McNamara to visit the office to review the property file to review the deed and other documentation.

Selectman Gallagher asked Selectman Beardslee if the gravel road improvement project was progressing to plan. Selectman Beardslee said that it appeared to be going well but that another review of the material needs and plans would be in order.

Selectman Gallagher expressed some concern regarding TDS Telecom's plan to bury fiber optic along School Street where there are catch basins on both sides of the road.

BOS spoke with Glen McKinstry regarding a building permit. Selectman Gallagher explained that the driveway permit had 4 conditions which needed to be met. Mr. McKinstry said that he did all of the work had already been done including digging down the driveway and cutting away all the brush. Selectman Gallagher said that there was a requirement for the driveway to stone line the ditches on the driveway. Mr. McKinstry said that he would line the ditches on Tuesday and that if he did not have a building permit Tuesday night, he would be suing the Town. Mr. McKinstry asked the BOS how much stone lining he needed to do to satisfy the requirements. Selectman Gallagher said that the Planning Board did not specify exactly, but that the ditches should be lined. Selectman Bourne said that the Select Board meets on Monday and Thursdays, so the soonest we could look at the driveway and the building permit would be on Thursday. Mr. McKinstry said that he would be calling his lawyer and that he would be suing the Town. Selectman Gallagher said that Mr. McKinstry's lawyer had already spoken with the BOS and that he understood that the driveway permit was still being reviewed at the time. Selectman Bourne said that the Planning Board is responsible for the conditions of the driveway permit but the Select Board is responsible for enforcing those conditions. Mr. McKinstry said that the ditches of the driveway would be lined by the following evening and that if he did not have a building permit signed by Thursday night, he would be suing the Town for a lot of money. Mr. McKinstry said that he would be calling the Planning Board.

Heidi Jaarsma called seeking clarification regarding a call she received from Glen McKinstry, having been referred to the Planning Board. Selectman Gallagher said that he felt that someone from the Planning Board should verify that the conditions of the driveway permit. Ms. Jaarsma suggested that, as the enforcement branch of government, a member of the Select Board join on that review. Selectman Bourne said that he felt that enforcing the conditions would be difficult when there aren't specifications for the conditions, citing the stone lining of the ditch and being unsure how much stone would be required. Ms. Jaarsma said she understood and would be contacting Chair Bill Lipfert.

Mary Curtis reported that Primex was denying a worker's compensation claim.

Selectman Beardslee reported that he would work with Road Agent Erich Weeks on some benchmark numbers for material in gravel road work and would suggest shaping the road edges before adding new material.

Selectman Beardslee reported that two shipping containers on the Dvorak property on East Road appeared to be laid out such that one could erect a roof across the containers to construct a building, noting that there had not been a building permit. Selectman Gallagher stated that the driveway added to the lot had an undersized culvert.

Selectman Beardslee said that the BOS should consider the skillset of a future administrative assistant given the amount of work the BOS is responsible for, using an example of researching the value of trading in heavy equipment rather than running it for extended time and calculating the cost of repairs and maintenance, while monitoring inflation rates to maximize the value of taxpayer investments in such equipment. Selectman Beardslee said that systems should be in place so that any changes in staffing would be better supported, noting that Mary Curtis reported having no systems to rely upon when she began in her role.

BOS discussed an expired building permit on Hawkins Road. Applicant needs to submit a new building permit. Selectman Bourne reported that there was a camper on the site, which was not an active building site.

BOS discussed a request to revise a building permit on St. Gaudens Road. Applicant should resubmit a new permit for consideration and the BOS will need to void the existing permit.

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

Meeting adjourned 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 27, 2026 4:00-6:00 pm**

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

BOS reviewed invoices and mail.

Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00pm

Bill Wall shared a newspaper article regarding energy companies and infrastructure, expressing concern about who will own the infrastructure and about ongoing energy costs.

The BOS discussed a recommendation from the Chair of the Planning Board regarding a building permit on North Parsonage Road. The BOS agreed that the recommendation of the chair was non-binding and that the BOS has no authority to withhold a building permit based upon potential damage to trees on the site from excavation work.

At 4:10pm, the Board conducted a site visit on North Parsonage Road. Glen McKinstry described the boundaries on the property and the Select Board determined that the building met all setbacks.

BOS returned to the Town Office at 4:30pm to allow for Mr. McKinstry to collect his signed building permit.

The BOS discussed the next phase of the gravel road improvement project, including East Road and Edminster Road. The BOS agreed that the work should be done. Selectman Gallagher said that he wished the water tank nozzles had been replaced to allow for putting down water on the new gravel efficiently.

Mary Curtis reported that a Highway Department employee has been cleared for work and would return to full-duty work on Monday.

Namone Pike met with the BOS to ask about use of the Town Hall for a clothing swap on September 26th. Ms. Pike said that she heard a change in the security deposit occurred. Selectman Bourne said that the security deposit has been made the same for residents and non-residents. Selectman Bourne asked if the clothing swap was being sponsored by a non-profit. Ms. Pike said that it was coordinated through the PTO. Ms. Pike asked about the amount of the deposit. Selectman Gallagher said that Mary Curtis could explain that. Ms. Pike said she had not had to submit a deposit in the past nor fill out a form. Selectman Beardslee and Selectman Gallagher said that we should use the formal application. Selectman Bourne said that the BOS would talk with Ms. Curtis about the procedure to ensure that such applications are handled consistently.

Chief Bill Harthan met with the BOS to discuss a proposed RFP for boots. The BOS recommended that Chief issue the RFP to comply with the Town Purchasing Policy.

Selectman Gallagher asked Chief Bill Harthan to consider updating the official roster of the Cornish Fire Department based upon new legislation which provides Workers Compensation to first responders. Chief Harthan said he would, but that it was fairly accurate at the moment. Mary Curtis said that the amount of salary considered for each volunteer firefighter was \$6000 in 2026. Selectman Beardslee said that the workers compensation insurance is a fraction of the salary amount the state is using for this purpose.

Mary Curtis reported that Mike Belanger asked about who owned a patch of land between Town House Road and Rte. 120. as there was a political sign on the piece of land. The BOS believes the parcel in question belongs to Snide.

The BOS discussed recent emergency calls and department trainings with Fire Chief Bill Harthan.

The BOS called Lyle Parry to check on the Highway Department roof repair project. Mr. Parry said that it was scheduled for the end of next week. Selectman Gallagher asked Mr. Parry how

the Fair went. Mr. Parry said it went well. Mr. Parry said that there was a small building on the CREA soccer field which was in disrepair and asked if the Town would like the Fair Association to remove that building before it collapses. Selectman Bourne suggested that the BOS conduct a site visit to inspect the building. Mr. Parry asked if the BOS would let him know if the building should be removed.

The BOS discussed a heating oil RFP and sending it to Irving, Simple Energy and one other vendor.

The BOS discussed digital mapping tools and potential use for road work orders.

Road Agent Erich Weeks met with the BOS to discuss maintenance on the loader and the grader. Selectman Gallagher asked when the loader was last serviced at Townline equipment. Mr. Weeks said it was about two years ago and it had been fully serviced two years prior as well. Selectman Gallagher asked what a full-service means. Mr. Weeks said he could confirm but that typically it involves replacing filters and fluids.

Road Agent Erich Weeks asked if the BOS wanted to move forward with the gravel road improvement project. Selectman Gallagher said we should, but expressed concern about getting enough water on it to set up properly. Erich said that the Highway Department would enlarge the nozzles currently equipped on their water tank. Selectman Beardslee referred to a worksheet he created to help the Highway Department to monitor the amount of material being used in support of the project.

Road Agent Erich Weeks reported that he had to purchase new batteries for the 2002 truck, reporting that they were in service for 6 years.

Road Agent Erich Weeks asked what the Town would like to do in situations on Pete Daniels Road and Root Hill Road where water is running off of driveways and eroding the ends of the driveways where they intersect with the road. Selectman Bourne said that driveway culverts, which would help to address that runoff, are the responsibility of the driveway owner. Selectman Gallagher said that the Town should maintain the road, except if it is a class VI road.

Selectman Beardslee asked Road Agent Erich Weeks if the 4-foot culvert needing replacement on Burr Road presented a hazard this winter. Erich said it would not, but that the edge of the road may not be as stable. Erich said he could put grade stakes in to try to avoid driving on the edge when maintaining and plowing the road in the Winter.

The BOS discussed a pending review of the Road Agent, having missed the 90-day review period.

Selectman Bourne made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Beardslee. Motion passes unanimously. Motion adjourned 6:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Bourne

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday August 31, 2026 6:30-8:30 pm**

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

BOS reviewed mail, checks, and invoices

Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

Lois Fitts asked if the BOS knew who owned the United Church of Cornish. Selectman Beardslee said that it may be that the Church is part of a larger organization. Ms. Fitts said that she did not know who owned the Church. Ms. Fitts expressed concern about who holds liability for anything that happens in the Church. Selectman Beardslee suggested searching for the deed to the church in Newport, NH. Ms. Fitts said that there was a small piece of land adjacent to another property that a resident is interested in purchasing, but that she was unsure if they could even sell it.

Road Agent Erich Weeks reported that a contractor for Fidium had buried fiber optic cable under Beechwood Acres Road at an undetermined depth without a permit. Mr. Weeks said that he is working on arranging a meeting between the BOS, himself, a TDS project manager, and a project manager from Mak's excavation to review a proposed fiber burial along School Street. Mr. Weeks was concerned that the Beechwood Acres burial could result in the Highway Department damaging the fiber with regular road maintenance. Selectman Bourne said that the contractor did the work without a permit and that the Town should not be liable for a non-permitted cable burial. Selectman Gallagher said that the permitting process needs to be followed. Selectman Bourne agreed.

Mark Gattie brought a revised building permit, along with a ZBA-approved variance, to the Select Board to sign for his building on West Pass Road.

Selectman Gallagher reported that he has been able to import shape files into Diamond Maps, and that he had a map including stream orders, based upon the NH Granit data available through UNH. The BOS discussed NH Granit data regarding class 6 roads and were unsure how the datasets might classify roads, referring to a recent inquiry regarding Dahms Rd.

Selectman Beardslee suggested that the BOS respond to a request from Kathy Parks for documentation from Town counsel and NBRC regarding definitions of encumbrances. The BOS reviewed guidance from Town counsel and discussed drafting a response.

Selectman Beardslee suggested that the BOS consider a response to Nicole Coleman regarding a possible class 6 road. Selectman Bourne said that he was unsure if a response may have gone out from Mary Curtis or not, citing a handwritten note that was added to the mail folder

regarding that request, as the BOS had been unable to determine, with certainty, the status of the road in question.

The BOS discussed site visits for the Thursday meeting, including a review of a culvert on Jackson Road.

Selectman Beardslee moved to adjourn, Selectman Bourne seconds. Motion passes unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne