

TOWN OF CORNISH MINUTES OF TOWN MEETING MARCH 17, 2014

Article 1 The polls for secret ballot voting were open from 2-6pm. Janet Carper, Dianne Perkins, Mathieu Camas, Norman Harding, Tom Carper and Linwood Perkins served as the Ballot Clerks. Richard Ruhlin was elected Moderator to oversee the town meeting at 7pm.

Before start of town meeting State Representative of District #2, Mr. Jonathan Kinney, was invited to address his audience about the issues being discussed at the state government level that impact the townspeople. He indicated the state financial picture is dismal; approx. \$120 million deficit. The Revenue Sharing of \$40 million will be distributed to town and cities of the state which has been taken from fiscal year 2014 budget "rainy day fund." Mr. Kinney is on the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee; recently helped sponsored bills to assist vets. He reported about the Unclaimed Properties List at Maine website, reimbursement for Education currently at 47% from state (instead of 55% mandate), formula for Essential Services very confusing. The Town of Cornish has a lack of internet coverage and is pursuing the Connect Me Grant funds, currently in 9th round of deliberations. It is very competitive and needs a lot of support from the townspeople. Preparation for the grant need requires acquiring petition signatures from unserved areas, letters, documentation, etc. and we need a few active citizens to spearhead this activity. The more documentation/support, the better the town's chance of being awarded funds. Axiom Corp. is pursuing some monies from the US Dept. of Commerce also for this purpose. Rep. Kinney is not supporting any mandates being presented to the Legislature that will cost the towns' money. State population continually declining; foreclosures on property steady.

Article 2 The results of the votes of the elected officers results announced: Selectmen/Assessor/Overseer of the Poor (3 yr term) – Emily Lyle Ward 145 (Elected), Vinal Pendexter 52, Blanks/Write-Ins 3; SAD#55 School Director (3 yr term) – Karen James 171 (Elected), Blanks/Write-Ins 29; Trustee Cornish Water District (2 positions for 3 yr terms each) Michael Sturgeon 122 (Elected), John Watts 92 (Elected), Luke Ray 56, Craig Jones 29; Blanks/Write-Ins 77. All elected officers were sworn in their perspective offices.

Article 3 Petition "To see if the town will vote to approve the placement of a Black Granite Veterans' Monument (dedicated to all soldiers, past, present, future) upon the land by the right side of the gazebo in the bounds of the Cornish Fairgrounds next to the Bangor Bank Side. At No Cost to the Town." Calista Cross, President of Cornish Veterans Monument Organization explained the committee's process and decision for the monument's style, placement, and added that a walkway with pavers, flag, bench, shrubs were also in the committee's plan. The selectmen explained that even though the public hearing straw vote indicated people were not in favor of the petitioned article being placed on the town meeting warrant it was a petition and must be treated as such according to MMA Legal. A straw poll is only an opinion. It was noted that the article is very specific and no amendment or additions to the site would be permissible without coming back to a town meeting for approval. After much discussion showing support for Veterans, placement being accessible to public & with public support there was a vote taken. The results were 53 votes No; 19 votes Yes. Thus the townspeople decided not to approve the petition as written

Before voting on municipal appropriation articles Town Clerk and Moderator gave information on State Levy Limit calculation amount of \$745,015.00 = \$459,297.00 + 285,718.00 (anticipated income from various state and municipal sources based on 2013 calculations); the amount of town budget if all articles on warrant were funded as requested \$764,867.00. At the town meeting the citizens approved article appropriation in the amount of \$757,977.00.

Article 4 A suggestion was for the Selectmen to place a report in the town report to discuss their yearly activities. A website is on the town's wish list. Selectmen brought the citizens up-to-date on their activities: 4-Town Sacopee Rescue Unit organization monthly meeting, Time Warner Internet negotiations & broadband expansion, SAD#55 school closing and budget negotiations, etc. Selectmen meetings are not taped. Voted to raise and appropriate salaries and expenses of the town offices as follows:

Selectman 1 st	\$7,500.00
Selectman 2 nd	\$6,000.00
Selectman 3 rd	\$6,000.00
Treasurer	\$2,000.00
Tax Collector (1.5% Collections)	\$24,000.00
Town Clerk	\$3,000.00
Registrar of Voters	\$200.00
Deputy Town Clerk	\$18,385.00
Bookkeeper/Secretary	\$5,820.00
Fire Chief	\$4,000.00
1 st Assistant Chief	\$2,000.00
2 nd Assistant Chief	\$1,000.00
Ballot Clerks	\$600.00
Moderator	\$75.00
Matching Funds	<u>\$8,000.00</u>
Total Article	\$88,580.00

Article 5 Voted to raise and appropriate \$500.00 for miscellaneous and contingent expenses.

Article 6 Voted to raise and appropriate \$6,500.00 for administration and office expenses.

Article 7 The town's software license fees currently amounts to \$12,500.00. At the suggestion of Chris Sanborn from Modem Wavs the computers need to be replaced on a periodic basis. The computers in the town office are now 10 years old. The town office wishes to replace one computer in the office and refurbish the office computer for Code Enforcement/Planning Board purposes. Voted to raise and appropriate \$14,000.00 for software updates and computer maintenance.

Article 8 Voted to raise and appropriate \$500.00 for anticipated legal fees.

Article 9 Voted to raise and appropriate \$4,200.00 for town's annual audit.

Article 10 Voted to raise and appropriate \$10,000.00 for the maintenance of town buildings and properties.

Article 11 Voted to raise and appropriate \$25,000.00 for improvement of Pike Memorial Hall. Said funds to be retained in a perpetual account if unexpended. Currently water enters the town hall area of the building every Winter/Spring season and there is erosion of an embankment on the property causing an edge of the parking area to wear away. An engineer from ATTR submitted a design and quote on the issue of water drainage and erosion around the building and banking. The cost of this endeavor is between \$70,000-\$90,000. The Pike Hall Committee and Selectmen initially checked with other engineers, referred by SMRP, and their quotes were much higher. The Selectmen are working to get this accomplished in two phases; currently in the negotiations process. The intent is to keep Pike Hall as a functional building. The ADA compliant cost is approximately \$300,000. The town is working toward

that goal but until grants/funding are available they are working piecemeal toward that goal. The amount carried forward from 2013 budget is currently \$13,968.39.

- Article 12 Voted to raise and appropriate \$2,131.00 for the 2014 dues to Maine Municipal Association.
- Article 13 Voted to raise and appropriate \$1,000.00 for revisions to the assessing maps. Maps are updated annually to reflect land changes due to subdivisions, land splits, etc. Town's assessed values are online with Vision Appraisal. Property tax maps can be sent via email if requested. The town website is on the wishlist.
- Article 14 Voted to raise and appropriate \$22,500.00 for all forms of insurance coverage for the upcoming year.
- Article 15 Voted to raise and appropriate \$500.00 to be used for the printing of the Annual Cornish Town Reports.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES ARTICLES

- Article 16 Voted to raise and appropriate \$11,000.00 to cover the anticipated costs of street lighting services which is under contract with Central Maine Power Co.
- Article 17 Voted to raise and appropriate \$107,000.00 for solid waste removal.
- Article 18 Voted to raise and appropriate \$6,000.00 for recycling.

PLANNING, CODE ENFORCEMENT & ANIMAL CONTROL ARTICLES

- Article 19 Article amended to raise and appropriate \$4,500.00 for the administrative costs and related expenses of the Planning Board. Article request was \$5,500.00. At the Planning Board's suggestion that they could keep within the \$4,500.00 the Budget Committee recommended \$4,500.00. In the 2013 fiscal year they had an unexpended amount of almost \$900 based on manuals and planning board fees collected to offset their expenditures.
- Article 20 Voted to raise and appropriate \$396.00 for the dues of the Southern Maine Regional Planning and Development Commission.
- Article 21 Voted to raise and appropriate the requested amount of \$300.00 toward the support of the Saco River Corridor Commission, for a continued water quality-monitoring program in the town.
- Article 22 Voted to take a sum of \$6,000.00 for economic and community development activities from Surplus funds, if necessary. Can be used specifically for activities such as new business development requesting specific tax credit or CDBG grant applications.
- Article 23 Voted to raise and appropriate \$1,403.00 for animal shelter fees at Harvest Hills Animal Shelter, Inc. (\$1 per person-2010 Census population -1,403)
- Article 24 Voted to raise and appropriate \$2,000.00 for animal control expenses. Our animal control officer's name and contact info is listed in the town report and also under the Notices section of Your Weekly Shopping Guide.

PARKS AND RECREATION ARTICLES

- Article 25 Voted to raise \$7,000.00 for Cornish Parks & Recreation Committee to be used for maintenance and continuing improvements to the "Route 25 Recreation Field Project". Said

funds to be retained in a perpetual account if unexpended. The goal is to fence the entire field this year.

- Article 26 Voted to raise and appropriate \$500.00 for the care of Cornish Parks.
- Article 27 Voted to raise and appropriate \$500.00 for the observance of Memorial Day.
- Article 28 Voted to raise and appropriate \$3,500.00 in support of the Sacopee Valley Recreational Council.
- Article 29 Article amended to raise and appropriate \$300.00 for materials to decorate Thompson Park at Christmas time. Article request was \$400.00. Putting the light on the trees is a challenge and with the help from Kezar Falls Fire Dept. CAB places them the safest way possible.
- Article 30 Voted to transfer to the Cornish Sno-Cruiser Snowmobile Club an amount equal to 100% of the snowmobile registration fees collected by the Town. Last year's amount was \$423.68.

EMERGENCY SERVICES ARTICLES

- Article 31 Voted to raise and appropriate \$29,000.00 for the maintenance of the Cornish Fire Department. Said funds to be retained in a perpetual account if unexpended.
- Article 32 Voted to raise and appropriate \$20,000.00 for the purpose of updating fire equipment and major repairs. Said funds to be retained in a perpetual account if unexpended. The Fire Department currently has a truck out for major repairs, approx. \$30,000. This fund helps towards keeping the fire trucks operational. A new truck presently costs \$300,000. In the last 10-12 years the fire dept. has built and retrofitted 4 trucks. Presently the account's balance is \$67,623.37.
- Article 33 Voted to raise and appropriate \$2,400.00 to be used for updating of personal protective clothing ie Turnout Gear. Said funds to be retained in a perpetual account if unexpended. Fire Dept. presently needs to outfit 3 firefighters at approx. \$2,000. each. Presently the account's balance is \$16,743.06.
- Article 34 Voted to raise and appropriate \$6,700.00 for fire and rescue dispatching services provided by the Department of Public Safety. New contract from PSAP is \$6,960.00. The Town did not receive contract amount before budget meeting so selectmen will have to transfer the funds from surplus to pay overdraft.
- Article 35 Voted to take up to \$3,500.00 from Surplus funds, if necessary, to be used as matching funds for a RCFP grant, which will be used by the fire department to install dry hydrants or purchase other fire related items. Fire Dept. and Budget Committee recommends \$3,500.00.
- Article 36 Voted to raise and appropriate \$150.00 for the Emergency Management Contingency Fund.
- Article 37 Voted to take from Surplus \$5,000.00 for major fire payroll, if necessary. Fire Dept. and Budget Committee recommends \$5,000.00 from Surplus.
- Article 38 Voted to raise and appropriate \$5,000.00 for firefighter payroll.
- Article 39 Voted to raise and appropriate \$44,232.00 for fire hydrant rental.
- Article 40 Voted to raise and appropriate \$17,000.00 for the maintenance and operation costs of the Sacopee Rescue Unit. To be paid in three equal installments in the months of April, August and November

Article 41 Voted to raise and appropriate \$5,000.00 for the Capital Reserve Account of Sacopee Rescue Unit. It is assumed that these funds, if approved, will be kept in a separate Capital Reserve account held by the town for this purpose only, according to legal advice by MMA.

MAINTENANCE OF ROADS AND BRIDGES

Article 42 Article voted to raise and appropriate \$100,000.00 for the purpose of removal of winter sand from the streets, repair of roads and bridges, tarring and retarring of town roads, cutting brush along town maintained roadways as a form of road maintenance. Said funds to be retained in a perpetual account if unexpended. The Road Commissioner reported his plans for the upcoming year is to repair Long Pond Rd., Pound Hill Rd. and Pavilion Rd. It was noted that the trees cut down on Pumpkinville Rd were cut down by CMP and are not the town's responsibility. CMP's policy is to leave trees cut down on site, private or public.

Article 43 Article amended was to take \$1,000.00 from Surplus, if necessary for tree removal purposes. Article request was to raise and appropriate \$1,000.00.

Article 44 Voted to raise and appropriate \$150,000.00 for the removal of snow and sanding of municipal roads.

EDUCATION AND PRESERVATION ARTICLES

Article 45 Voted to raise and appropriate \$12,000.00 for the Bonney Memorial Library.

Article 46 Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to fund said Capital Improvement Account for the purpose of adapting Pike Memorial Hall to comply with American Disabilities Act. Unexpended funds retained in a perpetual account for future needs. There is a separate Capital Improvement account with current balance \$12,556.38.

Article 47 Voted to raise, appropriate and contribute \$300.00 toward the costs of the Sacopee Summer Concert Series at the Cornish Bandstand, organized by the Saco River Festival Association.

Article 48 Voted to dedicate the cable television franchise fees from Time Warner, Inc. and any grants received through franchise negotiations to TV-2 for purchase and maintenance of equipment, and for operating costs, as deemed necessary to support the TV-2 program and retain funds from fees to reimburse Town Departments (Office and Fire Dept.) for Internet Expense.

Article 49 Voted to raise and appropriate \$1,000.00 for the support of Cornish Historical Society.

SOCIAL SERVICES ARTICLES

Article 50 Article amended to raise and appropriate \$635.00 for support of the American Red Cross. Article request was \$1,500.00. Budget committee's recommended figure \$635.00 is the amount of benefit town residents received from American Red Cross according to literature received from the American Red Cross.

Article 51 Voted to raise and appropriate \$2,000.00 for the support of general assistance cases.

Article 52 Voted to raise and appropriate \$750.00 for the York County Community Action Program.

Article 53 DEFEATED: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000.00 for HomeHealth Visiting Nurses. It was explained that there is alternative funding available and means of obtaining the same services that this organization provides.

- Article 54 Article amended to raise and appropriate \$1,000.00 for Southern Maine Agency on Aging, providing Meals on Wheels, medical benefit assistance and support for Seniors. Article request was \$2,000.00. Budget committee's recommended figure of \$1,000.00 is based on services provided to town residents according to received literature from that organization for the past year.
- Article 55 DEFEATED: Voted to raise and appropriate \$500.00 for Caring Unlimited, York County's Domestic Violence Program.
- Article 56 DEFEATED: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$300.00 for York County Shelters, Inc, providing meals, shelter/housing, growth opportunities and community support to homeless families/individuals.
- Article 57 DEFEATED: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$250.00 for support of Southern Maine Parent Awareness, providing information, support and training opportunities to families who have children with special needs.
- Article 58 DEFEATED: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$350.00 for support of Kids Free To Grow, a child abuse prevention program.
- Article 59 DEFEATED: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$525.00 for the Lake Region Senior Service Transportation Program.

MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES

- Article 60 Voted to increase the property tax levy limit of \$459,297.00 established for town of Cornish by State law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax limit. After all the expenditures articles were voted on the 2014 budget amount approved was over the limit.
- Article 61 thru Article 69 were grouped together and voted in the affirmative and authorized all in one action.
- Article 61 Voted to approve a Community Block Grant application for a Public Facilities Infrastructure Grant in Category 3 and to submit same to Dept. of Economic and Community Development, and if said program is approved, to accept said grant funds, to make assurances, assume such responsibilities and exercise such authority as is necessary and responsible to implement such program.
- Article 62 Voted to accept private donations, grants and/or state and federal funding available for the following activities:
- A. State Municipal Revenue Sharing
 - B. Tree Growth Reimbursement
 - C. Local Road Assistance
 - D. State Aid To Education (including federal pass-through funds & property tax relief)
 - E. Public Library State Aid
 - F. Civil Emergency Funds
 - G. General Assistance Reimbursement
 - H. Snowmobile Registration Fee Refunding
 - I. Veterans Exemption Reimbursement
 - J. State Grant or Other Funding (Includes all funds that are received from the state or other sources which are not included in the above categories)
- Article 63 Voted to authorize selectmen and treasurer to procure temporary loans in anticipation of real estate tax income for the purpose of satisfying the obligation of the town.

- Article 64 Voted to fix rate of interest on unpaid real estate and personal property taxes after December 31, 2014 at 7%.
- Article 65 Voted to pay Treasurer 2% of tax lien collections.
- Article 66 Voted to discount real estate & personal taxes 3% if paid within 30 days of commitment
- Article 67 Voted to authorize selectmen to sell any or all tax liens or deeds held by the town, which in their judgment is in the best interest of the town, and to execute quit claim deeds for such property. All expired tax liens to be posted conspicuously in at least four places and as conspicuously in *Your Weekly Shopping Guide*.
- Article 68 Voted to authorize selectmen to appoint necessary officers (other than elected positions) for ensuing year.
- Article 69 Voted to authorize selectmen to transfer monies from Surplus to cover any overdrafts existing at the end of the fiscal year.

Raise and Appropriate	\$ 717,977.00
Bond	<u>40,000.00</u>
Total	\$ 757,977.00
Funds from Surplus	\$ 15,500.00
Recreation fields	\$ <u>11,000.00</u>
	\$ 26,500.00