

1 Mayor Leak called to order a regular Cornish Town Council meeting on October 6, 2021, at 7:13 p.m. at
2 the Cornish Town Hall.

3 **Attendance:** Mayor Leak, Brad Fisher, Conrad Naegle, Colton Creech

4 Absent: Jana Williams

5 Citizens: Chris Buxton

6 **Staff Report:**

7 Delinquent accounts were reviewed and it was decided that no shut-off letters needed to be delivered.

8 Deyette informed the council that they still had \$123.42 of the CARES money that needed to be spent by
9 the end of the year and asked if she could pay for another annual subscription to Zoom with that
10 money. The council approved the expenditure.

11 Deyette reminded the council that Brian Carver and his staff were going to meet with the town council
12 on October 14th at 11:00 a.m. to tour the old church house.

13 Deyette stated that she still hasn't heard from Draney or received any forms in order to get him hired on
14 as the town's water operator.

15 Mayor Leak talked to Rod Hammer and Dave Erickson with the county on what Cornish Town residents
16 are being charged for fire services and it was determined that there is no separate tax for fire services.
17 However, there is a portion of the property tax that residents pay that is appropriated for the
18 purchasing of fire-fighting equipment and goes into a county fund. The county then divvies money from
19 this fund out to each city per capita for them to purchase the equipment they need.

20 In addition, the mayor discovered that each fire department has their own budget and some money
21 comes from county and the rest of the budget is made up from the taxes or fees that that they charge
22 their residents on their water bill. Mayor Leak emailed Mayor Fields to discuss what the town needs to
23 be doing and asked Deyette to do research on how to add a fire tax to the water bill. Mayor Leak stated
24 that he found out that Lewiston City is not getting Cornish's funds for the equipment so the town needs
25 to get that changed and make sure those funds are being transferred to Lewiston as well as get a
26 contract with Lewiston on what they are going to charge the town over and above what they are going
27 to get from the county to provide fire protection for the town.

28 Creech asked if the town could ask Trenton to make a bid on what they would charge to cover the
29 town's fire protection services and the mayor said the town could definitely do that. Mayor Leak
30 confirmed and he needs to talk with Mayor Fields to see how much they are wanting to be paid to
31 provide the services. Fisher stated that he will look to see if there were ever any contracts with
32 Lewiston regarding fire services. Creech suggested that if the amount is very high, the mayor should
33 reach out to Trenton and see what they would charge.

34 **Minutes:** September 15, 2021

35 Mayor Leak entertained a motion to approve the minutes for September 15, 2021 as amended.

36 Creech – motioned; Naegle – seconded

37 Leak, Fisher, Naegle, Creech – Aye

38 **Action Items:**

39 **Business Items:**

40 *Elected Officials' Pay* – Mayor Leak asked the council if they wanted to pursue increasing elected
41 officials' pay. Fisher said the only reason he would like to do it is to encourage council members to
42 attend meetings. Mayor Leak stated that he talked to someone on another council and they said that
43 serving usually comes with a "bill" (as in putting resources into the job) and the mayor wants council
44 members to fill good about what they are doing and the effort that they are putting into serving on the
45 council. Mayor Leak also stated that he agrees with encouraging people by paying members who
46 regularly participate in the council meetings. Naegle suggested doing a public hearing and having the
47 hearing at the next meeting and the council members concurred.

48
49 *Broadband Access Grant* – Mayor Leak read the email from the governor's office regarding the 10
50 million broadband access grant which facilitates providing high speed internet to households and
51 businesses in unserved and underserved rural and economically distressed areas within the state.
52 Creech asked how the program worked and wondered how a municipality would get involved in the
53 program. Creech suggested that the mayor contact Jeff Young with All Tech Internet to see how it
54 would work and how it would be done. Creech stated that he believes that in order to make it work,
55 Cornish would have to partner with other municipalities such as Trenton. Creech stated he is interested,
56 but he would like to hear from an expert and how much it would cost the town. After some discussion,
57 Creech said he will call Young and see what he can find out and obtain some details on it as soon as
58 possible since applications are due by November 1, 2021.

59
60 *2021 Financial Statement Review: Matt Regen* – Regen provided a copy of the 2021 Financial Statement
61 to each council member and summarized and reviewed the town's assets and liabilities, the Statement
62 of Net Position, and Changes in Net Position. Mayor Leak asked Regen of the amount of money the
63 town has set aside for the water, is there an amount that he would feel comfortable putting down
64 towards the town's water project? Regen said he would suggest that the town not bring the balance
65 below \$250,000 so there is enough to run the town for 2.5 years. Regen also suggested that the town
66 try to borrow as much as they can of the amount the town needs to fund the water project if the
67 interest rate is zero percent rather than take it out of the town's funds.

68
69 Creech asked Regen to forward a new budget spreadsheet to Deyette that the town could possibly use
70 to replace the budget spreadsheet the town is currently using. Regen stated he would do that.

71
72 **Old Business:**

73 **Council Reports:**

74 *Roads* – Naegle had to send the speed monitoring sign back to the sign company for them to test it and
75 the only the thing that they could figure out was that the memory on the charger was filling up so

Naegle needs to make sure he is unplugging it before hooking it up to the battery or it will not charge the battery. Naegle also stated that he just received the speed monitoring sign back and he will get it back up and test to see if it works better. Naegle said he had put up a new stop sign on 12300 North but hadn't removed the old one because it is sunk in the mud and has a big chunk of concrete on it. Mayor Leak stated Bracken had given him one cone that was up by the water line break, but Bracken did not know where the other cones had gone. Naegle said he will get some more from the county because they had offered to get him some and he is still waiting to hear back from county to see if they have the paint for the railroad crossings. Naegle stated that he did get the GSA account set up but there are no snowplows available right now so the town needs to get the hitch mounted on the snowplow as soon as possible.

Planning & Zoning – Creech stated that the town has been waiting to hear from the Veibells to see if they were interested in dedicating the road so they could apply for a subdivision. After meeting with Veibell today, Colton and the mayor found that Veibell had done a lot-line adjustment and then deeded a one-acre parcel to his grandson so he can begin building. Creech and the mayor asked Veibell about getting a building permit and he said that his grandson is just doing a little excavation but is not very serious about beginning to build. In addition, Creech stated that Veibell said he is aware he will need to get with the county and the town before moving forward with any building and he is still considering dedicating the road that runs through his land.

Fisher suggested that rather than having Veibell make that road a dedicated road, why doesn't the town just designate it as a road that the town receives B & C road funds for. Creech asked how would the town receive funds for a road that they don't own? Fisher stated that he is not sure how the state figures how much road funds the town should receive but knows there is a map that they use to refer to he is certain that they pay on the paved part of the road up by the cemetery. Creech stated that he believes that having a dedicated road is the standard and requiring a dedicated road is something that the town needs to do and believes Veibell needs to understand that he is very limited in what he can do with his property until the road is dedicated.

Creech informed the council that the P & Z commission had gotten through the first run of the new Land Use ordinance and they need the council to attend the meetings and look through the ordinance so they can review it and ask questions, make suggestions, or express concerns. Creech stated he would like to start meeting with the council twice a month beginning in the next few weeks to get it fleshed out. Mayor Leak asked Deyette to invite council members to the upcoming Planning & Zoning meetings so they can attend and begin working on it in order to get it done in the near future.

Parks/Town Hall/Finance – none.

Water – Fisher stated that the nitrates for October were 6.26 but the two previous samples were 0.02. Fisher is not sure why it was such a big jump and wanted to know if the council wanted him to take another sample and send it in for testing. Mayor Leak said he didn't think so since the number is below the threshold. Naegle asked that since the town is supposed to get an inch of rain this week, would that increase the flow from the springs and thereby increase the nitrate level as well? Fisher stated that he believed it would and stated that the town is still using quite a bit of water and is wondering if there is a leak somewhere. Fisher said he has looked for water leaks around town and hasn't been able to find anything.

121 Fisher said that he is starting to be concerned with the heat in the Trenton Well house and in the Pitcher
122 Well and Springs well house as well. Mayor Leak said the town could get a ceramic heater and plug
123 them in to keep the well houses heated. Fisher said he would like to do that and he would like to have
124 somebody come with him to make sure he doesn't shut something down. Fisher stated that he feels like
125 it needs to be figured out and done soon before it gets down to freezing temperatures and causes
126 problems. Fisher stated that he will turn on the heater at the Trenton Well and see how it works.
127 Mayor Leak stated he can go with him and they should plan on doing that the first part of next week.

128 **Mayor's Report:**

129

130 **Citizen comments:**

131 Buxton said he did get the roads mowed up by the cemetery and stated that he would also like to look
132 at the 2021 Financial Statement and the new budget format that Regen will be sending to council
133 members. Mayor Leak stated that he would drop a copy of the financial statement off to him.

134 **Next Meeting:**

135 Hearing on increasing elected officials' pay.

136 **Bills:**

137 Bills were reviewed.

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139 Total = \$10,660.26

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141 Mayor Leak entertained a motion to pay the bills.

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143 Fisher – motioned; Naegle – seconded

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145 Leak, Fisher, Naegle, Creech – Aye

146 **Adjourn:**

147 Mayor Leak entertained a motion to adjourn.

148 Fisher – motioned; Naegle – seconded

149 Leak, Naegle, Fisher, Creech – Aye

150 End at 8:43 p.m.