

1 Mayor Leak called to order a regular Cornish Town Council meeting on March 1, at 7:00 p.m. at the  
2 Cornish Town Hall.

3 **Attendance:** Brad Fisher, Colton Creech, Chris Buxton, Lauren Draney, Matt Leak, John Forsgren

4 **Absent:**

5 Citizens: Lorie Naegle, Erma Naegle, Dale Buxton

6 **Staff Report:** Lauren reported that at the last meeting she had asked if the council was going to raise  
7 taxes so she could get things scheduled. She said that they had asked her to get a list of other  
8 communities that were raising taxes and how by how much. She said that she talked to Dianne Shaffer  
9 who collects all this information and she said that there were some communities such as Richmond and  
10 Smithfield who are raising their tax rates and several others that might raise them. She said that she will  
11 not know how much the tax rates will be raised until June. Fisher asked when they need to decide.  
12 Lauren said maybe April or May. Mayor Leak said that they had a list that they had looked at and made  
13 changes according to what other communities were doing. Creech pulled up the list they looked at last  
14 year, it was a list of approved tax rates for 2020. They looked through the list. Mayor Leak said he would  
15 like to see what the rates would look like per household. Lauren sent the approved tax rates for 2021 for  
16 the council to review. Mayor Leak asked Lauren how the certified rates are set for the Town from the  
17 County. She did not know. He asked Dale Buxton. Dale commented that the certified rate is set to  
18 generate the same revenue from the previous period. Creech said he did some quick math and that an  
19 increase of 1% to our current rate would add \$4.55 to a property worth \$300,000. He explained that if  
20 they went as high as Lewiston is it would be a 30% tax rate increase and that would add \$136.00 for the  
21 same value property. Mayor Leak asked what the date for the hearing is Lauren said it is scheduled for  
22 August 30. Dale said that Dianna sent a letter that gave deadlines for when things need to be set and  
23 said that the decision needs to be made by March 1. Lauren looked it up and said that it says the  
24 hearings need to be scheduled by March 1, which she has done. She said that they will need to finalize  
25 tax rates by June 8. Lauren stated that elections are coming up and said that eh county can help with it.  
26 She gave them the breakdown of costs for the county. Creech stated that based on how people were  
27 not interested in filling the vacant council seat he does not anticipate having an election. Mayor Leak  
28 agreed with him and said that if we do end up doing an election, we can do it on our own. Lauren will let  
29 the County know. Lauren also reported that she had a list of delinquent accounts one of them was the  
30 cemetery which Dale is in charge of, he said that he will take care of it. Mayor Leak asked if we had any  
31 shutoffs, Lauren said she was not sure because one of the accounts had prepaid and the other had a  
32 plan from last month. Mayor Leak said he would contact the second one and get a plan in place with  
33 them. Mayor Leak asked for Kathy Elliot's phone number, Lauren will send it to him. He will contact the  
34 Lee's and the Juke's.

35 **Minutes:**

36 Mayor Leak entertained a motion to approve the minutes for the regular meeting on February 15, 2023.

37 Creech – Motioned; Buxton – Seconded

38 Creech – Aye; Buxton – Aye; Fisher – Aye; Leak – Aye

39 The minutes were approved unanimously.

40 **Action Items:**

41 *Resolution 23-03 – Resolution of Commendation and Appreciation* – Mayor Leak explained that the  
42 council wanted to institute a resolution to honor Conrad Naegle for his service to the Town. He read the  
43 resolution 23-03 and presented it to Lorie.

44 Mayor Leak entertained a motion to adopt resolution 23-03

45 Fisher – Motioned; Buxton – Seconded

46 Creech – Aye; Buxton – Aye; Fisher – Aye; Leak – Aye

47

48 *Interview for Interim Councilmember* – Mayor Leak stated that they were grateful that John Forsgren  
49 was willing to serve as an interim councilmember.

50 *Appointment of Interim Councilmember* –

51 Mayor Leak entertained a motion to appoint John Forsgren as interim councilmember on the Cornish  
52 Town Council.

53 Buxton – Motioned; Fisher – Seconded

54 Creech – Aye; Buxton – Aye; Fisher – Aye; Leak – Aye

55

56 *Oath of Office for Interim Councilmember* – Lauren administered the oath of office to John Forsgren.

57 *Planning and Zoning Appointment* – Mayor Leak entertained a motion to appoint Jordan Beckman to the  
58 Planning and Zoning Commission.

59 Creech – Motioned; Forsgren - Seconded

60 Creech – Aye; Buxton – Aye; Fisher – Aye; Leak – Aye; Forsgren – Aye

61

62 **Executive Session:**

63 **Business Items:**

64     *Roads*- Creech reported that he met with Joel Merritt from the County to see what the roads need  
65     maintenance. He showed an invoice from 2021 to get an idea of what had been done before and what  
66     the cost would be. He said that the worst roads are the road from the Veibell's to Dale's (5600 W). He  
67     stated that they almost got COG funding for that road, but it wasn't enough to do the project. He also  
68     said that the road going to the Kirkman's (14000 N) needs to be done as well. Creech asked if the cattle  
69     guard was still there. Buxton said that it is, but it is sinking quite a bit. He also explained that the road to  
70     the Law's is the Town's newest road and Joel said if it gets chip sealed it will help preserve it better.  
71     Creech showed an estimated cost from the county to do chip seal and fog seal. He suggested that they  
72     have Joel come back out when the weather gets better and the roads are clear to get a better idea of  
73     what needs to be done and what they can do with the budget that they have. Mayor Leak said that the  
74     Town has a good budget for the roads and that they should look into getting grants. Forsgren asked if it  
75     is worth trying to get COG funds. Mayor Leak said that it is, and that it just depends on what is available  
76     and what other communities have going on. Mayor Leak said that there are monthly COG meetings that  
77     either Forsgren or himself should go to.

78  
79     *Planning & Zoning* – Creech asked if the town had received a broken-down invoice from Bracken. Mayor  
80     Leak said that we have not. He asked Lauren if she would reach out to them to get that invoice. Creech  
81     stated that he has written a letter to send out to people who are living in camper trailers in Cornish. He  
82     reviewed it with the council. Fisher asked if there was a reason why the council decided to start  
83     enforcing the code. Buxton stated that there was one particular person who was causing troubles with  
84     the law. Mayor Leak commented that as it is part of the Town code, they need to do something to keep  
85     Cornish a nice place to live. He also explained to Forsgren why they have been letting it slide. Mayor  
86     Leak said that he thinks they should call ahead and let them know that there is a notice coming.  
87     Forsgren asked if they keep finding people living in trailers. Mayor Leak said that one of the problems is  
88     policing it. Forsgren asked what more they can do after sending letters. Mayor Leak said that all they can  
89     do is try. Forsgren asked that if they can get approved for 90 days and then come back and ask for  
90     another 90 days. Mayor Leak said they could but the could not get approved the second time around  
91     and that the 90 days gives them 3 months to figure things out. They talked about where there are  
92     trailers that they need to send a notice to. There are the Littlefield's, the Wrights, the Lunday's rental, as  
93     well as possibly Austin Veibell's. There were not any others that they knew of. Creech will work on  
94     getting those out.

95  
96     *Parks/Town Hall/Finance* – Buxton asked what they can do for potential flooding. Mayor Leak said he  
97     reached out to the County to see if they anything that could help us. He also said that they should have  
98     a plan in place. He said that the weather is supposed to be cold for the next 10-15 days but that if it  
99     warms up really fast or rains when the ground is still frozen they will be in trouble. Mayor Leak said that  
100    he will follow up with the county to see if he can get sandbags. He also asked that the council keep their  
101    eyes open for any flooding problems around town. Mayor Leak asked if the drains were clean. Buxton  
102    said he knows the one by his place is clear. Fisher said that the one by his house might have some stuff  
103    in it. Forsgren stated that the one by his house may be a problem because of cows filling in the culvert.  
104    He also said that he cleaned out his and Lynn James'. They will check on all the drains to make sure they  
105    are all clear. They said the worst place is on 4400 North because they built houses there and there are  
106    no more ditches. Fisher said he talked to the State and the State told him that the water is the States  
107    responsibility until it runs onto Town property then it becomes the Town's problem. He said that they  
108    should look at the budget before they have the budget hearing.

109  
110 Water – Fisher stated that the Merkley's water bill was high, so he went to check to see if there is a leak.  
111 He said that there was no leak and that it might be a problem with the meter. Creech said that there is  
112 way to average the bill out for the month but that they only get two every 10 years. Lauren stated that  
113 his meter readings were extremely low for the past two months. Fisher asked if Jay Williams could look  
114 at it. Mayor Leak said he could go heat it up so they could look at it. Mayor Leak said they should  
115 average out the Merkleys's bill for this month without it counting against the two he is allowed and go  
116 check on the meter to see if it is a meter issue. Fisher mentioned that Ken Payne called and said that his  
117 garbage was not being picked up. He said that he has been plowing and that the plow is running good.  
118 He said that they need to get markers on the side of the road, so it is easier to see the road. Forsgren  
119 said he would talk to Joel to see what he recommends. Fisher said that they should think about opening  
120 the fire hydrants to help flush out the nitrates. Mayor Leak suggested that they get a schedule to  
121 exercise the hydrants. He asked Mayor Leak to share what was going on with the nitrate samples. Mayor  
122 Leak said that Fisher has been turning in the nitrate samples but they are not uploading to the State so  
123 the town is getting violations for not doing nitrate testing. He talked to David Cruz from the State and he  
124 is changing the way they report it and that the violations will not be removed until the nitrate reports  
125 are up to date. David said he will email the instructions.  
126  
127 *Land Use Ordinance* – None  
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130 **Old Business:**  
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132 **Mayor's Report:** Mayor Leak told Forsgren that Logan City has been collecting our solid waste however,  
133 they will no longer be doing it starting in July. He stated that Val from Econowaste has purchased some  
134 land in Lewiston for a facility for trucks and equipment. Mayor Leak said that Val does not think that he  
135 will be able to pick up in Cornish every week and suggested that they do every other week. Forsgren  
136 asked if they are still dumping at Logan City's dump. Mayor Leak said that they will be dumping in  
137 Clarkston. Forsgren asked if they will still be charged from Logan City for recycling. Mayor Leak said that  
138 there will be no recycling. Creech asked if he had received a cost estimate from Val. Mayor Leak said  
139 that he had and he thinks it might be around \$14 per pick up. Creech asked what he has heard from the  
140 consortium. Mayor Leak said that he has not heard anything from them and that he has not removed  
141 Cornish from the consortium yet. Buxton said that he heard on the radio that Mayor Peterson from  
142 North Logan said that they are going to be changing their pickup service on September 1. Mayor Leak  
143 asked where they are with the contract with the Wangsgard's. Creech stated that he emailed him the  
144 final copy and that it just needs to be signed. Fisher stated that it might be a good idea to add to the  
145 contract that the meter needs to come off the water line. Creech said that that is something that should  
146 be added to the water ordinance not just the contract. Fisher also commented that they should add to  
147 the contract that the Wangsgard's water cannot cross into the Town water. Mayor Leak said that that  
148 needs to be in the water ordinance. Creech stated that cross connection is in the current water

149 ordinance. Mayor Leak said he did not have any updates from the engineers. Creech found that there  
150 are 15 cities and towns currently in the consortium and asked if he knew how many they started with.  
151 Mayor Leak said he thought there were 19 and he knows of four that have dropped out.

152  
153 **Citizen comments:**

154 **Next Meeting:**

155 **Bills:**

156 Total = \$4,289.59

157 Forsgren asked about the water leak. Buxton asked about the streetlights. Creech said that there are  
158 some by the alley as well as the park. Mayor Leak asked if the domain listing is annual. Lauren said that  
159 it is.

160 Mayor Leak entertained a motion to pay the bills.

161 Creech - Motioned; Buxton – Seconded

162 Creech – Aye; Buxton – Aye; Fisher – Aye; Leak – Aye; Forsgren - Aye

163 The bills passed unanimously.

164 **Adjourn:**

165 Mayor Leak entertained a motion to adjourn.

166 Fisher – Motioned; Buxton - Seconded

167 Creech – Aye; Buxton – Aye; Fisher – Aye; Leak – Aye; Forsgren - Aye

168 Ended at 8:53 p.m.