

GOFFSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DELIBERATIVE SESSION
FEBRUARY 3, 2016

Moderator Rod Stark called the Deliberative Session to order at 7 pm. The Police Explorer Color Guards led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator Stark introduced the head table consisting of Assistant Town Moderator Lionel Coulon, Chairman Peter Georgantas, Vice Chairman Mark Lemay, Selectman Collis Adams, Selectman Allen Brown, Selectman Scott Gross, Gail Labrecque--Recording Secretary, Town Administrator Sue Desruisseaux, and Assistant Town Administrator Derek Horne. He recognized others in the audience including Town Clerk Cathy Ball, Budget Committee members: Chairman Elizabeth Dubrulle, Vice Chairman Joe Spoerl, David Pierce, Ruth Gage, Michael Smith, Craig Campbell, Goffstown Village Water Representative Richard Fletcher and Selectmen's Representative Peter Georgantas. State Representatives in attendance were Barbara Griffin, David Pierce, and Claire Rouillard.

RECOGNITION OF RICK WILHELMI TO PRESENT THE ROBINSON CULLEROT VOLUNTEER AWARD

Parks & Recreation Director Rick Wilhelmi said every year the Parks & Rec Commissioners bestow a volunteer of the year award in memory of Clint Robinson and Lionel Cullerot. This is the 27th award. This was established to give annually to the person or group that best exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism for the Town of Goffstown. For any community to be strong it relies on the resources of the people within it. We have many people volunteering in many different areas and ways—recreational sports and leisure committees, town sponsored committees, and privately sponsored committees. Within our community we have many programs and opportunities for young and old to participate in. We in the recreation world understand the necessity for volunteers to build bigger and better facilities within our community.

This year's Robinson Cullerot Award is being bestowed on Jean Walker. Jean has been a volunteer in our community for many years and many different venues. She plants flowers in the middle of the roundabouts for the Goffstown Garden Club. She helps with registration and finish line services for the Goffstown Gallop. She administers the annual youth school ski program. She is an active member on the Cemetery Trustees and Conservation Commission. For 30 years she's been involved making the Goffstown Christmas wreaths. For 32 years she has worked with the Goffstown Gallop. Beginning in 1966 she volunteered slope side at Pat's Peak taking responsibility for over 350 kids on a Friday night for the entire month of January. She is an outstanding individual. Because of her dedication and commitment, thousands of children had a great time as they learned to ski, snowboard, and socialize. Our Town's curbside view continues to be enhanced. On behalf of the Parks & Recreation Commissioners we congratulate and thank her for her participation in the community.

Moderator Stark made his opening statement and addressed the Rules of Procedure. He said, as you probably know, at the 1996 Town Meeting, the Town of Goffstown voted to adopt what is known as "Senate Bill 2," which has since been codified and is also known now as RSA 40:12 & 13. This act is otherwise referred to as the "STANDARDIZED OFFICIAL BALLOT REFERENDUM SYSTEM." It is under this system which the Town of Goffstown in general, and this meeting in particular, will conduct its business.

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He explained some of the features of this system as well as the rules of engagement for tonight's meeting:

1. No smoking on school grounds.
2. All speakers must use microphones and state his or her name. Please spell your last name.
3. To assist in standing votes, you have been given a voting card which you should display during a standing vote. If you have not signed this card, please do so. You will be asked to return these cards to the checklist table if you leave before the meeting ends.
4. The most important thing for you to know is that we will not be voting to pass or defeat any Warrant Article at tonight's meeting. All Warrant Articles will be on the Town's Official Ballot, which will be voted upon at the second session of this town meeting. Voting will take place on March 8, 2016 here in the High School and at the Bartlett Elementary School in Pinardville.
5. At tonight's meeting, Articles 13 through 26 will be open for discussion, debate and amendment. Article 1 is the people up for election, followed by zoning articles. We don't get involved in those. If an amendment is properly offered, it will be discussed, debated and voted upon. If an amendment to any particular Warrant Article is adopted by this meeting, the Article, as amended, will appear on the Official Ballot for voting on March 8, 2016.
6. With respect to amendments, please keep in mind that the purpose of the Warrant is to simply place the "subject matter" before the voters. Senate Bill 2, by allowing amendments, allows the same range of possible amendments which voters have always had under the traditional town meeting system. Amending appropriation articles up or down is permitted. Details as to how a warrant article subject matter is to be treated, or the addition or deletion of terms and conditions to the article, can be accomplished through amendments as long as they relate to the general subject matter of the article. Substantive amendments not relating to the article's subject matter will be ruled out of order and will not be accepted by the moderator.
7. Further, with respect to amendments, as in the past, all amendments must be presented to the moderator in writing. Forms are available up front for this purpose. Proposed amendments must be moved to the floor and seconded before any discussion of the proposed amendment will be allowed. Following the discussion on the proposed amendment, a vote will be taken on the amendment. Following the vote on the amendment, discussion will resume on the main article. At the conclusion of the discussion on the main article, there will be no vote on the article. We will simply begin consideration of the next article.
8. The "previous question" is a procedure which will apply to the conduct of this meeting. After an article, or a proposed amendment to an article, has been discussed, a voter may move the previous question. This motion is not debatable. A "yes" vote on the previous question means there will be no further discussion on the main article

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- or proposed amendment, as the case may be. A simple majority vote is required to pass the previous question and thus end the debate.
9. In 2011, the legislature amended RSA 40:13 to prevent the practice of amending an article to eliminate all words but "to see". Please do not offer amendments which attempt to do this because they are not allowed and will not be accepted by the moderator.
 10. Five registered voters may request, in writing, a written vote, prior to a voice or standing vote on a proposed amendment, and must be present at the meeting when the vote is taken. Once a voice vote has been taken or a standing vote is underway, a written request for a written secret ballot may not be made. This request must be made in writing by seven registered voters who are present at the meeting. Forms are available for this purpose.
 11. If we have a written ballot, you need to show your voting card. The card will be initialed by the ballot clerk as you are handed your ballot.
 12. All written ballots which are cast must be whole. If a cast ballot is torn, ripped or crumpled up, it will not be counted. You may fold your ballot if you wish, but please do no more.
 13. In the case of a tie vote, it is recognized by voting authorities, most notably Roberts Rules of Order, that the moderator protects his impartial position by exercising his voting right only when the vote would affect the outcome, in which case he can either vote, and thereby change the result, or he can abstain. Since a majority is necessary to pass a motion, the motion fails if the result of the vote is a tie. In my 36 years of moderating town meetings, there has been only one dead even tie. That was on the article to raze and sell the building I was born in, which was the Moore General Hospital.
 14. A motion to reconsider can only be made by a person who voted with the prevailing side. It may be seconded by anyone. It is debatable and requires a simple majority for passage.
 15. A motion to restrict reconsideration may be made with respect to any vote taken at this meeting, or any warrant article previously considered at the meeting. This motion is not debatable and requires a simple majority for passage.
 16. Finally, please note that I will not tolerate derogatory comments to be made about any speaker or person in this hall – so please be civil.

ARTICLE 13

Moderator Stark read Article 13 as follows: *“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,300,000) (gross budget) for the renovation and expansion of Fire Station #18 (18 Church Street) and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$2,300,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. A 3/5 ballot vote is required*

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for passage.” This is recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0 and by the Budget Committee 13-0-0.

Selectman Gross moved Article 13 to the floor. Vice Chairman Lemay seconded.

Selectman Gross said this has been going on for about ten years. The Town recognizes the need to rehab and expand the fire stations. In 2014 there was a bond article for \$4.45 million to address all three fire stations and while it passed by simple majority, it did not pass by the required super majority of 3/5. So those working on the project have scaled it back. This year’s bond proposal is for \$2.3 million to address the needs at the Church Street Fire Station only.

In 2016 the Town will retire two bonds by making the last bond payments totaling \$255,449. Those were for the ARRA South Mast Road Drainage Note and the initial Landfill Closure Bond. If this article passes, the first bond payment estimated at \$177,265 would be due in 2017, which is less than the amount budgeted in 2016, thus not creating a spike in the property tax. Fire Chief O’Brien will now present an overview of the improvements and expansion of the Church Street Fire Station.

Chief O’Brien said initially when proposed, from all studies, it was determined all stations were woefully inadequate. They all need to be worked on. We got a plan to address all of them over a period of time. In 2014 the plan included all three stations. Today we have a plan for one station at a time. It seems to be more appropriate. It takes the existing station and fixes a lot of ills-electrical, heating, and operational when it comes to administration and space challenges. It is tight in that station. He invited people to stop by for a tour to show why the project is well needed. The bones of the foundation are still sound but components are needed to be upgraded. It allows additional space, bigger doors, etc. There is a handout available on Goffstown.com, which explains what is included and it shows the layout in design. Both the Budget Committee and Selectmen unanimously recommend passage of this article.

Moderator Stark opened the article to the floor for discussion. There was no discussion.

Selectman Gross moved to restrict reconsideration of Article 13. Vice Chairman Lemay seconded. VOTE: Motion passes.

ARTICLE 14

Moderator Stark read Article 14 as follows: *“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the operation, expenses and commitments of the town government, the budget approved by the Budget Committee in the amount of Nineteen Million Eight Hundred Thirty-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Twelve Dollars (\$19,839,912).*

This budget will be predicated by estimated revenues in the amount of Seven Million Eighty-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Fourteen Dollars (\$7,087,714).

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The Sewer Enterprise Fund of One Million Six Hundred Six Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Two Dollars (\$1,606,262) is included in this revenue amount and in the appropriations requested in this article.

The EMS Special Revenue Fund of Four Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-Two Dollars (\$422,232) is included in this revenue amount and in the appropriations request in this article.

The motion on the operating budget shall be the following, with only the appropriation amount subject to amendment: "Shall the Town of Goffstown raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant, or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Nineteen Million Eight Hundred Thirty-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Twelve Dollars (\$19,839,912).

Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Nineteen Million Five Hundred Sixteen Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Seven Dollars (\$19,516,267), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Goffstown or by law or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only." NOTE: This article (operating budget) does not include appropriations in any other warrant article." He said this article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0-0 and by the Budget Committee by a vote of 13-0-0.

Chairman Georgantas moved Article 14 to the floor. Vice Chairman Lemay seconded.

Chairman Georgantas said the Operating Budget consists of three funds; the General Fund, the Sewer Fund, and the EMS Fund. Only the General Fund impacts your property tax rate as the other two funds are paid for by user fees and grants. What is the increase in the General Fund? The General Fund will increase 2.13% or \$371,070. While there are increases and decreases throughout the budget account lines, the major increases are the Capital Improvements Budget with an increase of \$139,034, including painting and repairs to Grasmere Town Hall, expansion of Westlawn Cemetery and improvements to Roy Park; it includes an increase in benefits—employee insurance—of \$133,785 and it includes an increase in employee contributions to that insurance. This year there are four elections in 2016 and the increase cost is \$41,212. The difference between the default budget and proposed operating budget is \$323,645; however the difference between the general fund proposed budget and the general fund default budget is only \$179,912. The big question is how does this impact my property tax rate? If this article passes, we estimate an increase of 27 cents per thousand on the tax rate. We assessed revenues conservatively. If revenues are higher than projected, the tax impact would be less. A home assessed at \$250,000 would pay an additional \$67.50 in property taxes in 2016. Both the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen unanimously recommend passage of this article.

Moderator Stark opened the article to the floor for discussion. (There was no discussion.)

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Chairman Georgantas moved to restrict reconsideration of Article 14. Vice Chairman Lemay seconded. VOTE: Motion passes.

Moderator Stark clarified his instructions given at the start of the meeting. It has to do with the request for a written ballot. He read from the RSA: “*At any meeting of a town with a population of more than 500; five voters who are present may make a request in writing prior to a vote by voice, or division (standing) that the vote be taken by secret, written ballot. Upon receiving such a request, the Moderator shall conduct the vote by secret yes/no ballot.*”

ARTICLE 15

Moderator Stark read Article 15 as follows: “*To see if the Town of Goffstown will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Board of Selectmen and the Professional Firefighters of Goffstown, Local 3420, International Association of Firefighters, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:*

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
2016	\$35,097
2017	\$33,181
2018	\$17,344

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Five Thousand Ninety Seven Dollars (\$35,097) for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing level. This appropriation is in addition to Article 14.” This was recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0 and Budget Committee 12-0-0.

Selectman Gross moved Article 15 to the floor. Chairman Georgantas seconded the motion.

Selectman Gross said this Collective Bargaining Agreement is with the Professional Firefighters for a 3 year term. The increase cost for each year is stated in the article, and read into the record by the Moderator. This CBA replaces a 9 STEP matrix which had two 8% steps and 4% steps with a 20 STEP matrix of 2%, which is more sustainable, and is in accordance with other CBAs and other employees. To be eligible for a STEP increase it requires one year of service and passing a performance evaluation. The longevity formula is replaced with a flat rate not calculated into overtime. There are several changes in regards to health insurance. The CBA offers two new lower cost plans – a high deductible plan and an Access Blue SOS plan, and eliminates the Blue Choice plan in 2017. It also changes the formula for employee contribution which increases the employee share incrementally over the term of the contract. Finally and very importantly, there is language to reopen the contract to avoid the Cadillac Tax under the Affordable Care Act. There are significant penalties the government has for plans that are too rich for their guidelines. The Dental Plan coverage was increased from \$750 per member to \$1,250 per member. Life Insurance is still the base salary but the cap has been increased from \$50,000 to \$100,000 of coverage. Vacation time has been increased to the same as non-union employees, and we have calculated the cost of each additional vacation week. While the Town will experience a savings each year in health insurance, we are only allowed to calculate the savings in the first year of the contract by law.

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Moderator Stark opened the article to the floor for discussion.

Selectman Gross moved to restrict reconsideration of Article 15. Chairman Georgantas seconded. VOTE: Motion passes.

ARTICLE 16

Moderator Stark read Article 16 as follows: *“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Two Hundred and Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$225,000) to be added to the Fire Department Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2008. This sum to come from the fund balance and no amount to be raised by taxation. This appropriation is in addition to Article 14.”* He said this was recommended by the Board of Selectmen with a vote of 5-0-0 and by the Budget Committee 12-0-0.

Vice Chairman Lemay moved Article 16 to the floor. Selectman Gross seconded.

Vice Chairman Lemay said the Fire Department Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund was established in 2008 for the purpose of helping defray the single-year impact of the replacement cost of fire apparatus, which can run between \$500,000 and \$1 million. This Capital Reserve Fund helps to spread that cost over multiple years. This fund can also provide the Town leverage, in the form of a local match, when seeking grants to replace apparatus. This was the case in 2010, when the Fire Department was able to accept an Assistance to Firefighters Grant to replace the Town’s obsolete ladder trucks with one Tower/Ladder. In that instance, the required match dollars came from this fund. The Fund currently has approximately \$343,000 and the Town is seeking to add \$225,000 for future fire apparatus purchases. Funding for this article is proposed to come from the unassigned fund balance, with no amount to be raised by taxation. Both the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend passage of this article.

Moderator Stark opened Article 16 to the floor for discussion.

Barbara Griffin said hers is more a question on how the warrant was put together and the choice of using funds from the fund balance for some articles and not for others. Article 16 says this sum is to come from the fund balance and no amount is to be raised from taxation. The same note is on Article 17. \$500,000 is coming from the fund balance. If the BOS is unanimously in support of Article 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, and 22, which all require the raising of funds from taxation, why wasn’t the fund from the fund balance spread equally among those articles? As a taxpayer she sees that some articles don’t cost anything but others do have a cost.

Chairman Georgantas said if you were to spread it equally it would be a little in each one. That would be confusing when you go to the ballot. The apparatus fund started in 2008 and this is not the first time funds have been appropriated to that account this way.

Barbara Griffin said you are asking my tax dollars to come in those increments so if you are truly in support of those articles the same, you should allocate the same percentage from the fund balance for each article. The reality is every article has to have money raised from taxes. It

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looks like you are pushing some articles more than others. It's \$500,000+ from the general fund, and could have been allocated a little more evenly. She is against the way the Board chose to allocate money from the fund.

Vice Chairman Lemay moved to restrict reconsideration of Article 16. Selectman Gross seconded. VOTE: Motion passes.

ARTICLE 17

Moderator Stark read Article 17 as follows: *“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Two Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$280,000) to purchase the required harnesses and equipment for the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and a Jaws of Life. This sum to come from the fund balance and no amount to be raised by taxation. This appropriation is in addition to Article 14.”* He said it is recommended by the Board of Selectman by a vote of 5-0-0 and by the Budget Committee vote of 12-0-0.

Vice Chairman Lemay moved Article 17 to the floor. Selectman Adams seconded the motion.

Vice Chairman Lemay said the passage of this article would allow for the replacement of 38 obsolete Self Contained Breathing Apparatus. Last year the Town was able to purchase the cylinders for the SCBAs through the budget process. This year we need to complete the project by purchasing the NFPA Compliant SCBAs, 25 additional face pieces, 3 firefighter locating devices, and 2 RIT Packs for \$240,000. This article also includes the replacement of a Hydraulic Rescue Tool (Jaws of Life) with modern rescue equipment which is able to manage modern vehicle construction. It is battery operated and has increased reliability during an emergency; cost is \$40,000. This article will be funded by the unassigned fund balance, thus having no impact on the tax rate.

Moderator Stark opened the article to the floor for discussion.

Mr. Tobias, of 100 Lesnyk Road, asked for clarification of the article.

Selectman Gross explained the total amount of the article was \$280,000. It was broken down into two sections. One was \$240,000 and the other was \$40,000.

Vice Chairman Lemay moved to restrict reconsideration of Article 17. Selectman Adams seconded. VOTE: Motion passes.

ARTICLE 18

Moderator Stark read Article 18 as follows: *“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Two Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$230,000) to purchase a replacement ambulance. This sum is to come from EMS Special Revenue Fund, established in 2006, and no amount to be raised by taxation. This appropriation is in addition to Article 14.”* He said it is recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0-0 and by the Budget Committee 12-0-0.

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Selectman Adams moved Article 18 to the floor. Vice Chairman Lemay seconded.

Selectman Adams said this article seeks to fund the replacement of a 2005 Road Rescue Ambulance—Ambulance #3. A new vehicle would increase the reliability of the mechanical, electrical and body issues. This ambulance would be funded from the EMS Special Fund which is supported by user fees, thus having no impact on the property tax rate. Both the Selectmen and Budget Committee unanimously support this article.

Moderator Stark opened the article to the floor for discussion.

Brian Lombardi said he is in support of Article 13. How far along is the decision for the ambulance? Is it based on the facilities you have, or would it be changed if the facilities are improved?

Chief O'Brien said ambulances are not getting bigger and bigger like the fire apparatus. The current ambulance has an inch on each side of the doors. We are careful not to get anything wider if Article 13 doesn't pass. This ambulance is over 10 years old and has done its work.

Joe McCarthy asked what is done with the old ambulance and if you sell them what does the money go to.

Chief O'Brien said the Town policy is to trade them in to help defray costs, or to sell at public auction. With this item, where it was purchased with the special revenue fund, it would go back into that fund if we get money back.

Selectman Adams moved to restrict reconsideration of Article 18. Vice Chairman Lemay seconded. VOTE: Motion passes.

ARTICLE 19

Moderator Stark read article 19 as follows: *“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) for Goffstown’s Road Improvement Program. Passage of this article will direct the Selectmen to include this amount in future operating and default budgets of the Town of Goffstown. This appropriation is in addition to Article 14 which has \$845,000 budgeted for reclamation, resurfacing and crack sealing of roads.”* He said it is recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0-0 and by the Budget Committee 12-0-0.

Selectman Brown moved Article 19 to the floor. Selectman Adams seconded.

Selectman Brown said currently we have a total of about \$845,000 in the proposed 2016 Budget for road improvements. This article seeks to add \$250,000 to the road plan budget for a total of \$1,095,000, which is still far below previous funding levels. At peak funding level in 2009 the town budgeted \$2,596,597 for road improvements. We have 130 centerline miles in town. They could use some improving. It would be good for the town and the roads.

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Moderator Stark opened the article to the floor for discussion. He asked what it means when it reads, "Passage of this article will direct the Selectmen to include this amount in future operating and default budgets of the Town." Is it on an ongoing basis?

Selectman Gross said this language was reviewed by the Department of Revenue Administration. If you vote yes, that money will automatically go into next year's budget calculations. Our road program was operating at over \$2 million and we had to alter it through the recession. Now we are incrementally trying to get back to where we need to be to maintain our roads. We are trying to do it in a gradual manner, and that is why we have this article.

Selectman Brown moved to restrict reconsideration of Article 19. Selectman Adams seconded. VOTE: Motion passes.

ARTICLE 20

Moderator Stark read Article 20 as follows: *"To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) for the purpose of helping to support the nonprofit Goffstown Main Street Program, Inc. This appropriation is in addition to Article 14."* He said it is recommended by the Board of Selectman 5-0-0 and by the Budget Committee 12-0-0.

Selectman Adams moved Article 20 to the floor. Selectman Brown seconded.

Selectman Adams said Goffstown Main Street Program's mission is to provide support, advice, and promotion to current and potential business owners and residents of the designated Main Street area using the National Main Street Center's 4-Point Approach. The 4-Point Approach revolves around principles of effective design, promotion, economic restructuring, and organization as the keys to economic revitalization of the historic downtown. Many of you are familiar with the special events sponsored by Main Street including the St. Patrick's Day Dance with Silent Auction, Old Home Day, Concerts on the Common, Giant Pumpkin Regatta, Friday Night Under the Lights, and Art Showoffs. These events bring business to the Village Area as well as fostering a sense of community. Passage of this warrant article would provide \$20,000 towards their 2016 Budget of \$71,750. This article is recommended unanimously by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee.

Moderator Stark opened the article to the floor for discussion.

Karen Henderson thanked everyone for their support in the past on this article. She said they are fortunate to have the support of the Board and voters for 15 years. It represents quite a bit of our operating budget.

Selectman Adams moved to restrict consideration of Article 20. Selectman Brown seconded. VOTE: Motion passes.

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ARTICLE 21

Moderator Stark read Article 21 as follows: *“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) for the purpose of helping to support the programs of Goffstown nonprofit Crispin’s House Coalition for Youth Inc., a youth drug, alcohol and suicide prevention agency. This appropriation is in addition to Article 14.”* It is recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0 and by the Budget Committee 12-0-0.

Selectman Gross moved Article 21 to the floor. Selectman Brown seconded the motion.

Selectman Gross said Crispin’s House has provided services to youth and families of Goffstown for over 25 years, providing positive program opportunities to help kids make positive choices. The total budget is about \$85,890. The warrant article covers only \$20,000. The organization works hard to raise the remaining funds through fundraising activities, community involvement and grants. The newest program is in the area of Suicide Prevention, a growing concern in our community, and they work in collaboration with Makin’ Happen of Greater Manchester and the National Alliance on Mental Illness. This article is recommended unanimously by the Board of Selectmen and by the Budget Committee.

Moderator Stark opened the article to the floor for discussion.

Dian McCarthy, Executive Director, said this warrant article, is important to us. It has been a source of good support and helps us qualify for other grants. It is important in that process. We work hard to lift up families in our communities. This is the fourth year and the last 3 we have been overwhelmingly supported. Thank you.

Selectman Gross moved to restrict reconsideration of Article 21. Selectman Brown seconded. VOTE: Motion passes.

ARTICLE 22

Moderator Stark read Article 22 as follows: *“To see if the Town will raise and appropriate up to Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) for the purpose of helping to support Goffstown Waterway Association and Namaske Lake Association efforts to manage milfoil in the upper portion of the Piscataquog River, Glen Lake, and Namaske Lake. This appropriation is in addition to Article 14.”* He said this is recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0 and by the Budget Committee 12-0-0.

Selectman Adams moved Article 22 to the floor. Selectman Gross seconded the motion.

Moderator Stark said he was given an amendment to add “passage of this article will direct the Selectmen to include funds for this purpose in future operating and default budgets for the Town of Goffstown.” This is submitted by the Budget Committee.

Elizabeth Dubrulle, Budget Committee Chairman, said she was empowered by the Budget Committee to propose this amendment on their behalf. At the meeting of January 14th they proposed this amendment by a vote of 10-0-0 with 2 abstentions. Our reasons for requesting this

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amendment include the treatment of milfoil as a yearly expense, and should therefore be included in the Town's operating budget. Since the milfoil can only be contained rather than eradicated, managing this problem will require a yearly expense of funds for the foreseeable future and therefore it is entirely appropriate that it be considered an operating expense. The governing bodies— in this case, the Board of Selectmen, the Goffstown Waterway Association, and the Namaske Lake Association have agreed to a milfoil abatement and maintenance plan in consultation with the State Department of Environmental Services that require certain steps to be taken on an annual basis, thus causing us concern that the necessary funds would be subject to a yearly town vote. If the volunteers who run the Goffstown Waterway Association and the Namaske Lake Association do not make a convincing case to the voters every single year, those funds may be in jeopardy. And with the milfoil problem being one that compounds every year, not funding the project may have serious and costly consequences for taxpayers. Once the appropriate funds have been included in a Town budget that has been approved by the voters, those funds will then be included in a default budget from that point forward until removed by the selectmen, which will provide a level of protection for those funds in the important work that those funds support. Finally, although the Selectmen already have a fair amount of oversight on this project, bringing the funds into the operating budget will provide them with even greater control of how this taxpayer money is being spent.

Moderator Stark said this motion to amend was seconded by Joe Spoerl. It is properly before the meeting.

Robert Morris said he supports this article but is concerned by the amendment. The natural reaction of a typical voter would be to not put it in the budget.

Elizabeth Dubrulle said it was in the proposed budget last year but the proposed budget failed and that money failed. That is why it is included this way. But it's a maintenance cost. It is a true operating expense and should be treated as such. We feel it is more transparent to count it as a true operating expense, which is what it is.

Phil D'Avanza said his concerns are more about the process. He understands the purpose of the amendment. He thinks it's a good cause. There are two concerns in the process. First, we are dealing with a money article. It's been voted on by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee. The amendment doesn't affect money amount, but just language. If this passes, the Budget Committee, by statute can't vote on this article. It would go onto the ballot differently. He heard a vote different from the Budget Committee. It's not fully accurate. The other issue is the warning of this article. It doesn't mention that it would be included into next year's operating budget. He is concerned it's not properly warned to the public.

Chairman Georgantas asked if there is anything that says this money has to be spent specifically on the eradication of milfoil. There is nothing that he knows of.

Town Administrator Desruisseaux said if you have a line saying milfoil, the intent is there.

Chairman Georgantas asked if the Selectmen could not fund it if we have a default budget year.

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Town Administrator Desruisseaux said you could.

Elizabeth Dubrulle said putting it in the Operating Budget is a commitment to the Town that we are going to try to address this milfoil so our lakes are still usable. And to answer Phil D'Avanza's question, the 2 abstentions were because they represent other boards and those boards hadn't weighed in on it. That is why the votes are different.

Claire Rouillard asked if there is another way to address this issue other than an amendment that has potential to fail.

Elizabeth Dubrulle said next year. We put it in as an amendment because we can't change the articles up or down. The Conservation Commission chose to do a special warrant article. This year the amendment is the only thing we can do, next year we can work with the Conservation Commission.

Claire Rouillard said we can keep this now and next year bring it up.

Jean Walker said it was a special warrant article because there was no money last year. We figured it was a better chance in case the budget failed.

Jim Raymond said we are getting more excited over this than we need to. The purpose of this clause is under RSA 40:13 Default Budget Calculations. You would exclude one-time expenditures not likely to be repeated. If it goes through this year, without that clause it's not included in next year's budget. By adding that clause you can include in next year's budget. He thinks all it is doing is putting it into the formula for determining the default budget. A typical rule is that this town meeting cannot bind future towns, except for certain exceptions. If it takes it out of those exceptions it has to be in the budget next year. We're not appropriating this fund into the indefinite future. It's just a way to get around the otherwise exclusion from the default budget. That's all it does. So let's do that. It's a good thing. To clarify, although this motion was made by two people from the Budget Committee, this motion is not made by the Budget Committee.

Vote on amendment: Motion passes; one against.

Selectman Adams said this article, as amended, seeks to assist the Goffstown Waterway and the Namaske Lake Associations with managing the milfoil in the upper portion of the Piscataquog River, Glen Lake, and Namaske Lake. There are long-term variable milfoil management plans for each Lake developed by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, which is also provided grants to these associations for herbicide treatments. The Town funding assists these associations in meeting their match to these grants. This article is recommended unanimously by the selectmen and budget committee. He thinks it important we address the milfoil issue; it is a long-term effect and can be eradicated. These water bodies and waterways are assets, they draw visitors to Goffstown, and there is economic benefit to the Town of Goffstown. He supports it and recommends voters support it as well.

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Moderator Stark opened the article to the floor for discussion.

Selectman Adams moved to restrict reconsideration of Article 22. Selectman Gross seconded. VOTE: Motion passes.

ARTICLE 23

Moderator Stark read Article 23 as follows: “To see if the Town will adopt RSA 41:9-a to authorize the Board of Selectmen to establish and amend fees following the procedures outlined in said statute, such authority in effect until rescinded.” He said it is recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0.

Chairman Georgantas moved Article 23 to the floor. Selectman Gross seconded.

Chairman Georgantas said this article seeks to adopt RSA 41:9-a, which will standardize the process for establishing and amending fees. The RSA requires a public hearing with a 7 day notice published in a newspaper and posted in two public places. The notice shall contain the proposed fee schedule.

RSA 41:9-a Establishment of Fees.

- I. A town may, by majority vote at any annual or special meeting, authorize the board of selectmen to establish or amend fees, as provided in this section. Such a vote shall continue in effect until rescinded.
- II. Following such vote, the board of selectmen, without further vote of the town, may establish or amend fees or charges for the following purposes:
 - (a) The issuance of any license or permit which is part of a regulatory program which has been established by vote of the town.
 - (b) The use or occupancy of any public revenue-producing facility, as defined in RSA 33-B: 1, VI, the establishment of which has been authorized by vote of the town.
- III. Such fees or charges shall not exceed, in the case of licenses or permits, an amount reasonably calculated to cover the town's regulatory, administrative and enforcement costs.
- IV. Prior to the establishment or amendment of any such fees, the selectmen shall hold a public hearing, notice for which shall be given at least 7 days prior to the hearing by posting in 2 public places in the town and by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the town. The notice shall include the proposed schedule of fees.
- V. This section shall not be deemed to prohibit a town from delegating authority over specific fees to another official or official body of the town. This section shall not supersede other provisions of law concerning the establishment or amount of specific types of fees. Source 1989, 38:1, eff. June 11, 1989.

Chairman Georgantas said this is enabling legislation that authorizes the Selectman.

Town Administrator Desruisseaux said it was adopted in 1989 and is the first time to come before the Town Meeting. The Town has been charging fees for years. Authority was always embedded in other laws. This law, in 1989, standardized the process for any fees.

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Moderator Stark opened the article to the floor for discussion.

Claire Rouillard asked the process we use now when we want to increase or raise our fees.

Town Administrator Desruisseaux said we've been following the process but haven't adopted the statute.

Margaret Harrison asked what happens if people vote no.

Town Administrator Desruisseaux said nothing. We keep doing it.

Chairman Georgantas moved to restrict reconsideration of Article 23. Selectman Gross seconded. VOTE: Motion passes.

ARTICLE 24

Moderator Stark read Article 24 as follows: *"To see if the Town will urge that the next President and Congress fight big money politics and restore government of, by, and for the people by championing the We the People agenda:*

- 1. Ban Super PACs and overturn Citizens United*
- 2. Expose secret donors and require full transparency*
- 3. Ban bribes from big-money lobbyists and government contractors*
- 4. Establish small-donor, citizen-funded elections*
- 5. End gerrymandering and modernize voter registration*
- 6. Close loopholes and enforce campaign finance laws*

That the New Hampshire State Legislature support concrete legislation to enact the We the People agenda. The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice to the NH congressional delegation and to Goffstown's state legislators, and to the President of the United States informing them of the instructions from their constituents by the Selectmen within 30 days of the vote." He said this article was submitted by petition.

Barbara Schult moved the motion to the floor. Selectman Gross seconded.

Moderator Stark said he has an amendment from David Pierce and Claire Rouillard. It is to delete the last two sentences and replace them with "the record of the vote on this article shall be public information."

David Pierce said he offered this amendment to replace the last two sentences. What this does is to achieve the purposes of the proponent of the article that they can take the public information and do whatever they wish with it. It doesn't direct this Town to write letters. It doesn't become their burden. It's on the proponent. This is a vote to see if the Town will do something. The Town doesn't seek to put a burden on the State of NH. That is for all the Towns. It achieves the purposes of the proponent of the article or tinker with their agenda. It just allows what they can do if the article passes.

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Claire Rouillard said she was unclear what it was we needed to do when the amendment was put forth. She didn't understand the actual article. The purpose of the amendment was because of the language of the article. The only reason for the amendment was that she was uncertain if that portion was requested or a statement that it in fact happened. The NH State Legislature didn't support a bill before it on this particular article.

Barbara Schult said she is here on behalf of the petitioners and others who didn't sign the petition. It is an effort to call attention to the effects of Citizens United to the dark money. We had a bill at the State House and it passed the Senate. At the Senate hearing and at the House hearing, not a single person spoke opposed to either bill. It was voted on at the House this past January. It passed initially. Then there was a quirky thing and there had to be a re-vote. It ended up in the end not passing. This bill is an attempt by frustrated residents across the state, to let our voices be heard at the legislative level. Sixty-nine (69) towns have passed a version of this since 2010. The State House is working at getting legislation passed. It's affecting local elections. It is disengaging the average citizen. It will only work if we have regular citizens involved. If people feel their vote won't count, people aren't voting because they are out voted by the millionaires. The language was given by Open Democracy. She is okay with the amendment if that's the only way to get it through. She prefers it stay as it is.

Scott Gross said he is speaking as a private citizen, he won't endorse the amendment. He doesn't think it's onerous for the Board of Selectmen to write a letter to say a vote taken was in favor of it. It just articulates what the voters did in Goffstown. Personally, he agrees with the petitioner that there isn't enough transparency with regard to super packs. There is too much big money and need to stand up to it if we want the power to be brought to the people.

Claire Rouillard said she is trying to get clarification on the sentence "to enact the We the People Agenda." The Citizens United case is a US Supreme Court case that held, that in fact, freedom of speech trumps much of what we would like to see done with funding for politics and campaigns. She supports what is being done in the article. It's not a bad idea. She doesn't know what it means for the NH State Legislature. She'd like clarification on that.

Barbara Griffin said she would vote in support of the amendment. We are talking about big money and transparency. She doesn't know who Open Democracy is that supplied the language for this bill, nor does she know the We the People agenda. She thinks it more appropriate, if it is going to be placed on the ballot that it's as amended--as a publicly recorded vote, and then our governing body can do what they might in regards to the vote.

Barbara Schult said the We the People agenda is the six points in the article.

Elizabeth Dubrulle said she is speaking as a resident, not as part of the Budget Committee. She has concerns with not being familiar with the group. The value of the warrant is symbolic. She's more comfortable making a symbolic gesture than passing a warrant article she is fuzzy on that directs people to do things that she's not quite sure what they are being asked to do. She will support the article as amended.

VOTE: amendment adopted.

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Moderator Stark opened Article 24 to the floor for discussion.

Barbara Schult said thank you for listening and supporting to the extent you did. It's a step in the right direction.

Elizabeth Dubrulle said the Budget Committee is meeting immediately following this meeting.

Robert Browne, Police Chief, said about 10 days ago the Board of Selectmen invited him, Chief O'Brien, DPW Director Jacobs, Moderator Rod Stark, and Town Clerk Cathy Ball to address a plan for primary day. They have a plan but he is here to warn people there will be a large voter turn-out. It will be challenging. Give yourself extra time to vote that day. Try to avoid the area if possible. The roundabout will be packed most of the day. There will be extra police presence. A shuttle bus to help people in the back; handicapped parking will be in front by the entrance. He encourages people working the polls to park close to Wallace Road. Voters park closest to Park Street. We will be voting in the main gym instead of the small gym.

Brad Parkhurst made a motion to adjourn. Chairman Georgantas seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Labrecque

Recording Secretary