

# TOWN OF GOFFSTOWN

## TOWN VOTERS' GUIDE 2007 Official Ballot



## SCHOOL VOTERS' GUIDE 2007 Annual Warrant



The Goffstown Board of Selectmen and Goffstown School Board are pleased to present the 2007 VOTERS GUIDE. All town and school articles which will appear on the Official Ballots are included with explanations following each article. Both boards strive toward improving communication with the Goffstown community, and we sincerely hope this guide will assist you in making informed voting decisions. Please remember to exercise your right to vote on March 13, 2007 from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM at Bartlett Elementary or Goffstown High School.

**TOWN BALLOT:** If all the appropriation articles which are recommended by the Board of Selectmen pass, then the town side of the property tax rate is estimated at **\$8.60**, an increase of **\$.38** over the previous year. This estimate does **NOT** include the tax impact of non-appropriation articles such as Articles 20 and 29 or any potential property tax impact from pending state legislation.

**SCHOOL:** Please see page 11 for Tax Impact information.

Your comments regarding this newsletter are welcome. Please submit comments regarding town articles to Sue Desruisseaux, Town Administrator, [sued@ci.goffstown.nh.us](mailto:sued@ci.goffstown.nh.us) and comments regarding school articles to Keith Allard, School Board Chair, [kallard@goffstown.k12.nh.us](mailto:kallard@goffstown.k12.nh.us).

# 2007 TOWN ARTICLES

## ARTICLE 1 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

### SELECTMEN

<i>For 3 Years</i>	<i>Vote for not more than Two</i>
Vivian Blondeau	<input type="checkbox"/>
William Gordon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scott Gross	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bruce Hunter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tricia Wynne	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write-In _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write-In _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

### BUDGET COMMITTEE

<i>For 3 Years</i>	<i>Vote for not more than One</i>
Roger Richard	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write-In _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

### CEMETERY TRUSTEES

<i>For 3 Years</i>	<i>Vote for not more than One</i>
Jean Walker	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write-In _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

### LIBRARY TRUSTEES

<i>For 3 Years</i>	<i>Vote for not more than Two</i>
Ruth Ann Biron	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lisa M. Iodice	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write-In _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write-In _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

### PLANNING BOARD

<i>For 3 Years</i>	<i>Vote for not more than Two</i>
William Zackeroff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Timothy Redmond	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write-In _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write-In _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

### PLANNING BOARD

<i>For 1 Year</i>	<i>Vote for not more than One</i>
James Raymond	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write-In _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

### SEWER COMMISSION

<i>For 3 Years</i>	<i>Vote for not more than One</i>
Paul Laperle	<input type="checkbox"/>
Catherine Whooten	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write-In _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

### SUPERVISOR OF CHECKLIST

<i>For 3 Years</i>	<i>Vote for not more than One</i>
Suzanne Tremblay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write-In _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

### TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS

<i>For 3 Years</i>	<i>Vote for not more than One</i>
Kenneth Rose	<input type="checkbox"/>

### ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

<i>For 3 Years</i>	<i>Vote for not more than Two</i>
Denise M. Herman	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gail Labrecque	<input type="checkbox"/>
Denis Pinard, Jr.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Catherine Whooten	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write-In _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write-In _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

## ARTICLE 2

Shall the Town adopt Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: to amend the definition of subdivision, adding before the last sentence of this definition: "A lot line adjustment, even though creating no new lots, is a subdivision. A lot merger, reducing the number of lots, is not a subdivision." And to amend Section 9.3.2.4 to read: "Manufactured home parks are subject to all provisions of the zoning ordinance that affect residential subdivisions, except in the case of conflicting standards, in which case those in this Section shall govern. Parks between 10 and 20 acres in size are not controlled by Section 12.5 Open Space Developments, but should be designed in a clustered form, to the extent practicable, in order to achieve meaningful open spaces and to minimize required infrastructure?"

***Recommended by the Planning Board***

**EXPLANATION:** This proposed amendment is to modify the definitions of subdivision and manufactured home park in order to determine the applicability of wetland conservation and open space development overlay districts.

## ARTICLE 3

Shall the Town adopt Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: to amend Section 1.4 dealing with interpretation of terms so that the existing language becomes Section 1.4.1 and a new Section 1.4.2 is added to read: "Any proposed use which cannot satisfy the setback requirements enumerated in this ordinance shall be considered presumptively unreasonable"?

***Recommended by the Planning Board***

**EXPLANATION:** This proposed amendment is to strengthen the legal position of the Zoning Board relative to recent case law weakening a Zoning Board's use-variance decisions.

## ARTICLE 4

Shall the Town adopt Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: to amend Section 7.4.1 by exempting this requirement in the VC district; amend Section 7.4.2, requiring that driveways be at least 50 feet from street intersections; and amend Section 7.4.3 by exempting this requirement in the VC district?

***Recommended by the Planning Board***

**EXPLANATION:** This proposed amendment is to remove inconsistencies between the zoning ordinance and the Planning Board's Development Regulations and to define the degree of Board flexibility concerning driveways within the Village Commercial district.

ARTICLE 5

Shall the Town adopt Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: to amend Section 7.5 dealing with alternative parking arrangements so that: (1) Create a new Section heading 7.5.4 Parking Requirement Reduction; (2) Relocate Sections 7.5.3.2, 7.5.3.2.1 and 7.5.3.2.2 under this new heading; (3) Add "The number of parking spaces may be further reduced provided the Planning Board finds that the characteristics of the principal uses are such that the parking spaces will be occupied at different times by the respective uses that are sharing them, and that concurrent attempts at occupancy of the spaces will not occur" at the end of Section 7.5.3.2.2; (4) Delete "Within the RSBO-2, VC and C districts, the Planning Board may waive some or all of the parking requirements for the preceding reasons or in the event that the Board finds there to be sufficient parking in public parking lots, from on-street parking or from shared parking arrangements as described in Section 7.5.3, or from any combination thereof" from Section 7.5.2; (5) Add a new Section 7.5.4.2 to read; "Within the RSBO-1, RSBO-2, VC and C districts, the Planning Board may waive some or all of the parking requirements for the preceding reasons or in the event that the Board finds there to be sufficient parking in any combination from public parking lots, from on-street parking, or from shared parking arrangements as described in Section 7.5.3, and (6) Renumber Section 7.5.4 as 7.5.5?

**Recommended by the Planning Board**

**EXPLANATION:** This proposed amendment is to clarify the degree of Board flexibility concerning parking in the various commercial districts. There are no parking standards changes proposed by this amendment.

ARTICLE 6

Shall the Town adopt Amendment No. 5 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: to amend Section 8.4 dealing with outdoor lighting so that the last sentence reads: "The Planning Board may grant exceptions within Goffstown and Pinardville and Grasmere Village Centers, as defined by the Planning Board, and for outdoor recreational facilities and for historic purposes by Conditional Use Permit. In addition to Section 14.4.1 Conditional Use Standards, exceptions should perform some public purpose, for example, lighting a public sidewalk or other facility?"

**Recommended by the Planning Board**

**EXPLANATION:** This proposed amendment is to provide the Board the authority to allow outdoor lighting fixture at a property line when a public purpose is served.

ARTICLE 7

Shall the Town adopt Amendment No. 6 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: to amend Section 9.3.2.3 dealing with manufactured homes and manufactured home parks, deleting the words "except in the case of age restricted housing when maximum density shall be 125% of that density", and "Age restricted housing shall be that which requires one resident over 55 years of age and prohibits residents under 18 years of age," thereby removing any density bonus for age restricted housing?

**Recommended by the Planning Board**

**EXPLANATION:** This proposed amendment is to delete the existing number of housing units density bonus for age restricted manufactured housing.

ARTICLE 8

Shall the Town adopt Amendment No. 7 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: to amend Section 12.2 Flood Hazard (FH) District, amending the floodplain ordinance as necessary to comply with requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program?

**Recommended by the Planning Board**

**EXPLANATION:** This proposed amendment is to have Goffstown remain in conformance with the current requirements of the Federal Flood Insurance Program.

ARTICLE 9

Shall the Town adopt Amendment No. 9 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: to add a new Section 4.5 to read as follows:

- 4.5 Emergency Housing
  - 4.5.1 An emergency, and its duration, shall be as defined by the Board of Selectmen.
  - 4.5.2 Manufactured housing and trailers, as defined in the glossary, which are licensed and ready for highway use, may be used as temporary housing during a declared emergency.
  - 4.5.3 The Building Inspector may issue permits for emergency housing.
    - 4.5.3.1 Permitting of emergency housing may be off site with appropriate property owner agreements.
    - 4.5.3.2 Permitting of emergency housing shall include consideration of appropriate sewer and water availability, on or off site, and how such is to be provided in order to insure public health.
    - 4.5.3.3 Permitting of emergency housing shall include appropriate consideration of flooding or other natural hazards in order to insure public health?

**Recommended by the Planning Board**

**EXPLANATION:** This proposed amendment is to provide a way to deal with temporary emergency housing for displaced persons, for Board of Selectmen declared emergencies, whereas such temporary housing is not currently allowed.

ARTICLE 10

Shall the Town adopt Amendment No. 10 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: to amend Section 3.10B by adding a new use: "Cemetery and burial ground" after Church and synagogue", to be allowed by Conditional Use Permit in the Agricultural district, with the addition of Supplemental Standards 5.22 to read as follows:

- 5.22.1 Cemeteries to be a minimum of 1 acre in size.
- 5.22.2 Cemeteries to be accessed by a class V, or better, public road.
- 5.22.3 Burial lots to be a minimum of 100 feet from any dwelling house, school house or school, store or other place of business.
- 5.22.4 Cemetery shall be provided with a fence and necessary gates.
- 5.22.5 There shall be a plan for suitable care and maintenance of the cemetery, which shall be provided to the Goffstown Cemetery Trustees.
- 5.22.6 There shall be a plan for operations and management of the cemetery, which shall be provided to the Goffstown Cemetery Trustees.
- 5.22.7 Records shall be kept in accordance with RSA 289, as amended, including (1) the location of a burial site shall be recorded in the deed to the property upon transfer of the property to another person, (2) there shall be records of every burial showing the date of burial and the name of the person buried, the lot, plot or part of such plot and lot in which the burial was made, and (3) such records shall be provided to the Goffstown Cemetery Trustees?

**Recommended by the Planning Board**

**EXPLANATION:** This proposed amendment is to provide for cemeteries, a use not currently listed in the zoning ordinance. The referenced state statute is the source of most of the specific requirement standards.

ARTICLE 11

Shall the Town adopt Amendment No. 11 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: to amend Section 3.11-A, Accessory to Principal Residential Use, adding Residential Wind Turbine as a new accessory use allowed by Conditional Use Permit in the CO and A districts, with an asterisk referring to Supplemental Standards Section 5.23; and to add a new Section 5.23 to read as follows:

- 5.23 Residential Wind Turbine:
  - 5.23.1 Towers are limited to one per property.
  - 5.23.2 Towers are limited to 80 feet in height.
  - 5.23.3 No part of the use, tower, guys or associated equipment, shall be within a required front, side or rear yard setback. The fall-zone of the tower, generator and

blades shall, likewise, not be within these setbacks.

- 5.23.4 Noise of a normally operating wind turbine shall be certified by the equipment manufacturer to not exceed 57 decibels at the closest neighboring inhabited dwelling.
- 5.23.5 Certification by the manufacturer or an engineer, that the system, its tower, base and footings, as well as equipment, all meet the requirements of the currently adopted edition of the International Building Code.
- 5.23.6 If connected, evidence shall be provided that the utility company has been notified of the applicant's intent to install an interconnected customer-owned generator.
- 5.23.7 The Planning Board may require wildlife and other surveys in determining location appropriateness?

**Recommended by the Planning Board**

**EXPLANATION:** This proposed amendment is to allow for residential wind turbines, a use not currently listed in the zoning ordinance, as an accessory to residential uses in suburban areas. This use is not to be confused with commercial wind-farms.

ARTICLE 12

Shall the Town adopt Amendment No. 12 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: to amend Section 5.9 Dwellings in a Building Accommodating Non-Residential Uses, changing its title to: "Mixed Use Development", and adding the criteria that in the C and CIFZ Districts where multi-family dwelling units are also allowed in residential buildings, or on the ground floor within a mixed occupancy building, the gross square footage of the residential use shall not be larger than the gross square footage of the non-residential use?

**Recommended by the Planning Board**

**EXPLANATION:** This proposed amendment is to provide a limit to the amount of residential use that might be incorporated into a residential-nonresidential mixed-use development.

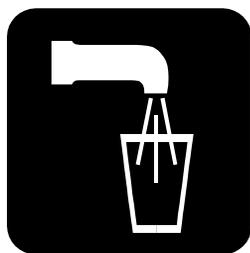
ARTICLE 13

Shall the Town raise and appropriate an amount not to exceed the sum of Two Million Five Hundred Thirty Seven Thousand Dollars (\$2,537,000) for the purpose of designing, constructing and installing a water distribution system which is more particularly described in an overall project plan dated October 18, 2006, which is intended to bring a water distribution system to the area of the Town of Goffstown known as the Lynchville and Danis Park areas, said improvements to be installed at the direction of and in accordance with the established requirements of the Town of Goffstown?

And to authorize the issuance of not more than One Million Six Hundred Forty Nine Thousand Fifty Dollars (\$1,649,050) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (Chapter 33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate

such bonds or notes to determine the rate of interest thereon, the maturity and the other terms and provisions thereof, as may be in the best interests of the Town; to authorize municipal officials to raise a minimum of Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$850,000) in grants and aid; and furthermore, to authorize municipal officials to utilize interest earnings on the invested bond proceeds of approximately Thirty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$37,950). Summary of proposed funding sources: \$1,649,050 (bond) + \$850,000 (grants/aid) + \$37,950 (bond interest) = \$2,537,000 (appropriation). Without impairing in any way the fact that the bonds will be general obligations of the Town, it is the intent to repay this bond issuance by charging an Accessibility Fee to each property benefiting from this water distribution system. This project is contingent on effectuating an acceptable Inter-Municipal Agreement with Manchester Water Works and a successful expansion of Manchester Water Works franchise area. (60% Ballot Vote required to pass).

**Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee.**



**EXPLANATION:** This article is the result of a year long study committee seeking utility services for the Lynchville-Danis Park areas of town. It seeks the authority to expend \$2,537,000 to bring municipal water from Manchester Water Works to approximately 235 property owners in this area. This expense will be paid by a bond issuance of up to \$1,649,050, a minimum of \$850,000 in grants/aid, and bond interest up to \$37,950. It is the intent that this bond (or note) will be repaid by those property owners who benefit from this expansion of a municipal water system. Property owners will be given the option to pay a one-time fee or finance for the term of the bond. Bonding will not be sought until the following conditions have been met: raising of the required grants/aid, acceptance of an Inter-municipal Agreement with Manchester Water Works, and a successful expansion of the Manchester Water Works franchise area.

**ARTICLE 14**

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 Sixteen Million Seven Hundred Eighty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Three Dollars (\$16,789,463)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Sixteen Million Six Hundred Seventy One Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Nine Dollars (\$16,671,929), 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.

**Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee.**

**EXPLANATION:** The municipal operating budget, which is the subject of this article, funds the general costs of operating the Town. The operating budget also includes the expenditures and revenues for the EMS Special Revenue Fund and the Sewer Enterprise Fund. The municipal operating budget is summarized by department and fund below:

<b>GENERAL FUND:</b>	
Administration	1,952,466
Public Works	4,457,248
Public Safety:	
Police	3,696,674
Fire	1,953,488
Library	593,371
Parks & Recreation	342,263
Debt Service	333,090
CIP	1,470,694
GENERAL FUND	<u>\$14,799,294</u>
SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND*	\$1,663,215
EMS SPECIAL REVENUE FUND*	<u>\$326,954</u>
<b>Total Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$16,789,463</b>

\*same amount in offsetting revenues

**ARTICLE 15**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Four Hundred Seventy Three Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Five Dollars (\$1,473,665) for the purpose of implementing the current phase of the Road Improvement Plan? The road improvement plan has been part of the CIP process since 2002 and annual appropriations for the plan have been approved as Special Articles since 2002. This article is designated as a Special Article pursuant to RSA 32:3, VI (d). (This appropriation is in addition to Article 14.)

**Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee.**

**EXPLANATION:** This is the 6<sup>th</sup> year of a multi-year Road Improvement Program. The basic premise of the road program is that it is more cost efficient to maintain roads than to rebuild roads. Therefore, the program’s goal is to rebuild roads which are below the acceptable level and then maintain roads at the acceptance level to reduce costly rebuilding of roads. As the years go by, the Town should spend less on reclamation and more on maintenance, thereby having a positive effect on roads and the road budget.



ARTICLE 16

Shall the Town direct the Board of Selectmen to include the Road Plan appropriation in the operating and default budgets beginning in 2008?

**Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.**

**EXPLANATION:** There was a consensus between Selectmen and Budget Committee that this annual expense needs to become part of the town's operating budget.

ARTICLE 17

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand dollars (\$100,000) to be deposited into the Grasmere Town Hall Restoration Capital Reserve Fund? (This appropriation is in addition to Article 14.)

**Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.  
Not recommended by the Budget Committee.**



TOWN OF GOFFSTOWN  
Center Street  
Grasmere, New Hampshire

Grasmere Town Hall Addition  
Northwest View

DESIGNED BY METCAL ARCHITECTS LLC

**EXPLANATION:** In 2003 through the use of grant money, an architectural design for handicap accessibility to the second floor was completed. When complete this will be the only municipal meeting room which will hold up to 200 people. This project will also restore the historic theater/auditorium. The project cost is estimated at \$600,000. A plan was put forward to CIP to raise 50% of the project cost by taxes and 50% by grants. The 50% to be raised by taxes would be \$100,000 per year for three years and saved in a Capital Reserve Fund. In 2005 Goffstown voters supported the creation of a Capital Reserve Fund for this purpose and appropriated the first \$100,000 payment to the Grasmere Town Hall Restoration Capital Reserve Fund. This year we seek to continue this Capital Reserve Fund with a second year appropriation of \$100,000. This fund will be used to leverage grant monies as they become available for this purpose.

ARTICLE 18

Shall the Town appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from the Grasmere Town Hall Restoration Capital Reserve Fund as provided by RSA 35:15?

**Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.**

**EXPLANATION:** This article would give the Selectmen the authority to access this money any time during the year to leverage grants which may become available.

ARTICLE 19

Shall the Town raise and appropriate Fifteen Thousand dollars (\$15,000) for the purpose of funding the nonprofit Goffstown Main Street Program, Inc.? (This appropriation is in addition to Article 14.)

**Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee.**



**EXPLANATION:** The town has financially supported Goffstown Main Street Program at this same level for the past eight years. Main Street'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 historic downtown.

ARTICLE 20

Shall the Town, pursuant to RSA 72:39-(a) and (b), modify the elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Goffstown, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$45,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$60,000; for a person 80 years of age or older \$80,000? To qualify, the person must satisfy all the conditions of RSA 72:39-(a) and (b) that pertain to eligibility for this exemption as well as those contained in any other applicable statute, including, without limitation, that they demonstrate that they have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years preceding April 1 in the year the exemption is claimed, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income in each applicable age group of not more than \$35,000 or, if married, a combined net income of less \$50,000; and own net assets, whether married or not, not in excess of \$150,000 excluding the value of the person's residence.

**Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.**

**EXPLANATION:** In 1997 the town increased the income and asset eligibility requirements for the elderly exemption program. In 2004 the town increased the exemption amounts. This article would raise the income and asset eligibility requirements, and exemption amounts as follows:

**- ANNUAL INCOME -**

<b>Current</b>		<b>Proposed</b>	
Single	Married	Single	Married
\$18,500	\$24,000	\$35,000	\$50,000

**- NET ASSETS -**

<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
\$35,000	\$150,000

**- EXEMPTION AMOUNTS -**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
65-75	\$25,000	\$45,000
75-80	\$30,000	\$60,000
80+	\$40,000	\$80,000

There is no data on how many elderly (65+) own homes in town, or how many would qualify under the new income and asset requirements. The **2000 US Census** data provides you the following guidance:

- 1,208 of the 5,630 households in Goffstown include someone 65 years of age or older;
- 1,434 households received Social Security Income which averaged \$11,895;
- 949 households received retirement benefits averaging \$11,645;
- household income with a householder between 65-74 years of age had a median of \$26,941 and a mean of \$31,068;
- household income with a householder above 75 years had a median of \$22,721 and a mean of \$32,215;
- Social Security Adjustments 2000-2.4%; 2001-3.5%; 2002-2.6%; 2003-1.4%; 2004-2.1%; 2005-2.7%; 2006-4.1%; 2007-3.3%;
- 80% of the occupied housing units are owner occupied in Goffstown.

It is estimated that this article could shift between \$400,000 - \$1,200,000 of the property tax burden to other taxpayers. The actual shift could be more or less than this estimated range.

**ARTICLE 21**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Ninety Five Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Eight Dollars (\$295,438) for the purpose of hiring ten (10) full-time firefighters? This amount is for six months, beginning July 1, 2007. These new positions added to current staff will provide coverage at one fire station 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Staffing will be a minimum of five (5) full-time firefighters per shift.

Said appropriation to be funded as follows:

- (1) reallocation of Forty Nine Thousand One Hundred Seventy Eight Dollars (\$49,178) from the call firefighter related account lines to full-time employee related account lines in the 2007 Fire Department operating budget;
- (2) reallocation of Eighty Thousand One Hundred Sixty Nine Dollars (\$80,169) from EMS wage related account lines in the EMS operating budget to full-time

employee related account lines in the 2007 Fire Department operating budget; and

- (3) the remaining One Hundred Sixty Six Thousand Ninety Two Dollars (\$166,092) to be raised by taxes.

The annualized (12 month) cost of hiring 10 full-time firefighters is Five Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Five Dollars (\$557,335).

Implementation of this article is contingent upon negotiating an agreement with the exclusive bargaining unit representative.

(These calculations are based on 2005 wage and cafeteria plan rates.) (This appropriation is in addition to Article 14.)

***Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee.***

**EXPLANATION:** This article proposes hiring 10 full-time firefighters for 6 months to provide coverage at one station 24 hours per day 7 days per week. The estimated cost is based on hiring 8 at Step A plus incentive for EMT-I and hiring 2 at Step A plus incentive for paramedic. Money will be reallocated from the Call Force Duty wage lines and the EMT wage lines to help fund these positions.

Currently, the department is budgeted for the following full-time staff: 1 Secretary, 10 Firefighters, 1 Fire Prevention and Inspection Officer, 1 Captain, 1 Deputy Chief, and 1 Chief.

**ARTICLE 22**

Shall the Town, pursuant to RSA 162-K:1, adopt the provisions of RSA 162-K relative to Municipal Economic Development and Revitalization Districts so that the town will thereafter have all the authority, powers, duties and responsibilities set forth in that chapter?

***Presented by the Board of Selectmen upon the recommendation of the Planning Board.***

**ARTICLE 23**

Assuming the adoption by the Town of Article 22, shall the town, pursuant to RSA 162-K:3 & 5, resolve that the adoption and implementation of the Mast Road Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Development District Plan will serve a public purpose as the same as is contemplated in RSA 162-K:5 and to adopt the Mast Road Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Development District Plan?

***Presented by the Board of Selectmen upon the recommendation of the Planning Board.***

**ARTICLE 24**

Assuming the adoption by the Town of Article 23, shall the town, pursuant to RSA 162-K:5, create and establish the Tax Increment Financing District described in the Mast Road Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Development District Plan and, in addition to establishing the district, establish the development program and tax increment financing plan more particularly set forth in said plan?

***Presented by the Board of Selectmen upon the recommendation of the Planning Board.***

**EXPLANATION OF ARTICLES 22, 23 and 24:** The Town of Goffstown's tax base is 9.1% commercial/industrial, 1.9% utilities, and 89% residential. Traditional efforts to increase the commercial/industrial tax base has resulted in limited success. Therefore, through the Planning and Economic Development process a plan to utilize RSA 162-K was brought to the selectmen for consideration and a public hearing was held. This plan identifies a TIF district and uses the increase in taxes resulting from improvements in that district to fund the infrastructure improvements as recommended in the Corridor Management Plan.

ARTICLE 25

Shall the Town, in accordance with RSA 32:15, increase the number of the Budget Committee elected at large members from nine (9) to twelve (12)?

***Presented by the Board of Selectmen upon recommendation of the Budget Committee.***

**EXPLANATION:** At the 2006 Annual Meeting a petition article passed reducing the budget committee membership from 12 to 9 members at large. This article seeks to restore the budget committee membership to 12 members at large for the purpose of distributing the work load.

ARTICLE 26

Shall the Town go on record in support of effective actions by the President and the Congress to address the issue of climate change which is increasingly harmful to the environment and economy of New Hampshire and to the future well being of the people of Goffstown?

These actions include:

1. Establishment of a national program requiring reductions of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions while protecting the U.S. economy.
2. Creation of a major national research initiative to foster rapid development of sustainable energy technologies thereby stimulating new jobs and investment.

In addition, the Town of Goffstown encourages New Hampshire citizens to work for emission reductions within their communities, and we ask our Selectmen to consider the appointment of a voluntary energy committee to recommend local steps to save energy and reduce emissions. The record of the vote on this article shall be transmitted to the New Hampshire Congressional Delegation, to the President of the United States, and to declared candidates for those offices.

***Submitted by petition.***



ARTICLE 27

Shall the Town direct that records (including official minutes) of transactions and undertakings of all public bodies of the Town of Goffstown and of any and all Town public proceedings as defined in N.H. RSA 91-A:1-a are to include descriptive information reflecting the affirmative or negative vote cast and noted by each individual member of such public body on all matters for which a vote is taken, such that member votes are recorded by name and subject matter of each vote?

***Submitted by petition.***

**EXPLANATION:** This petition seeks to hold "public bodies" to a higher standard for recording of votes than what is mandated by state law.

ARTICLE 28

Shall the Town direct the Selectmen to study the effects of privatizing medical ambulance services to establish twenty-four (24) hour coverage for the whole Town?

***Submitted by petition.***

**EXPLANATION:** This petition article seeks to authorize the Selectmen to study the privatization of ambulance service.

ARTICLE 29

Shall the Town deposit 100% of revenues collected pursuant to RSA 79-A (the land use change tax) in a conservation fund, established under RSA 36-A:5, in accordance with RSA 36-A:5 III as authorized by RSA 79-A:25 II, said funds to be used for conservation land and easement acquisition and costs associated therewith?

***Submitted by petition.***

**EXPLANATION:** This petition article seeks to increase the contribution to the Conservation Fund from 50% to 100% of the land use change tax. Passage of this article will reduce anticipated General Fund revenues by \$95,700.

ARTICLE 30

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Forty Five Thousand Dollars (\$245,000) for the purposes of acquisition of land conservation easements and costs associated therewith to support the goals of conservation and open space? These funds will expire at the end of 2007 if they have not been used.

***Submitted by petition. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee.***

**EXPLANATION:** This petition article seeks an appropriation of \$245,000 for one year for the purpose of preserving green space. There is a 2007 federal income tax benefit for property owners who place their land in a conservation easement. At this time property owner requests for conservation easements outweigh conservation funds available.

# 2007 SCHOOL DISTRICT ARTICLES

## ARTICLE 1 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

### SCHOOL BOARD

*For Three Years* *Vote for not more than Three*

Lorry D. Cloutier

Phillip E. Kendall II

Jeffrey A. Tate

### SCHOOL BOARD

*For One Year* *Vote for not more than One*

Henry C. Boyle

**EXPLANATION:** Voters will elect three individuals to fill School Board positions, each for a three-year term. As a result of a mid-term resignation, voters will elect one individual to complete the third year of a three-year term School Board position.

## ARTICLE 2

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$300,000.00) to be added to the existing Bartlett Elementary School Facilities Capital Reserve Fund. Furthermore, to fund this trust from the year end undesignated fund balance available on July 1 of 2007. This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #5, the Operating Budget Article. (Majority vote required).

***The School Board recommends this Article.***

***The Budget Committee recommends this Article.***

**EXPLANATION:** This article asks voters for permission to place \$300,000 into the existing Capital Reserve Fund established for the renovation of the Bartlett Elementary School. There is no additional impact to the tax rate since this amount will be transferred from the projected, undesignated fund balance which will be available to the school district on July 1, 2007.

The school district voters established the Bartlett Capital Reserve fund during the 2005-2006 school year with the transfer of \$300,000 from the district's undesignated fund balance. The intent of the fund is to provide for the funding required to support building and infrastructure updates necessary to maintain the facility as a viable elementary school capable of supporting projected student enrollments as well as regular use as a multi-purpose community facility. Should the district's voters approve this requested transfer, a total of \$600,000 and any accumulated interest, will be available to the district for renovation work at the Bartlett Elementary School.

The school district previously contracted for a facilities study with a regional architectural services firm. The study was completed and addressed the work required to update the Bartlett physical plant and its energy systems. The study recommended this work be conducted in two phases over the next five to six years. The school board plans to conduct a series of meetings during this time in order to present the study and to gain feedback from the community.



## ARTICLE 3

Shall the School District vote to approve the cost items included in the four-year Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Goffstown School Board and the Goffstown Educational Support Staff Association which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits:

Year	Estimated Increase
2007 – 08	\$180,551
2008 – 09	\$206,087
2009 – 10	\$163,480
2010 – 11	\$168,603

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY ONE DOLLARS (\$180,551.00) for the 2007-08 fiscal year, by taking TWENTY ONE THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY SIX DOLLARS (\$21,286.00) from the Food Service Revenue accounts with the remaining ONE HUNDRED FIFTY NINE THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED SIXTY FIVE DOLLARS (\$159,265.00) to come from taxation for the purpose of funding the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year. This appropriation is in addition to the Operating Budget. (Majority vote required.)

***The School Board recommends this Article.***

***The Budget Committee recommends this Article.***

**EXPLANATION:** This article asks voters for permission to approve the cost items associated with the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Goffstown School District and the Goffstown Educational Support Staff Association (GESSA).

The agreement includes:

- Modest annual increases in hourly wages over a four-year period, along with gradual increased cost sharing of health insurance costs. The salary grid increases

GESSA Wage Agreement	
Year	% increase
2007-08	1.00%
2008-09	1.00%
2009-10	1.50%
2010-11	1.25%

by 1% in each of the first two years and 1.5% and 1.25% in the third and fourth years.

- The GESSA Contract limits access to the District's most costly health insurance plan and provides incentives that should, over the life of the agreement, reduce or entirely eliminate the number of employees enrolled on that plan.
- The new GESSA Contract eliminates some of the disparities in the District's wage scale and provides for more modest, level and predictable wage increases.

Both the Goffstown support staff membership and the Goffstown School Board ratified the four-year contract. It calls for an estimated increase in wages and benefits of \$180,551 in 2007-2008. Of that total, \$21,286 will come from Food Service revenue accounts, so that the difference of \$159,265 will need to come from taxation.

Taken separately, passing of this warrant article will result in a tax increase of \$0.14 per \$1,000.

#### ARTICLE 4

Shall the School District vote to approve the cost items included in the five-year Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Goffstown School Board and the Goffstown Education Association, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits:

Year	Estimated Increase
2007-2008	\$671,670
2008-2009	\$701,828
2009-2010	\$711,959
2010-2011	\$686,914
2011-2012	\$719,360

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY ONE THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY DOLLARS (\$671,670.00) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year. This appropriation is in addition to the Operating Budget. (Majority vote required.)

***The School Board recommends this article.***

***The Budget Committee recommends this article.***

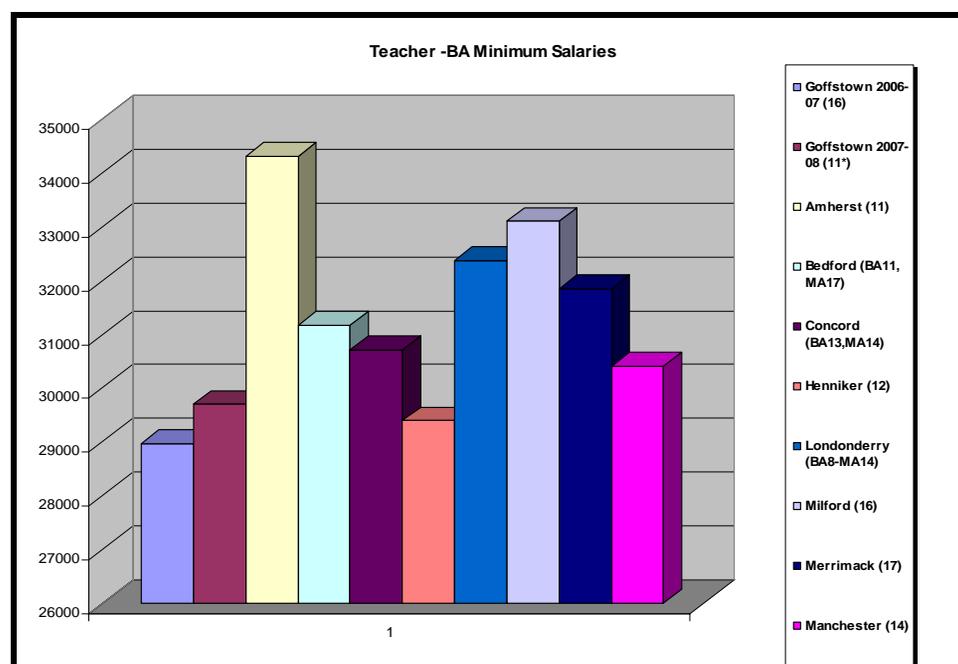
**EXPLANATION:** This article is asking voters for permission to approve the cost items associated with the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Goffstown Education Association (teachers) and the Goffstown School Board.

The agreement includes:

- The GEA contract provides for modest salary increases with increased cost sharing by the employees of health insurance costs in the first year. The salary grid increases by 2.25% each year.
- The contract enhances the starting salary, allowing the District to remain competitive as it seeks to recruit new teachers and retain current teachers.
- The contract limits access to the District's most costly health insurance plan and provides incentives that should, over the life of the agreement, drastically reduce or entirely eliminate the number of employees enrolled on that plan.
- Pursuant to the new contract, the District's contributions to Health Insurance will decrease over the life of the agreement, along with moving toward a point-of-service driver to help offset market fluctuations in health insurance premiums.
- In an effort to enhance professional development, the GEA contract provides for the gradual elimination of top Bachelor steps on the salary schedule, which gradually requires staff with more than fourteen years experience to acquire additional credits beyond a Bachelor's degree.
- The contract provides for annual increases in extra-curricular stipends consistent with the 2.25% increases in teacher salary grids.

The Goffstown Education Association and the Goffstown School Board ratified this five-year agreement. It calls for an estimated increase in salary and benefits of \$671,670 in 2007-2008.

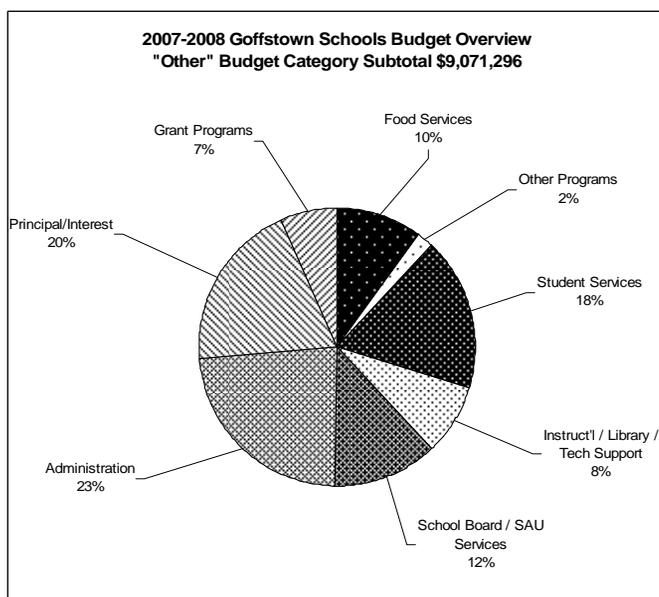
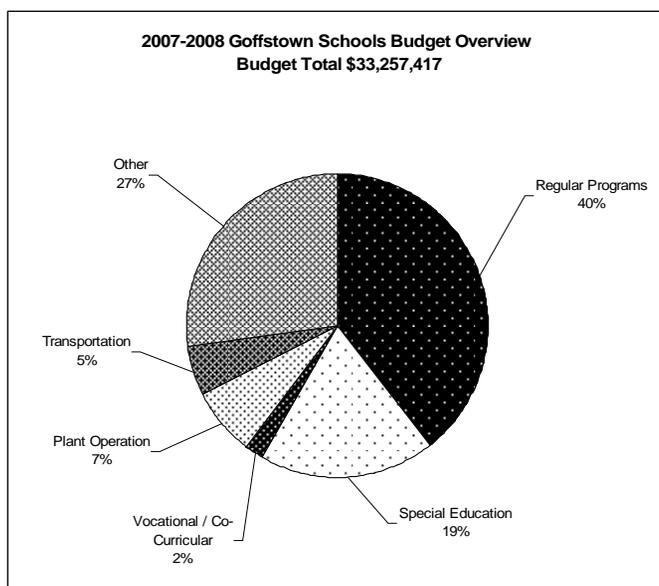
Taken separately, passing of this warrant article will result in a tax increase of \$0.53 per \$1,000.



ARTICLE 5

Shall the Goffstown School District 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 THIRTY THREE MILLION, TWO HUNDRED FIFTY SEVEN THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED SEVENTEEN DOLLARS (\$33,257,417.00). Should this Article be defeated, the Default Budget shall be THIRTY THREE MILLION, NINETY FOUR THOUSAND, NINE HUNDRED TWENTY ONE DOLLARS (\$33,094,921.00) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Goffstown School District or by law. In the event this Article is defeated, 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.

***The School Board recommends this Article.  
The Budget Committee recommends this Article.***



**EXPLANATION:** The school board and the budget committee have worked on budget development over the past five months knowing that this year, the school district needed to ratify and present two labor contracts to the town's voters for adoption. The general fund portion of the operating budget is, in essence, a maintenance budget; funded at the same level as current appropriations for 2006-07. The general fund supports a scheduled cycle of curriculum revision and technology integration. In 2007-08, the curriculum emphasis is on revised science standards, grade level expectations, and instructional methods and resources, to align with New Hampshire's new science curriculum frameworks and state-wide assessments. The technology emphasis is on the Information and Communication Technologies Literacy Program in grades K-12, which weaves technology experiences into all content areas and all grade levels. Technology funds will also maintain the software and safe, reliable networks to transmit information among schools, central office and parents. The budget provides for the full year operation of the Glen Lake School (the town's new Kindergarten facility) and for one new Earth Science teaching position at the high school.

The special revenue fund portion of the budget is flat; no increase in revenue or expenses from the current year. There is a slight increase in the Food Services Budget which is attributable to a projected increase in sales volume. This portion of the operating budget is self funding; revenues are used to offset expenses. Due to a small increase in the town's property valuations, the actual tax impact of this article taken separately is a negative (\$0.08) per \$1,000 if we use the 2006-2007 revenues for state aid. If we take the best case scenario for revenues from the state (an increase of \$1,770,923 for 07-08) the tax impact of the budget article becomes a negative (\$1.48) per \$1,000.

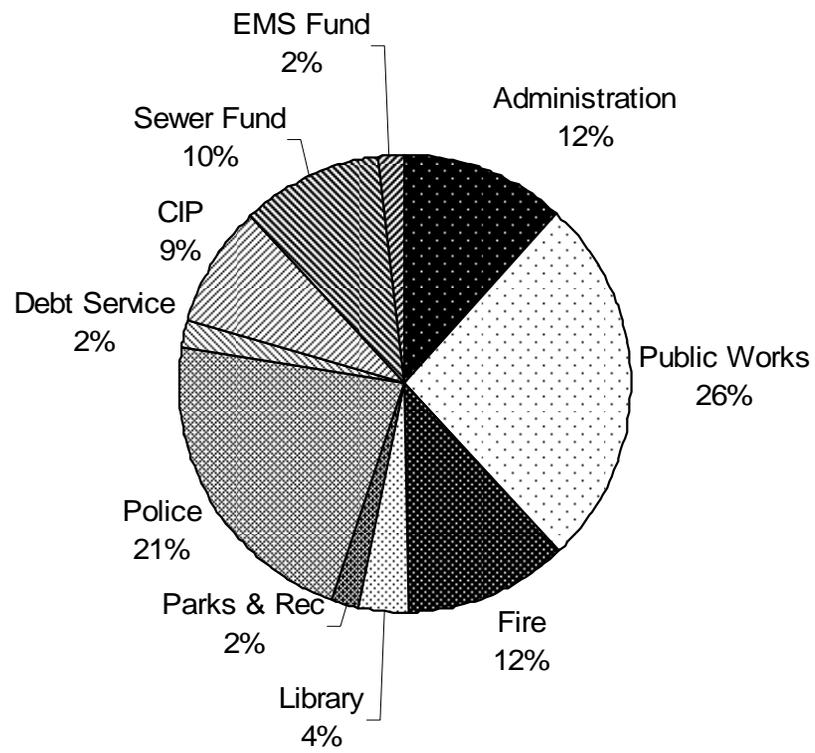
**Tax Impact of the Entire School District Warrant**

If all five School District Warrant Articles pass, using this year's NH Equitable Education Aid number, the total appropriation tax impact would be an increase of \$0.59 per \$1,000.

However, looking at the "best case scenario", using current law and applying that to a projected NH Equitable Education aid number (an estimated increase of \$1,770,923 in aid), the total appropriation tax impact for 07-08 would be a decrease of (\$0.81) per \$1,000.

The obvious dilemma is that until there is legislative action to set state aid to education one can not assume that one scenario over the other is going to take place. On the other hand, either way you look at it, as mentioned above, it is indeed a favorable situation.

# ARTICLE 14 - Town Operating Budget



***Town of Goffstown***  
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