

# TOWN OF GOFFSTOWN



## TOWN VOTERS' GUIDE 2013 Official Ballot

## SCHOOL VOTERS' GUIDE 2013 Official Ballot



The Goffstown Board of Selectmen and Goffstown School Board are pleased to present the 2013 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 Tuesday March 12, 2013 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 and the Budget Committee pass, we estimate that the town side of the tax rate would increase from **\$9.39** to **\$9.62**, an increase of \$0.23. On a home assessed at \$250,000 this would equate to an increase of \$57.50 on your 2013 property tax bill. This estimated increase does **NOT** account for any potential impact resulting from any future state actions.

### **SCHOOL BALLOT:**

Bonds: Article 2 Elementary Bond - Year 1 is \$0.20 Estimated Out Years is \$0.71

Article 3 Operating Budget at \$37,311,381 – Local and state rates are projected to be \$13.20 and \$2.49 for a total of \$15.69. Local and state rates for the Default Budget at \$36,616,611 are projected to be \$12.90 and \$2.49, for a total of \$15.39.

Your comments regarding this newsletter are welcome. Please submit comments regarding town articles to David Pierce, Board of Selectmen Chairman, [dpierce@goffstownnh.gov](mailto:dpierce@goffstownnh.gov) and comments regarding school articles to Philip Pancoast, School Board Chair, [ppancoast@goffstown.k12.nh.us](mailto:ppancoast@goffstown.k12.nh.us).

# 2013 TOWN ARTICLES

## ARTICLE 1 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

### SELECTMEN

*For 3 Years*      *Vote for not more than Two*

Allen Brown

Nicholas "Nick" Campasano

David Pierce

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

### ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

*For 3 Years*      *Vote for not more than Two*

Timothy Redmond

Vivian Blondeau

Joe Femino

Gail Labrecque

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

### ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

*For 1 Year*      *Vote for not more than One*

Leonard "Len" Stuart

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

### BUDGET COMMITTEE

*For 3 Years*      *Vote for not more than Four*

Liz Mitchell

Shea Sennett

Joe Spoerl

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

### BUDGET COMMITTEE

*For 1 Year*      *Vote for not more than One*

Adrien "Sonny" Tremblay

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

### CEMETERY TRUSTEE

*For 3 Years*      *Vote for not more than One*

Jean Walker

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

### LIBRARY TRUSTEES

*For 3 Years*      *Vote for not more than Two*

Sarah Tollefsen Elechko

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

### LIBRARY TRUSTEE

*For 1 Year*      *Vote for not more than One*

Jennifer Phillips

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

### PLANNING BOARD

*For 3 Years*      *Vote for not more than Two*

Leah Wolczko

Barbara Griffin

Tim McKernan

Christopher Nadeau

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

### SEWER COMMISSION

*For 3 Years*      *Vote for not more than One*

Catherine Whooten

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

### TRUSTEE OF TRUST FUNDS

*For 3 Years*      *Vote for not more than One*

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

## ARTICLE 2

Shall the Town adopt Article #2, amending Section 5.6 of the Zoning Ordinance – Commercial Kennels, to read: "Commercial Kennels are permitted provided that they are located on lots of not less than two (2) acres, and that no buildings or structures for commercial kennel use are located within one hundred (100) feet of any lot line?" The current regulation leaves out the words "for commercial kennel use" seen in the above proposed amendment. (Full-text copies of the proposed amendments may be obtained from the Planning Department and the Town Clerk's office).

*Submitted by the Planning Board  
Recommended by the Planning Board 7-0-0*

**EXPLANATION:** This requirement is already in effect. The intent of this article is only to clarify that it is only buildings or structures used in conjunction with commercial kennels that are subject to the current 100-foot setback requirement imposed by Section 5.6. Structures on the lot such as houses, sheds, or garages, etc. that are not used in conjunction with a commercial kennel are not subject to the 100-foot setback requirement.

## ARTICLE 3

Shall the Town adopt Article #3, amending Section 5.12 of the Zoning Ordinance – Home Occupation, by eliminating subsection 5.12.4 in its entirety? Currently Section 5.12.4 reads: "Goods sold at retail should be only those manufactured or assembled on the premises." (Full-text copies of the proposed amendments may be obtained from the Planning Department and the Town Clerk's office).

*Submitted by the Planning Board  
Recommended by the Planning Board 4-3-0*

**EXPLANATION:** The intent of this article is to eliminate subsection 5.12.4 in its entirety. The current wording of that section uses the word "should" – which connotes that this is a recommendation only and therefore is not an effective code requirement.

## ARTICLE 4

Shall the Town adopt Article #4, amending Section 3.11 of the Zoning Ordinance – Table of Principal Uses – Table G.1, by eliminating the requirement for a Special Exception for the "sale or rental of motor vehicles, boats, trailers or recreational vehicles" in the Commercial Industrial Flex Zone and Industrial Districts and by making this use a permitted use in those districts? (Full-text copies of the proposed amendments may be obtained from the Planning Department and the Town Clerk's office).

*Submitted by the Planning Board  
Recommended by the Planning Board 5-2-0*

**EXPLANATION:** The intent of this article is to encourage more economic development by permitting outright the sale or rental of vehicles, boats, trailers, or recreational vehicles in the Commercial, Commercial Industrial Flex Zone, and Industrial Zoning Districts. This would eliminate the requirement for obtaining a Special Exception through the Zoning Board of Adjustment in order to do these uses in these zones. Planning Board approval of a Site Plan for these uses would still be required in the case of a change of use or in the case of new development proposal.

## ARTICLE 5

Shall the Town adopt Article #5, amending Section 3.11 of the Zoning Ordinance – Table of Principal Uses – Table G.3, by eliminating the requirement for a Special Exception for the “retail sale of gasoline” in the Commercial, Commercial Industrial Flex Zone, and Industrial Districts and by making this use a permitted use in those districts?

*(Full-text copies of the proposed amendments may be obtained from the Planning Department and the Town Clerk’s office).*

***Submitted by the Planning Board  
Recommended by the Planning Board 4-3-0***

**EXPLANATION:** The intent of this article is to encourage more economic development by permitting outright the retail sale of gasoline in the Commercial, Commercial Industrial Flex Zone, and Industrial Zoning Districts. This would eliminate the requirement for obtaining a Special Exception through the Zoning Board of Adjustment in order to do this use in these zones. Planning Board approval of a Site Plan for this use would still be required. Supplemental Regulation 5.17.2 of the Zoning Ordinance will still limit the location of gasoline stations to be no closer than two miles of an existing station.

## ARTICLE 6

Shall the Town adopt Article #6, amending Section 14.9.3 of the Zoning Ordinance – Replacement of Non-conforming Structures, to allow the initiation of replacement of structures lost to fire, natural disaster, or other casualty to be within two years from the date the damage or destruction occurred? The current regulation requires initiation of replacement of such damaged or destroyed structures to be within one year of the date the damage or destruction occurred. *(Full-text copies of the proposed amendments may be obtained from the Planning Department and the Town Clerk’s office).*

***Submitted by the Planning Board  
Recommended by the Planning Board 7-0-0***

**EXPLANATION:** The intent of this article is to extend the amount of time allowed for redevelopment of damaged structures (by fire, natural disaster, or other casualty). With this change, construction activity will have to begin within two years of the date of the damage, instead of within only one year.

## ARTICLE 7

Shall the Town adopt Article #7, amending Section 6.6.4 of the Zoning Ordinance – Commercial, Commercial Industrial Flex Zone, Industrial, Residential Small Business Office District Signs – to read: “In the Commercial (C) and Commercial Industrial Flex Zone (CIFZ) districts, one portable A-frame sign per business, not to exceed 6 square feet of sign area per side, may be placed outside the business, within 10 feet of the building’s entry, while the business is open? *[Note: Any use of public property requires permission of the Board of Selectmen.]*” The current regulation allows these signs to be up to 3 square feet in size.

*(Full-text copies of the proposed amendments may be obtained from the Planning Department and the Town Clerk’s office).*

***Submitted by the Planning Board  
Recommended by the Planning Board 7-0-0***

**EXPLANATION:** The intent of this article is to increase the maximum allowable size of sandwich board signs in the Commercial (C) and Commercial Industrial Flex Zone (CIFZ) districts from 3 square feet to 6 square feet.

## ARTICLE 8

Shall the Town adopt Article #8, amending Section 6.7.6 of the Zoning Ordinance – Village Commercial District Signs – to read: “One portable A-frame sign per business, not to exceed 6 square feet of sign area per side, may be placed outside the business, within 10 feet of the building’s entry, while the business is open? *[Note: Any use of public property requires permission of the Board of Selectmen.]*” The current regulation allows these signs to be up to 3 square feet in size.

*(Full-text copies of the proposed amendments may be obtained from the Planning Department and the Town Clerk’s office).*

***Submitted by the Planning Board  
Recommended by the Planning Board 7-0-0***

**EXPLANATION:** The intent of this article is to increase the maximum allowable size of sandwich board signs in the Village Commercial (VC) district from 3 square feet to 6 square feet.

## ARTICLE 9

Shall the Town adopt Article #9, amending Section 6.4.2 of the Zoning Ordinance – Sign Prohibitions, by allowing electronic sign content to change no more frequently than once every fifteen seconds and not requiring a Conditional Use Permit for signs that have electronically changed content? The current regulation requires sign content to change no more frequently than once in twenty-four hours.

***Submitted by Petition  
Recommended by the Planning Board 6-1-0***

**EXPLANATION:** The intent of this article is to allow electronic sign content to change at most once every fifteen seconds. Currently the regulation requires that they can only change once in a twenty-four period. This article also seeks to eliminate the requirement that signs with electronic content have to be approved by Conditional Use Permit through the Planning Board. If this article is approved, the Planning and Zoning Administrator would review and approve or deny permit applications for such signs.

## ARTICLE 10

Shall the Town adopt Article #10, amending Section 3.12 of the Zoning Ordinance – Table of Accessory Uses to Principal Residential Uses – Table A.10, by eliminating the requirement for a Special Exception for the raising and keeping of poultry as an accessory use to a principal residential use in the Residential-1 and Residential-2 Districts and by making this use a permitted accessory use to a principal residential use in those districts?

***Submitted by Petition.  
Not Recommended by the Planning Board 4-3-0.***

**EXPLANATION:** The intent of this article is to eliminate the requirement for those residents/property owners in the Residential-1 (R-1) and Residential-2 (R-2) zoning districts to obtain a Special Exception from the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) prior to raising or keeping poultry on a lot that has an already established residential use (as an accessory use to that existing residential use). The term “poultry” includes all domestic birds including roosters, geese, chickens, etc. Passage of this article would mean that anyone in a R-1 or R2 district could raise an unlimited number of domestic birds. This petition article is not recommended by the Planning Board.

## ARTICLE 11

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 Three Hundred Eighty Two Thousand Five Hundred and Ninety One Dollars (\$19,382,591)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Nineteen Million Two Hundred Thirty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Three Dollars (\$19,239,873), 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.

*If Articles 11 and 18 both pass as presented, then Article 11 appropriation will be reduced by \$84,030 which equals 75% of the appropriation budget for Cable TV.*

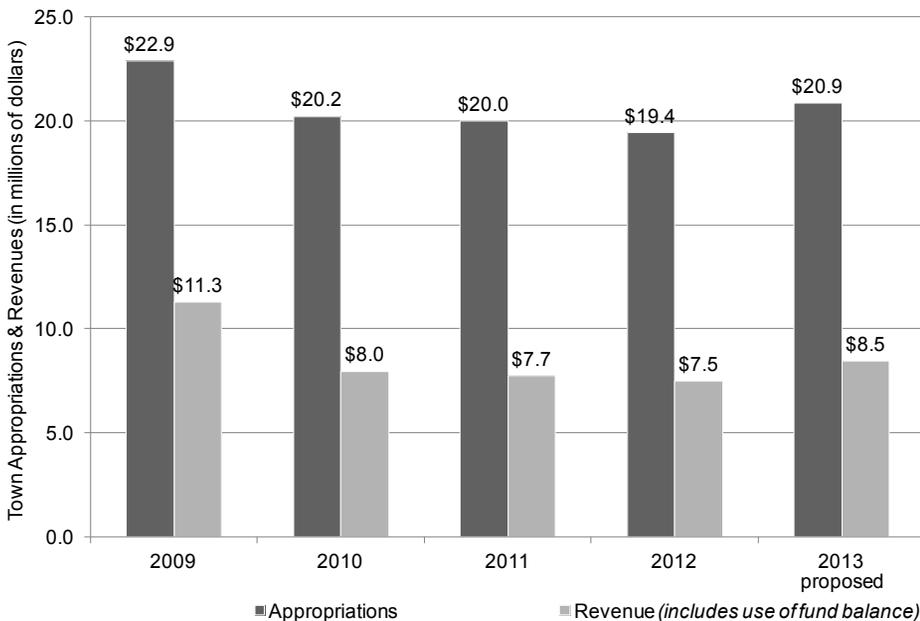
*If Articles 11 and 19 both pass as presented, then Article 11 appropriation will be reduced by \$55,480 which equals 50% of the appropriation budget for Police Special Detail.*

**Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0 and  
Budget Committee 10-4-0.**

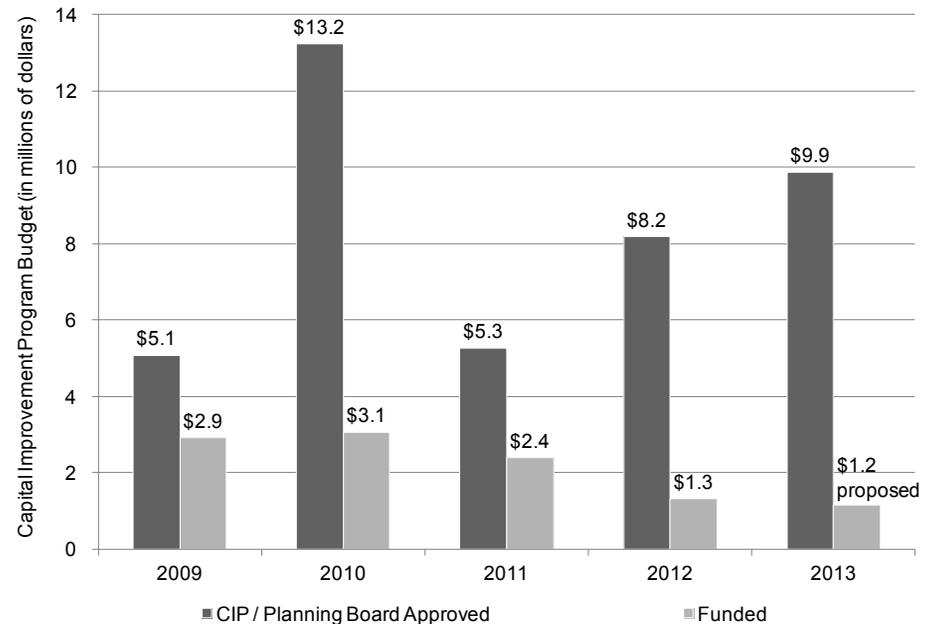
**EXPLANATION:** Article 11 is the Operating Budget for the town which consists of three funds: General Fund, EMS Fund and Sewer Fund. Of these three funds, only the General Fund impacts the property tax rate because the other funds are offset by user fees and other revenues. The General Fund has an increase of \$391,123 over the previous year. Of that increase about \$160,000 is due to the increase in the employer portion of retirement due to changes at the state level and about \$78,000 is due to increase in the cost of health and dental insurances. There are also increases in operating costs such as gasoline/diesel, electricity, heating oil, propane and wages. Please note in the Admin budget the reduction in each office is due to a transfer of insurance account lines to the Admin & Eco. Dev. office to comply with privacy laws. The summary of the 2013 budget appears below. For more budget detail please visit the town’s website at [www.goffstown.com](http://www.goffstown.com).

DEPT.	2012 BUDGET	2012 YTD (unaudited)	2013 BUDGET
<b>ADMIN</b>			
Town Clerk	198,200	189,018	181,584
Election	68,677	64,663	46,234
Finance	317,567	317,186	265,392
Admin & Eco. Dev.	468,762	451,489	731,040
Tax	89,744	89,027	84,290
Reval	208,345	204,770	181,488
IT	390,975	395,775	376,127
Planning & Zoning	253,497	238,807	219,511
Other Gen Gov't	19,451	16,468	21,476
Building Inspection	104,824	104,854	91,204
Human Services	81,622	94,192	78,136
PEG TV	65,320	62,235	112,040
<b>ADMIN</b>	<b>2,266,984</b>	<b>2,228,484</b>	<b>2,388,522</b>
<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b>			
Cemetery	132,494	125,373	122,666
Operations	3,773,579	3,674,228	3,877,029
Solid Waste	1,095,074	1,086,750	1,104,087
<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b>	<b>5,001,147</b>	<b>4,886,351</b>	<b>5,103,782</b>
<b>POLICE</b>			
Operations	3,779,250	3,603,890	3,938,115
Emer Management	2,601	1,046	2,801
Communications	694,221	671,942	745,161
<b>POLICE</b>	<b>4,476,072</b>	<b>4,276,878</b>	<b>4,686,077</b>
<b>FIRE</b>	<b>2,382,970</b>	<b>2,401,718</b>	<b>2,494,494</b>
<b>PARKS &amp; REC</b>	<b>423,499</b>	<b>417,207</b>	<b>428,101</b>
<b>LIBRARY</b>	<b>695,341</b>	<b>694,476</b>	<b>703,121</b>
<b>CIP</b>			
Land & Improvements	562,059	607,595	1,000,000
Mach., Equip & Veh	361,856	475,914	165,282
Buildings	50,000	49,690	0
Improvements o/t Land	353,748	342,366	0
<b>CIP</b>	<b>1,327,663</b>	<b>1,475,565</b>	<b>1,165,282</b>
<b>DEBT SERVICE</b>			
Debt Service Prin	248,318	241,356	250,806
Debt Service Prin&Int LVDP	53,244	53,244	53,244
Debt Service Int	35,109	41,959	28,041
Interest Short Term Notes	1	0	1
<b>DEBT SERVICE</b>	<b>336,672</b>	<b>336,558</b>	<b>332,092</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>16,910,348</b>	<b>16,717,238</b>	<b>17,301,471</b>
<b>EMS</b>	<b>378,363</b>	<b>348,081</b>	<b>414,582</b>
<b>SEWER</b>	<b>2,125,037</b>	<b>2,093,680</b>	<b>1,666,538</b>
<b>OPERATING BUDGET TOTAL</b>	<b>19,413,748</b>	<b>19,158,999</b>	<b>19,382,591</b>

**History of Town Budgets**



**CIP History**



## ARTICLE 12

Shall the Town of Goffstown approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Town of Goffstown by its Board of Selectmen and the Chauffeurs, Teamster and Helpers Local Union No. 633 of New Hampshire representing certain employees of the Public Works Department which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
2013	\$30,208
2014	\$25,704
2015	\$39,897

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty thousand two hundred and eight dollars (\$30,208) for the current fiscal year 2013, 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 levels in accordance with the most recent collective bargaining agreement? (NOTE: These employees wages have been frozen for the past two years, 2011 and 2012. This bargaining unit entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to change health insurance plans which saved the town \$30,336 in 2012.) (This appropriation is in addition to Article 11.)

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0 and  
Budget Committee 13-1-0.*

**EXPLANATION:** Article #12 presents a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between the Town of Goffstown and the Teamsters Union for certain employees at the Department of Public Works including laborers, truck drivers, heavy equipment operators, scale house operators, mechanics, etc. These twenty-four employees have been working without a contract for the past two years which means their wages have been frozen for two years. Despite being out-of-contract for two years they voluntarily entered into an agreement with the Town to change health insurance plans to one that requires higher co-pays. This agreement saved Goffstown taxpayers \$30,336 in 2012. Unfortunately, the law does not allow the town to calculate this reduction in 2013 or beyond. This is a three year CBA with the following financial impacts in each year:

### **2013**

On 4/1/13 there will be an increase from 0% to 10% in employee contributions to health/dental insurance for single person plans to match the contribution rate of those on the two person and family plans. There is a 15% reduction in the cash-out option for those who do not enroll in a town health insurance plan. These employees will receive a one-time payment of \$500 on 4/1/13 as a cost of living adjustment for the first 6 months of 2013 and a 3.25% wage adjustment on 7/1/13. This will result in an increase in the budget of \$30,208 for 2013. The 2013 fiscal impact of \$30,208 would mean a property tax increase of approximately \$5.00 on a home valued at \$250,000.

### **2014**

In 2014 these employees will no longer receive automatic annual wage increases but instead will receive performance based pay increases. Each year these employees' job performance will be evaluated and based upon that evaluation they will be eligible for a performance pay increase within a range of 1%-3% on 7/1/14. The estimated maximum annual financial impact of this change would be \$25,704 if all employees were to receive the maximum 3% raise which is unlikely.

### **2015**

In 2015 the performance based pay system will continue with the same range of 1%-3%. The estimated maximum financial impact of this would be \$39,897 again, if all employees were to receive the maximum 3% increase.

The two major goals achieved in this proposed CBA are:

1. The 10% increase in the employee contribution to health/dental insurance and the 15% reduction in cash-out options; and
2. In 2014 and 2015 pay increases in the range of 1% to 3% will be awarded based on an employee's job performance rather than automatic pay increases at a fixed rate.

Passage of this article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

## ARTICLE 13

Shall the Town raise and appropriate Two Hundred Seventy Six Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Two Dollars (\$276,962) for the purpose of purchasing replacement municipal finance software and conversion of data, funding to come from unassigned fund balance? **No amount to be raised from taxation.**

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0 and  
Budget Committee 10-3-1.*

**EXPLANATION:** Article #13 seeks to replace outdated Municipal Finance Software for the amount of \$276, 962 and to use a portion of unassigned fund balance to pay for this software so as to avoid raising property taxes for this purpose. The Town installed its current municipal finance software in 2000 and over the last five years has experienced serious issues with vendor support, stability, and software functioning. The current software was widely used in 2000 but has been abandoned by larger communities. This may be due to a lack of any significant upgrades to its functionality. Replacing the software was first proposed to the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Committee in 2009 and classified as an urgent project at that time; it has been removed from the budget each year. Early 2012 a committee of nine was established by the Selectmen to study and bring forward a recommendation on options for finance software. The committee consisted of representatives from three town committees - Selectmen, Budget, and CIP; three community representatives; and three staff members. This group of talented individuals worked together to analyze all options available to upgrade the town's municipal finance software, including "software as a service", "open source" software, hiring a programmer to develop a custom program or to improve current software by acquiring the existing code, and the purchase of proven municipal finance software. The Committee prepared a RFP for purchase of proven municipal finance software and recommended a vendor to the Board of Selectmen. Please see the Finance Software Ad Hoc Committee's Final Report at [www.goffstown.com/finance-software-ad-hoc](http://www.goffstown.com/finance-software-ad-hoc). This finance software is critical to managing the town's finances and assets as it allows thousands of transactions. It was given an urgent priority by the CIP Committee and the Selectmen. No amount will be raised from taxation. Both the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend passage of this article, and we hope the taxpayers will also support this article.

## EXPLANATION OF UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE

Property taxes will not be raised by Articles #13 through #16. This is because the purchases and projects identified in these four articles will be funded by other sources such as the use of unassigned fund balance (UFB).

### Q. What is “Unassigned Fund Balance”?

A. This is a difficult term to explain as this term does not exist in the private sector or personal finances. Fund balance, in general, is a balance sheet account that represents the difference between a municipality’s assets and liabilities, as of a certain point in time. Unassigned fund balance (formerly called unreserved fund balance) is a term under GASB54 (Government Accounting Standards Board) referring to the portion of fund balance that has not been assigned and is available for use. UFB is created when a municipality expends less than what was appropriated, or receives more revenue than what was budgeted. For example, sometimes favorable weather conditions allow under expenditures on sand, salt, and overtime. Also, a competitive bid process may lead to more favorable quotes than budgeted. This results in under expenditures of the applicable account lines and adds to the UFB. Typically, revenue projections are very conservative and sometimes we receive more revenue than projected. For example, if we receive more than the amount budgeted for motor vehicle registrations, then the additional revenue increases the town’s UFB.

### Q. Why are towns authorized to have UFB?

A. Towns are authorized to have an UFB because towns are responsible for collecting property taxes not only for town operations but for school and county operations. Towns have the responsibility to pay out the taxes collected to the other entities – schools and county. The UFB assists the town in managing cash flow. Responsible long term financial planning requires an adequate level of unassigned fund balance for unforeseen expenses such as the 2006 & 2007 floods, to ensure stable tax rates and to attain a favorable bond rating.

### Q. What is an “adequate level” for UFB and what is Goffstown’s UFB?

A. The NH Department of Revenue Administration reports that the Government Finance Officers Association recommends a range of 8%-17% of the regular general fund operating expenditures. In NH this is calculated by adding the municipality’s general fund operating appropriations, the education tax amount, the local school net tax commitment, and the county appropriation. Based upon the best available information at the time the tax rate was set in Oct. 2012 the 8%-17% range in Goffstown equated to \$3 million – \$6.5 million. As of the end of 2012, the town has an estimated UFB of \$5.4 million.

### Q. What are the processes to use UFB?

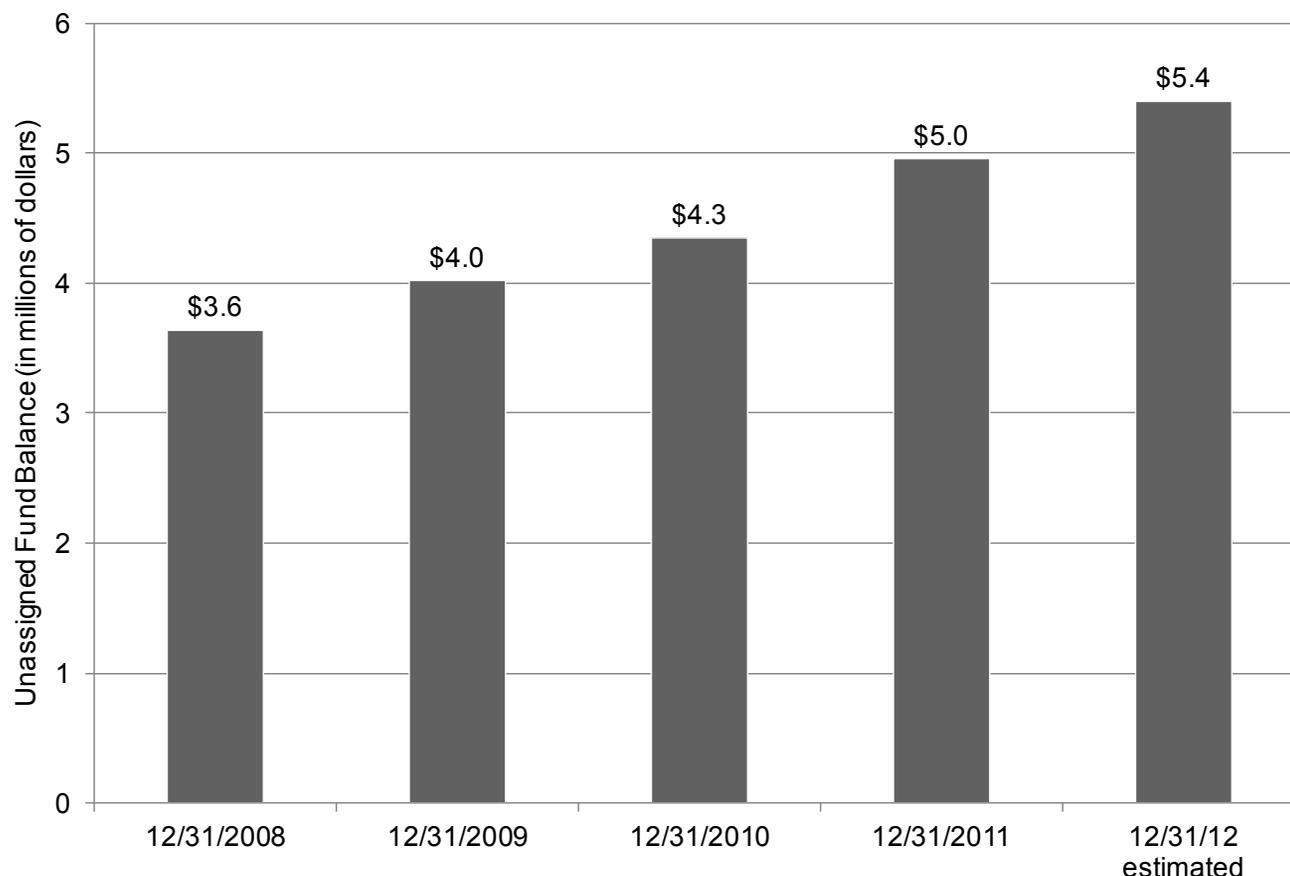
A. There are three ways to access UFB:

- At tax rate setting time the Board of Selectmen can use fund balance to stabilize the town side of the tax rate.
- If an emergency occurs during the year which requires overspending the adopted budget, then there is a legal process involving the Budget Committee and the Department of Revenue Administration to allow the Selectmen to use fund balance for an emergency.
- A town can choose to fund purchases with the UFB upon voter approval at the Annual Town Meeting. Our auditors recommend that those purchases be one-time purchases and **not** ongoing operating costs.

### Q. How does Goffstown plan to use UFB in 2013 and why?

A. In 2013 the Selectmen recommend spending \$819,069 from the unassigned fund balance for the purchases and projects identified in Articles #13 through #16. Thereby, retaining approximately \$4.6 million in the unassigned fund balance to meet any future risks. This retained amount is well within the recommended range. Selectmen realizing that capital improvements have been deferred over the years, took the advice of the town’s auditors to spend down the UFB on one-time critical purchases.

## History of Unassigned Fund Balance



### ARTICLE 14

Shall the Town raise and appropriate One Hundred Sixty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Five Dollars (\$169,425) for the purpose of purchasing software for police operations and dispatch, and for the conversion of Police Department data, funding to come from unassigned fund balance? **No amount to be raised from taxation.**

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0 and Budget Committee 14-0-0.*

**EXPLANATION:** Article #14 seeks to replace outdated software including the conversion of data for the Police Department in the amount of \$169,425 and to use a portion of unassigned fund balance to pay for this purchase. This software is used by a majority of Police Departments in the State of NH, and will provide more functionality and efficiency to our Police Department. In 2010 the Town of Goffstown loss dispatch contracts with the towns of Weare and New Boston, resulting in a decrease of \$45,572 in annual revenue because we could not offer the compatibility and functionality offered by this software. Due to the wide use of this software, we anticipate other police departments will contract with Goffstown for dispatch services increasing our revenues. Once data fields are filled in, this software would eliminate the need for duplicate data entry on several levels within the police department. This elimination of redundancy will allow officers to spend more time on the street patrolling the community. No amount will be raised from taxation. Both the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend passage of this article, and we hope the taxpayers will also support this article.

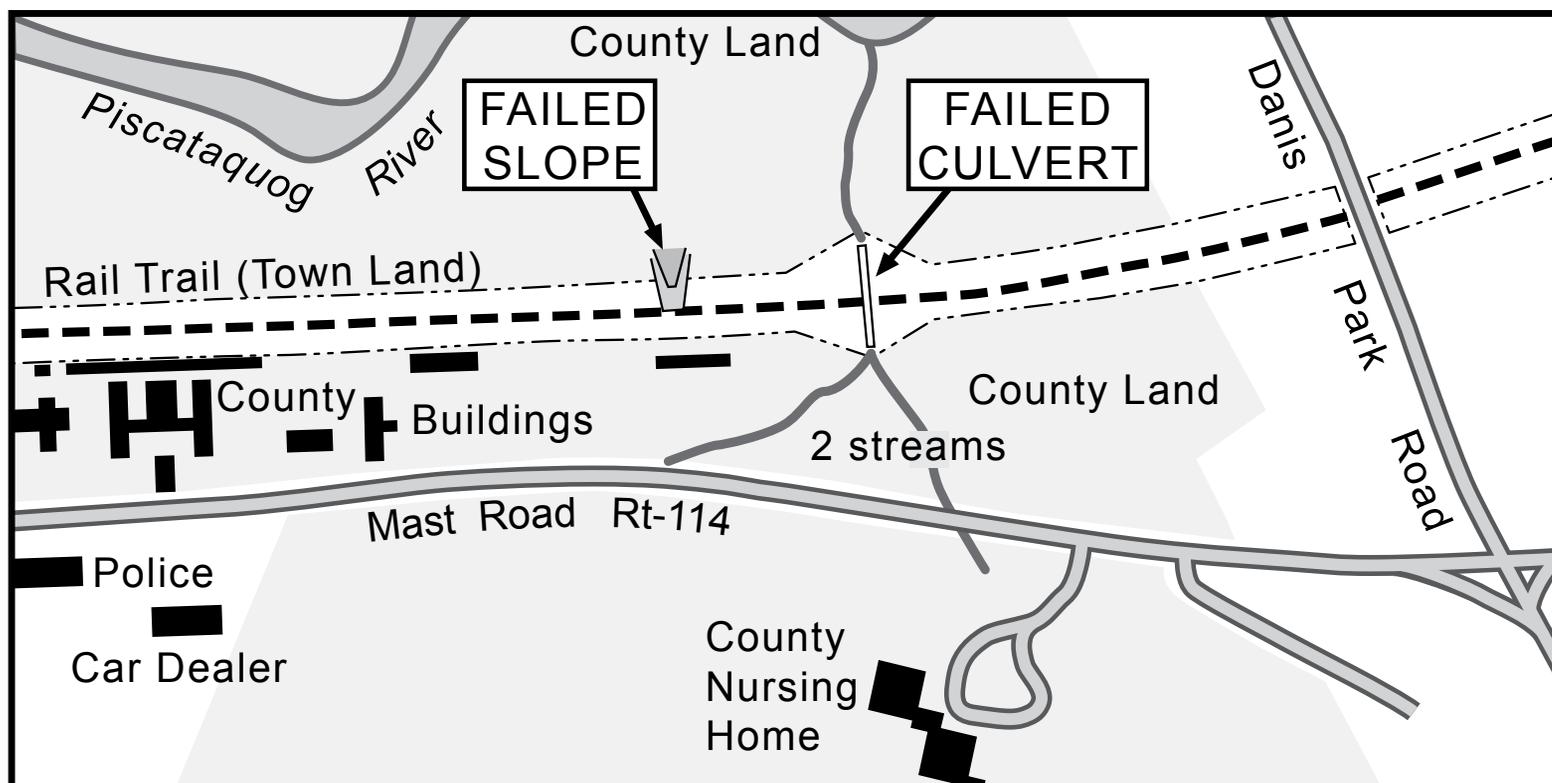
### ARTICLE 15

Shall the Town raise and appropriate One Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$120,000) to address a culvert and slope failure on town land, including repairing damage to the abutter's land, funding to come from unassigned fund balance? **No amount to be raised from taxation.**

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0 and Budget Committee 13-1-0.*

**EXPLANATION:** Article #15 addresses a granite culvert failure and slope failure on town land, and repair damage to the abutter's land. This is in the area of the rail trail near county land. Side walls of the granite culvert, built in the 1850's, approximately 80 yards long and 70 feet below the grade of the former rail bed, have become undermined. Additionally, one entire granite block, about 6 feet long, was dislodged from its sidewall location by a flood situation. Repairs are needed before that culvert collapses and impounds water due to the two streams which flow through the culvert to reach the river. The impoundment of storm water would threaten the integrity of the entire sand built rail embankment which is comprised of highly erodible sands and impacts down stream land of the abutter which is the County. Furthermore, during the long period of time after the rails were removed, neglect of surface water drainage patterns at the rail bed elevation, located about 100 yards from the above culvert, have caused storm water to concentrate and erode a deep gully into the downhill side of the rail embankment – technically washing away land belonging to the abutter. This wash out continues to threaten the rail embankment which already shows tell tale signs of a landslide type of collapse. The cost of this project is \$120,000 and Selectmen propose using a portion of unassigned fund balance to pay for this repair. In this way no funds will be raised by taxation.

### ARTICLE 15 - Location of Slope & Culvert Failure



**ARTICLE 16**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate Seven Hundred Sixty One Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$761,400) for the purpose of improving the intersections of Main and Pleasant Streets, and Main, Elm and High Streets? This article will be funded as follows: \$446,270 from the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Grant; \$62,448 from Impact Fees; and \$252,682 from unassigned fund balance.

**No amount to be raised from taxation.**

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0 and Budget Committee 11-3-0.*

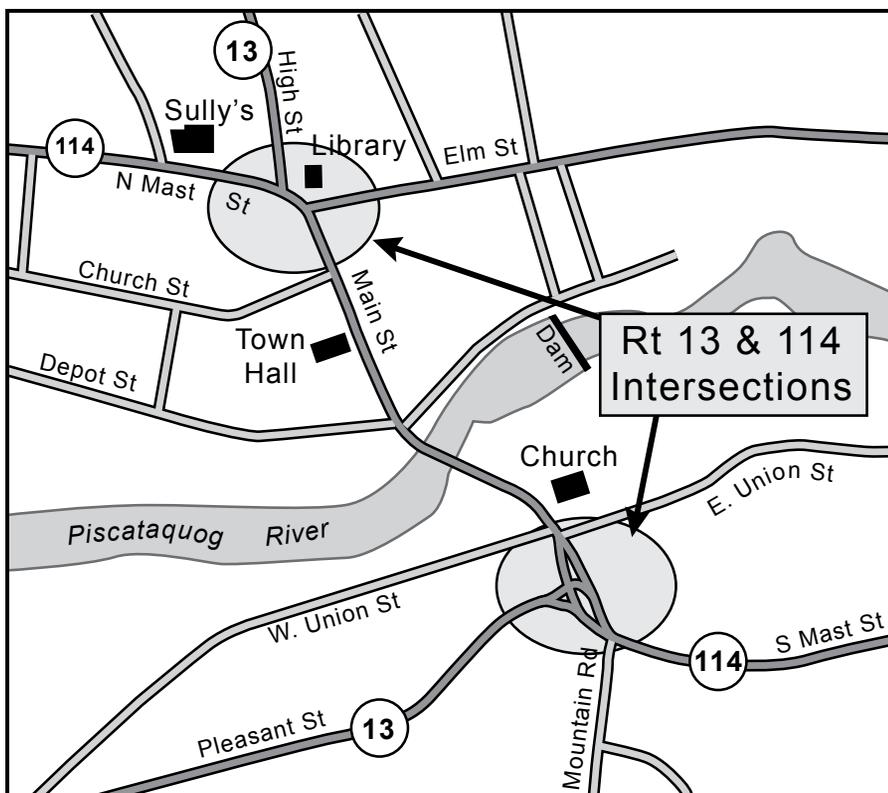
**EXPLANATION:** Article #16 is a Public Works project which would improve the intersection of State Routes 13 and 114, or Pleasant Street and Main Street, the area from the new Cumberland Farms store to St. Lawrence Church. It would also make improvements at the intersection of Elm Street, High Street and Main Street, the area surrounded by the town common, the town library, and Sully's Market.

Preliminary engineering designs recommend a roundabout at the Pleasant and Main Street intersection, and traffic flow improvements, such as curbing, islands, and turning lanes, at the Elm, High and Main Street intersection. The final engineering designs and public input on the designs will occur if this article passes at Town Meeting. It is estimated that the two projects will cost \$761,400. The town has been awarded a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Grant of \$446,270. This grant is based upon the premise that improving traffic flow through these intersections will mean less idling of vehicles that contribute to air quality degradation. If the money from this grant is not used in 2013, then the town would lose the grant.

In addition to the CMAQ grant, the town would use \$62,448 from developer paid impact fees and \$252,682 from the unassigned fund balance. In this way no money will be needed by raising taxes and there would be no impact to the taxpayers.

The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this article.

**ARTICLE 16 - CMAQ Project Location**



**ARTICLE 17**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) to be added to the Fire Department Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund previously established?

*(This appropriation is in addition to Article 11.)*

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0 and Budget Committee 13-1-0.*

**EXPLANATION:** The Fire Department Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund was established in 2008 for the purpose to help defray the impact of the significant replacement cost of fire apparatus. Modern fire apparatus can cost between \$500,000 and \$1 million. Having a Capital Reserve Fund can also help the Town leverage its ability to seek out and accept grants to replace apparatus. In 2010, the Fire Department was able to accept a large grant to replace its obsolete ladder trucks with one Tower/Ladder by using a portion of this Fund. Since that time, the Fund has been depleted and the Town is seeking to replace funds for future fire apparatus purchases.

**ARTICLE 18**

Shall the Town establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of cable access television provided by GTV? Forty percent (40%) of franchise fee revenues received from our Cable Franchise Agreement will be deposited into the fund as well as Cable Franchise equipment grants, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the town's general fund balance. The town treasurer shall have custody of all monies in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. If Articles 11 and 18 both pass as presented, then Article 11 appropriation will be reduced by \$84,030 which equals 75% of the appropriation budget for GTV.

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0 and Budget Committee 14-0-0.*

**EXPLANATION:** Article #18 seeks to establish a Cable Access Television Revolving Fund and to fund it with 40% of the revenues the town receives from the Cable Franchise Agreement which is estimated to be about \$112,000 in 2013. A revolving fund is a non-lapsing fund authorized by state law which would allow GTV to carry over money from year to year for any future capital purchases. It will provide GTV a predictable operating budget that will ensure adequate staffing and consistent programming. If this article passes at the March Town Meeting, then 40% of Cable Franchise Revenue will be deposited into this fund, and all GTV expenses will be paid from this fund starting on 4/1/13. In addition the town's operating budget will be reduced by \$84,030. If this articles passes, then GTV will not be included in the town's future operating budgets. The Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this article, and we hope the Goffstown voters will also support this article.

### ARTICLE 19

Shall the Town establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of paying for police special detail expenses? All revenues received for police special details will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the town's general fund balance. The town treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. *If Articles 11 and 19 both pass as presented, then Article 11 appropriation will be reduced by \$55,480 which equals 50% of the appropriation budget for Police Special Detail.*

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0 and Budget Committee 12-1-1.*

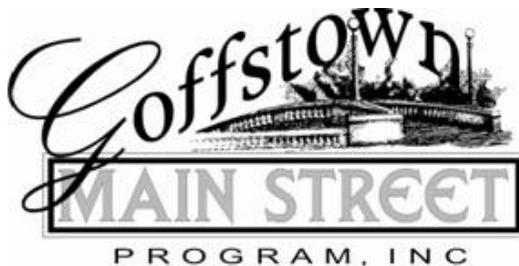
**EXPLANATION:** Article #19 proposes the establishment of Police Special Detail Revolving Fund, and to fund it with Special Detail revenues for 2013. Throughout the year companies and organizations request police presence at events or coverage for traffic control and in turn they are charged a Special Detail fee for this service. When the costs of Special Detail exceeds the budgeted account lines, then there is a negative impact in other account lines as the Department needs to stay within its operating budget. Many police departments use revolving funds to avoid spikes in their operating budgets. If this article passes, then all Special Detail revenue will be deposited into this fund and Special Detail expenses will be paid out of this fund starting on 7/1/13. Also, the 2013 operating budget will be reduced by \$55,480. Should the Police Special Detail Revolving Fund pass, then Special Detail line items will not appear in future year operating budgets. The Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this article, and we hope the Goffstown voters will also support this article.

### ARTICLE 20

Shall the Town raise and appropriate Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) for the purpose of supporting the nonprofit Goffstown Main Street Program, Inc.? (This appropriation is in addition to Article 11.)

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0 and Budget Committee 10-3-1.*

**EXPLANATION:** Goffstown Main Street Program is a local non-profit organization which has been supported by the town since 1999. This organization is responsible for many events which attract visitors to our Main Street – Giant Pumpkin Weekend, Old Home Day, and Holiday Tree Lighting. They also provide support to Main Street businesses in the areas of design and marketing.



### ARTICLE 21

Shall the Town 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 Inc., a youth drug, alcohol and suicide prevention agency? Crispin's House provides prevention programs designed to help kids make positive choices in their lives. Our programs include high school and middle school monthly Youth Forums and VolunTEENS programs, Juvenile Diversion, Making Change a drug and alcohol counseling program and financial aid to families that cannot afford after school care for their children. We are a member of the Greater Manchester Regional Suicide Prevention Initiative. (This appropriation is in addition to Article 11.)

*Submitted by petition.*

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0 and Budget Committee 10-4-0.*

**EXPLANATION:** As a local non-profit agency, the mission of Crispin's House is to provide programs to prevent suicide and decrease risky behaviors in youth including alcohol and drug use, building their resistance skills and community-wide assets so they may lead healthy and productive lives. Crispin's House focuses their efforts on students attending Mountain View Middle and Goffstown High Schools. Programs include the Youth Forum, VolunTEENS, Juvenile Diversion, Youth Attendant Program, and scholarship support for the After School Program. More information may be obtained from [www.crispinhouse.org](http://www.crispinhouse.org) or by talking with the Executive Director whose daytime telephone is 497-3499. Their 2013 budget is \$70,700 and they seek funding of \$20,000 from the Town of Goffstown. While they serve students from Goffstown, New Boston, Dunbarton and Francestown, the funding they seek would be used for Goffstown youth only. Currently, Goffstown youth include 784 high school students and 680 MVMS students. The petitioner has explained that state and county funding has dried up. They hired an Executive Director in 2012 to satisfy grant application requirements and provide stability to program administration. The Crispin's House Board of Directors are seeking alternative funding to keep up with increasing community demands and serve more Goffstown youth.

**Crispin's House**



**== Here For Youth ==**

# 2013 SCHOOL DISTRICT ARTICLES

## ARTICLE 1 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

### SCHOOL BOARD

*For 3 Years*

Dian McCarthy

Reta F. Chaffee

Lorry D. Cloutier

Benjamin H. Hampton

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

*Vote for not more than Three*








### SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK

*For 2 Years*

Jo Ann Duffy

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

*Vote for not more than One*



**EXPLANATION:** Voters will elect three individuals to fill School Board positions, three for a three year term. Voters will also elect one individual for School District Clerk, for a two year term.

## ARTICLE 2

Shall the Goffstown School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of FOURTEEN MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THIRTY TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$14,532,000.00) (gross budget) for the purpose of construction, renovation and equipment at the Maple Avenue Elementary School and at the Bartlett Elementary School and for costs incidental and related to the foregoing purposes; and to authorize the issuance of not more than FOURTEEN MILLION ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY SIX THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED EIGHTY DOLLARS (\$14,186,780.00) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the school district officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; furthermore, to authorize the withdrawal THREE HUNDRED FORTY FIVE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED TWENTY DOLLARS (\$345,220.00) from the Bartlett Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose? Furthermore, shall the Goffstown School District raise and appropriate the sum of TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY SIX DOLLARS AND SEVENTY FIVE CENTS (\$271,566.75) for payment of the first year's debt service on the aforesaid bonds, such sum to be raised by taxation? This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #3 the Operating Budget. (3/5<sup>th</sup> majority vote required.)

The School Board voted 7-0-1 To Recommend

***The Budget Committee voted 11-3-0 To Recommend***

**EXPLANATION:** This Special Article asks Voters for permission to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,532,000.00 for the renovation and construction of new instructional space at both Bartlett and Maple Avenue Elementary Schools. Funds for this project will be raised through the issuance of no more than \$14,186,780.00 in bonds, and the withdrawal of at least \$345,220.00 from the Bartlett Capital Reserve Fund. An additional \$271,566.75 is to be raised from general taxation to address year one debt service. These funds will be used to construct 10 new instructional spaces at Maple Avenue and 12 new instructional spaces at Bartlett Elementary School. The renovations include an upgrade to existing electrical, plumbing and technology infrastructures. In addition, security, heating, ventilation, and energy efficiency improvements at each school will be included. Currently, each of the elementary facilities are operating over capacity including the utilization of portable classroom space at each location. The school district owns the portable classroom structures located at each school site and does have a plan to repurpose these structures, providing for future cost savings to the district. Bond rates and construction costs are extremely low, therefore project savings will be significant if we move forward now.

## ARTICLE 3

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 SEVEN MILLION THREE HUNDRED ELEVEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY ONE DOLLARS (\$37,311,381.00)? Should this Article be defeated, the Default Budget shall be THIRTY SIX MILLION SIX HUNDRED SIXTEEN THOUSAND NINETY ONE DOLLARS (\$36,616,091.00), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Goffstown School District 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." This warrant article (the Operating Budget Article) does not include appropriations in ANY other warrant articles. (Majority vote required.)

***The School Board voted 8-0-0 To Recommend***

***The Budget Committee voted 11-3-0 To Recommend***

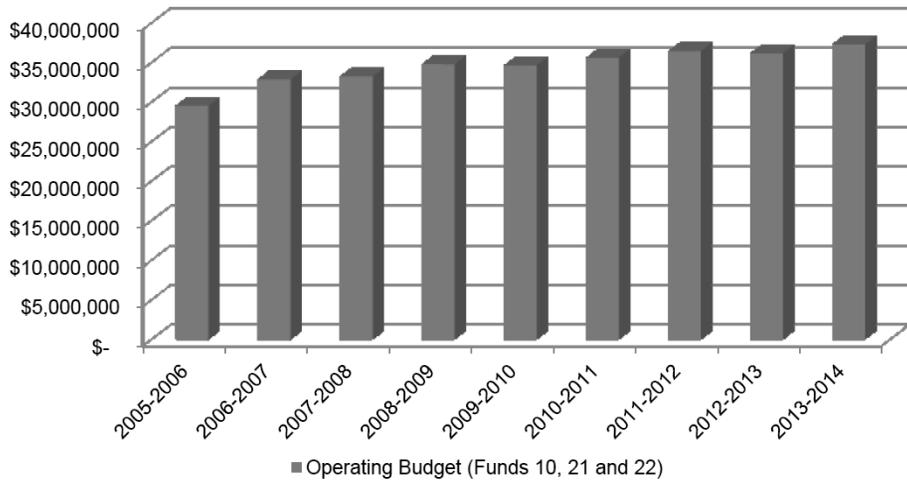
**EXPLANATION:** The \$37,311,381 Operating Budget has been recommended by both the Goffstown School Board and the Budget Committee. The proposed budget is \$1,129,217 or 3.23% more than the current year's budget. The district currently has an enrollment of approximately 3,000 students. These dollars include support for programming, instruction and services for the district's 5 schools and food service operations. The Operating Budget supports all programs that allow the district to meet the needs of each child in a cost effective and appropriate manner. Planned curriculum materials, supplies and technology dollars will, in essence, provide for level maintenance activity only. During the current budget cycle, the district has seen a significant increase in the costs to the local taxpayer as part of the downshifting from the state budget cuts. Increases in the budget that relate to this include: \$419,787 in additional retirement costs, \$85,571 to provide special education services to those students enrolled in Charter Schools, and \$10,000 to provide transportation to homeless students. In addition, health care costs have created an increase of \$153,864. Finally, \$200,000 has been budgeted to replace the roof at Mountain View Middle School. The Goffstown School District continues to provide a solid education to the students of the community at a cost that is more than \$2,000 below the state average. There are only 9 school districts who have a lower cost per pupil than Goffstown.

**ARTICLE 4**

Shall the Goffstown School District vote to authorize, indefinitely until rescinded, to retain year-end unassigned general funds in an amount not to exceed, in any fiscal year, 2.5 percent of the current fiscal year’s net assessment, in accordance with RSA 198:4-b, II? Such fund balance retained may only be used to reduce the tax rate or for emergencies as described in RSA 32:11. In the case of emergencies, approval to expend must be sought from the NH Department of Education as required in RSA 32:11. (Majority vote required.)

The School Board voted 8-0-0 To Recommend

**Goffstown Operating Budget Trends over 9 years (Funds 10, 21 and 22)**



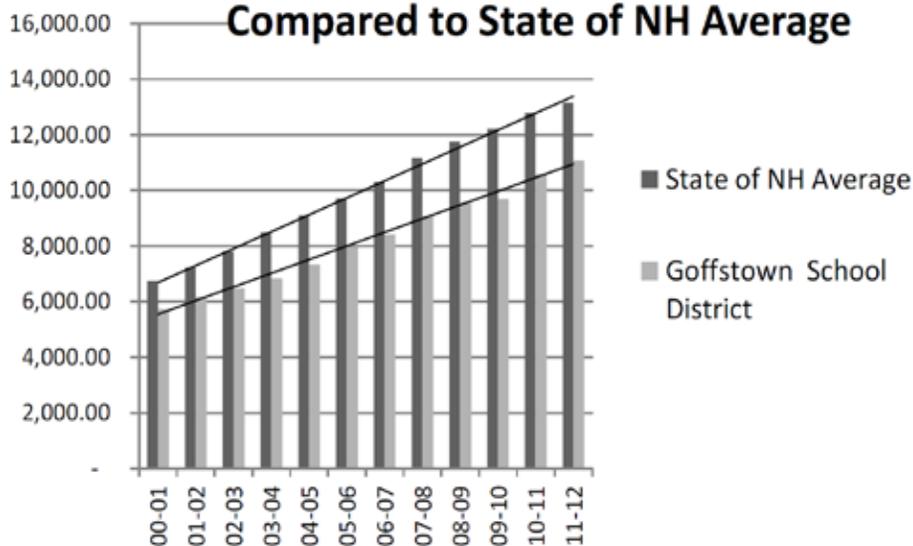
**EXPLANATION:** On August 12, 2012, RSA 198:4-b “Contingency Fund” became effective. With local voter approval, the new law allows individual school districts to establish and maintain a contingency fund to be used only for emergency expenditures or for tax rate reduction. The new law allows school districts to maintain a contingency fund balance much like our municipal governments. This new contingency fund would now provide for a “savings” account for unanticipated events, emergencies, and tax rate relief while not impacting the current operating budget. At this time, the school district returns all unreserved fund balance at the end of the school year to the voters for tax relief. The new law allows a school district to set aside up to 2.5% of the current year’s net assessment in accordance with RSA 198:5. The district’s net assessment is comprised of the funding provided by the local and state education tax assessments. Using this current year as an example, the Goffstown School District will raise \$16,174,883 locally and \$3,217,126 through State taxation for a total of \$19,392,009. Of this total, the school district, with voter approval, could set aside up to 2.5% or \$484,800, if available, for deposit into this contingency fund.

**ARTICLE 5**

Shall the Goffstown School District accept the provisions of RSA 195-A (as amended) providing for the establishment of an area school or schools located in Goffstown to serve the following grades 7 through 12 from the school districts of Goffstown and Dunbarton and New Boston in accordance with the provisions of the plan on file with the district clerk? (Majority vote is required).

The School Board vote 8-0-0 To Recommend

**Goffstown Average Cost per Pupil Compared to State of NH Average**



**EXPLANATION:** The current AREA agreement between the Goffstown, Dunbarton, and New Boston School Districts is set to expire on June 30, 2014. The three boards have met over the past 2 years to develop a new AREA agreement that meets the needs of all three communities. The AREA agreement outlines the agreement between the three districts in the provision of educational services for grades 7-12 Dunbarton and New Boston students at Mountain View Middle School and Goffstown High School. The agreement was approved by the NH State Board of Education at their January 16, 2013 meeting and will be in effect for the next 10 years.



***Town of Goffstown***  
TOWN OFFICES  
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Goffstown, NH 03045

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### State of New Hampshire

Voter ID Law - Laws of 2012, Chapter  
289 Explanatory Document

During the 2012 legislative session the legislature passed House Bill 1354, also known as the "Voter ID" Law. The new law will phase-in a photo identification requirement over a period of time.

This explanatory document is required under the "Voter ID" law as part of the process of educating the public about the law's requirements and application and outlines the law's requirements for 2012.

#### **What type of photo ID will I need in order to vote?**

For any election *before* Sept. 1, 2013, you will be asked to provide one of the following:

- Driver's license issued by any state (even if expired);
- ID card issued by NH DMV (Division of Motor Vehicles);
- U.S. Armed Services ID card;
- U.S. Passport (even if expired);
- Valid photo ID card issued by either the federal government or a state, county or municipal government;
- Valid student ID card
- Other photo ID deemed legitimate by the supervisors of the checklist, the moderator, or the clerk; or
- Verification of identity by a supervisor of the checklist, the moderator or the clerk.

#### **What if I do not have an approved photo ID?**

*Before* November 1, 2012, any voter who does not present an approved photo ID will be informed of the new law and permitted to vote.

*Between* November 1, 2012 and September 1, 2013, any voter who does not present an approved photo ID will be permitted to vote after executing a "challenged voter affidavit."

A voter who does not have an approved photo ID may obtain a free photo ID for voting purposes only by presenting a voucher from their town/city clerk or the Secretary of State to any NH DMV office that issues identification.

#### **Is there any post-election action required by me after I vote without an approved photo ID?**

*After November 1, 2012*, if you filled out a "challenged voter affidavit" in order to vote on Election Day, you will receive a verification letter from the Secretary of State, requesting confirmation that you voted in the election. If you do not respond in writing to the Secretary of State within 90 days of the date it was mailed, the Attorney General will conduct an investigation to determine whether fraudulent voting occurred.

**Where can I get more information?** Your city or town clerk or the Secretary of State



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**TOWN OF GOFFSTOWN  
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS**