

GOFFSTOWN BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES TO PUBLIC HEARING OF JANUARY 11, 2024

In attendance were Chair Joe Alexander, Vice Chair Frank Hobbs, School Board Representative Jared Talbot, Doug Pounds (arrived at 6:14 p.m.), Lauren Doukas, Brian Mazur, Samantha Kearns, Melanie Renfrew-Hebert, Allison DeCesare, Richard Manzo, Select Board Representative Peter Georgantas, Laura Stevens, and Olivia Welch-Erdahl.

Absent: Stacey Bellemore

Excused: Richard Fletcher

Chair Alexander called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance, then asked the Committee to introduce themselves.

He addressed the process for the public hearing. He said he will have separate hearings for each article. He'll open the public hearing for an article, present it, invite the public to speak, and then close the public hearing for that article. If someone wants to speak to that article, they are to do it while the public hearing is open. He said this is not a question-and-answer session. The Budget Committee will solicit feedback from the public only.

February 3rd is the Town Deliberative Session at 7:00 p.m. at Goffstown High School theater. Monday, February 5th is the School District Deliberative at Goffstown High School theater at 7:00 p.m. He said he will not be imposing a time limit on speaking, but if he determines it's going later than expected, he will start imposing time limits, making it equal and unilateral.

Immediately following this public hearing, the Budget Committee will meet to deliberate on all warrant articles from this public hearing. It is an open meeting of the Budget Committee, and he invites the public to stay.

Goffstown Water Precinct

Chair Alexander opened the public hearing for the Goffstown Water Precinct. He said the Goffstown Water Precinct is a separate entity. Operational costs are covered by the collection of user fees. The Goffstown Village Water Precinct owns four buildings, has three employees, and two vehicles. Details of this budget were presented to the Budget Committee at the December 5, 2023 meeting. The Budget Committee voted to send this to public hearing in a proposed amount of \$2,471,403. He asked if anyone wished to comment on the budget for the Goffstown Village Water Precinct. It is a self-sustaining fund covered by user fees.

There were no comments and Chair Alexander closed the public hearing.

Grasmere Water Precinct

Chair Alexander opened the public hearing for the Grasmere Village Water Precinct. Grasmere Village Water Precinct is a separate entity. Operational costs are covered by the collection of user fees. Details of this budget were presented to the Budget Committee at the December 5, 2023 meeting. The Budget Committee voted to send this to public hearing in the proposed amount of \$288,253.

There were no comments and Chair Alexander closed the public hearing.

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SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

Article 2—Operating Budget

School Board Representative Jared Talbot said they have the 3 standard warrant articles from the School Board as well as the petition warrant article from community members. The operating budget that will be on the warrant will be for the amount of \$55,709,910. This consists of three different funds. The General Fund is the operating fund, where they pay their teachers, maintenance, buses, etc.

They also have a food service which is self-sustaining. This is for the breakfasts and lunches for the students. It is an appropriation, so they have to add it to the actual warrant article. The special revenue fund helps offset the grants they get. The default 2024/2025 general fund budget is in the amount of \$52,583,023 dollars. This year's default budget is an increase of \$3,309,657. If the warrant article does not pass they will go from the current budget to the default budget. If the warrant article does pass, as they've asked for and deliberated on, it would be an increase of \$3,617,644. There is a \$307,897 difference between the default and the proposed budgets. The increase is due to contracted services that have been approved by the town, for contracts for teachers, contracts for support staff, etc.

What accounts for budget increases? They did have some collective bargaining agreements they approved in the past two years, which is a major reason for the big jump in the budget. The other piece is the health costs. These costs are dictated by the state and were a 14% increase over what they have in the current year. They have increases in the reading program. They try to update their curriculum on a regular basis. There are increases in IT costs for software. And there are also increased costs in building maintenance and repairs. They need the budget to fix the building as they have their operational wear and tear.

He addressed school enrollments from 2018. They are holding steady across the schools. They have increases at Glen Lake and Maple Ave, with a decrease at Bartlett. Those elementary school increases are going to continue into the Middle School and High School. Generally speaking, with current enrollment, as people move away and younger families come in, they self-sustain their population of students, unlike other towns that are losing students. This is something to be mindful of as the town has additional development. The elementary school cost per pupil for fiscal year 23 was \$16,808 and was the 13th lowest out of 155 districts with elementary schools. It is \$4,093 less per pupil than the state average of \$20,901.

At the Middle School, the cost per pupil expense for fiscal year 23 was \$15,879 and was the lowest out of 63 districts with middle schools. The cost is \$3,580 less per pupil than the state average of \$19,459. Goffstown High School cost per pupil expense for fiscal year 23 was \$16,501 and was the fifth lowest out of 73 districts with high schools. The cost was \$3,417 less per pupil than the state average of \$19,918. The Goffstown School District's total cost per pupil for fiscal year 23 was \$16,401 and was the 4th lowest out of 162 school districts in New Hampshire. The cost was \$3,922 less per pupil than the state average of \$20,323.

He addressed the Goffstown School District revenue projections. Locally they will collect \$8,530,900. From the State they will collect \$471,083, and they get almost \$2,000,000 from the federal government. They always return their fund balance back to the town to offset taxes and are able to save some of it

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for the Contingency Fund, which is for emergencies. From New Hampshire adequacy they get \$7.8 million and from SWEPT (Statewide Property Tax). They get \$3,258,355. SWEPT is money that is raised locally, held locally, held by the School, and is considered State money given back to the Town. The other revenue is in the amount of \$250,000 for a total revenue of \$23,547,994.

Tax rates are only estimates and can vary greatly by increases or decreases in revenues as well as an underspend of the budget period. The town of Goffstown had a revaluation in 2023 and tax rates were impacted. Exclusive of revenue fluctuations, for every \$100,000 in increased spending, the tax rate increases by almost \$.04 per \$1,000 based on the 2023 Goffstown valuation of all properties. This year they project, based on their current proposed warrant article, the tax rate will be \$11.82 per \$1,000 assessed for property.

He addressed the current budget for each school and what the default budget is for each school, the new spending they are asking for, and what the differences are. That is where they got their \$3.6 million increase to the proposed budget for next year.

School Business Administrator Scott Gross for the School District said, as part of the public hearing, they have to discuss the Default Budget. Should the voters not vote for the proposed budget on the warrant in March, the fallback budget is called the Default Budget. That year is the current year's budget plus any contractual obligations the voters have approved. That is typically teachers' contracts and collective bargaining agreements. They also have to include anything that is legally required. The Default Budget is approximately \$308,000 less than the proposed budget. In the budget files that are all on the website anyone can look at them. The Default Budget gets posted with the original warrant and if the proposed budget fails this is the budget that they will go on.

School Board Rep Jared Talbot said the School Board did vote on the proposed budget, and the Budget Committee made some changes. The School Board has ratified those changes and has voted unanimously to recommend the School budget as it is on the warrant article.

Chair Alexander opened the hearing to the public.

Jill Calvo, 15 Shirley Park Road, asked for language clarifications. She said the statement was made that there are no new positions, but yet another statement was made that they are repurposing positions. What does that mean?

Chair Alexander said they aren't answering questions. This is an opportunity to get feedback from the public. The opportunity to ask questions will be at the Deliberative Session.

School Board Rep Jared Talbot said he would talk to her later about it.

There were no other comments and Chair Alexander closed the public hearing.

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Article 3—Capital Reserve Fund Deposit

School Board Rep Jared Talbot said the Capital Reserve Fund deposit is for existing facility assets established by the voters in 2019. Voters approved the Capital Reserve Fund deposits for the last five years. The School District six-year capital improvement plan contains over 70 school projects with over \$80 million in projects. This includes a proposed new school in 2029. There is nearly \$1,500,000 in the Capital Reserve Fund eligible projects over the next two years 2024-2026. The Capital Reserve Fund provides a funding source to offset the cost of Capital Reserve Fund eligible future projects. The Capital Reserve Fund can also be used for matching grant purposes for the unplanned capital expenses. The School District is requesting a \$250,000 deposit into the Capital Reserve Fund. They have to make sure they strategize and get the right things they need right away as part of the Capital Reserve Fund execution.

Chair Alexander opened the hearing to the public. There was no public comment, and the public hearing was closed.

Article 4—Petitioned Warrant Article

Chair Alexander said there are opportunities for the public to present articles to go on the ballot in March. If they have fiscal impacts, it goes before the Budget Committee for a recommendation. The members of the public who presented this warrant have already presented to the Budget Committee. They had a very thorough conversation.

Ryan Bump, 209 Monarch Ave. said he's here to talk about a petitioned warrant article for the Nightlock Door Barricade Systems for the schools. Professionally speaking, he's a Battalion Chief and Emergency Management Director. He's here today as a father and a taxpayer. His goal is to get accurate information out and that may not have been done already by town officials.

He thinks the door barricades are a benefit to the schools and are the best option for protecting the kids from active shooters. The locks they have now used to be the industry standard to secure doors. Then the Nightlocks are the new standard and are used by over 4,000 of the country's 12,000 school districts. Approximately 1/3 of the school districts already have these in their schools. There is one in every public classroom in Michigan and Ohio. The Nightlocks were credited with saving lives at a shooting event in Oxford, Michigan in 2021. When I'm still New Hampshire, Nightlock has stated that their devices are used by over 35 schools and districts in the state, as well as various Police departments, Fire departments, healthcare facilities, and other local government agencies.

These devices are widely used as an integral piece of securing the classrooms and other facilities. Nightlocks are not new or untested. The company has been manufacturing these for over a decade. The Manchester Police Department has thoroughly evaluated these and tested these Nightlock devices at the Sig Sauer Academy in Epping. The City of Manchester School District bonded the money and purchased Nightlocks for all of their schools in the district. They have fired weapons at them, and they have hit them with hammers. They did not fail. They are certain to get a variance from the State Fire Marshall's office, which removes all school and town liability and concern regarding the fire codes. The Fire Marshall's office stated to him that the New Hampshire Fire Marshall's office is supportive of locked down door barricade devices that have gone through their variance approval process.

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The Nightlock door security device is a device that many other communities in New Hampshire currently use. At the end of the day, regardless of any of these other concerns, the Nightlock would be a giant improvement over what we currently have in our schools. They are asking Goffstown residents to consider whether they want these devices on the doors between their children and an active shooter.

The warrant article was then read aloud: “To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$13,000 for the purpose of purchasing Nightlock Door Barricade devices to be installed on all primary classroom doors in Goffstown schools, to improve safety and security in the event of an active shooter event. A majority vote is required.”

Conversation with the School Board and Administration regarding Nightlock began in April, 2023. Nightlock as a door barricading device was not chosen lightly and the recommendation came after significant research from their group, Goffstown Parents in Action. As they and others have discovered over the past year, the School Board is unwilling to converse with any member of the public regarding anything related to safety, under cloak of suggesting that it puts kids at risk. They beg to differ.

What puts kids at risk is not having these important, but uncomfortable conversations. They also feel strongly the School Board are their elected representatives and find it quite strange that they've collectively chosen to operate this way. They have done their research and determined, as both parents who are the greatest stakeholders, and also as emergency personnel like Ryan Rump and others, as well as teachers and students. They do understand there are other key players, such as the Police and Fire Chief, who need to do their own due diligence on door barricading devices.

From the start they have approached this initially with a collaborative spirit and would be willing to amend the warrant article to add “Nightlock devices or similar door barricading device.” They would then work diligently as advocates in partnership to help provide any information necessary to members of the safety committee regarding Nightlock or any other door barricading device in the form of demonstrations, conversations with manufacturers, and other first responders and school officials as requested. They recognize when it comes to the safety of our children, time is of the essence. We asked the Police and Fire Chief to verbally share their support of the warrant article here tonight.

Chair Alexander opened the hearing to the public. He said the Budget Committee can't make any changes to a warrant article. This happens at the Deliberative Session. He asked that they speak only on the issue of the Nightlock, and no other barricade device.

Cindy Grigorakakis, 112 Gorham Pond Road, said she spoke at the last School Board meeting and personally wanted to voice her support for Nightlock Barricade Devices. She was one of the members of Parents in Action. They were a politically diverse group of parents concerned about what was happening in the country and want to work collaboratively with those who are keeping our school safe. She supports the things that are keeping the kids safe already, which is the doors. She doesn't think they will solve the complex issues at the root of school shootings and violence. And it's not because she thinks they'll solve all the potential holes in security plans. She supports these devices because they offer a tested and enhanced barricade support to the security they already rely on.

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Current training calls for educators to use classroom furniture as barricades in addition to the locking of the door. Personally, she asked educators she knew that were teaching in the Goffstown School District and had anonymous quotes from them. "It's important to know that facilities enhancements can fail and break, like doors appropriately and locking in our current buildings. Having additional security options only helps protect staff and kids." Another said "We have all thought about where we would hide ourselves and our students within our classroom and office spaces in the case of a crisis. These locks wouldn't relieve their need for a plan but would give some confidence their plan could be executed effectively." The last quote is "It's a visible layer of safety that can help support the best line of defense that they have right now, which is their locked doors. It isn't a perfect solution but it's a security measure and a support measure, being able to see that visual reminder that the community has our back enough to purchase these for them. It would make a huge difference. Physically able to do something in a situation would not make them feel like they were a sitting duck." She asked everyone to consider these Nightlock devices and asked for the Budget Committee's support on this warrant article.

Police Chief Eric Sereno said he's a long life resident and went to Mountain View Middle School, and the High School, and he cares a lot about school safety. He won't go on the record to say that the Goffstown Police Department and the Chief of Police do not oppose Nightlocks. They think school security is very important. He thinks this School District does a great job and the school resource officers do a great job. He also thinks it's worth looking into.

Ryan Bump said he wanted to make it clear that the warrant article does mention the amount of \$13,000. That is the cost of the devices and they have found a contractor who lives in Goffstown who has children in the School District who has volunteered to install them himself for free. It is a big savings for the town.

Chair Alexander closed the public hearing.

GOFFSTOWN TOWN BUDGET

Article 12—Town Budget

Chair Alexander said there is a copy of the Town's detailed budget report and the PowerPoint presentation available on the Town's website. Click "Budget" under "Government" heading.

He said Article 1 is for the election of officers, and Articles 2-11 will be zoning amendments.

He'll start the hearing with Article 12, the Budget Committees 2024 Town Operating Budget, which is \$29,300,126. He explained the Town operating budget is comprised of three funds: the General Fund, the EMS Revenue Fund, and the Sewer Enterprise Fund. Users fund both the EMS and Sewer Enterprise Fund. They are not funded by property taxes.

The General Fund is the portion of the operating budget that impacts the amount of municipal taxes to be collected in the fall. The Town estimates the revenue the General Fund will receive in 2024 when the tax rate is set, in the fall. The Town revises these estimates based on nine months of revenue. The remainder of the operating budget is funded through a collection of municipal tax.

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The Town's General Fund is made up of six departments. There is also a town wide insurance, debt service, and capital improvements projects known as CIP.

The Budget Committees' budget for 2024 has an increase of \$1,982,873 over the adopted budget from 2023. The Budget Committees' budget for 2024 is \$1,432,839 above the Town's Default Budget. These don't include any other special articles that will be discussed later in the evening.

The 2024 Budget has no new positions and provides the same level of service. Insurance costs for the Town have a significant increase of about \$500,000. The Town's Health Insurance rates increased 12.8% and the Dental rates increased 4.7%. The Town experienced an increase in many different operating costs including utilities and fuel for an increase of \$124,400. Household hazardous waste including recycling, bulky waste and tipping had an increase of \$39,500.

The Select Board put forth an increase of \$95,072 to these lines based on tonnage and estimated rates. The Budget Committee reduced recycling and tipping lines. The fleet maintenance, tires, equipment and facility maintenance, and related supplies have an increase of \$150,976. There is an increase in the CIP budget of \$301,334. For wages, there is one CBA that has contractual increases, and the other three Collective Bargaining Agreements will be special articles that will be discussed later in the evening.

Overall, the Select Board hired a consultant to determine the wages of the Town's non-union employees. They are 8.3% below the market rate. The 2024 Operating Budget includes funds to implement the new compensation plan for nonunion employees. That is a \$327,491 increase.

Goffstown's Town Meeting follows the SB2 ballot determination format. There is a Deliberative Session in February and a voting day in March. The Select Board prepares the Default Budget should the proposed budget fail to pass on voting day. The 2024 Default Budget is the 2023 budget reduced or increased by debt service, contracts, and other obligations such as collective bargaining agreements. Though the Default Budget includes a contractual wage increase for one union Collective Bargaining Agreement, which is the Professional Firefighters of Goffstown. It includes an increase of cost for 4 elections in 2024, which is mandated by law. It also includes funding for all positions approved in the 2023 budget.

The Default Budget has been reduced to exclude two utility trucks from 2023 and an election trailer from 2023. Costs included in the Operating Budget but not in the Default Budget include the wage increase for nonunion employees and the wage increases for three union Collective Bargaining Units. The State approved the use of new ballot counting devices and the Town is seeking to fund the purchase of five new ballot counting devices. The Town's network virtualization equipment and licensing needs to be updated. This refresh is recommended every seven years. The Town's Microsoft servers are running on licenses, that are being sunset by Microsoft.

There are parking lot improvements for the Parks and Recs Sports Complex and the Police Department. There is an increased cost of commodities, supplies, solid waste removal, software, and hardware. And has been calculated and an estimated tax impact on the Default Budget and the proposed Operating

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Budget. This tax rate is only an estimate based on estimated revenues, which can vary throughout the year.

The estimated tax rate is based on the assumed evaluation of \$2,719,733, 211 dollars, which is a conservative 0.5% increase above the Town's 2023 townwide valuation. The budget is estimated to result in a 20-cent increase on the municipal tax rate.

The Budget Committee's proposed operating budget is estimated to result in a 77-cent increase on the municipal tax rate. The Budget Committee's 2024 Town Operating Budget is \$29,300,126.

He opened the public hearing on Article 12.

Barbara Griffin, of Merrill Road, said she's here because of something she heard on GTV. She has been to many of these meetings and may even have run a few. She is astonished to hear that with the overview level of presentation, when a citizen asks a question, they are told to go to the Deliberative Session. She said she has been at the Deliberative Session when she was told to come to this meeting to ask her questions. There is no statutory definition for a public hearing. The Select Board has a public comment time, and a citizen can make an appointment with them if they want to discuss anything.

This is the public's only opportunity to discuss items with the Budget Committee. The Deliberative Session is run by the governing bodies, which is the Select Board and the School District through the Moderator after the warrant articles have already been established. That is not the purpose of this meeting. A citizen is going to be unable to decide whether or not they need to amend a warrant article as proposed at the Deliberative Session if they don't get the information on what the warrant article encompasses. This is their opportunity to do that.

The Planning Board will have a public hearing portion, and they typically do not respond because that is they are a quasi-judicial body, and their discussion affects the property rights of applicants before the Board. This is not what this hearing is. She apologized to the Board that her schedule has created a conflict, and she can't stay here. She felt compelled to come down and say how disappointed she is that citizens cannot get answers to questions in a public forum and are being told to go to a Deliberative Session where historically the detailed information is not available, and at that point, it is far too late to make a reasoned amendment to a warrant article. She thanked the School District and the Town for putting together the presentations. They are good. But the details are not presented and there is no opportunity at the Budget Committee meetings for public comment on the budget. Her question is when exactly do they respond to the public?

Henry Gaiason, 20 Amoskeag Drive, said he bought his house here almost 4 years ago. In that time, his property tax has increased \$3,000 per year. He looks at this and sees another property tax increase. We have to do better. We're pricing people out of this town. Property taxes for homeowners and landlords is going up. They're going to price people out of this town and if that happens you're going to have a hard time getting the tax burden you need to run this town. It's incumbent on us to do better.

Elizabeth Dubrulle, First Avenue, said out of all the numbers she's seen tonight, the one that shocked her the most was the median value of a house in Goffstown, which is now at \$413,000. When she was on

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the Budget Committee 6-7 years ago, that number was about \$225,000. It's important to look at the whole picture including the prices of the property values, the cost of taxes, and how we can continue to deliver services with inflation jumping up and down. Inflation has been running at about 2% in the last couple of months. She hopes they keep in mind the entire picture. Yes, taxes have gone up, but so have property values gone up quite a bit.

There were no comments on Article 12 and the public hearing was closed.

Chair Alexander opened the public hearing on Article 13.

Article 13—EMS Special Revenue Fund

Town Administrator Horne said Article 13 is the appropriation from the EMS Special Revenue Fund. This is to offset EMS ambulance operations from the Special Revenue Fund. Currently Article 12 does include the cost of the ambulance at \$550,726. This is the offsetting revenue in that, if this article were to fail, then the operating budget would be increased by that \$550,726. It's an estimated increase to the municipal tax rate of 20 cents per 1,000.

There were no comments on Article 13 and the public hearing was closed.

Chair Alexander opened the public hearing for Article 14.

Article 14—Goffstown Public Works Teamsters CBA

Town Administrator Horne said this year the Select Board has three union contracts that expired on December 31st. These departments provide 24-hour coverage 7 days per week, 365 days per year for services to our town. It includes DPW Teamsters, the Police Officers, as well as Dispatchers and Clerks at the Police Station.

Article 14 is the Goffstown Public Works Teamsters. This group is represented by 24 positions at DPW. Their last CBA was a five-year agreement that went from 2019 to 2023. It was negotiated in 2018 before 2020 when everything else happened. This is a group that is well below market when they actually looked at the market and negotiated. They were lagging in every position. Then the Select Board and this group chose to do a shorter term on this contract, so it is a two-year term. In addition to wage increases to bring the wage matrix back into line with other public works departments as well as the private sector.

They have hourly differentials for certifications, for a commercial license, as well as for those who can do New Hampshire vehicle inspections on town vehicles. It provides important crew cross training and flexibility among the crew. The Town also modified the cash incentive for employees that opt out of insurance. This was the last group on the town side that was tied to a percentage of the insurance rates rather than a specific dollar figure. There is also an increase in safety boot and equipment reimbursement. This represents 24 members.

The Town has calculated the increased cost in 2024 at \$151,752. The increase in 2025 would be \$177,829. The average increase per year for the five-year contract was less than 3%. They had a CPI of

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3.4% and Social Security increases averaging 4.1%. This is a big number, but they needed to get these important positions back up to market so they can fill the vacancies and continue to have good roads, good trash collection, and everything else DPW does for us.

Chair Alexander opened the hearing to the public.

Scott Gross, Range Road, said he is in support of the DPW Teamsters contract. He looks at the DPW workers as emergency responders, as well as our Police and Fire departments. They do an outstanding job. Our roads are in way better shape than almost every town he's gone through. That's because of the hard work of our DPW Department. As someone who works with the school system and has a tremendous relationship with DPW and the folks there, they save our community a lot of money. He gave the example of a tree that fell down last winter at Glen Lake School and blocked the access. He made one phone call to DPW, and they took that tree down at 6:00 a.m. and removed it. It would have cost \$3,000-\$4,000. It's a tremendous partnership and these folks deserve this wage increase to keep up with things. We should all be very proud of our DPW.

Chair Alexander closed the public hearing on Article 14 and opened the public hearing on Article 15.

Article 15—Goffstown Patrol Officers CBA

Town Administrator Horne said Article 15 is for the Goffstown Patrol Officers at the Police Department. This group represents 22 full-time sworn officers at the Police Department. Their last CBA was a three-year agreement. The market for a certified, and even entry level police officer, is extremely competitive in southern New Hampshire. Over the last 13 months alone the Police Department has had eight officers depart. One was a retirement, and one was a career change, but they've had six leave for other agencies with higher wages and finder fee bonuses. The department currently has 5 vacancies of the 22 sworn patrol officers covered by the CBA. Training a new officer takes almost a full year.

The Town has negotiated a three-year CBA with this group. They have developed a revised wage matrix in partnership with the union leadership so they can progress through the matrix quicker during their first 10 years on the force. That's what they have been seeing around southern New Hampshire. They have created a Senior patrol officer and Master patrol officer wage grades, with defined testing procedures in the CBA. They have improved the language in a four-year training agreement for certified officers trained by Goffstown, so they repay a prorated portion of their training costs if they leave before their 48 months are done. They have reinstated longevity for all covered positions. The increased cost of the CBA is \$96,515. This wage for a non-certified patrol officer has increased from \$25.80 to \$28.00 per hour. They continue to move the wage matrix throughout the agreement to keep them competitive with other departments.

Scott Gross said the one thing glaring at him is the 5 vacancies. There have been so many vacancies over the last three years. It's vitally important to have a fair contract for our Police Officers and Dispatch folks. A fair contract for our Police Officers will hopefully be able to attract and retain one of the most important assets in our community, to keep us safe. They do a phenomenal job. He urged them to support Articles 15 and 16 because these folks are critical to our community. We can't afford to have them go to different towns.

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Chair Alexander closed the public hearing on Article 15 and opened the public hearing on Article 16.

Article 16—Goffstown Police Dispatchers and Clerks

Town Administrator Horne said Article 16 is with the Goffstown Police Dispatchers and Clerks. Along with DPW, Goffstown Police, as well as Fire, they are going into the last year of their contract. They provide the Town with 24/7 dispatching service 365 days per year. This group represents 12 positions—9 dispatchers and 3 clerks. Their last CBA was a 3-year collective bargaining agreement. There are currently 2 vacancies in dispatch. The clerks are record clerks and legal clerks at the Police station. One clerk position was created when the Executive Secretary retired in January 2022, and it took the Police Department 20 months to fill that vacancy. It wasn't for lack of trying. The Town has negotiated a 3-year contract with this group, and they have a revised, 10-step matrix based on defined merit, certifications, and experience. They reinstated longevity for members to help improve retention. The Town has calculated the increased costs of this Collective Bargaining Agreement as \$46,454 in 2024, \$72,270 in 2025 and \$49,385 in 2026.

The DPW CBA is estimated at 5.6 cents on the tax rate. That's \$23 per year for the median single-family household. The Patrol Officers is 3.5 cents for an estimated increase of \$14.59 to the median property tax bill. Dispatchers are 1.7 cents in 2024, for an estimated increase of \$7.06 on the tax bill for a median single-family residence.

Chair Alexander closed the public hearing on Article 16 and opened the public hearing on Article 17.

Article 17—Fire Department Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund

Town Administrator Horne said this fund was established in 2008 to avoid spikes in the tax rate for expensive fire apparatus. The Select Board is the agent of the fund, and the current balance is \$729,355. The Fire Department presents a vehicle replacement matrix to the CIP Committee each year. Currently, there are 2 engines and a tower truck scheduled for replacement between now and 2030. Construction costs for these vehicles continue to increase and the time required for the build gets longer and longer.

He showed a picture of a Goffstown engine on January 6, 2024 in the process of being built. This was approved as part of the operating budget in 2022 and was ordered in May 2022. The build for this engine began in November 2023, and the Fire Department anticipates delivery in March of this year. It's almost 2 years since ordering that they will get the replacement. The prices, and the time between ordering and receiving the apparatus, is going to continue to increase. They're seeking \$250,000 into that Capital Reserve Fund so they can save for future purchases of buyer apparatus and avoid tax rate spikes.

There were no comments on Article 17.

Chair Alexander closed the public hearing on Article 17 and opened the public hearing on Article 18.

Article 18—Library Capital Reserve Fund

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Town Administrator Horne said Article 18 proposes a new capital reserve fund for the Goffstown Public Library. The purpose of this fund would be for building projects and matching grant funds. The Select Board and the Library Board of Trustees will be joint agents to expend from the fund. The article seeks to fund an initial deposit of \$200,000.

Elizabeth Jipson, of North Mast Street, said she is a Library Trustee but is speaking on her own behalf. She said we have a beautiful library building and need to take care of it. They need money to put toward matching grants. If they don't take care of it, it will cost taxpayers more down the road. It may seem like a chunk of money but is savings in the long run.

Chair Alexander closed the public hearing on Article 18 and opened the public hearing on Article 19.

Article 19—Engineering Design of Barnard Park Pool

Town Administrator Horne said the public pool at Barnard Park is 40 years old. This is a 2-year project, and the Town is seeking to rebuild the public pool facilities within the existing footprint. This includes not only the pool, but the bathhouse and the filtration building. In year one, 2024, this article seeks \$40,000 for engineering design of the pool and all the necessary buildings. Once engineering plans are obtained, the town plans to seek a construction bond in 2025. That is currently estimated at \$4 million for the total construction. The Town would seek available funds. One is a \$500,000 grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. They were told that a shovel ready project is much more likely to obtain those funds. The Parks and Recreation Commission has pledged \$250,000 from the Parks & Recreation Revolving Fund. Both of these would be used to offset bond costs.

There were no public comments on Article 19.

Chair Alexander closed the public hearing on Article 19 and opened the public hearing on Article 20.

Article 20—Crispin's House

Dian McCarthy, Mountain Base Road, and Executive Director of Crispin's House Coalition for Youth. We are a nonprofit that advocates for children and families in town. Crispin's House was founded a little more than 30 years ago, when they had clear signs they needed to do better for the kids in our community. Over the years it has grown to what it is today. Their mission is to encourage and empower positive choices in the lives of our young people by helping to create a healthy and supportive community. They do that by running a number of different programs. They vary in size and scope, but at the end of the day, their mission is to keep our kids safe, provide a safety net, give them a springboard when they're ready for it, and help them make some good choices to go on to live healthy and productive lives.

She said she brought a handout they can pick up on their way out and it lists all the programs and everything they've done. Regarding the warrant article, it's important to know it's a \$20,000 warrant article that now represents roughly 16% of their budget. The remainder of their budget is done through grant writing and direct fundraising. Most of the funds come from individual donations and fundraising. They continue to work to improve their size and scope and be more effective in meeting the needs of our kids. We do ask for your support.

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There was no public comment.

Chair Alexander closed the public hearing on Article 20 and opened the public hearing on Article 21.

Article 21—Goffstown Main Street Program

GMSP Board President Tina Lawton said Goffstown Main Street has been serving this community for more than 20 years. Its purpose is to bring vitality to the historic business districts, support main street businesses, attract businesses to downtown, support mainstream businesses, encourage historic preservation, and to simply make the village a place where businesses want to be.

They provide financial support through facade grants to increase business exposure, to provide opportunities for a business to shine, to attract new patrons to the Village, and they aim to heighten Goffstown's sense of community. They are most known for their events, including the flagship Giant Pumpkin Weigh-Off and Regatta, the Uncommon Art on the Common, and Friday Night Under the Lights. They also support trick or treat in the village, Small Business Saturday, and carry out a large golf fundraiser at Stonebridge Country Club. All of these events foster a sense of community and allow them to highlight the beautiful historic village. They bring folks from inside and outside Goffstown, and the Regatta brings people from all over the country. She provided the Budget Committee with a little more updated budget since they last talked with the Budget Committee on January 19th.

They have really stretched the last couple of years. They have taken a lot of measures, including eliminating the executive director position. They have been operating for 15 months as a volunteer only organization. They've utilized volunteers to a degree that's unprecedented. In 2023 they had 2,400 hours of volunteer hours. That would be over \$80,000. She requests support with the fees that they get charged for their events from the Fire Department, Police detail, EMS, etc. They have ranged from \$3,100 to \$5,875 over the past few years. They are asking for a special article request of \$4,000 to cover the cost of services provided by the Town for their events in 2024.

Sherry Reinford, Shirley Park Road, said she's in favor of the Goffstown Main Street's request for the \$4,000 warrant article from the Town to cover Fire, Police, and Sheriff Services during our community events to keep our citizens safe. She joined the Board in October 2023 in the thick of planning the Pumpkin Regatta, trick or treat, small business Saturday, and Friday Night under the Lights. After participating with the volunteer board and many volunteers it takes to run these events, it is not a small task. They put in countless hours. Everyone that does it does it with pure intention in their heart to support the businesses in the village, and the people in our community.

Over the last three years, the average of the service fees that have been paid by the Main Street Program, without funding from the town, has been about \$4,500 per year. Funding of all their events has come from sponsorships, donations, and fundraising. They are asking for \$4,000 to offset the expense this coming year. There is no way to track attendance for these events, but their best estimate for their two biggest events is somewhere in the neighborhood of 4,000 to 5,000 people. All our events are open to the entire community and surrounding areas. According to the 2022 Town Report, there are

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over 18,000 people that live in Goffstown. That equals about \$0.21 per person. With the Town's support, they can continue to support local businesses and bring our community together.

Shanun Carey, 16 Gorham Pond Road, said she was speaking to everything that was presented as opposed to just one thing. She said sometimes as a parent you have to be the bad guy and say no. It's the same for the Budget Committee. They all ran on platforms to bring change to our town, to hold its Committee accountable, to be the bad guy. She's observed the new chair and some newly elected members living up to their word and taking their position seriously. Working hard to be physically responsible to our town, only to be stonewalled by those who prefer to treat her tax dollars like a winning lottery ticket for all the departments. She appreciates the efforts of those who are trying. Every single department gets exactly what they want, minus the measly \$10,000 she heard that was cut from the budget. That works out to be about \$1.80 per resident. That's how much change they've brought to the people who voted them in to make a difference.

That makes zero impact on her household. She has said no to vacations and pushed off having her dirt driveway paved. She has said no to her children when it comes to certain activities and things they want to do. She imagines all the other households have done the same. Yet none of our departments are required to sacrifice a single thing. Instead, they gained. You're bleeding residents dry. These budgets are bloated and full of excess. The School budget alone is proof enough. Goffstown spends about \$16,000 per pupil, and it is under the average of \$20,000. Charter schools do it for \$9,400 and somehow, they manage a standard that has him learning all the same things her sophomore at GHS is learning, without expensive social-emotional learning programs, without fancy Promethean Boards in every classroom. It can be done with less and she's tired of hearing that it can't. The Board has to be willing to not worry about being unpopular, liked, and to be the bad guy.

Chair Alexander closed the public hearing, and the Budget Committee took a break from 7:30 p.m. to 7:40 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Laura Stevens said, on page 4, about 1/3 of the way down, the name is incorrect. It should read Samantha Kearns, not Samantha Stevens.

Lauren Doukas made a motion to approve the minutes to the Budget Committee meeting of December 5, 2024 as amended. Melanie Renfrew-Hebert seconded the motion. VOTE: 13-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

Laura Stevens said on page 16 she wasn't listed and voted in favor of the motion pertaining to line 45960. Stacey Bellemore made the motion.

Peter Georgantas made a motion to approve the minutes to the Budget Committee meeting of December 19th as amended. Olivia Welch-Erdahl seconded the motion. Joe Alexander, Frank Hobbs, Jared Talbot, Lauren Doukas, Brian Mazur, Samantha Kearns, Melanie Renfrew-Hebert, Allison DeCesare, Richard Manzo, Peter Georgantas, Laura Stevens and Oliva Welch-Erdahl voted in favor. VOTE: 12-0-1. Doug Pounds abstained. Motion carries.

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Chair Alexander read a note that said “Amounts for individual warrant articles, including CBA’s, CRF deposits, petitioned warrant articles, cannot be amended by the Budget Committee. The Committee can only make motions for or against recommendations for those articles. Amounts for operating budgets can be amended at tonight’s meeting following the public.”

They can only make changes to the School and Town budget, if they decide to. Additionally, they cannot make wording changes of warrant articles. If there are changes during the Deliberative Session, they will have a chance to vote again on whether or not they recommend the article.

Goffstown Village Water Precinct

Brian Mazur made a motion to recommend the Goffstown Village Water Precinct budget in the amount of \$2,471,403. Peter Georgantas seconded the motion. VOTE: 13-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

Grasmere Village Water Precinct

Peter Georgantas made a motion to recommend the Grasmere Village Water Precinct budget in the amount of \$288,253. Laura Stevens seconded the motion. VOTE: 13-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

SCHOOL DISTRICT ARTICLES

Article 2—School District Operating Budget

Jared Talbot made a motion to recommend the Goffstown School District Operating Budget in the amount of \$55,709,910. Peter Georgantas seconded the motion.

School Board Rep Jared Talbot said he wanted to reaffirm what he heard in public session. There was a question about no new positions being presented. That is correct. They don’t have any new individuals or new hires listed. What happened is that there are often times when they can’t fill a position or there is a need for another position. While they can’t fill a position, they may have a teacher teach a different subject or move an administrator from one building to another. They have needs and fill them with what they already have within their sphere of influence for their full-time employees.

Laura Stevens said she wants to encourage people to take a closer look at the numbers. They are available in multiple places online, and the School Board could get them more information, so they could look at the lines the Budget Committee looked at. They had a lot of discussion about what they could and couldn’t cut, what was legal, what connected to other things, etc. A lot goes into it.

Select Board Rep Jared Talbot said anyone can access that information. They could reach out to the School Board or go to the public session. These are everyone’s to look at. This was voted to recommend by the School Board with a vote of 8-0. There was one person absent from that meeting.

Brian Mazur said the tax impact seems to be a little misleading, that it would be \$.04 per \$1,000. That doesn’t take into consideration the difference between the default and the proposed. It does. He doesn’t take into consideration the total amount from the CBAs. The tax will be higher than what’s shown unless he’s mistaken.

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School Board Rep Jared Talbot said Scott Gross puts together this information and he'll make sure that, during the Deliberative Session, they have the arithmetic shown. Based on their tax evaluation, they did look at any increase in \$100,000 based on the valuation of the house as \$.04 per \$1,000 of assessed value. That takes into account the totality of all things. He will look at adding the median number they had from the Town for their tax evaluation purposes during Deliberative Session so they can see the traceability through time.

Joe Alexander, Allison DeCesare, Lauren Doukas, Peter Georgantas, Frank Hobbs, Samantha Kearns, Richard Manzo, Melanie Renfrew-Hebert, Laura Stevens, Jared Talbot and Olivia Welch-Erdahl voted in favor. Brian Mazur and Doug Pounds were opposed. VOTE: 11-2-0. Motion carries.

Article 3—School District Capital Reserve Fund Deposit

Jared Talbot made a motion to recommend the capital deposit into the Capital Reserve Fund as they've done for the past number of years in the amount of \$250,000. This was approved by the School Board with a vote of 7-1 to recommend. Lauren Doukas seconded the motion.

Brian Mazur said he won't recommend this because he thinks there should be more rigorous definitions of what the funds could be used for.

School Board Rep Jared Talbot said during their many sessions of deliberations, there were questions why they don't add this to their operating budget. He said he went back in time in the minutes. In 2019, they did that. There were 3 items from the CIP that they looked to add into the operating budget. The Budget Committee at the time stripped those three items because they thought they should be independent articles through the Capital Reserve Fund. That's why they created it. They aren't necessarily bound by what another committee did, but it was a determination at that time to carve out those CIP items and put them for a CRF versus the operating budget. If this Budget Committee or the next Budget Committee wants to change that, he asks that they put that resolution in place prior to their budget season that starts during the summer when the next board is established.

Brian Mazur said he's not against the Capital Reserve Fund but thinks there should be more rigorous definitions around it.

Chair Alexander said he typically has issues with the Capital Reserve Fund and hasn't voted for it yet as a member of the Budget Committee. There are two things they need to keep in mind. The first is that the School has a contingency fund and it's a percentage of their total budget that they can use, and reserve, for unanticipated emergency situations. The State Legislature recently changed this to not even need the Budget Committee to approve and he was a member of the Budget Committee when they did approve things that came from the Contingency Fund.

Now the School Board has the Contingency Fund for which they are the sole users, and then the School Board has this Capital Reserve Fund and they're the sole users. When the theater was renovated, it was more of a wish list item but didn't need to be done. The fund was created, and he was a member. He

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was under the impression it would be more of an unanticipated replacement for necessary things. They've moved away from that, and he's not supported this since, and he won't support it today.

School Board Rep Jared Talbot said it's important they treat that as an emergency item. When they have a boiler fail, that's when they'd use the emergency fund. Legally, they could use it for other things. But the Board doesn't do that. They tried to keep it as an emergency fund. If there was an emergency failure, they can't just go buy a new boiler right away.

Usually, you have to close the school and other things are going on. The Capita Reserve Funds and CIP are very important because they are strategically replacing items that are at the end of life. You want to avoid the failure of that activity occurring while they have classes, and then delay classes because of it occurring.

Melanie Renfrew-Hebert asked him to explain why they don't want to put items like that on the ballot individually.

School Board Rep Jared Talbot said, it's because they change. Priorities change and new grants come up. They want to have the ability to use that money for matching grants. There may be an opportunity where they get a grant to replace their generator.

Select Board Rep Peter Georgantas said no means no. If it gets voted down, they can't do it at all.

Vice Chair Frank Hobbs said he won't vote in favor of this. Tends to drift into needs versus wants. With so many residents being impacted by the increasing taxes, it's pricing people out of our town. There are also other options for emergencies.

Lauren Doukas said it is a proactive approach versus a reactive approach. A reactive approach will increase the expenses because it has to be done right away, with no ability to budget things. That's why the Capital Reserve Fund is a good idea. It's expensive because it is among the town's most valuable assets. They have to keep them up and keep them open.

School Board Rep Jared Talbot said, when he presented the \$1.5 million for CIP for tackling their CIP for the next fiscal year, there is a list on the SAU 19 website. They are coming at things such as replacing the fire panel, replacing some of their cafe tables that are broken, locker rooms, fixing the epoxy flooring, the sister and project at Mountain View middle school because they don't have the ability to pump water up. They have to have the cistern in place for some of their fire suppression. Those are the items they're looking to do in their Capital Reserve Fund.

Laura Stevens asked what the other options are for funding in an emergency.

Chair Alexander said there is a capital reserve fund, which was established in 2019. There is the contingency fund, which was established by NH RSA, which allows the school district to keep up to 5% of their operating budget for emergency expenses.

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Allison DeCesare, Lauren Doukas, Peter Georgantas, Samantha Kearns, Melanie Renfrew-Hebert, Laura Stevens, Jared Talbot and Olivia Welch-Erdahl voted in favor. Joe Alexander, Frank Hobbs, Richard Manzo, Brian Mazur, Doug Pounds voted against. VOTE: 8-5-0. Motion carries.

Article 4—Petition Article for Nightlocks

Jared Talbot made a motion to not recommend the petition Article 4, based on the School Board voting on Monday with a vote of 6-2 to not recommend. Peter Georgantas seconded the motion.

School Board Rep Jared Talbot said they've had a very comprehensive discussion in non-public. The School system doesn't like sharing their strategy or safety plans for obvious reasons. They made movies on School Board Deliberations and facetious acts taking place because of what's happened at the School Board deliberations about safety plans and the appropriate actions that could be done by those nefarious people. They are just movies but, for best practices, they have dedicated time with the Police Chief, the Fire Chief, and the Department of Homeland security, who have come up with what their plan ought to be. To follow that plan, NightLocks are not on that plan. They recommend money be put into other things. He thanked the individuals who came forward with this. The State Fire Marshall can approve an exception, and in public session, and in public comment from our superintendent's report, it was stated on Monday that they would not get the exception they needed from the town in order to have the Fire Marshall approve this. That was another reason they voted to not recommend.

Olivia Welch-Erdahl said she spent a lot of time speaking with community members, families, and students, as well as the Police Chief, Scott Gross, and other board members. She commends the community members that have spent so much time and dedication researching and presenting this to everyone, and their ability to amend the language they used, she won't be recommending this at this time. She thinks there is too much conflicting information regarding barricading devices. It's just not ready yet.

Laura Stevens said she feels similarly. She's close with a lot of people who worked hard on this. She respects Ryan Bump as a person and a first responder, as well as everyone in the group and the work they've done. What holds her up is the lack of information at this point. She spent a lot of time in energy looking into this. She felt the cost was worth the safety of our schools. She can't recommend it as it stands but would like to see it amended.

Chair Alexander said they can take a vote on this exact language. If there's a language change, they can vote again after the Deliberative Session.

Town Administrator Horne said there would have to be a dollar change, not just a language change. There would be a change in appropriation. It can be both.

Lauren Doukas said she, as a private citizen, did sign this petition warrant article. We are not a policy setting committee. We are a financial oversight committee. We deal with the money. This is a very complex policy situation, and it also has to do with it being a petition article. It created a lot of

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operational difficulties. When it clearly informed and dedicated group of citizens was trying to collaborate, she sees that it created some difficulties. She trusts the School Board to set that policy.

She's not looking at the policy. She's not looking at security through obscurity conversation. That's for our town safety officials and the School Board to set that policy. Looking at it as an outside investment, she feels that this group actually thought outside the box. Is it a good investment? \$13,000 and they secured free installation for it. From a strictly financial standpoint she thinks she would like to recommend this because everything else and all those other discussions is really beyond our purview.

Laura Stevens said she agrees that it got muddy. But, as the Budget Committee the amount doesn't happen in a vacuum. She can't recommend an amount when there are too many questions right now about the value that it brings.

Select Board Rep Peter Georgantas said the School has decided this particular system doesn't fit in with the security system by their vote of no. It's something they should move on from. They made the decision that this particular device doesn't fit in at this time.

Vice Chair Frank Hobbs said in the Budget Committee their task is the money. It's not setting policy or looking at safety concerns. But it doesn't happen in a vacuum. What he looks at is if it will move the dial of safety, and is the cost justified. The answer to both of those questions to him is yes.

Lauren Doukas said this is eventually going to go to the voters who will have the final vote. It's helpful that the School Board and the Budget Committee votes work in tandem to help the voting public see different aspects. The Budget Committee doesn't have to vote a certain way because the School Board voted a certain way. They received information in non-public, that the Budget Committee did not. From the angle of financial, policy and administration, there are two different recommendations. They do not have to be married.

Select Board Rep Peter Georgantas said there's a \$13,000 bill here. There is a financial thing. But if it's spent in good or bad will, if it doesn't fit the system, then you're allocating \$13,000 that doesn't fit in with their system. You're wasting \$13,000. If they're not going to use it, why put the \$13,000 out there? Why would you vote to spend it?

Lauren Doukas said from a financial standpoint, it's their obligation to look at the overview and oversight of it. That's for the voting public to decide. If they don't agree with the School Board who is setting their policy, and this petitioned article gets tremendous numbers behind it, that's going to inform the way the School Board thinks about how they set their policy and the standards they want to bring to the table. It's all informative.

Melanie Renfrew-Hebert said she knows the tremendous amount of work that went into this petition. She has been part of the discussion and may have even signed the petition or some other information about it. She agrees with Lauren Doukas that this is on a financial only basis. It's a good value for the Town. Her caveat is that they are only making a recommendation. The voters will have the final say.

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None of this could be done if it doesn't satisfy the requirements and what the Police and Fire Departments, and the inspectors, say would work. We're making a judgement that we should or shouldn't vote on it based on information we can't get until it goes to the voters. She'll be voting no on the motion to not recommend so it gets a chance to go through that process. It may never come to fruition but let's have the voters have a say in it.

Doug Pounds said this could get approved and they could decide not to use it. This Board can decide not to implement it. If it gets approved, it doesn't necessarily mean you have to implement it. Is that correct?

School Board Rep Jared Talbot said any petition warrant article, if passed, the School Board would not have to execute the warrant if it passed. That's a matter of statute.

Doug Pounds said he was not going to recommend it.

Olivia Welch-Erdahl said she is not trying to make policy since she's not an expert on barricading devices.

Chair Alexander said the State Legislature has given the town over \$550,000 for school safety. They've used that for key devices to enter the buildings and cameras, etc., and he doesn't think at this time it's needed. He's willing to trust the people that are the experts and to trust the first responders in this situation so he will be voting for Jared's motion.

Joe Alexander, Allison DeCesare, Peter Georgantas, Richard Manzo, Brian Mazur, Doug Pounds, Laura Steven, Jared Talbot, Olivia Welch-Erdahl voted in favor. Frank Hobbs, Melanie Renfrew-Hebert, Samantha Kearns, and Lauren Doukas voted against. VOTE: 9-4-0. Motion carries.

TOWN OF GOFFSTOWN ARTICLES

Article 12—Operating Budget

Peter Georgantas made a motion to recommend Article 12, the Town of Goffstown operating budget, in the amount of \$29,300,126. Melanie Renfrew-Hebert seconded the motion.

Select Board Rep Peter Georgantas said they went through the budget and made a lot of motions to cut. Some have gone through, and some haven't. They've already done their due diligence with this article.

Laura Stevens said Derek Horne, Danielle Basora, and everyone at Town Hall have been super helpful. The Board should make use of them as pure information.

Joe Alexander, Allison DeCesare, Lauren Doukas, Peter Georgantas, Samantha Kearns, Richard Manzo, Melanie Renfrew-Hebert, Laura Stevens, Jared Talbot and Olivia Welch-Erdahl voted in favor. Frank Hobbs, Brian Mazur and Doug Pounds voted against. VOTE: 10-3-0. Motion carries.

Article 13—EMS Special Revenue Fund

Peter Georgantas made a motion to recommend Article 13, the EMS Special Revenue Fund appropriation in the amount of \$550,726. Melanie Renfrew-Hebert seconded the motion.

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Select Board Rep Peter Georgantas said EMS has been around for a while and it's what supports our ambulance services.

Melanie Renfrew-Hebert said everyone knows what it does, but not everyone knows that, if they vote against it, we won't be able to use that money. It needs to be voted on to be used, otherwise it will raise the taxes.

VOTE: 13-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

Article 14—Collective Bargaining Agreement for DPW Teamsters

Peter Georgantas made a motion to recommend Article 14, a 2-year agreement for a Collective Bargaining Agreement for DPW Teamsters. Samantha Kearns seconded the motion.

Peter Georgantas said the old agreement was 5 years old and they were stuck in a hole. This one is only for 2 years, and it brings them up to where they should be.

Samantha Kearns said she finds the DPW to be one of the most important departments in the Town. She's in full support of this Collective Bargaining Agreement.

VOTE: 13-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

Article 15—Collective Bargaining Agreement for Police Patrol Officers

Peter Georgantas made a motion to recommend Article 15, the Collective Bargaining Agreement for Police Patrol Officers. Samantha Kearns seconded the motion.

Peter Georgantas said the presentation said that the Police Department is short-staffed. This agreement goes a long way in helping to recruit and retain staff.

VOTE: 13-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

Article 16—Collective Bargaining Agreement for Police Dispatchers & Clerks

Peter Georgantas made a motion to recommend Article 16, the Collective Bargaining Agreement for Police Dispatchers & Clerks. Samantha Kearns seconded the motion.

Peter Georgantas said it's a great group of people who work hard. They help to bring in revenue from other towns. They're an important group.

Samantha Kearns said it took 20 months to fill that one clerk position. Our dispatch works for a number of surrounding communities and it's important to recommend this.

VOTE: 13-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

Article 17—Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund Deposit

Peter Georgantas made a motion to recommend Article 17 to raise and appropriate \$250,000 for the Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund deposit. Melanie Renfrew-Hebert seconded the motion.

Select Board Rep Peter Georgantas said the cost of apparatus has increased and it takes 2 years to get an item. Now, a fire truck that cost \$750,000 3-4 years ago costs about \$1.4-\$1.5 million. If you had to

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replace a fire truck, with the cost all at one time, it would really impact the budget. Continuing to appropriate the funds into that account will help offset the expense of a new fire truck.

School Board Rep Jared Talbot asked about the funding mechanism on this.

Select Board Rep Peter Georgantas said at this time it's through taxation. It used to come from the Unreserved Fund Balance but that's gotten a bit low, so they have to do it through taxation this time.

Brian Mazur said he won't be recommending this article because the amount of calls we get are at 3% for fire. This would save the town some money.

Melanie Renfrew-Hebert said she can't overstate the need for our community to keep our equipment up to date for emergency response. The way they've been putting money aside to get the equipment is a good model for the Town and it has worked well. She will vote to recommend this to keep our fire department and fire trucks on the road so they can help us when we need it.

Laura Stevens said that 3% has stuck in her head since they toured the Fire Department. Her concern is if they don't keep adding to this. It only takes one disaster and you're down a truck, or you need something, and it will require a huge amount of money. The community will feel it. Despite that 3% it's important to be prepared in this way.

Richard Manzo said when he looks at the replacement schedule, he sees a well thought out replacement schedule for a very important insurance policy that protects our town and our tax base. Most importantly, when considering the financial impact to the tax rate of houses burning down, the financial impact here alone should be enough to convince anyone to vote in favor of this article, not to mention the moral necessity of maintaining a healthy fire department.

Olivia Welch-Erdahl said departments are saying they are doing more with less. She doesn't think that's a sustainable method to run a town. Eventually you just get less for less. Now they are understaffed in multiple departments and having apparatus not in working order would be devastating.

Joe Alexander, Frank Hobbs, Jared Talbot, Peter Georgantas, Laura Stevens, Lauren Doukas, Melanie Renfrew-Hebert, Allison DeCesare, Richard Manzo, Olivia Welch-Erdahl, Samatha Kearns and Stacey Bellemore voted in favor. Brian Mazur and Doug Pounds voted against. VOTE: 11-2-0. Motion carries.

Article 18—Public Library Capital Reserve Fund Deposit

Peter Georgantas made a motion to recommend Article 18, to raise and appropriate the amount of \$200,000 for the establishment of Goffstown Public Library Capital Reserve Fund. Olivia Welch-Erdahl seconded the motion.

Select Board Rep Peter Georgantas said the Library is an old building and needs some work. The library and library trustees came up with this \$200,000 Capital Reserve Fund. It could also be used as matching funds if grants became available. It's also managed by the Library Trustees in conjunction with the Select Board.

School Board Rep Jared Talbot asked who is the authorizing body for the Capital Reserve Fund?

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Select Board Rep Peter Georgantas said it is the Library Trustees in conjunction with the Select Board. It would entail both boards.

Vice Chair Frank Hobbs said one of the primary concerns of the Library was the windows. Do they anticipate using a portion of that \$200,00 for the windows?

Chair Alexander said the Budget Committee raised the Library maintenance line by \$50,000, so hopefully that will be used to replace the windows next year. This is in addition to that.

Melanie Renfrew-Hebert said she will recommend this Capital Reserve Fund because it could ultimately save the Town money. Without funds available for matching funds for grants, which the Library is constantly on the lookout for, they are unable to do that and take advantage of other funds that would be available.

Lauren Doukas said the Library heard loud and clear last time that the Library would not be replaced. The Library is a public building we need to maintain. The Board of Trustees had been putting off projects for several years in the hope they'd be renovating and expanding. The voters said no, and the Trustees heard them. It is a town building we need to maintain. It's going to need windows. It's 113 years old. It's on the historic registry. It needs to be maintained and there's a very limited number of contractors in the state that can do the work. They will need access to funds to keep this building running and keep it maintained for the whole town. She will be voting to recommend the establishment of the Capital Reserve Fund.

Laura Stevens said any renovations to the Library tend to be trickier and more expensive because of its historical status. You can't just get anyone to do anything.

Chair Alexander said every other department in town has a CIP line. The only thing in the Library CIP was a bond for the next 20 years. Now, that the Library bond did not pass he thinks the Library Trustees should be putting projects back into CIP so they can adequately plan and fund for the future Library renovations. Putting \$50,000 into the budget is goodwill to say they're ready to fund it. He'd like to see the Library make it more transparent about what's going to be next. The Library Trustees should put part of the trust funds in there. They can't do that now but if they established the fund for a dollar, they could put it in next year. That will go a long way to prove to some members that the library trustees want to help spend some of their money and put it into the fund also. For those two reasons, he can't vote to recommend this. If the amount were changed to \$1 and established the fund, and he saw money going from the Trustee funds he could support it.

Select Board Rep Peter Georgantas said they can do that at the Deliberative Session. It's obviously some kind of need if you think the fund needs to be established. Here they're putting \$200,000 into this fund to get things going. If he remembers correctly, the roof was leaking in one spot, and the carpet was in rough shape. That gives an excuse to say they need to put money into the old building.

Chair Alexander said his problem is that every other department in town has one except the Library.

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School Board Rep Jared Talbot said he likes that they are doing this. He's going to abstain from this vote because he doesn't believe the School Board should have a voice in this particular item. But he's glad, the Library is doing this and thinking through it. There's progress here.

This warrant article is doing 2 separate things. It is establishing the account and placing \$200,000 in. The account definitely needs to be established.

Olivia Welch-Erdahl said she'll be recommending this. Last year the Library was asked to come up with a better plan for securing money. By having money that they can have for matching funds for grants, it might not be a structured list that they need to have these different repairs done now. The thing is that they've pivoted for the last year. It's been a struggle trying to find the logistics of how to fund those in a historical building and how to maintain the integrity, while also recognizing that the \$7 million, from last year was just not going to happen.

Laura Stevens said she struggles with this. She was more than happy to do the \$50,000, especially considering the specified project. She likes the fact that they would be more financially in line with the other Town departments. Libraries do function in a different way, so they're not always like the Town departments. This way she thinks people would understand more about how they function. They're taking a different direction, which is what the voters had asked for. She likes where this is going, and being more in alignment with the Town, it makes it easier for the community to understand.

Lauren Doukas said they had the same conversation when they had the Library presentation about taking the Library Trustee Funds to seed this account or use it more. She recalls them saying it's actually illegal. They got e-mail confirmation sent to them about that. Their Library Trust Fund balance was in the area of \$191,000 but only \$1,900 of that was an unrestricted fund that they had access to that could be used beyond the donor's original intention. The Library functions very differently than any department in town because it's very strictly run by other RSA's. It's very similar to the school board. That's probably because the Library was based in an educational setting. That's how they got established that way. It's very different than looking at other town departments. The Library has a lot more rules. They got clarification on this earlier, which is why they need the \$200,000 capital reserve fund to seed it.

Chair Alexander said he did research and talked to a couple of lawyers. The idea is that, if the account is created, then the money can be transferred from private to public funds. Next you would ask them the same thing, 2 put the non-earmarked money into the capital reserve fund.

Lauren Doukas said we were told by our town officials that wasn't possible, but now we're being asked to consider information on a hearsay basis from him.

Richard Manzo said he will vote to recommend this article. He will explain the contrast between this and his vote against the School Capital Reserve Fund. His continuing opposition to the School Capital Reserve Fund is based solely upon the fact that the School Board are the sole agents of that fund. Whether or not they chose to avoid accountability, there is simply less accountability there. The fact that the Library has already signaled that they're thinking about their own accountability by adding the Select Board as

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agents to this fund, it ties together the two interests here between making sure the Library has a little bit more leeway to pursue these goals while still maintaining accountability to the wider community.

Laura Stevens said she agrees with Richard Manzo. He stated what she was trying to wrap her mind around. She said she would like clarification about those funds and the legality of moving them because she thought they had it settled.

Select Board Rep Peter Georgantas said let's not forget this is a town building. Chair Alexander wants to use private funds to fix up the town building. When does the town step up and say we have to put a few bucks into this building? The \$50,000 for the windows is a one-time thing. Here they need to start a fund where they can do a little bit of work at a time. They still have to protect the town's investment, which is the Library.

Vice Chair Frank Hobbs said in the spirit of keeping taxes low, he won't vote for this. They did vote to appropriate \$50,000 earlier. If there are bigger projects they should have bigger guide rails or be a little more clarified or put in the CIP. This appears to be more of a general maintenance fund purpose. They should also get clarification of the Trustee funds.

Melanie Renfrew-Hebert said she will vote to recommend this. She does believe the Library has been extremely transparent with them. They told the Committee exactly what they needed. The voters said no, and they came back with an alternate plan. They put in the work, and they've worked with the Select Board. They've put things in CIP. They have gone through and done the work. She believes that, in order to be able to take advantage of the grants they've been looking at now that might be available anytime, they need that seed money in there. They wouldn't ask for additional money without justifying it.

Select Board Rep Peter Georgantas said Frank Hobbs said it should be in CIP. There's a \$25,000 threshold in CIP. A lot of projects such as carpets or paint may not qualify for that. They have to have that fund. If you don't want to give it to them this way, how else are we going to do it?

Chair Alexander said they would do it with a building maintenance line.

Select Board Rep Peter Georgantas said if it's building maintenance and say they are going to do carpet, painting, etc. That's looking for a specific thing to be done, and you can't always do that in an old building. \$200,000 is not a lot of money compared to the \$7.8 million they wanted last year. They've done a little bit to move their way and it's time we started working with them.

Laura Stevens made a motion to move the question.

Allison DeCesare, Lauren Doukas, Peter Georgantas, Samantha Kearns, Richard Manzo, Melanie Renfrew-Hebert, Laura Stevens and Olivia Welch-Erdahl voted in favor. Joe Alexander, Frank Hobbs, Brian Mazur, Doug Pounds voted against. Jared Talbot abstained. VOTE: 8-4-1. Motion passes.

Article 19—Barnard Park Pool Design

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Peter Georgantas made a motion to recommend Article 19 to raise and appropriate \$340,000 for the Barnard Pool Design. Samantha Kearns seconded the motion.

Select Board Rep Peter Georgantas said the article is self-explanatory. Barnard Park is the main pool for the Town, and it's also used for summer camp, and senior swim. The pool is used a lot by a lot of residents during the summer. The \$340,000 is to get the design. If this article goes through and it passes well, it gives them an idea that the citizens of Goffstown are interested in reviving Barnard Park. If it were to fail, then they would say they wouldn't go ahead with the pool.

Samantha Kearns said she thinks this article works as an excellent litmus test to see if the community is interested in the larger renovation of the pool. The pool desperately needs to be repaired. It needs to become more accessible, and the lifeguard house and changing rooms need replacing.

Melanie Renfrew-Hebert said Parks & Recreation Director Wilhelmi did an excellent job with one sentence convincing her they need to move forward in some fashion with the pool question. That sentence was that "If it starts this year, if the pump starts and nothing breaks, then I guess we'll have swimming." It is a valuable resource to the community and is used by multiple programs, multiple residents, and for different things. It would be an exciting addition to the town. She likes the idea of going forward with the design process and using it as a litmus test.

Chair Alexander said he thinks Barnard Park is a valuable asset. But we want to do a litmus test by spending \$340,000 when we didn't really do any public outreach or surveys to be able to see if they could figure out if they want the pool or not without spending \$340,000. They could have done more to reach out to the public and ask them their opinion. Maybe there are other options such as pickleball. There are other things that could be done with that space. You'd like to see more of asking the community before he would support something like this. He does like that the Parks and Recreation Committee pledged their Trustee money towards this project.

Select Board Rep Peter Georgantas said they already have pickleball courts. There is talk of possibly expanding that in the future. The pool has been in this town as long as he can remember, since 1971. It's used a lot and to try to take that away from the citizens of Goffstown would be committing suicide. It's not a litmus test. This is \$340,000 to do the design. If the people in town say they want to do the design for \$340,000 that tells you they want the pool. He's not sure about what kind of survey they would do.

Laura Stevens said it's used about 2 months per year and it's a lot of money. It needs to be fixed up, but she doesn't know if now is a good time. She doesn't know if she can support this right now when you think of the amount of time that people really do use it over the course of 365 days per year. This may be more of a want than a need, in her opinion.

Brian Mazur said there is the "what if" factor and none of us are clairvoyant. Does pass and the design is done, and the project is going to cost \$4 million, what that goes on the ballot it could fail. Then we just spent a lot of money to build a design for something that may not pass in the future.

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Doug Pounds said he's heard the number \$4 million bandied about a lot about this. People need to understand that the \$340,000 is leading to \$4 million. Even \$340,000 is exorbitant to him. He's not going to recommend it.

Select Board Rep Peter Georgantas said what he's hearing is that Laura Stevens wants to eliminate services that they currently have by not having a pool. And he's hearing Doug Pounds doesn't want to spend the money for the design, so if we don't have the design, we won't have the \$4 million. When the article was read earlier, it included that, if this passed it would lead to the expense of \$4 million. Nothing is hidden here. The \$4 million piece would hopefully be offset with a grant of \$500,000 and the monies from the Parks and Recreation Fund. Everyone is pulling it together and as they go forward; he hears people say they have to cut taxes. One of the things you could do to cut taxes is to get rid of the pool. If we cut our services in recreation, then what? Do we cut football? Basketball? Do we want to go backwards, or do we want to go forward? Maintaining that pool is well used in this town and it's well received.

Laura Stevens said the problem comes with the community asking us to cut taxes. Everyone gets everything they want. The only way to do that is to cut services. There's no way to lower taxes without cutting them. She's trying to be prudent in where and trying to make the smartest decision that affects the least amount of people in a negative way. You can't continue to do more with less. Eventually it's less with less. If people keep saying they don't want to pay for it, then they're not going to get services, and that's unfortunate. She doesn't think anyone wants that, but that's the ramification of lowering taxes. Something has to give somewhere and when it comes down to it, this is a lesser of things to be cut.

Melanie Renfrew-Hebert said the pool won't function without extensive repair or replacement. Repair wasn't even an option. She doesn't like to keep throwing money into the same thing and hopes it will work better next time. There has to be a cost associated if it fails. There has to be a cost associated with the safety and security of a pool. There's going to be costs either way.

Samantha Kearns said when Parks & Recreation first came to the Committee, they proposed bonding the full amount. They spoke with the Select Board and the suggestion was to see if the design feature would pass. If it does, they could go from there.

Vice Chair Frank Hobb said what he hears is that there are a lot of residents who are thinking about moving and leaving because their tax bills are too high. He loves the pool, and the Director does a wonderful job. What he's done to keep the pool together is nothing short of amazing. But this is a choice. Are we looking at restraining the tax rate, or is this a need or a want? We are taking a \$340,000 gamble that a \$4 million bond will get approved. What happens if it doesn't?

Select Board Rep Peter Georgantas asked Brian Mazur asked how the Master Plan treats that facility.

Brian Mazur said they've not had much conversation about it.

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Select Board Rep Peter Georgantas said if he checked in the Master Plan, they list that as one of the assets for the Town of Goffstown. There are older people that have gone to that pool for years. Now the taxes are increased and they're taking their pool away. There are so many things wrong with not maintaining our facilities. If we start letting things go, other things are going to go.

They were already talking about adjustments in Roy Park where they could save some money. It's important not to lose our facilities. Some of us lived on lakes and some didn't. The pool is important for the campers, for all those kids that go there for 10 weeks in the summer. There is a 10-week camp that uses that all summer long. To take it away and say they don't dare spend \$340,000 because it may or may not get done and they don't know for sure. Once you get out there and explain to people what you're doing, and like they've done in the past, they're going to have to do it in a few years when they go to a school. You take that chance. He disagrees with Frank Hobbs. They are complaining about their taxes going high and then you start taking their facilities and other things away from them. It just gets worse.

Laura Stevens said we have to keep in mind the big picture. If you don't have the money, you can't run at full capacity. If the community doesn't want to spend the money, and we hear that all the time, they will have to relent to the fact that the pool is not going to be what we would wish it would be. It's the give and take when you don't want higher taxes. There are ways they could be offset with the School or the State, but this is one where it's all or nothing. If you don't want to pay for it, you don't get it. That's the bottom line here and it's the big picture of what they're doing.

Vice Chair Frank Hobbs said they aren't taking away someone's facilities. They are making a choice with their money. What do you do when you are right at your budget? You trim the budget. This is drifting more into a want rather than a need. He hasn't had any senior citizens in town come up to him and say they want to get the funding for the pool. But he's had a lot of them come up to him and ask what's going on with the taxes. In seven years, taxes have just about doubled. This is a choice. That's all it is. We have our choice with our money and what we do with it.

Olivia Welch-Erdahl said the pool is for swimming and serves a community purpose. It's free. But they can also go to Glen Lake and Mountain Base Pond. There's lifeguards or parking availability but those are things they could work with.

Melanie Renfrew-Hebert said the majority of the people who use the pool over the summer months are children in our community. They take advantage of the pool because they aren't going out doing other things such as private camps and other opportunities for summer. We have a big elderly population that does utilize the pool as well. She is concerned for the communities that would be most affected by this. It is a big expense, and she will be voting to recommend it. And she will be interested to learn if others vote for it or not.

Select Board Rep Peter Georgantas said when this goes forward, it will say it's not recommended by the Budget Committee but is recommended by the Select Board. We can go that route, but it will be the Budget Committee saying not. We can discuss it again at the Deliberative Session with people from the public who want to come talk about it.

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Laura Stevens said the Select Board and the Budget Committee are separate entities. People can weigh that in their mind. As a community should remember that if someone at the Deliberative stands up and asks why the pool wasn't recommended, she wants to be able to look them in the eye and say that no one wants to cut something like a pool, which only brings joy and is for everyone. But when it comes down to it, we keep hearing lower taxes. She will be able to say to someone that this is the attempt to do that. It's the bigger picture of the pool versus really lowering taxes.

Peter Georgantas and Melanie Renfrew-Hebert voted in favor of the motion. Joe Alexander, Samantha Kearns, Lauren Doukas, Richard Manzo, Allison DeCesare, Laura Stevens, Olivia Welch-Erdahl, Doug Pounds, and Frank Hobbs were against. Jared Talbot abstained. Vote: 2-10-1. Motion fails.

Richard Manzo made a motion to not recommend Article 19 in the amount of \$340,000. Lauren Doukas seconded the motion. VOTE: 10-2-1. Peter Georgantas and Melanie Renfrew-Hebert were against. Jared Talbot abstained . VOTE: 10-2-1. Motion passes.

Article 20—Crispin's House Coalition for Youth

Peter Georgantas made a motion to recommend Article 20, to raise and appropriate \$20,000 for the Goffstown non-profit organization Goffstown's Crispin's House Coalition for Youth. Joe Alexander seconded the motion.

Select Board Rep Peter Georgantas said Crispin's House has done a lot of good things in our town for several years. He doesn't see any reason they shouldn't continue to support it.

Chair Alexander said he agrees. He thinks mental health and suicide awareness prevention is very important to him. It's an important priority for the Town.

Vice Chair Frank Hobbs said he has a great deal of respect for the work Crispin's House does. We are all free residents and can donate our money to whatever charity we want. He won't force other residents to donate to a charity. This is an overreach and will be voting no on this for the principle.

Chair Alexander said there are lines in the budget for when someone is struggling to pay their energy bill or their mortgage. We can cut all the welfare lines. To cut \$20,000 after just cutting \$340,000, what does it say?

Vice Chair Frank Hobbs said the amount is small but it's not ours to give. This is taxpayer money. Welfare money is different from donating to a 501(c)3.

Olivia Welch-Erdahl said this proactively helps a lot of youth in our community. It brings together the School with the Police Department. It removes the burden from the SAU rather than having to commit money to crisis kids.

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Brian Mazur said this is a non-profit. The precedent has been set to put Crispin's House over other non-profits and we're using public money to do it. It's an inappropriate way of doing it. Allocating funds for a nonprofit is a bad precedent.

Doug Pounds said the program does help but he agrees on principle that we shouldn't be spending money on a non-profit.

Samantha Kearns said Crispin's House runs the youth diversion program. If there is a youth who got mixed up, they get to go through Crispin's House rather than the Police Department. That takes a huge burden off our Police Department and helps them save money. She'll be voting in favor of this motion.

Select Board Rep Peter Georgantas said our budget doesn't have anything in there about diversion. There is nothing that points to that. They do a lot of different things and help a lot of kids. The Police Chief has said they've helped kids he's had trouble with. \$20,000 is cheap. We're not subsidizing their whole program. We're just subsidizing a little bit of it. He will continue to do so.

Melanie Renfrew-Hebert said it would be interesting to know the cost of services that Crispin's House provides to our community, for the individuals going through the programs now and in the long run when some of these things are diverted and people's lives are put back on track. If we were to do an analysis of that, we'd find that the \$20,000 Crispin's House has asked for is a bargain against the future health of our community.

Vice Chair Frank Hobb said he's never heard anyone dispute the work they do as anything other than exceptional. What about other charities, and the churches? Why are we snubbing them? Why are we taking public tax money and deciding where it should go? Can we do it? Yes. Should we do it? He doesn't think so. Is that our new job right now as stewards of the public trust to decide which non-profit gets money? That's why he will vote no.

Olivia Welch-Erdahl said to remember how expensive it is for out-of-district school kids. Not every Crispin's House kid would be an out-of-district school placement, but the alternative to be supportive of programs that are directly impacting district kids is a huge cost saving measure.

Chair Alexander said it's also impacting the cost on the courts.

Olivia Welch-Erdahl said there is court, bail, rehabilitation, etc. They're multi levels being met in one place locally and accepting all kids, not just kids enrolled in the School District.

Laura Stevens said they brought the warrant to us. If other non-profits brought a warrant to us, the Committee would have to decide on them as well. We didn't pick them. They picked us. It's our job to go from there.

Lauren Doukas said churches and other non-profits aren't at Mountain View Middle School doing Volunteens. They're not going to Suicide Prevention training at the High School. She said the School Board would still say they want to do suicide prevention training and to have a Volunteens program.

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They would have to go out and spend the money and hire these other companies that do this because they lost their partnership with Crispin's House. It asks about subsidizing charity and more about working collaboratively.

Joe Alexander, Peter Georgantas, Melanie-Renfrew Hebert, Samantha Kearns, Lauren Doukas, Allison DeCesare, Richard Manzo, Stacey Bellemore and Olivia Welch-Erdahl voted in favor. Frank Hobbs, Doug Pounds, and Brian Mazur voted against. Jared Talbot and Laura Stevens abstained. VOTE: 8-3-2. Motion passes.

Article 21—Goffstown Main Street Program

Peter Georgantas made a motion to recommend Article 21 to raise and appropriate \$4,000 for the Goffstown non-profit Main Street Program. Brian Mazur seconded the motion.

Select Board Rep Peter Georgantas said the money was spent on Police and traffic on Main Street during the Pumpkin Regatta. This year showed that, when they closed Main Street, it made the event nicer and safer. He urges the Committee to vote to approve this. They brought people from out of town and the Sheriff's Department was also there. They have to pay for it. It's a good event for the Town and we should be pitching in.

Allison DeCesare said she has a conflict of interest because in her personal/professional life, she works with Tina to get things organized. She doesn't have control over their cash flow but is involved enough that she should abstain.

Laura Stevens said this is unique. We finally got their budget. The numbers don't track for her, and she has a problem with it. With their budgeted and their actuals, she doesn't see a connection with any of the numbers as to why. She has a problem with them asking for the \$4,000 because so many line items are off. They could pull the \$4,000 if they were looking at their numbers correctly.

Melanie Renfrew-Hebert said she had concerns about this but remembers this is a new process for Main Street to have a laid-out budget they can look at. She'll be voting to recommend because this money needs to go through the Town to pay the officers who provide the service. That \$4,000 is just for that one service, not for other expenses.

Olivia Welch-Erdahl said she'll be voting to recommend it. As a family that has a member who relies on mobility devices, being able to shut down the entire Main Street for the Pumpkin Regatta made it a lot more accessible for quite a few people within the community that wouldn't have been able to attend otherwise.

Vice Chair Frank Hobbs said he won't vote for this because it's a non-profit. There are many businesses in Pinardville. This helps people in the Village, but not in Pinardville. They are taking money from every taxpayer and it's benefiting a few. It's the inherent problem with giving away something that isn't yours.

Doug Pounds said he views this as a direct public safety issue and will vote to recommend it.

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Joe Alexander, Peter Georgantas, Lauren Doukas, Peter Georgantas, Samantha Kearns, Richard Manzo, Brian Mazur, Doug Pounds, Melanie Renfrew-Hebert, Olivia Welch-Erdahl, Laura Stevens, Jared Talbot and Olivia Welch-Erdahl voted in favor. Frank Hobbs voted against. Allison DeCesare abstained.

VOTE: 11-1-1. Motion passes.

9:28 p.m. Peter Georgantas made a motion to adjourn. Samantha Kearns seconded the motion. VOTE: 13-0-0. All in favor. Motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Labrecque
Recording Secretary

These minutes are subject to the approval of the Budget Committee.