

Town of Goffstown

2025 ANNUAL WARRANT

To the inhabitants of the Town of Goffstown in the County of Hillsborough qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at seven o'clock in the evening (7:00 p.m.) at the Goffstown High School, 27 Wallace Road, in the Gymnasium in said Town for the first portion of Town Meeting, also known as the Deliberative Session, to act on the following subjects and determine matters which will then be voted upon by the official ballot on Tuesday, March 11, 2025. (Snow date for the first session is Thursday, February 6, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. and the same location.)

You are further notified to meet Tuesday, March 11, 2025 to vote on all matters by official ballot. The polls will open on March 11, 2025 at 7:00 A.M. and close at 7:00 P.M. in the First District at the Goffstown High School, 27 Wallace Road and will open at 7:00 A.M. and close at 7:00 P.M. in the Fifth District at the Bartlett Elementary School, 689 Mast Road.

ARTICLE 1

ELECTION OF CANDIDATES

ARTICLE 2

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment to the Goffstown Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the Planning Board, to amend the definition of an “Abutter” in the Glossary, amend Section 15.3.3 Administrator Appeals and Section 15.3.7.7 Rehearing, and adding Section 15.3.7.10 Appeal of Administrative Officer’s Decision? This amendment will meet the 2024 change to state law relative to the statutory definition of “abutter” and to appeals of certain zoning decisions by abutters under NH House Bill 1359 (laws of 2024, Chapter 130).

Recommended by the Planning Board 8-0-0.

ARTICLE 3

Are you in favor of the adoption of an Amendment to the Goffstown Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the Planning Board, to amend the Glossary by removing the definition of “Family Day Care Home” and replacing it with a new definition for “Family Child Care Home”; to amend the Glossary by removing “Family Group Day Care Home” and replacing it with a new definition “Family Group Child Care Home”; and add Section 5.6.4 Group Child Day Care? This amendment will meet the 2024 change to state law concerning family and group family child care uses under NH House Bill 1567 (laws of 2024, Chapter 271).

Recommended by the Planning Board 8-0-0.

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ARTICLE 4

Are you in favor of the adoption of an Amendment to the Goffstown Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the Planning Board, to Amend 7.2.5 Table of Off-Street Parking Requirements to add: “A two-family with a studio & 1-bedroom under 1,000 sf that meets Workforce Housing Requirements will require 1 ½ parking spaces per unit. A Multi-Family with 10 or more units will require 1 ½ parking spaces per unit. Guest parking shall be provided in the amount of .25 of the total number of units.”? This amendment will meet the 2024 change to state law relative to residential parking spaces under NH House Bill 1400 (laws of 2024, Chapter 370)?

Recommended by the Planning Board 8-0-0.

ARTICLE 5

Are you in favor of the adoption of an Amendment No. 5 to the Goffstown Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the Planning Board, as follows: Amend Section 7.3.3. Handicapped Accessible Spaces by changing the size of the handicapped accessible spaces from eighteen and one half (18.5) feet in length and eight (8) feet in width to twenty (20) feet in length and nine (9) feet in width?

Recommended by the Planning Board 8-0-0.

ARTICLE 6

Are you in favor of the adoption of an Amendment to the Goffstown Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the Planning Board, by adding: “Section 7.5.3.2-An applicant may present an alternative parking arrangement to the Planning Board for residential use, the Planning Board shall be required to consider the alternative parking solution.”? This amendment will meet the 2024 change to state law relative to residential parking spaces under NH House Bill 1400 (laws of 2024, Chapter 370)?

Recommended by the Planning Board 8-0-0.

ARTICLE 7

Are you in favor of the adoption of an Amendment to the Goffstown Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the Planning Board, to combine Section 8.3 Light Projection and 8.5 Illumination of Parking Areas, add a requirement that all lighting shall have full cutoff shields, and include “front” lot lines to limitation of illumination sentence? The combined Section 8.3 shall read: “8.3 Light Projection-Any new outside lighting, whether for area illumination, sign illumination, building illumination, or other purpose, shall project no more than 3% of its light rays above the horizon from the lamp, its lens structure or any associated reflector. In addition, any new lighting greater than 20 foot-candles on the ground requires the submission of a detailed engineering lighting plan. Lighting fixtures used to illuminate parking areas shall direct the light away from adjacent properties and away from traffic on adjacent streets. Lighting shall be designed to limit any increase in off-site illumination to a maximum of 0.2 foot-candles as measured at the front, side, and rear lot lines, except where parking lots are interconnected. All lighting fixtures shall have full cut-off shields.”

Recommended by the Planning Board 8-0-0.

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ARTICLE 8

Are you in favor of the adoption of an Amendment to the Goffstown Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the Planning Board, rewriting the current Section 9, Manufactured Homes & Manufactured Home Parks to allow for the expansion of manufactured housing parks that existed as of 7/1/24, as well as allowing manufactured housing on individual lots and subdivisions created for manufactured housing parks? This amendment will meet the 2024 change to state law requiring municipalities that adopt land use control measures to provide reasonable and realistic opportunities for the siting of manufactured housing on individual lots and in manufactured housing parks and subdivisions within residential districts under NH House Bill 1361 (laws of 2024, Chapter 23)?

Recommended by the Planning Board 8-0-0.

ARTICLE 9

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate for the operation, expenses and commitments of the town General Fund, the budget approved by the Budget Committee in the amount of Twenty-Five Million, Nine Hundred Seventy-Six Thousand, Eight Hundred Eighty-Three Dollars (\$25,976,883).

This budget will be predicated by estimated revenues in the amount of Seven Million, Two Hundred Fifty-Nine Thousand, Five Hundred Eighty-Six Dollars (\$7,259,586).

The motion on the operating budget shall be the following, with only the appropriation amount subject to amendment:

“Shall the Town of Goffstown vote to raise and appropriate as a General Fund operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant, or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Twenty-Five Million, Nine Hundred Seventy-Six Thousand, Eight Hundred Eighty-Three Dollars (\$25,976,883)?

Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Twenty Five Million, Five Hundred Fifty Thousand, Five Hundred Thirty-Four Dollars (\$25,550,534), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Goffstown, or by law or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.” NOTE: This article (operating budget) does not include appropriations in any other warrant article.

Recommended by the Select Board 5-0-0.

Recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0-0.

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ARTICLE 10

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate for the operation, expenses and commitments of the Sewer Enterprise Fund, the budget approved by the Budget Committee in the amount of Two Million, Two Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand, Five Hundred and Two Dollars (\$2,236,502).

This budget will be predicated by estimated revenues collected from sewer use fees in the amount of Two Million, Two Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand, Five Hundred and Two Dollars (\$2,236,502). This article is paid for by customers serviced by the Goffstown Sewer collection System, which operates as a municipal enterprise fund. This article (Sewer Enterprise Fund operating budget) has no tax impact.

The motion on the sewer fund operating budget shall be the following, with only the appropriation amount subject to amendment:

“Shall the Town of Goffstown vote to raise and appropriate as a Sewer Enterprise Fund operating budget, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant, or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Two Million, Two Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand, Five Hundred and Two Dollars (\$2,236,502)?

Should this article be defeated, the default budget for the Sewer Enterprise Fund shall be One Million, Seven Hundred Eighty-Three Thousand, Eight Hundred Seventy-Six Dollars (\$1,783,876), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Goffstown, or by law or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.”

NOTE: This article is paid for by customers serviced by the Goffstown Sewer collection System, which operates as a municipal enterprise fund. This article (Sewer Enterprise Fund operating budget) has no tax impact.

Recommended by the Sewer Commissioners 3-0-0.

Recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0-0.

ARTICLE 11

To see if the Town of Goffstown will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Select Board and the Professional Firefighters of Goffstown, Local #3420, International Association of Firefighters which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
2025	\$ 136,983
2026	\$ 182,289
2027	\$ 105,628

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-Three Dollars (\$136,983) for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels.

(This appropriation is in addition to Article 9.)

Recommended by the Select Board 5-0-0.

Recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0-0.

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ARTICLE 12

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000) to be added to the Fire Department Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2008.

This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No new amount to be raised by taxation. (Majority vote required.)

Recommended by the Select Board 5-0-0.

Recommended by the Budget Committee 14-1-0.

ARTICLE 13

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate an additional Four Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$450,000) for Goffstown's Road Improvement Program. Passage of this article will direct the Select Board to include this amount in future operating and default budgets of the Town of Goffstown.

(This appropriation is in addition to Article 9.)

Recommended by the Select Board 5-0-0.

Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-6-0.

ARTICLE 14

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to RSA 31:95-h to modify the existing CABLE ACCESS REVOLVING FUND established in 2013, to increase the amount of franchise fee revenues received from our Cable Franchise Agreement from Seventy Percent (70%) to One Hundred Percent (100%). The Cable Franchise Agreement revenue share shall be as follows:

Beginning January 1, 2025 = 100% to the Cable Access Revolving Fund
0% to the Town's General Fund.

Such monies, in addition to any Cable Franchise equipment grants, will be deposited into the fund and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the Town's general fund balance. The town treasurer shall have custody of all monies in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board 5-0-0.

ARTICLE 15

To see if the Town will vote in accordance with RSA 72:62, to modify the solar exemption adopted by the Town in 2015 and increase the exemption to 100% of the amount of a residential solar energy system, up to the first 20 kW. (If adopted and approved, this article shall take effect for the 2025 property tax year. If this article is not adopted, the residential solar exemption shall remain at 100% of the amount, up to the first 10 kW or less, if any).

Recommended by the Select Board 5-0-0.

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ARTICLE 16

Shall the voters of Goffstown vote to raise appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to fund a third-party operational efficiency study and audit of all departments, with the goal of identifying opportunities for improved efficiencies and identify potential risks within the Town of Goffstown?

This study would include, but not be limited to, the following departments: Town Hall, Police, Fire, Library, Department of Public Works (DPW), and Parks and Recreation.

(This appropriation is in addition to Article 9.)

(Majority Vote Required.)

Not Recommended by the Select Board 5-0-0.

Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 15-0-0.

ARTICLE 17

To see if the Town will direct the Town Manager to make available access to the check register on the town website. Similar information has been available to Bedford residents for many years. Bedford residents can monitor monthly expenses paid out of the school district bank account. Residents can access this information through a 91-a, Right to Know Request, but this can be a cumbersome task for town officials. By providing this information on the town website, town officials can direct people to the website for this information. That should cut down on time and money spent on gathering this information Why should you support this? 1) Transparency. This will male many expenditures transparent. 2) Fiscally Responsible. This will cut down on the cost of having the search and provide information to those who file 91-a's Right to Know Request for this information.

Recommended by the Select Board 5-0-0.

ARTICLE 18

To transact any business that may legally come before said meeting.

Given under our Hands and Seal this 21st day of January, 2025.

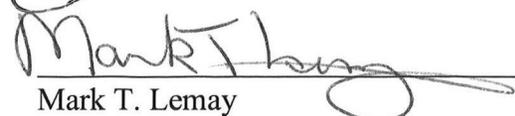
GOFFSTOWN SELECT BOARD


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Collis Adams


Kelly Boyer, Vice Chairwoman


Jim Craig


Mark T. Lemay