

GOFFSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

GOFFSTOWN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Goffstown Town Hall – Room 106
16 Main Street - Goffstown, NH 03045

Thursday, November 2, 2017

School Board Members: Dian McCarthy, Steven Dutton, Ginny McKinnon, Heather Trzepacz, Dan Cloutier, Jenelle O'Brien, Lorry Cloutier, Kristie Curtis (Reta Chaffee excused absence)

Administration: Brian Balke, Superintendent, Ray Labore, Business Administrator

Public Comment: None

Dian McCarthy called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

The Board is meeting to discuss the tax rate calculation. Superintendent Balke stated that there is \$570,613 in the 2.5% Contingency Fund that could be released and used to lower the school district portion of the tax rate. Brian spoke with Will Phillips from the NHSBA as well as Ed Kaplan, School District Attorney and Jamie Dow of the Department of Revenue Administration and gave them an overview of the situation. All agreed that this could be done. Brian and Dian have also been in conversations with Adam Jacobs, Goffstown Town Administrator, Derek Horne, Assistant Town Administrator and the Goffstown Board of Selectmen. Dian McCarthy will bring the request to the Board of Selectmen on behalf of the school board this evening to request a hearing with the Department of Revenue Administration to reconsider the 2017 December tax rate. The use of these funds will lower the school district's tax rate by \$0.39.

If the request is approved by the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Selectmen will need to submit a request to the Commissioner of the DRA to allow reconsideration of the December 2017 Goffstown Tax Rate and request a hearing. The School District will contact the Trustees of the Trust Fund to release the money if the school district is successful with the DRA.

At this point, the tax bills are printed but have not been mailed. We thank Adams Jacobs, Derek Horne and the Board of Selectmen for their assistance as we make our way through this process.

Brian apologized for the error and stated that steps will be taken to insure that this will not happen again. Steven Dutton questioned the tax bill timelines regarding the mailing of the tax bills and the payment due date. It was noted that if the process was denied the bills would be mailed. If approval is received, the school district we will reimburse the town the \$1,700 for reprinting, folding, mail prepping, envelopes and payment envelopes (6,500 for bill run).

Dan Cloutier motioned to request the release from the Trustees of the Trust Fund of the Goffstown School District's 2.5% Contingency Fund created in accordance with RSA 198:4-b, II in the amount of \$570,613. This money is to be used exclusively for tax relief contingent upon the successful petition of the Department of Revenue Administration allowing the Goffstown Board of Selectmen to amend the December 2017 Tax Rate. Additionally, to allow SAU 19 Administration to take the steps necessary to reduce the December 2017 tax rate by

releasing the 2.5% Contingency Fund, seconded by Ginny McKinnon. Ray Labore, Business Administrator, stated that the school district did not need to request the release of the funds from the Trustees of the Trust Fund as they are not held with them. *Dan Cloutier amended his motion to “wherever the funds are”.* *Ginny McKinnon amended her second.* Kristie Curtis stated that she is hoping this will never happen again and that controls need to be put in place to insure that. *Vote: 8-0-0 – All in Favor – Motion Passed.*

Lorry Cloutier motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:50pm, seconded by Dan Cloutier. Vote: 8-0-0 – All in Favor – Motion Passed.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise F. Morin
Recording Secretary