



## Local Government Center

January 14, 2010

**VIA E-MAIL** (sued@goffstownnh.gov)

Sue Desruisseaux, MPA  
Town Administrator  
Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

### **ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED INFORMATION**

Re: Legal Inquiry (Budget Process)

Dear Sue:

I write in response to your emailed legal inquiry regarding submission of the budget, as follows:

*Goffstown is a Municipal Budget Act (Chapter 32) and Official Ballot (RSA 40:13) town. The Budget Committee held their **first public hearing on Jan. 6, 2010** on the town and school budgets. At that meeting they put forward an operating budget number for the town and the school. They have scheduled a **second public hearing on Jan. 19, 2010** on Petitioned Articles with appropriations, to consider the public input received on Jan. 6, 2010, and vote their recommendations on all appropriation articles.*

*Please reconcile the deadlines in the Municipal Budget Act and Official Ballot law to answer the following questions:*

- 1. What is the deadline for the Budget Committee to submit their operating budget number on the town and school budgets? and to whom do they submit their number?*

The deadline is January 25, 2010 (the last Monday in January), which is the last day for the governing body to post the budget and warrant. RSA 40:13, II-a(d). This can be confusing because RSA 32:16, IV generally requires the budget committee to submit their final budget to the board of selectmen at least 20 days before the meeting so that it can be posted with the warrant. However, in towns that have adopted RSA 40:13, the special deadlines in that statute supercede those in RSA 32.

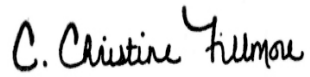
Final budgets should be submitted to the appropriate governing body (board of selectmen for the town and school board for the school).

- 2. What is the deadline for the Budget Committee to submit their recommendations on appropriation articles? and to whom do they submit their recommendations?*

This deadline is the same as for the overall budget, and recommendations are submitted to the governing bodies just as the budget itself is.

I hope this information is helpful to you. Please contact me if you have additional questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Christine Fillmore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

C. Christine Fillmore  
Staff Attorney