



State of New Hampshire
Governor's Office
FOR
EMERGENCY RELIEF AND RECOVERY
(GOFERR)
LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY BOARD

PUBLIC MEETING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2020

1:00 p.m.

in

One Eagle Square

Concord, NH 03301

Legislative Advisory Board Members:

SENATOR	Senator Lou D'Allesandro
SENATE PRESIDENT	Donna Soucy
SENATE LEADER	Senator Chuck Morse
SENATOR	John Reagan
SPEAKER	Steve Shurtleff
HOUSE LEADER	Rep. Dick Hinch
CHAIRWOMAN	Maryjane Wallner
REPRESENTATIVE	Erin Hennessey

AGENDA

- Call to Order - Reading of Public Meeting Statement
- Attendance
- Legislative Advisory Board Discussion Items:
 - 1:10-1:30 PM: Overview of remaining Coronavirus Relief Funds (GOFERR funds)
- Next Scheduled Meeting
- Adjourn

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 * * * * *

3 TAYLOR CASWELL: My name is Taylor Caswell.

4 I am the Director of the Governor's Office for Emergency
5 Relief and Recovery, and I'll be facilitating today's
6 meeting. The GOFERR Legislative Advisory was created by
7 Executive Order #2020-06. That order is publicly available
8 on the Governor's website.

9 Today's meeting is an official meeting of the
10 Board. It is open to the public and will be run in a manner
11 compliant with RSA 91-A.

12 As I mentioned, today's call is being recorded.
13 Should you be a speaking participant and not wish to be
14 recorded, you may disconnect now. The recording from
15 today's meeting will be transcribed and posted on the GOFERR
16 webpage.

17 Because the Board is meeting by phone under RSA
18 91-A; there are a few initial logistics that we need to
19 establish. First, each of us must state our names, where we
20 are located, and who is with us in the room with us. I will
21 begin.

22 I'm Taylor Caswell, Director of GOFERR here in the

1 GOFERR Office in Concord with Deputy Director Lisa English,
2 and Hilary Ryan [phonetic].

3 Senator Soucy?

4 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: I don't think Senator Soucy is
5 going to be on the call today, Taylor.

6 TAYLOR CASWELL: Okay, great.

7 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: I think she's talked to Senator
8 Morse about that; he may have some better information, but I
9 understand that she won't be on the call.

10 TAYLOR CASWELL: Okay. Noted. Thank you,
11 Senator. Speaker Shurtleff?

12 STEVE SHURTLEFF: Steve Shurtleff. I am at my
13 residence in Penacook, and I am alone.

14 TAYLOR CASWELL: Senator Morse?

15 CHUCK MORSE: Chuck Morse. I'm at my office in
16 Atkinson, and I am alone.

17 TAYLOR CASWELL: And Representative Hinch?

18 DICK HINCH: This is Dick Hinch. I'm in my office
19 in Merrimac, and I am alone.

20 TAYLOR CASWELL: Senator D'Allesandro?

21 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: This is Senator
22 D'Allesandro. I'm in my home in Manchester, and I am alone.

1 TAYLOR CASWELL: Thank you. Representative
2 Wallner?

3 MARYJANE WALLNER: Maryjane Wallner. I'm in my
4 home in Concord, and I'm alone in the room, but my husband's
5 in the house.

6 TAYLOR CASWELL: Senator Reagan?

7 JOHN REAGAN: Senator Reagan, I'm in my office, by
8 myself.

9 TAYLOR CASWELL: And Representative Hennessey?

10 REPRESENTATIVE HENNESSEY: This is Erin Hennessey,
11 good afternoon. I am home in Littleton, and I'm by myself.

12 TAYLOR CASWELL: Okay, thank you. As we move
13 through the agenda today, each Board member and anyone else
14 speaking is asked to identify themselves before speaking.
15 Should you choose to take any votes today, they must be done
16 by roll call, following the process we have just used.

17 And finally, before we begin please remember to
18 hit 5* if you would like to ask a question. With that, I
19 think we can get right into our agenda.

20 The sole item for today is to discuss the
21 remaining funding available through the Coronavirus Relief
22 Funds under GOFERR. And so, we'll give this update. I've

1 got Lisa, our Deputy Director here to answer any questions
2 when we get to the completion of this.

3 So, as you are all aware, last spring New
4 Hampshire received federal relief funds under the CARES Act.
5 Included in these funds was \$1.25 billion in funding under
6 the Coronavirus Relief Fund.

7 Over the course of the last several months, GOFERR
8 has worked with this Advisory Board, other partners and
9 stakeholders, and Governor Sununu to identify a need,
10 develop programs to target COVID-related financial distress,
11 and deploy resources quickly and efficiently. Today, we
12 have funded at least 50 separate programs with CRF
13 resources.

14 Included as part of each of those efforts has been
15 a look behind the scenes to operationalize solutions that
16 meet federal guidelines, designed program applications,
17 construct review mechanisms sometimes across multiple
18 agencies, and then write the checks and ensure compliance on
19 the use of those funds.

20 Given the current deadline -- current December 30
21 deadline for deployment and utilization of CRF funds -- we
22 are now entering the last 60 days of the program, and it is

1 an opportune time to provide an update on the state of funds
2 remaining, given the expenditures need to be enough.

3 To date the balance of unallocated funds currently
4 stands at just about \$1 million dollars. But that is not
5 the full story.

6 Included in this figure are certain fund balances
7 that have been reallocated. Those include the connecting
8 New Hampshire Emergency Broadband Expansion program, the
9 reallocated amount of \$36 million dollars. The New
10 Hampshire General Assistance and Preservation, or Gap Fund -
11 - the reallocated amount is \$9 million dollars.

12 Under the Main Street Relief Fund One and SELF
13 program, we allocated an amount of \$15 million dollars, and
14 with New Hampshire Agriculture COVID-19 Relief Fund Reserve,
15 \$3 million dollars of reallocation.

16 So turning toward the existing programs that have
17 or will likely have remaining funds: While these figures
18 are obviously estimates, we are highly confident that these
19 figures reflect the remaining balance of each of these
20 programs.

21 It is also important to bear in mind that many of
22 these estimates are applicable so long as the deadline for

1 use of the funds remains December 30, 2020.

2 So the list of programs that have or will likely
3 have remaining funds is the reserve for the New Hampshire
4 Food Bank Grant at \$2.5 million dollars. The New Hampshire
5 Housing Relief Program Reserve is \$15 million dollars. The
6 Main Street Relief Fund and SELF Program have \$1.5 million
7 dollars, and the Nonprofit Emergency Relief Fund has \$18
8 million dollars.

9 So lastly, there are a few other programs that may
10 have balances, but given program deadlines, we are not yet
11 confident enough in those potential reminders to include
12 them in the list, but have instead provided dates on which
13 we believe we will be able to have a confident estimate.

14 So those programs are the Municipal and County
15 Reimbursement Fund. We expect to have an estimate on the
16 last for that program on November 15 under the First
17 Responder Stipend Program December 1.

18 Let's see... the COVID 19 Long Term Care
19 Stabilization Program with the stipends December 1. In the
20 Community College System Tuition Assistance Program, also
21 December 1 and the Safe Scholars Program December 15.

22 So, to conclude: The current balance with all of

1 this taken into account is approximately \$38 million dollars
2 in total remaining funds that would be available over
3 approximately the next 50 days.

4 So as I said, I've got our Deputy Director Lisa
5 English here with me to help answer any questions that you
6 might have on any of that, and I believe that we sent around
7 a memo to each of you a little earlier today with a written
8 description of what I just reviewed.

9 So with that, I'm certainly happy to answer any
10 questions or hear any comments from members of the Board.
11 Remember to hit *5 if you'd like to ask a question.

12 [Pause]

13 TAYLOR CASWELL: I'm not seeing any questions.

14 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: I've got one. I've got my hand
15 raised. Senator D'Allesandro.

16 TAYLOR CASWELL: I'm sorry, Senator. Go right
17 ahead, I didn't see that.

18 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Okay. Well, thank you very
19 much. I'm looking at the sheet that you've just gone
20 through. Now, when you say, "reallocated the monies in the
21 amount of \$63 million dollars," are we sure that that
22 reallocation -- those monies will be spent by the thirtieth

1 of December?

2 TAYLOR CASWELL: Yes. It's our intention to make
3 sure that all resources are expended by December 30.

4 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Sure. But how likely are we
5 giving this amount to make sure that that's going to happen?

6 And the second thing is these other programs in
7 your second block, that \$37 million, you say these are
8 likely to have remaining funds? When will we have a clear
9 picture of how much will be remaining in this \$37 million?

10 TAYLOR CASWELL: Well, I think with regard to the
11 \$37 million, Senator, I think what we've got here is a list
12 of programs that based on the trends that we're seeing, and
13 sometimes the underlying programs with the Housing Relief
14 Program, we don't expect that those funds will be necessary
15 given the deadlines.

16 So that's a big part of this discussion is under
17 the December 30 deadline, a lot of these programs we just
18 don't have enough time to expend all the resources given the
19 sort of box that we're in.

20 With regard to the \$63 million, that's an amount
21 that's already been swept back into the accounts, and has --
22 you know, been used in part for some of the programs that

1 have been announced over the last week or two.

2 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: So the \$37 million that we
3 don't expect will be expended because of the time
4 constraints, that will have to be returned to the federal
5 government, is that correct?

6 TAYLOR CASWELL: No, sir. We have -- we would not
7 expand to be returning any resources at this point. I think
8 that there are some priority decisions that need to be made
9 going forward over the next 60 days to meet some of the
10 remaining demands on these resources.

11 But again, within the context of being able to
12 meet the December 30 deadline.

13 So, you know, it is our stated intention to not
14 return any resources to the federal government to the extent
15 that we can manage them.

16 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: But we would have to justify
17 the expense as it relates to the CARES Act, and justify the
18 fact that the money would be spent by the thirtieth of
19 December. Those are perquisites, are they not?

20 TAYLOR CASWELL: Yes, sir. Yes, they are.

21 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: So of what's remaining, are you
22 saying that the only thing we can look at in this

1 conversation is unallocated fund balance of approximately a
2 million dollars?

3 TAYLOR CASWELL: No. I'm saying it's -- when you
4 add the \$37 to the one, it's \$38 million.

5 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Okay. So we have the ability
6 to at this point to recommence a spence not to exceed \$38
7 million dollars. Is that accurate?

8 TAYLOR CASWELL: I think that that's -- you know,
9 it might be \$38.1 or 2- or -- you know, \$37.8- -- something
10 like that. But yes, I would go with the \$38- target.

11 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Okay, thank you.

12 TAYLOR CASWELL: Very good. Okay, I have
13 Representative Hinch.

14 REPRESENTATIVE HINCH: Thank you, Taylor. I think
15 actually Lou just asked the question that I was going to
16 ask, so I'm good, thank you.

17 TAYLOR CASWELL: Very good. Representative
18 Wallner?

19 REPRESENTATIVE WALLNER: Thank you. Do we know of
20 any other outstanding obligations for this? It looks like
21 you said \$38 million is available at this point.

22 Are there any other obligations that you -- that

1 the office is aware of? Things coming, for instance, from
2 the Legislature, or coming from any of the executive
3 departments that we need to be aware of, before we look at
4 this \$38 million?

5 TAYLOR CASWELL: Yes, representative. So with the
6 agency expenditure number, yes, there is a number associated
7 with that. I would say we're still in final negotiation
8 with -- not negotiation but discussion with Homeland
9 Security and how this balances against the FEMA amount that
10 we have.

11 But I think the other item outstanding, of course,
12 is I believe the last meeting the Board advised for a \$30
13 million-dollar reserve fund on the education side. We have
14 not yet received that formal recommendation, but to the
15 extent that that's coming, that would also be part of the
16 \$38 million.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WALLNER: Thank you. Thank you.

18 TAYLOR CASWELL: Let's see. Any other questions?
19 I'm not showing any on the screen. Is there anybody else on
20 the phone that would like to ask a question?

21 REPRESENTATIVE HENNESSEY: Commissioner Caswell,
22 this is Representative Hennessey.

1 TAYLOR CASWELL: Yes, Representative?

2 ERIN HENNESSEY: Thank you. Do you know if there
3 is the possibility of additional second rounds of funding
4 for things like the Nonprofit Fund and the Sole Proprietor
5 Fund, similar to the Main Street 2.0 Fund?

6 TAYLOR CASWELL: At this point, I would say that
7 those might be within the realm of the potential priorities
8 that exist out there, as I mentioned earlier.

9 But right now we're not seeing any -- some of the
10 SELF funds. We're looking at the Main Street Relief Fund
11 2.0 that currently exists. As you know, that deadline is
12 this coming Friday. So we'll have a sense at that point,
13 know what sort of resources will be demanded of that \$100
14 million dollars.

15 So I would also point out that, you know, I'm not
16 -- I don't have a good guess right now as to whether we
17 would use the full \$100-. But we'll know that probably
18 sometime early next week or maybe a little beyond, once we
19 get a chance to review all these applications and sort of
20 look at eligibilities and so on and see where those needs
21 lie.

22 So I would say within that fund is probably

1 potential for discussions along those lines.

2 ERIN HENNESSEY: Thank you so much.

3 TAYLOR CASWELL: Any other questions out there?
4 This is the only item that we have on the agenda. If not,
5 if we don't have any other questions, I did want to also
6 discuss today when people are thinking we should have our
7 next meeting, given this discussion and anything else sort
8 of on the plate.

9 We're kind of at the end of October here. We've
10 met, I believe, three maybe four times in October? So I
11 would leave that out maybe to Senator Morse; if he had any
12 thoughts on that subject?

13 SENATOR MORSE: I just raised my hand for that
14 reason. The -- if I'm looking at this document right now,
15 when we're talking about the month of December, and I'm
16 looking at November, the fifteenth is what day of the week?
17 That's a Sunday. Should we shoot for -- you'll have more
18 information by the fifteenth?

19 TAYLOR CASWELL: Yes.

20 SENATOR MORSE: As to -- and what about the other
21 account that, you know, that you're basically saying out of
22 the 63 and the 37 that they'll be allocated, will we have

1 any more information on them by the fifteenth of November?

2 TAYLOR CASWELL: Yeah, I think on the \$30- -- on
3 the -- with regard to the \$37-, we would potentially have a
4 more exact number with regard to that.

5 The other thing that we might have a sense on at
6 that stage is the remainder under the Main Street Relief
7 Fund 2.0, and sort of where we stand with the demand on that
8 program.

9 So yeah, by the fifteenth we would be able to have
10 the -- plus, I would say also -- sorry the Municipal County
11 Reimbursement Fund should be ready to give an estimate of
12 anything remaining there, by the fifteenth of November.

13 SENATOR MORSE: And by the fifteenth of November,
14 would we know where we stand? We've had a couple of
15 requests. One was on Mascoma, one was on snowmobiles -- and
16 then we weren't in agreement on the \$30 million -- but will
17 we know where schools stand by then?

18 TAYLOR CASWELL: I would say with regard to the
19 Snowmobile Fund first and foremost, that is moving through
20 process, and we do hope to have some conclusion on that
21 very, very shortly.

22 With regard to -- what was the other one?

1 ERIN HENNESSEY: Mascoma?

2 SENATOR MORSE: Mascoma.

3 TAYLOR CASWELL: Oh, Mascoma -- yeah, sorry
4 Senator -- on the Mascoma account, we still haven't received
5 a formal request from the Advisory Board on that. As soon
6 as we have it, we'll move that through the system. And I
7 guess I would also say that's the same with the Education
8 Fund, to the extent that that's forthcoming; the Reserve
9 Fund, I should say.

10 SENATOR MORSE: Okay. On the Mascoma one, is that
11 my fault or Lou's fault?

12 TAYLOR CASWELL: I'm not here to assign fault,
13 Senator. We would be happy to update it with whoever comes
14 through.

15 SENATOR MORSE: I can't remember how we left it,
16 to be honest with you. The -- maybe that right of way. So
17 I can take care of that today, and everybody's going to have
18 to sign off.

19 TAYLOR CASWELL: All right. I'm showing two other
20 hands, including Senator D'Allesandro. Senator, do you have
21 a question?

22 SENATOR MORSE: Before he gets started, can I just

1 suggest that we use the seventeenth as the date, if we don't
2 have anything legislative on our calendar right now?
3 Because it sounds like that will be the soonest we have all
4 the information we need.

5 TAYLOR CASWELL: Mm-hm. Yep. The seventeenth at
6 1:00 p.m.

7 SENATOR MORSE: Yeah.

8 TAYLOR CASWELL: Ok.

9 SENATOR MORSE: I'll put that out there, if
10 anybody wants to talk about it.

11 TAYLOR CASWELL: So if there's discussion --

12 REPRESENTATIVE HINCH: Taylor, this is Dick -- I'm
13 sorry.

14 TAYLOR CASWELL: Go ahead, Dick. Go right ahead,
15 Dick.

16 REPRESENTATIVE HINCH: I'm sorry, my apologies. I
17 had my hand up and I didn't hear you start. So I think
18 Chuck was reading my mind. I had the seventeenth written
19 down as well. I think that, you know, by then we'll have
20 the information relative to the November 15 Reimbursement
21 Fund. And that seems like an appropriate date for us to
22 gather again. So I'd be in favor of the seventeenth at 1:

1 00.

2 TAYLOR CASWELL: Okay. Well, we have that down.
3 Is there any other discussion on the seventeenth at 1:00, or
4 does that pretty much work for everybody? Okay. I can
5 assume -- I want to give Senator D'Allesandro one more
6 opportunity. And I don't know if he's pressing the mute
7 button, or if he's not -- your question has been answered.
8 But if you have something --

9 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Am I available?

10 TAYLOR CASWELL: Yep. You're on.

11 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Okay. Just to get back to
12 what Senator Morse said -- and let's do a quick recap -- we
13 have voted on the \$110- for the Mascoma situation, and
14 Senator Morse was going to confer with HHS with what the
15 situation would be through -- from January on, with regard
16 to how they could do advances on funds that were coming from
17 them. I don't know, Chuck, if that's complete and we could
18 put this request in.

19 But I'm assuming that the \$110- is needed,
20 particularly from the months of October, November and
21 December. And the second part of it was the HHS situation,
22 and seeing that you were talking to the Commissioner of HHS

1 and the Governor's Office to try to get that squared away.

2 Is that the stumbling block at this point in time to

3 concluding that transaction?

4 SENATOR MORSE: No, there's no stumbling block.

5 The -- first of all, the \$110- I thought we already asked

6 for it.

7 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Yes.

8 SENATOR MORSE: Obviously [00:21:58 audio unclear

9 letter] and the -- that's all set. I mean, as far as

10 talking to the Governor's Office, they heard us and they're

11 prepared to do that. I was just asking why it hadn't

12 happened, but I guess it's my fault. But in any case, I'll

13 get that done today if everybody could sign off on it.

14 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Great.

15 SENATOR MORSE: The \$20,000, in talking to the

16 Governor's Office, we're going to have to keep working with

17 the Commissioner on. It's going to be a decision based on,

18 you know, we're still trying to get federal funds into some

19 of the departments.

20 And until -- quite honestly -- Washington

21 accomplishes that, I don't think they're ready to commit to

22 the \$20,000. And I understand that. I mean, I think

1 everybody on this call thought that there would be federal
2 funds coming to New Hampshire by now.

3 So without touching that subject -- I don't really
4 want to -- they understand the \$20,000, they're just not
5 ready to commit to it. But that doesn't -- that's not a bad
6 thing.

7 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Right.

8 SENATOR MORSE: They understand what we need to
9 do.

10 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Right, okay.

11 SENATOR MORSE: But we'll get the \$100- --

12 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: So the \$110- will float?

13 SENATOR MORSE: I'll get that today. I guess I
14 was supposed write a letter. But in any case, I'll get it
15 done today.

16 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Great. Thank you.

17 TAYLOR CASWELL: Okay. Okay, if there's nothing
18 else then, I think -- you know, we'll just leave that there.
19 We'll plan to meet on November 17 at 1:00 p.m. We remain,
20 of course, available to anybody that has any questions as
21 you go down the road here and bring any of that. I think we
22 can end the call.

1 SENATOR MORSE: Okay, thank you.

2 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Okay. Happy Election Day,

3 everybody.

4 ERIN HENNESSEY: Thank you.

5 COLLECTIVE: Thank you.

6 [End of Proceedings]