DBCC Shrink Fails with Error

Recently when shrinking a SQL Server data file, I ran into the following error:

```
File ID 3 of database ID 15 cannot be shrunk as it is either being shrunk
 by another process or is empty. DBCC execution completed. If DBCC printe
d error messages, contact your system administrator.
```

Before I get any grief about how bad shrinking databases is, and a puppy being sacrificed every time shrink database is run, yes there was a legitimate reason to shrink the data file. The client was low on disk space, and a huge amount of data had been purged from the database file, that would not likely be growing to use all that free space for some time.

So I ran DBCC ShrinkFile and received the error message about:

```
cannot be shrunk as it is either being shrunk by another process or is em
pty.
```

So I did some checking and confirmed that there was no other process doing a shrink, and I confirmed that the file was not empty. Therefore SQL Server has been caught in a lie. After doing some research I found many recommendations which included the following:

- Restarting the SQL Server instance. Would probably have worked, but that would have required scheduled down time.
- Running DBCC FREEPROCCACHE and DBCC DROPCLEANBUFFERS. Are you

serious... no thank you.
- Turn off AUTOSHRINK. It was already off.

The suggestion that I finally found that seemed reasonable was that SQL Server thinks it is shrinking, but it was not. The fix is to just increase the size of the data file by a couple MB, then try shrinking. That's it, all works well and I am back to shrinking databases.