

**APPROVED**

**Board of Selectmen  
23 February 2012  
PUBLIC HEARING – SB-2  
Minutes**

**6:00 pm** - Chairman Don Guarino called the meeting to order. Present were Chairman Guarino, Selectmen Rachel Hatch and Ralph Lavin, Town Administrator Tim Warren and Clerk Lois Dionne.

After attendance everyone stood for the “Pledge of Allegiance”.

**6:06 pm –Public Hearing SB-2.**

There were only four residents in attendance - Judith Price, Doug Isleib, Perry Onion and Roger Ball.

Chairman Guarino opened the hearing by explaining what SB-2 is, and what adopting it would mean to the Town in terms of voting on the Town Budget.

Selectman Hatch asked Judy Price, who had initiated the petition for SB-2, why she had brought the petition forth. Was it because she was unhappy with the way the Selectmen were doing their job?

Ms. Price responded that it was the bottom line, so it is ballot referendum and people don’t have to go set through a long Town meeting.

Lois asked what the difference would be between sitting through a deliberative session and a town meeting; there are still long meetings, and you would go through all the warrant articles.

Ms. Price said she considers a deliberative session more as a public hearing. The main thing is they want the referendum ballot vote. People can vote without having to sit through a long meeting if they don’t want to.

There was discussion as whether Selectman Hatch should be questioning Judy’s motive for presenting the petition; we should just be discussing the merits or disadvantages of adopting SB-2.

Doug Isleib said he doesn't feel we need SB-2 for the Town budget, but it would be good for the school. He felt the Selectmen are doing a good job with the budget.

Roger Ball agreed with Doug.

Perry Onion felt that if people vote without having attended the deliberative session, there would be no way they could know if the operating line in the budget is a good number. There is no way to explain the issues accounting for the expense without attending the meeting.

There was further discussion that the main purpose for SB-2 is a way to cut taxes, and forces the town to scrutinize the budgets more closely. It was stated that towns with SB-2 say people don't show up at the meetings, there is the danger of level funding the budget year-after-year, resulting in cuts to services. There are 64 towns out of 274 towns in New Hampshire that have adopted SB-2. It was also stated that some towns that have adopted SB-2 are trying to get out of it, which is not a simple thing to do.

After discussion of SB-2, Doug Isleib said people have a hard time hearing at Town Meeting, and asked if something could be done about the speaker system; he has been making this request for the past three years. Chairman Guarino said he would check into it.

**7:00 pm** – Chairman Guarino closed the public hearing, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Dionne  
Recording Clerk