

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FEBRUARY 16, 2016
MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING

Board members present: Gail Cromwell, George Willard, Ken Caisse

Call to order by Cromwell at 7:00 p.m.

There were 9 members of the public in attendance

SB-2 Hearing on Petition Warrant Article

Cromwell called the hearing for the SB-2 petition warrant article to order. This hearing was published in the February 4, 2016 edition of the Mondanock Ledger/Transcript and posted at the Temple Municipal Building and Willard's Store.

Cromwell explained the petition and what SB-2 is. Cromwell stated that about 30% of the Towns and 40% of the school districts in New Hampshire have adopted SB-2. The deliberative session takes the place of town meeting.

The floor was opened for public comments. Cromwell stated that she is familiar with SB-2 from the school district. Cromwell noted that attendance at the deliberative sessions start out good and then dwindles. Cromwell admitted that more people do vote at the polls, but felt the advantage of town meeting is that people get a chance to hear other people's views. S. Andersen stated that town meeting attendance has dwindled because people feel that if something is on the warrant it is going to pass and people feel disenfranchised. J. Sonnes asked about advantages of running town government under SB-2. Sonnes also spoke about military personnel who cannot vote on town budgets and other money warrant articles.

Cromwell spoke about the low attendance at budget hearings and explained that the budget hearing is an opportunity to start learning about the warrant. S. Radcliffe spoke about his activities in other local towns and how people have to learn to talk to each other and when a decision is made solutions are better with a merger of opinions. Radcliffe thinks this is what happens at town meeting, it builds community. Radcliffe felt that SB-2 would cause Temple to become a community where people don't talk to each other and stated this is not healthy. Radcliffe admitted that he has no solution to overcome the problem with people who cannot attend. Lincoln Gieger spoke about how amazed he was with the autonomy of having town meeting when he first moved here. The idea of his community supported agriculture farm came from the idea of town meeting. Brian Kullgren stated that the deliberative session is not that far away from town meeting.

Honey Hastings asked about attendance at the school deliberative session and continued with the thought that town meeting works well for a town the size of Temple. Hastings then spoke about the fact that people do not vote on "laws", they elect representatives to Concord and compared the people who do attend town meeting to those representatives. Kullgren commented on Hastings remark about representatives. Radcliffe said he has spoken to people from SB-2 towns and found that they don't know about deliberative sessions and are not aware of how their town government operates. Willard stated that he had to miss town meetings when he was in the service. R. Geiger stated that he has observed that once SB-2 is in place most people feel

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that someone else is taking care of things. Town meeting forces people to get involved. Kullgren stated that he would rather have more people voting. There was discussion about “uninformed” voters and the comment was made that people have the “right” to vote, there is nothing that says they have to be informed about what they are voting on. Caisse stated that if information is not out to the voters that is on the town, but voters also need to do their homework. Cromwell stated that there are pros and cons to both forms. Cromwell thanked the public for coming.

The hearing was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by Debra Harling