



TOWN OF
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

375 MAIN STREET • NEW LONDON, NH 03257

**SB-2 Study Committee
Meeting Minutes For: August 27, 2025**

Attendees:

Colin Beasley	Ashley Seybold
Laura Davis	John Ellis
Debbie Stanley	

The meeting started at 10:00 AM

Minutes for the August 4th meeting were approved.

Action Items were reviewed and their status is updated below.

It was noted that Colin erred in expecting the election group attending this meeting; that group is scheduled for September 10th. Given that a major part of the meeting's agenda was therefore put aside, the group discussed generally what needed to be reviewed to finalize the spreadsheet capturing the other towns' interviews/research and to prepare for the September 4th meeting which will be mostly focused on the PowerPoint presentation.

Regarding the action items:

Colin indicated that the question about HB 475 remained open. He and Lynn Lewis agreed to meet on the matter; Colin did review his current thoughts on how to address staff wages in an SB2 form of government. Given the default budget cannot reflect wage increases (since there are no wage-related contracts/unions in New London), there are two options for addressing proposed wage increases in the articles for any given budget year: include them in the operating budget total for approval or exclude them in the operating budget, but create another article that would address the wage increases. If the increases are actually included in the operating budget, there is a theory that perhaps another article could be submitted that said if the operating budget failed, would the voter approve of wage increases. (Not including this "second bite at the apple" would result in no wage increases should the operating budget be rejected.) Colin suggested that wording could get

confusing and perhaps it would be better off not including it in the operating budget and addressing it separately, adding that this approach would be more transparent as well. More discussion will ensue around the best tactics for representing specific appropriations in the operating budget total vs. identifying those appropriations in a separate article. Also, analysis on whether a proposed appropriation can be submitted twice (once in the operating budget and another separately should the operating budget not pass) needs to be conducted. {From NHDOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE For SB2 (Official Ballot Referenda) document: The required wording for the operating budget in RSA 40:13, XI states that the operating budget does not include any other appropriations including those voted for in special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately. The wording of these articles determines whether they can be considered part of the default budget next year.}

Regarding the committee's meeting with the chair of the Budget Committee, Colin took the action item to contact the current chair for information as to when the chair of the incoming Budget Committee will be elected.

The meeting ended at 10:50 AM.

Action Items:

From July 2nd Meeting:

Colin to contact Lynn Lewis regarding HB 475. **OPEN with change:** Colin will meet with Lynn.

Action Items from July 16 Meeting:

Colin to monitor Budget Committee calendar and schedule interview with elected Budget Committee Chair. **OPEN**

Colin to coordinate interviews with selected Town staff on August 1st (30 minutes each) and distribute some info in advance of those sessions. **OPEN with change:** Per above, August 1st meeting did not occur; future meetings with individuals will depend on outcome of group meeting with Will Kidder, Moderator and Supervisors of the Checklist.

New Action Items from August 4, Meeting:

Debbie to review HB 475 issue with her contact in Deerfield. **OPEN**

