

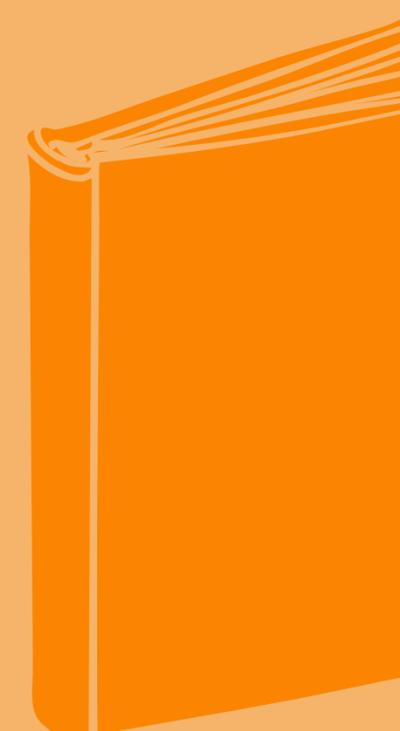
Stoneham

Public

Library

FY

26



Override Committee

July 22, 2025

AGENDA

- Understand library services, impact
- Certification
- Review possible budget scenarios and their effects



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FY25 Services and Statistics

Physical Collection

60k+ items available in Stoneham

2,193,639 items available in NOBLE

95,847,365 items available in MA

Digital Collection

- Libby, hoopla, kanopy, etc
- Reciprocal borrowing in Libby for participating consortia in MA

Checkouts

134,311 items from Stoneham

32,260 items checked out at other

libraries *by Stoneham residents*

19,544 items sent *from* other libraries

15,157 items sent *to* other libraries

Hours

Open Monday – Saturday

56 hours a week, including evening hours

10,136

Program
attendance

1,019

Study & Meeting
Room reservations

Additional cost to patrons: \$0

Certification

- Eligible to receive State Aid
 - Paid out of State taxes, currently slated to receive \$57k in FY26
- Reciprocal borrowing privileges at all certified libraries in the Commonwealth
 - In person
 - Interlibrary Loans (ILL)
 - Digital (Libby)
- Eligible to apply for grants and services from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

Waivers

If Library can meet minimum requirements for certification status, the Town may apply for a waiver from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners by showing significant fiscal hardship and proportional budget cuts.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- Spend at least **13.5%** of allocated operating budget on materials for patron use
- Open at least **45 hours, 4 days a week for 38 consecutive weeks**
 - Allows for hours reduction in summer months
 - Cannot split over Fiscal Years
 - Last chance date for waiver eligibility in FY27 is 10/7/2025

Decertification

- Ineligible to apply for State Aid
- Surrounding libraries are not required to lend library materials to non-certified communities beyond in-library use
 - ILL
 - In person
- Reciprocal borrowing privileges revoked
- Ineligible to apply for grants and services from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

Scenarios

- Approved FY26 Budget
- Budget Restored
- Budget Further Cut

The FY26 library budget is \$861,335 and makes up less than 1.3% of the overall town budget.

FY26 Approved Budget

Results

Staffing ~~\$354,659~~

Utilities & Maintenance ~~\$67,000~~

Technology & Office Supplies ~~\$2,000~~

Educational Supplies ~~\$29,951~~

NOBLE Membership ~~\$43,255~~

Total ~~\$496,865~~

ADD: Trustees/Friends likely to spend

- CERTIFIED thru 2/26**
- Eligible for waiver application
 - No disruption to materials access for residents thru 2/26

STAFFING REDUCTIONS and REDUCED HOURS while maintaining min. requirements for FY27 waiver status

- SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED ACCESS FOR RESIDENTS**
- Continued access to free space, wifi, and information
 - Continued access to borrowing from MA ILL
 - Reduced building hours
 - Significantly reduced programming for children, adults, or seniors
 - Possible reduction in access to technology support

FY26 Approved Budget

Results

Staffing \$727,206

Operating Budget \$131,289

Requirement to spend on materials \$130,000

9 FTE | 8 PTE
2 retirements (FTE)
2 vacancies (FT/PTE)

(Nearby libraries staff 14 FTE | 25 PTE)

CERTIFIED thru 2/26
• Eligible for waiver application
• No disruption to materials access for residents thru 2/26

SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED ACCESS FOR RESIDENTS
• Continued access to free space, wifi, and information
• Continued access to borrowing from MA ILL
• Reduced building hours (45 from 52)
• Significantly reduced programming for children, adults, or seniors
• Possible reduction in access to technology support

Budget Further Cut

Staffing	\$354,659
Utilities & Maintenance	\$67,000
Technology & Office Supplies	\$2,000
Educational Supplies	\$29,951
NOBLE Membership	\$43,255
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$496,865</i>

If the library budget were to be reduced disproportionately (for example to 50%), the library building could remain open with a **barebones staff, bare minimum services, and the possibility for future rectification.**

SIGNIFICANT STAFFING REDUCTION TO 3 FTE & 5 PTE (currently 9 FTE & 9 PTE)

Results
DECERTIFIED FEBRUARY 2027
Eligible to apply for waiver, but unlikely to be awarded. Possibility to refund and recertify in the future (FY28 or later)

SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED ACCESS FOR RESIDENTS

- Continued access to free space, wifi, and information
- Continued access to borrowing from MA ILL, through waiver application 2/2027
- Reduced **building hours**
- **No programming for children, adults, or seniors**
- No or reduced technology support
- No or reduced database access

Budget Restored

Staffing \$767,843

Utilities & Maintenance \$67,000

Technology & Office Supplies \$11,450

Educational Supplies \$139,307

Professional Services \$8,500

Total \$994,100

The previously proposed (non-override) FY26 budget of \$994k is a relatively small budget reduction (\$50k) that would require a minimal reduction in service hours while restoring the scope of services provided at and by the library.

Results

CERTIFIED

- In good standing with the State
- Continued eligibility for state aid funds
- No disruption to service access for residents

SERVICES RESTORED

- Saturday closures
- Programming budget