

**Stoneham Select Board
Remote Meeting
Tuesday, February 15, 2022
7:00 p.m.**

Open Session (Remote Access)

Members Present: Heidi Bilbo, George Seibold, Shelly MacNeill, Raymie Parker

Also Present: Town Administrator Dennis Sheehan

Call to Order: Bilbo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. (To view this meeting in its entirety go to Stoneham TV on Demand available from the Town's homepage at www.stoneham-ma.gov)

Agenda Item 1: Open Meeting Bilbo opened the remote meeting with roll call attendance.

Agenda Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item 3: Certificates of Appreciation/Letters of Commendation Police Chief James McIntyre shared the details of the events that occurred at 171 Main Street on 1/8/22, stating that officers Jonathan Mahoney, Richard Pacini, and David Szydowski showed great restraint and use of their training and skills in a dangerous situation. McIntyre stated that there will be letters of commendation placed in the files of the officers. Bilbo thanked the officers and read their certificates of appreciation. Seibold thanked the officers for their restraint and hard work.

Agenda Item 4: Citizens' Comments No comments were received.

Agenda Item 5: Site Plan Hearing: 62 Montvale Avenue/Assembleis de Deus Vida na Palavra, Inc. Seibold read the notice of hearing. Henrique DaSilva appeared for the applicant stating that the church wants to use existing office space at 62 Montvale Ave for a house of worship. Bilbo stated that the use of the space is contingent upon having a second egress and the completion of the sprinkler system for the building. Parker moved to approve the site plan pending the Fire Chief signing off on the sprinkler system and the Building Inspector approving the second egress. MacNeill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in favor:

Heidi Bilbo
George Seibold
Raymie Parker
Shelly MacNeill

Motion Passes (4-0)

Agenda Item 6: Site Plan Hearing: 5 Woodland Road/Fellsway Development LLC Bilbo read a letter from Attorney Charles Houghton in which he requested to continue the site plan hearing to 3/15/22 at 7:00 p.m. Parker moved to continue the hearing to 3/15/22 at 7:00 p.m. Seibold seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in favor:

Heidi Bilbo
George Seibold
Raymie Parker
Shelly MacNeill

Motion Passes (4-0)

Agenda Item 7: Eversource Project Update Michael Hager, project manager for the ongoing Eversource project, gave a brief update of the progress made and what the Town can expect for the next few months. He stated that High Street to Wakefield is complete and that for the next eight weeks Eversource will be working in the Collincote area. Hager continued that the jack and bore work at Central Street will be completed in twelve weeks. Eversource will replace the culvert and pave once everything else is completed.

Seibold thanked Miles Kennedy for being very responsive to him and to the residents and stated that he would like to see Eversource finish quickly and make sure everything is paved properly. Parker thanked Hager for his update and asked if there is anything major that needed to be done after the culvert work. Hager stated that they will need to pull and splice cable. The Board requested that Eversource reach out to the residents to keep them updated on the status of the project.

Agenda Item 8: Town Administrator's Budget Submission/Process Sheehan submitted the FY23 budget to the Board stating that the Select Board must propose changes or ratify the budget before it is submitted to the Finance and Advisory Board on or before 3/7/22. He stated that there is a Bi-Board scheduled for 3/1/22. Sheehan emphasized that the revenue for the FY23 appears so high because of the debt exclusion for the high school building project. He stated that the FY23 levy limit is \$56,178,569. He discussed that 53% of local tax receipts are dictated by motor vehicle purchases and excise tax, but that there has been a sharp decline in vehicle production and purchases. Sheehan stated that the school has requested a 3.67% budget increase this year and that the town side of the budget has increase 2.92%. He thanked Eric Duffy and Kate Finnegan for their work on the budget.

Bilbo thanked Sheehan for his presentation and recognized the effort required to put the budget together and stated she was optimistic that the budget would be approved. Seibold stated that health insurance has increased \$597,000 and he would like the town to look at ways to save money in this area. Parker asked whether local receipts were being considered in a conservative manner. Sheehan stated that we are tracking receipts and seeing an upward trend, but still took a conservative approach with the numbers. MacNeill stated that receiving the GFOA for several years was impressive and stated that she hope that the ARPA funds would create a bit more flexibility.

Agenda Item 9: Town Meeting Update Kilbride stated that the warrant is in good shape and that she is anticipating 2 or 3 zoning articles before the warrant closes. Town Moderator Jeanne Craigie stated that she is anticipating that Town Meeting will be held in Town Hall and that it will probably be unmasked. She stated that she will work with the Board of Health to make certain that it is a safe event. Craigie stated that with the exception of the School Building Committee she may eliminate committee reports this year. She stated that there are 4 Finance and Advisory reappointments that she needs to make.

Bilbo stated that it has been great to work with a full Finance and Advisory Board. Parker asked to look at the warrant. Kilbride stated that she would send a draft out tomorrow. Craigie stated that she would like to have a pre Town Meeting with Town Counsel. Kilbride stated that she would set up a meeting after the warrant closes.

Agenda Item 10: Approve Minutes of 2/1/22 Parker moved to approve the minutes of 1/18/22. Pignone seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in favor:

Heidi Bilbo
George Seibold
Raymie Parker
Shelly MacNeill

Motion Passes (4-0)

Agenda Item 11: COVID 19 Update Sheehan stated that DPH has issued new guidance on indoor mask use and the focus has changed from fully masked to masking for those who are unvaccinated and immunocompromised. He stated that the BOH is setting up test distribution days.

Agenda Item 12: COVID Bills/Outdoor Dining MacNeill stated that the language extending restaurant outdoor seating has been removed from the senate bill, but that she will continue to monitor the bills that are coming through. Bilbo stated that she has been meeting with the Town Planner, Town Counsel, the Planning Board Chair, and the Town Administrator to discuss how the Town can make changes to allow for outdoor seating to become permanent. Parker stated that we need to keep working toward this goal since it was a lifesaver for so many businesses.

Agenda Item 13: Subcommittee Policy Review and Discussion Bilbo stated that this matter would be discussed at the Board's next meeting.

Agenda Item 14: High School Building Project Update Sheehan reported that the committee is working through the design and development process and that there will be a budget/cost estimate shortly. Parker stated that there is a lot of subcommittee work being done right now to get to a final product for submission. Craigie stated that the tentative date for the ground breaking is 6/14/22.

Agenda Item 15: Town Administrator's Report – Dennis Sheehan Sheehan stated that he is working on the downtown redesign with Erin Wortman and there will be a public forum on 3/1/22 from 4:30-6:30 in the hearing room. He stated that we are entering pot hole season and requested that residents report pot holes to DPW.

Agenda Item 16: Non-Deliberative Announcements and Scheduling Parker stated that Senator Lewis sent out notice regarding earmarks and this may be an opportunity to submit a request for something we need.

Agenda Item 17: Adjourn Select Board Parker moved to adjourn. Seibold seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in favor:

Heidi Bilbo
George Seibold
Raymie Parker
Shelly MacNeill

Motion Passes (4-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Dava Feltch Kilbride, Office Manager