

**Stoneham Select Board
Open Meeting
Tuesday, June 24, 2025
7:00 p.m.**

Open Session

Members Present: Timothy Waitkevitch – Chair, David Pignone – Vice Chair, Ryan Foreman – Clerk, Heidi Bilbo; Raymie Parker

Also Present: Town Administrator Dennis Sheehan

Document List: Sapphire Award nominations for Christopher Copan, Patricia Kilty, and Michelle Perry; Email from Maureen Buckley regarding the War Memorial Committee; Stoneham Override Study Committee charge; Stoneham Housing Authority news alert; Minutes dated 6/10/25;

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order: Waitkevitch called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Bilbo moved to open the meeting. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in favor:

Timothy Waitkevitch
David Pignone
Ryan Foreman
Heidi Bilbo
Raymie Parker

Motion passes (5-0)

Agenda Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item 3: Sapphire Award Ceremony Waitkevitch announced that the recipients of the 2025 Sapphire Award are Detective Chris Copen, Patricia Kilty, and Michelle Perry. Pignone, Parker, and Foreman read an overview of each recipient’s accomplishments. Perry send her gratitude to the Board as she could not attend the meeting. Parker moved to take a 2 minute recess to take pictures with the award recipients. Foreman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in favor:

Timothy Waitkevitch
David Pignone

Ryan Foreman
Heidi Bilbo
Raymie Parker

Motion passes (5-0)

Agenda Item 4: Citizens' Comment Corrine Dalton commented that there was not enough trust among the residents to support a multi-year override. She also commented that putting the override off until spring may be a clear indication to residents that the override was not needed. Dalton asked for an update on town alerts sign ups. Sheehan stated that the sign up has been simplified on line and that the new sign-ups are being tracked.

Agenda Item 5: Stoneham Veterans Committee- Street Corner Dedications Maureen Buckley appeared for the Veteran Day Committee and the War Memorial Committee. Buckley requested permission to hold six dedication ceremonies over the next few months, near the former homes of residents killed in Viet Nam. Parker moved to approve the dedications subject to the approval of public safety personnel. Foreman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in favor:

Timothy Waitkevitch
David Pignone
Ryan Foreman
Heidi Bilbo
Raymie Parker

Motion passes (5-0)

Buckley requested permission to hold the Field of Honor from 11/7/25 to 11/16/25 at the middle school as well as the Veterans Day ceremony and race on 11/11/25. She stated that she has been given permission by the middle school principal and that the Moving Wall Viet Nam Memorial will be in Town this year. Parker moved to approve the Field of Honor, and the Veterans Day events subject to the approval of public safety personnel. Foreman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in favor:

Timothy Waitkevitch
David Pignone
Ryan Foreman
Heidi Bilbo
Raymie Parker

Motion passes (5-0)

Agenda Item 6: Override Discussion a. Override Sturdy Committee: Bilbo stated that when the Tri-Board met, the scope of the work was the question that remained. She stated that the committee could most efficiently work with the Superintendent and the Town Administrator to understand the budget for FY26-FY29, work on communication challenges, and understand the ramifications of passing and not passing an override. Parker stated that the charge for the committee looks good and it will be able to review FY27-FY29.

Foreman stated that listing the date of 9/30/25 for the committee to issue its report essentially rules out the 11/4/25 date for the override vote. He thanked Bilbo for her work on this committee. Pignone stated that he was concerned that the creation of the committee would slow the process down. Foreman stated that he is very willing to serve on the committee, but that his choice would be Bilbo or Pignone as both have demonstrated a willingness to change and stay on the pulse of the issue.

Parker moved to establish the Stoneham Override Study Committee. Foreman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in favor:

Timothy Waitkevitch
David Pignone
Ryan Foreman
Heidi Bilbo
Raymie Parker

Motion passes (5-0)

Parker nominated Bilbo to be the Select Board's appointee to the Override Study Committee. Pignone seconded the motion. Bilbo indicated her acceptance of the nomination. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in favor:

Timothy Waitkevitch
David Pignone
Ryan Foreman
Heidi Bilbo
Raymie Parker

Motion passes (5-0)

The Board discussed pending deadlines. Waitkevitch stated that residents must submit letters of interest on or before 7/2/25 for distribution to the Board members on 7/3/25. The Board will have a remote meeting on 7/7/25 at 9:00 a.m.

b. Possible Election Dates: Sheehan reviewed the possible election dates stating that 11/4, 12/6, 12/9, and 1/13/26. Pignone stated that he would like to see the vote on 11/4. Foreman stated that 11/4 would be challenging with the committee report due date of 9/30. He stated that he like the idea of letting the work and information guide the election date. Foreman stated that he would like to know what FY27 looks like with and without an override. He stated that there is a catastrophic shortfall for FY27 and the Town will not be able to shift resources in the same way it for FY26. He stated that residents need to know that library services, the senior center, police positions will all be on the line. Foreman stated that a Saturday date may be helpful for some and disruptive to others.

Parker stated that she agreed with Foreman and that there should be 2 FY27 budgets available for discussion long before January. She stated that there is an opportunity to discuss the override at October Town Meeting.

Bilbo stated that she too would like to move quickly, but that 11/4 may be too quick. She stated that she has no problems with a Saturday date, but there was confusion last time. Parker requested that the Town Clerk provide a few additional dates for the election.

Foreman stated that he was wondering the timeline required to understand a budget forecast. Sheehan stated that he can push up the forecast by running the numbers with a 2 ½ increase in taxes and performing a revenue sensitivity analysis. He stated that the Town side sensitivities are well known, but the school would have to create its own budget and projections.

Foreman stated that he continues to be concerned about emergency personnel staffing.

c. Public Outreach: Sheehan stated that he was at the library last week and he has a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce regarding the summer concert series. He stated he is planning department events as well. Foreman stated that public events would be a great place to also have notification sign-ups.

Agenda Item 7: Trash Fee Discussion Sheehan stated that we removed the trash subsidy during the last budget and have a projected shortfall of \$21.47 per household. There is some fluctuation in shortfalls, but the average shortfall was \$124,000. Foreman stated that he would prefer to subsidize the trash fee, because it spreads the fee among those with higher valued properties.

Foreman moved to increase the trash fee \$21.47 starting July 1, 2025. Parker seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in favor:

Timothy Waitkevitch
David Pignone
Ryan Foreman
Heidi Bilbo
Raymie Parker

Motion passes (5-0)

Agenda Item 8: Stoneham Housing Authority Update Kilbride gave the Board an update on the vacancy created at the Stoneham Housing Authority due to a resignation of one of its elected board members. She stated that the Select Board and the Stoneham Housing Authority will hold a joint meeting in July to fill the vacancy until the next election.

Agenda Item 9: Approve Minutes Parker moved to approve the minutes of 6/10/25. Foreman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in favor:

Timothy Waitkevitch
David Pignone
Ryan Foreman
Heidi Bilbo
Raymie Parker

Motion passes (5-0)

Agenda Item 10: High School Building Project. Sheehan stated that the contractors are moving back into the building now that school is out for the summer. He stated that site work on the stadium and solar panels is continuing and that the School Building Committee is putting together a final punch-list.

Agenda Item 11: Town Administrators Report Sheehan thanked the Chamber of Commerce for the hosting the Summer Concert Series and helping with the Juneteenth Celebration. He thanked Parker for reading the Board's proclamation at the event.

Agenda Item 12: Non-Deliberative Announcements No announcements were made.

Agenda Item 13: Adjourn Parker moved to adjourn. Pignone seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in favor:

Timothy Waitkevitch

David Pignone

Ryan Foreman

Heidi Bilbo

Raymie Parker

Motion passes (5-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Dava Kilbride – Office Manager