

**Stoneham Select Board
Open Meeting
Tuesday, September 23, 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: Draft warrant for Town Meeting; Minutes dated 9/9/25; Committee application from Ron Zampell; Email from Megan Day dated 9/18/25; Amended Contract – Lauri Plourde; Draft list of public engagement dates; Memo from Maria Sagarino re: special election dates.

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order: Waitkevitch called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Parker moved to open the meeting. Bilbo 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 2: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item 3: Citizens' Comments Abby Shaw, 41 Gould Street stated that she remains wildly concerned about the schools, town, and public services and asked the Board to move forward with the override election.

Jill Blankenship, 23 Marble Street, stated that she wished the Board had a presence at Town Day. She stated that the override is urgent and that the teachers have been without a contract for 80 days.

Agenda Item 4: October Town Meeting Discussion

a. Public Engagement Sheehan stated that he met with the Town Moderator and the Clerk last week regarding holding a public engagement session following Town Meeting. He stated that this will give a large group the opportunity to stay and discuss the override.

b. Time of Town Meeting Sheehan stated that if the Board would consider moving Town Meeting from 7:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. it would be easier to accommodate the post Town Meeting engagement session.

Bilbo asked if it would be easier to hold the engagement session before Town Meeting. Town Clerk Maria Sagarino stated that it would be difficult to hold the engagement before the meeting because it would create a great deal of difficulty with check in and keeping track of residents coming and going. She stated that in her opinion it is important for the Board to participate in as many public information sessions as possible since that is where the Town was so criticized in April.

Foreman asked if there would be child care available. Sheehan stated that he would reach out to the Boys and Girls Club. Foreman stated that 6:00 would be pushing it for some families, but that he is comfortable with 6:30. Bilbo stated that she would like the robo-call to address both Town Meeting and the engagement session.

Parker moved to change the start time of October Town Meeting from 7:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. 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 5: Approve Minutes of 9/9/25 Parker moved to approve the minutes of 9/9/25. Bilbo 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: Appointment to Veterans Committee: Ron Zampell; Megan Day Parker moved to appoint Zampell and Day to the Veterans Committee. Bilbo 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 7: Contract Ratification: Town Accountant Lauri Plourde Sheehan stated that Town Accountant Lauri Plourde received a very positive review by the Board and the amended contract seeks to extend her contract for one year, increase her compensation by 2% and mirror the PEC agreement. Waitkevitch thanked Plourde for her stable leadership.

Parker moved to approve the contract amendment for Plourde. 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 8: Vote to Support Override Waitkevitch stated that the board has had a lot of discussion about moving forward with the override and there is general consensus from Board members that an override is necessary to carry the Town forward. Parker moved to support the override election. Bilbo 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 9: Vote on Date of Override Election Foreman moved to table this agenda item until agenda item 10 is discussed. 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 10: Vote to Accept Warrant Article 6: M.G.L. Chapter 53 sec.18B Parker stated that the Board has had lengthy discussion on accepting Chapter 53 and she believes that more information will benefit the residents. Parker moved to accept warrant article 6 onto the warrant for Special Town Meeting. Foreman stated that this is a step in the right direction and it will give the residents more information and the cost of the mailing should be discussed by the residents. 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 moved to return to agenda item 9. 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 9: Vote on Date of Override Election Parker stated that she is aware that selecting 12/9 as the election date will be tight, but that she likes scenario 2 on Sagarino's list the best. Foremen agreed stating that this will give time for engagement. Sagarino stated that we will not have an accurate tax impact calculator until Assessing has the new valuations and that is not until January. She stated that January will give the Town a little more time to get numbers from the school and Assessing. Sagarino also stated that she will be able to send the Chapter 53 information to the residents in the census envelopes. Sheehan stated that the tax classification hearing does not happen until November or December.

Pignone stated that he would like the departments to be able to budget appropriately and would like the election on 12/9. Foreman stated that the reality is that the longer we go then the longer we live in uncertainty and this will affect the library, Council on Aging, and the schools.

Parker moved that the special election be held on Tuesday 12/9/25. Bilbo 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)

a. Review Dates for Public Engagement The Board reviewed many dates for public engagement. Sheehan will speak to the Override Study Committee on Thursday regarding meeting on 9/30/25 and will check availability for a Tri-Board on 10/2/25. He stated that the list can be built and supplemented from those meetings.

Agenda Item 11: Override Discussion

a. Override Study Committee Update Sheehan stated that the Committee has been meeting as a whole and in subcommittee to complete its recommendation. He stated that the Committee will be meeting Wednesday, 9/25/25 at 3:00 p.m.

b. Capital Committee Recommendations Sheehan stated that the Capital Committee met on 9/24/25 and approved \$732,000 in capital projects. He stated that this is a departure for the Committee and the lower number will be discussed and detailed in a future Board meeting.

Agenda Item 12: High School Building Project Sheehan announced that there is a dedication ceremony on 9/27/25 at 10:00 a.m. for the high school and early learning center.

Agenda Item 13: Town Administrator's Report Sheehan stated that the library renovation is continuing as planned. He stated that the Town was notified by MassDOT that the Town received a \$500,000 Complete Streets Grant for the South School intersection. He thanked Erin Wortman, Brett Gonsalves, and Stantec for their work on the grant and initial design. He thanked everyone who participated in Town Day.

Agenda Item 14: Non-Deliberative Announcements Sheehan announced the following events: 9/27 at 10:00 am - dedication for High School and Early Learning Center; 9/27 at 2:00 pm - marker dedication for those buried in Old Burial Ground without a stone or marker at the Old Burying Ground; 10/4 at 3:30 pm 300th Parade and drone show; 10/18 Hazardous Waste Day at Melrose High School from 8:00 a.m. -12:00p.m; and the week of 10/20, curbside leaf pick up begins and the details are on the website. Foreman stated that Town Day was spectacular.

Agenda Item 15: Adjourn Foreman moved to adjourn. 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)

Respectfully submitted,

Dava Kilbride – Office Manager