

Stoneham Select Board
Open Meeting
Tuesday, September 30, 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: Report by Override Study Committee dated 9/30/25; Town Meeting warrant; List of meeting/engagement 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. Voted unanimously.

Agenda Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item 3: Citizens' Comments Scott McCarthy, 53 Pleasant Street, stated that he would like a contract stating that if the financial state of the town improves, any extra funds will be returned to the tax payers. Abby Shaw, 41 Gould Street, thanked the boards for their work and asked them to consider a tiered approach at ballot time. Karrine Dalton, 40 Lynnfells Parkway, thanked the Board and the Override Study Committee for their work.

Agenda Item 4: Accept Override Study Committee's Report of 9/30/25 and Discussion

Waitkevitch thanked the Override Study Committee for its work during the summer and recognized the Committee members by name. Joe Joffe, Chair of the Committee stated that the Committee did not prepare a formal presentation, but the Committee is happy to answer any questions that the Board may have. Waitkevitch stated that the Tri-Board is meeting on 10/7 to fully discuss the Committee's report.

Pignone stated that the Committee painted a thorough picture of the financial status of the town and that he will be digging into the report thoroughly. Foreman stated that it is easy to see the amount of time and effort that the Committee put into its report. Parker stated that she like the format of the report and that it will be on the website for residents to review.

Bilbo stated that she appreciated that work and dedication of the Committee. She stated that there were a lot of good conversations and a strong product was delivered to the Select Board.

Waitkevitch stated that the Board would like to hear the comments of residents and stated that Sheehan has posted a way to submit questions on the override page. He stated that the Committee delivered the requested product and they should be discharged. Bilbo moved to

accept the report of the Override Study Committee and discharge the Committee with gratitude. Foreman seconded the motion. Voted unanimously.

Agenda Item 5: Override Discussion

a. Dates for Select Board Public Engagement Sheehan stated that he and the Superintendent would like some clarification on the expectations for the Tri-Board on 10/7/25. He stated that there the report from the Override Study Committee needs to be deliberated on and was wondering if the Board wanted a presentation by either himself or the Superintendent. He stated that he is coordinating an engagement session at the senior center and would like one in the auditorium.

Parker suggested that the Board hold a public engagement session on 10/14/25 at 6:00 p.m. before a regular Board meeting to discuss the override number and question. Bilbo suggested that residents send questions to Sheehan to be answered as part of the engagement session. Foreman requested a survey be created. Sheehan stated that he would circulate the old survey and asked the Board to submit questions.

Agenda Item 6: October Town Meeting: Accept Warrant Articles and Sign Warrant Parker moved to accept all articles presented onto the warrant for Special Town Meeting. Bilbo seconded the motion. Voted unanimously.

Agenda Item 7: Discussion of Warrant Articles 1, 2, 3, 4 DPW Director Brett Gonsalves stated that article 1 is a developer impact and assessment bylaw. He stated he has been working on this bylaw for several months and the Planning Board voted unanimously to sponsor it. He stated that the bylaw would allow the town to assess a 3% mitigation cost, to be used for infrastructure in the project area, on projects of a certain size. Parker asked how the process will work. Gonsalves stated that the developer will submit an impact statement with his packet. The Planning Board can decrease the impact number if appropriate and the bylaw will not apply to subdivisions. Waitkevitch stated that he likes that this is another tool in the tool box, but that he does not want the process to be onerous.

Gonsalves stated that articles 2 and 3 go together and involve the Maple Street drainage easements. The articles will allow the town to abandon the existing easement and accept a new location. He stated that the new drainage infrastructure is already in place. Foreman asked if the two articles go together. Gonsalves stated that one easement must be discontinued and the new easement accepted.

Gonsalves stated that article 4 will allow the town to appropriate funding from the MWRA for water system improvements. He stated that it is a 0% loan and the town will borrow \$1.24 million. Gonsalves stated that the work will begin in April 2026, or sooner.

Parker moved favorable action on articles 2, 3, and 4. Bilbo seconded the motion. Voted unanimously.

Parker moved to return to agenda item 6. Foreman seconded the motion. Voted unanimously.

Agenda Item 6: October Town Meeting: Accept Warrant Articles and Sign Warrant Amy Palmerino, Director of Stoneham TV, appeared to discuss article 10. She stated that she is requesting \$158,000 from the PEG enterprise account to assist in replacing the server, add closed captioning, and related projects. Waitkevitch stated that the upgrades will benefit all residents. Bilbo asked about the timing of the project. Palmerino stated that the work and integration should be completed by early 2026. Parker moved favorable action on article 10. Foreman seconded the motion. Voted unanimously.

Sheehan stated that article 5 will allow the police to set up a structure to fine residents who place unauthorized traffic signs and traffic control equipment in a right of way. Bilbo moved favorable action on article 5. Parker seconded the motion. Voted unanimously.

Parker moved favorable action on article 6. Foreman seconded the motion Voted unanimously. Foreman stated that he is really happy that the Board is putting this article forward to accept Chapter 53.

Sheehan stated that article 7 allows the town to transfer collected Medicare funds for students from the Town. Parker moved favorable action on article 7. Foreman seconded the motion. Voted (4-0-1) with Pignone abstaining.

Sheehan reviewed the capital expenses included in article number 8. Bilbo moved favorable action on article 8. Parker seconded the motion. Voted unanimously.

Sheehan stated that article 9 will allow Town Meeting to rescind unused portions of loans that were authorized by Town Meeting. Foreman moved favorable action on article 9. Bilbo seconded the motion. Voted unanimously.

Sheehan stated that article 11 will allow the Town to lease the golf course to a qualified vendor for more than 3 years. He stated that it allows planning, mobilization, and improvements. Foreman stated that he is not in favor of long-term leases. Waitkevitch stated that he would be in favor of 9 years with protections against poor performance. Bilbo moved favorable action on article 11. Parker seconded the motion. Voted (4-0-1) with Foreman abstaining.

Sheehan stated that article 12 would change how vacancies are filled and clarifies the process. The Board took no action at this time.

Agenda Item 8: Town Administrator's Report Sheehan thanked everyone who participated in the high school dedication ceremony and announced the 300th anniversary parade and drone show on 10/4/25.

Agenda Item 9: Adjourn Pignone moved to adjourn. Bilbo seconded the motion. Voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dava Kilbride – Office Manager