

**Stoneham Select Board
Open Meeting
Tuesday, October 21, 2025
5:30 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: Minutes dated 9/30/25, 10/7/25, and 10/14/25; Letter from Megan Day dated 10/9/25; Email from Lauren Dempsey dated 10/6/25; Application from Jan Houghton; MOU for seasonal ice rink; Livery application from Mehmet Cinar; Application for one day liquor license from Zoo New England; Application for one day liquor license from Saint Patrick School; Application for reconsideration from Angelo Caruso for change of manager; Draft notice of ballot question; Sample ballot questions drafted by Foreman;

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order: Waitkevitch called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Parker moved to open the meeting. Foreman seconded the motion.

Agenda Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item 3: Citizens' Comments Lisa Mashburn, 43 West Street, spoke as a Library Trustee, stating that the library will need \$1,015,000 for FY27 for certification. She stated that the library is in danger of losing its certification, building, and experienced staff as well as any waiver that may be granted if the budget cuts are deemed disproportionate.

Bill Gerke, 5 Brooks Street, stated that the Board has been and will continue to make tough decisions and after the decisions made at this meeting the work belongs to the residents.

Agenda Item 4: Approve Minutes – 9/30/25; 10/7/25; 10/14/25 Pignone moved to approve the minutes of 9/30/25, 10/7/25, and 10/14/25. Foreman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in favor:

Timothy Waitkevitch
David Pignone
Ryan Foreman
Raymie Parker

Motion passes (4-0)

Agenda Item 5: Approve Street Closures for Halloween Stroll Megan Day appeared for the Stoneham Chamber of Commerce and requested street closures for the Halloween Stroll on 10/25/25. Parker moved to approve the street closures. Foreman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in favor:

Timothy Waitkevitch
David Pignone
Ryan Foreman
Raymie Parker

Motion passes (4-0)

Bilbo entered the meeting remotely.

Agenda Item 6: Appointment to Conservation Commission – Lauren Dempsey, Associate Member Parker moved to appoint Lauren Dempsey as an associate member of the Conservation Commission. 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 7: Appointment to Open Space and Recreation Committee-Jan Houghton Parker moved to appoint Houghton to the Open Space and Recreation Committee. Pignone 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: Approve Skating Rink on the Common – Craig Celli Celli stated that this will be the 11th year for the skating rink on Town Common. Pignone stated that he enjoys the rink. Parker moved to approve the seasonal skating rink on Town Common. Pignone 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: Approve Livery License – Mehmet Cinar Parker moved to approve the livery license for Mehmet Cinar. 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 enter into Liquor Licensing Authority. 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: Approve Special One Day License – Zoo New England Parker moved to approve the special one day license for Zoo New England for 11/19/25. Pignone 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 11: Approve One Day License – Saint Patrick School Parker moved to approve the special one day license for Saint Patrick School for 11/14/25. 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)

Parker moved to exit the Liquor Licensing Authority and return to the Select Board. 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 13: Override Discussion Pignone stated that he has heard that most residents would like more than one option on the ballot. He stated that would like one of the tiers to be \$12.5 million.

Foreman stated that initially he is a proponent for a two tier approach. He stated that a third tier that is a bare minimum amount is not in the Town's best interest. He stated that it is worth having a discussion about a hybrid approach to include FY29.

Parker stated that if the Board was going to offer a hybrid approach, the Board would be already discussing that option. She stated that \$12.5 million should be one of the numbers on the ballot and the second number should be the focus of the discussion.

Bilbo stated that she would like to limit the ballot to two options as that seems to be the easiest to understand. She stated that the Override Study Committee came up with the \$12.5 option as a three year fix and the second amount should be a two year fix. She stated that she would not like to add the hybrid question onto the ballot.

Waitkevitch stated that he would like to keep the ballot simple and clear. He stated that the options before the Board will cover FY27, 28, and 29. He stated that he does not want a one year bandaid – he wants a long-term, two tiered solution. He stated that the \$9 million option will require removing new positions and does less than full restoration.

Sheehan stated last week the Board provided him with feedback regarding the override and he and Town Accountant Lauri Plourde worked out two option: \$12.5 and \$9.3 million. He stated that the \$12.5 option will allow coverage and restorations from FY27-FY29 and possibly FY30. He stated that the Town is not automatically coming back for another override in three years. He stated that the staff will try and make the amount work for as long as possible. Sheehan stated that the assumption is that revenue will increase and he used the growth model found in our fiscal guidelines. Foreman asked if it is a real possibility that we could get through FY30 without an additional override. Sheehan stated that that is what we should be striving for.

Sheehan described the process he and Plourde used to arrive at the \$9.3 million option including removing the Council on Aging's budgeted improvements, new hires, fully funding the library, DPW improvements, and the School's ARPA add backs, growth factor, and some staff restorations. He stated that the schools will still receive \$6.5 million in additional funding and police will still add the dispatch position.

Foreman stated that he would like a granular look at the shared services numbers and an idea of what is flexible. Sheehan stated that there is zero flexibility in the shared services line. He

stated that any decrease in insurance costs is based on a decrease in the number of employees participating and the creation of risk.

Parker stated that she is happy to the work that has been done to arrive at the \$9.3 number. She stated that there will be deficiencies on both the school and town side. She is concerned about the restoration of only one fire fighter and the loss of 3 police officers and the traffic directors. Parker stated that she feels that the \$9.3 is a little low, but that perhaps a better balance can be found.

Foreman stated that if 4 fire fighters and the school resource officer are added in to the \$9.3 million figure it increases to \$9.5 without even looking at shared services. Sheehan stated that the number would be closer to \$9.7 million. Foreman stated that the idea of not adding the fire fighters into the budget is a tough pill to swallow.

Waitkevitch stated that there is a risk with the low number – it is mostly restorative and creates stability for 3 or 4 years. He stated that if we are prioritizing a lower number, it needs to be meaningful and clear. He stated that he would prefer adding dollars to the school budget. Waitkevitch stated that there needs to be a meaningful difference between the \$12.5 million and the lower tier option.

Pignone stated that it is obvious to him that \$12.5 million is that number that we need and we are reacting to the fear of the \$12.5 not passing. He stated that he does not want to pass an override that does not solve the problem. Waitkevitch stated that failing to pass an override will result in catastrophic cuts to services. Foreman stated that the town needs \$12.5 million, but we cannot risk getting nothing and that is a weighty responsibility. He stated that the \$9.3 puts the tax increase at \$1000/median priced household and the \$12.5 puts the tax increase at \$1400/median priced household.

Sheehan stated that the decision between \$12.5 and \$9.3 is far easier to deal with than \$12.5 and \$0. He stated that he was worked the numbers in every way possible and has simply provided options to the Board. Sheehan stated that the library number is the number – there is no flexibility. Parker stated that we have to save the senior center even if it means closing something else. Bilbo stated that the voters told us that \$14.6 is too high and all she hears is that \$12.5 is just the 14.6 number with one less year. She state the \$9.3 million is tough love without extras and is gives only what is needed. She stated that the choice belongs to the residents.

Bilbo moved to create a ballot with two questions – one at \$12.5 million and one at \$9.3 million. Parker seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in favor:

Timothy Waitkevitch
Ryan Foreman
Heidi Bilbo
Raymie Parker

Motion passes (4-0-1) with Pignone abstaining.

Foreman stated that he believes in the tiered questions, but that the 9.3 number creates risk – the risk of not having enough fire fighters or teachers and it is a risk that he is uncomfortable with.

Waitkevitch stated that we have two amounts and the Board must decide the wording of the question. The Board discussed question options with varying degree of breakdown. Town Clerk Maria Sagarino stated that she feels less is more – she prefers easy instructions and clearly worded questions.

Parker moved to use the ballot questions as presented by Sheehan (Question 2: Shall the Town of Stoneham be allowed to assess an additional \$9,300,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding public safety, education, council on aging, public works, library and general government expenses for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026? Question 1: Shall the Town of Stoneham be allowed to assess an additional \$12,500,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding public safety, education, council on aging, public works, library and general government expenses for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026?). Pignone seconded the motion. Foreman stated that the mailer should include a breakdown of use. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in favor:

Timothy Waitkevitch
David Pignone
Ryan Foreman
Heidi Bilbo
Raymie Parker

Motion passes (5-0)

Foreman moved to allow the Town Clerk to make minor modifications on the questions as needed. 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)

Pignone moved to enter into Liquor Licensing Authority. 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 12: Approve Change of Manager/Reconsideration – Angelo’s Pizzeria

Houghton appeared for the applicant, Angelo’s Pizzeria. Waitkevitch read the notice of hearing. Houghton stated that the reconsideration before the Board this evening is a change in manager from Salvatore to Angelo and everything will remain the same per the Board’s 9/9/25 hearing. Foreman moved to approve the change in manager on reconsideration. 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)

Parker moved to exit Liquor Licensing Authority and return to the Select Board. Pignone 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 hold the override election on 12/9/25, from 7am to 8 pm, at 35 Central Street, in the town hall auditorium. Pignone 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)

Sagarino that that early voting is not available, but that absentee voting and absentee voting over the counter will be available. She stated that the vote by mail portal is already set up.

Parker requested that Town Counsel and the Town Clerk prepare the notice of ballot pamphlet. 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 14: High School Building Project – Update No update was given.

Agenda Item 15: Town Administrator’s Report Sheehan stated that the Zoning Bylaw Review Committee will be holding a public information session tomorrow night at 6:00 pm. He thanked all those who participated in Town Meeting.

Agenda Item 16: Non-Deliberative Announcements and Scheduling Parker announced that the Halloween Stroll is this Saturday on the common and that the Field of Honor is looking for volunteers. Foreman stated that there is a memorial square dedication this Saturday.

Agenda Item 17: Adjourn Foreman moved to adjourn. Pignone 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