

At the Regular Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of North Kingstown, County of Washington, and State of Rhode Island, held in and for said Town, County, and State this 19th day of December, 2022 at the Town Hall Council Chambers, 80 Boston Neck Road, at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT WERE: Gregory A. Mancini, President
Lawrence C. Mandel
Matthew B. McCoy
Dr. Kimberly Ann Page

ABSENT: Katherine K. Anderson

ALSO PRESENT: A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager
Jeannette Alyward, Town Clerk
Susan A. Murray, Deputy Town Clerk
Matthew F. Callaghan, Jr., Town Solicitor

An audio recording and video recording of this meeting was made to supplement the written record.

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of North Kingstown held on December 19, 2022 was called to order by President Mancini.

2. Notice of Meeting being posted

Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-6(c), notice of this meeting has been posted on the Secretary of State's Website.

3. Salute to Flag

President Mancini led those in attendance in a salute to the flag.

I. SPECIAL BUSINESS

4. Joint Meeting with the School Committee

President Mancini stated that this joint meeting is a statutory and School Committee Chair Earle notified him that she will be a few minutes late. School Committee Vice Chair Case introduced himself, School Committee Member Lima, School Committee Member Tom Briody, and Interim Superintendent Judith Paolucci. President Mancini welcomed everyone and stated that they are looking forward to working collaboratively.

Town Manager Ralph Mollis welcomed the School Committee and Administration and stated that over the past couple of weeks we have had a great relationship with the Interim Superintendent as well as Mike Waterman. He thanked Dr. Paolucci for the open communication and stated that the town administration is here to help the School Department in any way that is needed. In the past, this combined meeting has been productive in that it was an opportunity for the School Department to convey their goals, talk about where they have been and where they are going. He believes that as we go forward this will also serve as a great opportunity to continue to be productive.

Mr. Mollis stated that he would like to take this opportunity to make a few recommendations for the upcoming budget. Priority number one must be we work together to get the maximum education aid from the State. The time has come for well performing school systems to stop being punished and we need to get this message across and lobby our legislative delegation. He further stated that he would like the School Department and School Committee to keep our taxpayers in mind when formulating this upcoming budget. To do that, there are two things that should be considered.

First, when the School Budget is submitted to the Town, the financial aid number be equal to what the Governor and General Assembly allocates in the past. In the past, the School Department has reduced the aid in anticipation of not receiving what we have in the prior year, only for the state aid to come in equal to or more than the prior year. The second thing is we have the perception of a 4% ceiling increase, the Town has a zero percent floor due to maintenance of effort. He asked that the School Committee look at the ceiling as we look at the floor. When a budget is proposed and doesn't meet that 4% increase, the dialogue has been that the School Department is leaving money on the table and asked that it not be looked at that way. We never go into a budget looking to give zero percent, but somewhere in the middle is the answer. He understands how challenging budgets are especially this upcoming one. When we are compared to other cities and towns, the budgets passed are on or near what the school has requested.

Mr. Mollis stated that the Council chamber is available for the School Committee to use and if there is any interest, to please let him know as we would like this building and chambers to be looked at the home of town government.

Mr. Mollis stated that he looks forward to working with the school administration and School Committee in the budget process.

School Committee Chair Erin Earle apologized for being late and thanked the Council and Mr. Mollis for the opportunity to meet tonight.

Dr. Paolucci stated that she echoes the comments from Town Manager Mollis regarding the working relationship between the School Department and town administration over her short time as Interim Superintendent. She left the 3 districts she has previously worked in with strong relationships, cooperation, and communication. She is fiscally conservative and sometimes district leaders need to look at what is being done and if it is being done at the full potential. Good budgeting begins the day after it is approved by analyzing everything including programs to continually evaluate the money being spent. This is her seventh week in the district, and she hasn't had the time to analyze the needs of the district. We are also challenged as we are short staffed in the administration, including an opening for our Finance Director. Again, the challenges are great to analyze the data to produce a budget that is top notch; however, she takes that challenge on and knows they can do it. She was very pleased and appreciative to get a call from Mr. Mollis this week offering any type of assistance the Town can provide due to the finance position vacancy. She stated that when you walk into our schools, it is apparent that there are a lot of wonderful things going on. Some of the processes that are in place and structures that support that good work might be missed. For example, we just started a District Emergency Operations Committee who meets constantly with the Police and Fire Departments to evaluate our emergency plan, which is an ongoing process. She expressed her appreciation to the Fire and Police Departments for their participation and cooperation.

Dr. Paolucci stated that as far as the budget is concerned usually at this time, she knows what the state aid is projected to be. At a state Superintendent's meeting, we were told to expect those figures until January which is disappointing. Although the preliminary amount may change a bit, we usually have an indication at this point whether our numbers will go up or down. The other thing that she would have at this point is a projected budget and in her normal budget process, she would project all things being equal, assumptions of utilities, contractual obligations. Unfortunately, she hasn't been here that long to even begin a projected budget. When she was in Smithfield, the budget process she utilized allowed the Town to see how the budget progressed throughout the process. She hopes to be able to share some preliminary numbers and information in the near future. There was also a budget work session prior to the School Committee adopting their budget.

Dr. Paolucci stated that we talk about transparency and collaboration that can serve the Town in a better way, one of the things that is always a conversation in Town is the ability of the Town to actually look at the school's accounts in real time. The Town and school shared a Munis system. However, by a memorandum of understanding the school now has their own Munis system with no ability for the Town to have access to it. She has reviewed that memorandum of understanding and doesn't feel the need to change the MOU and feels that to provide the means for the Town to have access to their ledgers and accounts would be beneficial. This can be

accomplished simply by providing a user account to the Town and we are moving forward with this.

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Again, she hopes to be able to provide more information in the future.

President Mancini thanked Dr. Paolucci for her comments.

School Committee Chair Earle thanked the Superintendent for the update and the School Committee is looking forward to working with the Town to figure out what we can do for the schools this year within the budget.

In answer to Councilor McCoy's question if it is anticipated that the "tax base" will remain the same, grow, or be less, Mr. Mollis stated he received preliminary numbers. However, these numbers fluctuate up until the tax roll is set in June and he does expect the tax base to have grown over last year.

Councilor Mandel stated that he appreciates everyone's comments tonight and looks forward to working together as the partnership has to be strong and anticipates it will only grow stronger. He further stated that when he served on the Audit Committee, one of the concerns the committee had was the lack of visibility of the school's numbers and having that ability is a very welcomed change. He thanked the superintendent.

President Mancini stated that Dr. Paolucci's resume speaks for itself, and the Council appreciates her candor by informing them of the challenges. This Council has full confidence in the Town Manager and encourages her to take him up on his offer of support and assistance. This will do the taxpayer's justice.

In answer to President Mancini's question if Dr. Paolucci has any insight to operational increases, such as health care and wages, Dr. Paolucci stated that this is a challenge. Health care is shared with the Town. Mr. Mollis stated that we anticipate a 3% increase in health care and dental will stay level. Dr. Paolucci stated that this is good news as this is a huge part of the budget. She further stated that teachers take up a large portion of the budget, we started negotiations today, and she cannot predict an anticipated increase at this time. She further stated that utilities are a very large variable and we will be reviewing those costs over the last several years to estimate that but utilizing the anticipated rate increase.

In answer to President Mancini's question if there is a projection on how the School Department will end the year, Dr. Paolucci stated that unfortunately the reason we anticipate we will end this fiscal year in a good place is due to the number of staff vacancies that have not been filled. She would rather have people in place than have excess funds at the end of the year.

Councilor Page asked if there has been any thought or discussion of getting together a committee to look at future building needs, Dr. Paolucci stated yes. She has analyzed three projects currently ongoing as part of the \$13.5 million bond projects and through ESSR funds for ventilation projects. At the same time, we have a Stage 1 application that was approved, and Stage 2 is due on February 15th. Unfortunately, because the building committee has not met since May, she will be asking the SBA to postpone the Stage 2 application. We have not communicated to the Town effectively what a potential bond needs would be in the Stage 2 application. At the same time, the district employed a LEAP certified consultant to do facilities master plan which needs to inform any future work. There are many moving parts; however, those parts are not talking to the other part. Monitoring how much we spent on each of the projects is extremely important. We will be working with the Town looking at the bills for these projects to make sure that all of those bills are reflected and recorded in the proper accounts. At this month's building subcommittee meeting, we will go into detail the SBA process, how do we maximize our reimbursement from the State, where are we on the different projects, and what the facilities master plan tells us of the priorities. Following this meeting we will continue to meet on a regular basis.

Councilor McCoy thanked Dr. Paolucci's detailed explanation and asked given the state's investment in school modernization are there any opportunities for North Kingstown to leverage any of that money, Dr. Paolucci said absolutely. The State has a number of incentives in place and North Kingstown is one of the few communities that only receives a 35% reimbursement

from the State. Right now, there is an extra 5% if you are having new and fewer schools, 5% for energy, and 5% for a couple of other categories. We certainly have needs in North Kingstown that need to be taken care of in a fiscally responsible way.

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President Mancini stated that he would like to take Item Numbers 5 and 39 next while the School Committee is still present.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

39. Discussion of scheduling a joint meeting with the Legislative Delegation

President Mancini stated that the last day for bill introduction is the first week in February and would like to invite the legislative delegation to attend the January 23rd Council Meeting. President Mancini asked Chairwoman Earle if the School Committee would be available. She stated that they would be available.

President Mancini asked the School Committee and the Town Council to submit legislative priorities to the clerk a week prior to that meeting to allow those topics to be forwarded to the delegation in preparation of that meeting.

The Council thanked the School Committee for attending tonight and hopes the School Committee will accept the Town Manager's offer to utilize the Council Chambers for their meetings.

The Council recessed the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

The Council reconvened the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To approve Consent Agenda Item Numbers 6 through 22 as presented with the exception of Agenda Item Numbers 8 and 9.

6. Approval of Minutes

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 5, 2022 as submitted by the Office of the Town Clerk.

7. Tax Abatement List #865

VOTED: To approve Tax Abatement List #865 submitted by Deb Garneau, Tax Assessor, in the amount of \$17,693.64; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: That overpayments, if any, resulting from these abatements are hereby approved for refund by the Tax Collector.

8. Receipt of Donations

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor McCoy and unanimously

VOTED: To accept with gratitude the following donations in the amount of \$8,555.00:

For: Holiday Giving Program	
From: Dave's Market Charitable Fund	\$3,500.00
First Baptist Church in Wickford	1,125.00
Narragansett Bow Hunters Association	765.00
Michael and Carol Oniskey	500.00
Jacqueline LeBlanc	125.00

Lisa Burditt	100.00
Kate Church	100.00
Washington Trust Company	80.00
Newcomers and Neighbors	50.00

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Peter and Cynthia Corbridge	50.00
Joseph Ewing-Chow	50.00
Dina Carlson	50.00

For: Beechwood Senior Center
In Memory of Daniel Varin
From: Laura Evans \$1,000.00

For: Beechwood Senior Center
From: Jill Mulford \$1,000.00
Suzanne Cole 35.00

For: Beechwood Senior Center
To be used for the Mealsite
From: Anonymous \$ 25.00

9. Receipt of Donations

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To accept with gratitude the following three (3) donations to be used by the North Kingstown Animal Shelter, 395 Hamilton Allenton Road, for assisting in the care and shelter of animals in need:

Senna Clark	\$100.00
Patricia and Thomas Scott	\$ 74.00
Michel Frappier and Katheleen Hawes	\$ 30.00

10. Letter of Resignation

VOTED: To accept the letter of resignation from Richard Graefe, resigning from the Groundwater Committee, and that the Town Council send a letter of appreciation to him for the dedicated service he gave to the Town of North Kingstown.

11. Letter of Resignation

VOTED: To accept the letter of resignation from Doreen M. Costa, resigning from the Veteran's Day & Memorial Day Parades Committee, and that the Town Council send a letter of appreciation to her for the dedicated service she gave to the Town of North Kingstown.

12. Detective License (renewal)

VOTED: To approve to December 1, 2023 the application for renewal of a Detective License by Victor Pichette, 320 Phillips Street, Unit 202, North Kingstown, RI 02852, subject to taxes and water paid to date, receipt of a bond, and receipt of a recommendation from the North Kingstown Police Department.

13. Holiday Sales License (renewal)

VOTED: To approve to July 1, 2023 the application for renewal of a Holiday Sales License by Dover Saddlery, Inc., 1340B Ten Rod Road, subject to taxes and water paid to date.

14. Holiday Sales License (new)

VOTED: To approve to July 1, 2023 the application for a Holiday Sales License by The Choc Shop LLC, 7 West Main Street, subject to taxes and water paid to date and receipt of a copy of their Rhode Island Retail Sales Tax Permit.

15. Victualling License (new)

VOTED: To approve to December 1, 2023 the application for a Victualling License by The Choc Shop LLC, 7 West Main Street, subject to taxes and water paid to date, receipt of a certificate from the Rhode Island Department of Health, receipt of a copy of their Rhode Island Retail Sales Tax Permit, and compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Marshall and the Building Official.

16. Refuse Collector – Commercial Not For Hire Licenses (4) (new)

VOTED: To approve to January 1, 2024 the application for four (4) Refuse Collector – Commercial Not For Hire Licenses by White Pine Landscaping LLC, 251 Exeter Road, subject to taxes, water and any other assessments paid to date; receipt of a Certificate of Insurance if needed; and receipt of a list of their North Kingstown clients.

Clerk’s note: The renewal of 3 licenses are included in Agenda Item Number 18.

17. Refuse Collector – Commercial For Hire License Renewals

VOTED: To approve to January 1, 2024 the following list of Refuse Collector – Commercial For Hire License Renewals, subject to taxes, water, and any other assessments paid to date; receipt of a bond; inspection approval from the Transfer Station; and receipt of a Certificate of Insurance if needed:

Lic #	NAME	DBA	ADDRESS	TOWN	STATE	ZIP	PHONE	Reg #
25	D&N Equipment Services Inc.		169 Brown Street	Johnston	RI	02919	943-6315	RI 35600
93	WASTE CONNECTIONS OF RI	MTG (MEGA) DISPOSAL	19 INDUSTRIAL WAY	SEEKONK	MA	02771	508-336-8466	1820 B
94	WASTE CONNECTIONS OF RI	MTG (MEGA) DISPOSAL	19 INDUSTRIAL WAY	SEEKONK	MA	02771	508-336-8466	4346 B
8	ALLIED WASTE SERVICES	REPUBLIC SERVICES	1080 AIRPORT RD	FALL RIVER	MA	02720	774-488-3523	89627
10	ALLIED WASTE SERVICES	REPUBLIC SERVICES	1080 AIRPORT RD	FALL RIVER	MA	02720	774-488-3523	2686B
12	ALLIED WASTE SERVICES	REPUBLIC SERVICES	1080 AIRPORT RD	FALL RIVER	MA	02720	774-488-3523	90613
17	ALLIED WASTE SERVICES	REPUBLIC SERVICES	1080 AIRPORT RD	FALL RIVER	MA	02720	774-488-3523	6998B
52	EDWARD F BRIGGS DISPOSAL INC	BRIGGS DISPOSAL	PO BOX 566	EXETER	RI	02822	294-6391	RI 91763
53	EDWARD F BRIGGS DISPOSAL INC	BRIGGS DISPOSAL	PO BOX 566	EXETER	RI	02822	294-6391	RI 128814
34	BM RUBBISH SERVICES INC	BLAKE MACERA RUBBISH	70 CARRS POND RD	EAST GREENWICH	RI	02818	885-3243	RI 1DU908
15	MRS. HARRY J WHITFORD	WHITFORD RUBBISH	6 MOCKINGBIRD DR	EXETER	RI	02822	295-0917	RI 79130
16	MRS. HARRY J WHITFORD	WHITFORD RUBBISH	6 MOCKINGBIRD DR	EXETER	RI	02822	295-0917	RI 95522
72	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF RI INC		1610 PONTIAC AVE	CRANSTON	RI	02920	919-9077	RI 89802
99	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF RI INC		1610 PONTIAC AVE	CRANSTON	RI	02920	919-9077	RI 52045
81	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF RI INC		1610 PONTIAC AVE	CRANSTON	RI	02920	919-9077	RI 27502
65	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF RI INC		1610 PONTIAC AVE	CRANSTON	RI	02920	919-9077	RI 27505
67	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF RI INC		1610 PONTIAC AVE	CRANSTON	RI	02920	919-9077	RI 59518
71	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF RI INC		1610 PONTIAC AVE	CRANSTON	RI	02920	919-9077	RI 27508
78	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF RI INC		1610 PONTIAC AVE	CRANSTON	RI	02920	919-9077	RI 69874
80	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF RI INC		1610 PONTIAC AVE	CRANSTON	RI	02920	919-9077	RI 27637
94	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF RI INC		1610 PONTIAC AVE	CRANSTON	RI	02920	919-9077	RI 27639
73	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF RI INC		1610 PONTIAC AVE	CRANSTON	RI	02920	919-9077	RI 27651
83	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF RI INC		1610 PONTIAC AVE	CRANSTON	RI	02920	919-9077	RI 32594
70	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF RI INC		1610 PONTIAC AVE	CRANSTON	RI	02920	919-9077	RI 32595
69	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF RI INC		1610 PONTIAC AVE	CRANSTON	RI	02920	919-9077	RI 28004
66	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF RI INC		1610 PONTIAC AVE	CRANSTON	RI	02920	919-9077	RI 21294
82	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF RI INC		1610 PONTIAC AVE	CRANSTON	RI	02920	919-9077	RI 27635
68	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF RI INC		1610 PONTIAC AVE	CRANSTON	RI	02920	919-9077	RI 1CF348
74	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF RI INC		1610 PONTIAC AVE	CRANSTON	RI	02920	919-9077	RI 93171
75	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF RI INC		1610 PONTIAC AVE	CRANSTON	RI	02920	919-9077	RI 34055

All taxes/water assessments have been paid to date DOB Collection Dept.

Date 12/19/2022

18. Refuse Collector – Commercial Not For Hire License Renewals

VOTED: To approve to January 1, 2024 the following list of Refuse Collector – Commercial Not For Hire License Renewals, subject to taxes, water, and any other assessments paid to date; receipt of a Certificate of Insurance if needed; and receipt of a list of their North Kingstown clients:

12/9/2022

REFUSE COLLECTORS LICENSE - CNFH
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
12/19/2022

Lic. #	NAME	DBA	ADDRESS	TOWN	STATE	ZIP	Phone	REG #
12	PETER C QUINN	QUINN CONSTRUCTION	189 BEACH ST	NK	RI	02852	603-6110	54121
99	GREGORY PAWLINA	ARCH SERVICES LLC	45 MEADOWLAND DR	NK	RI	02852	743-2338	197971
83	WICKFORD VILLAGE REALTY	WICKFORD VILLAGE	66 INTREPID DR	NK	RI	02852	295-8813	184885
150	LEO LAVALLEE	LAVALLEE LANDSCAPING	780 HATCHERY RD	NK	RI	02852	508-264-0811	115750
84	ESSEX VILLAGE RHF PARTNERS LP	ESSEX VILLAGE APTS	12 FISCHER DR	NK	RI	02852	884-6474	24390
87	KENNETH J LEES	RENOVATIONS AND MORE	25 ISLAND ST	NK	RI	02852	487-5900	13684
155	WHITE PINE LANDSCAING LLC		251 EXETER RD	NK	RI	02852	710-1353	49179
156	WHITE PINE LANDSCAING LLC		251 EXETER RD	NK	RI	02852	710-1353	55141
157	WHITE PINE LANDSCAING LLC		251 EXETER RD	NK	RI	02852	710-1353	55194
21	MEB LANDSCAPING INC		3560 QUAKER LN	NK	RI	02852	295-7546	4436
23	MEB LANDSCAPING INC		3560 QUAKER LN	NK	RI	02852	295-7546	4437

All Taxes/Water Assessments have been paid to date for above applicants K. O'Neill Collection Dept
Date 12/19/2022

19. Victualling License (transfer) (renewal)

VOTED: To approve the application for transfer of a Victualling License from Mavi Convenience, Inc., dba Wickford Mini Mart, 684 Boston Neck Road, to MTDS Inc., dba Wickford Mini Mart, 684 Boston Neck Road, subject to taxes and water paid to date; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: To approve to December 1, 2023 the application for renewal of a Victualling License by MTDS Inc., dba Wickford Mini Mart, 684 Boston Neck Road, subject to taxes and water paid to date and receipt of certificate from the Rhode Island Department of Health.

20. Victualling and Amusement License Renewals

VOTED: To approve to December 1, 2023 the following list of Victualling and Amusement License Renewals, subject to taxes and water paid to date and compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Marshall, the Building Official, and the Water Department:

VABDJ Renewal
TC 12/19/2022

NK #	NAME	DBA	BUSINESS LOCATION	PHONE	SEATS	HOURS	LIC. HELD
108	BESTWAY CONVIENCE STORE		1085 TOWER HILL RD	294-9713	N/A	6:00 AM- 10:00 PM	V
100	ROME POINT CAFE INC		820 BOSTON NECK RD	294-2122	50	6:00 AM -2:30 PM	V
172	IDD PETROLEUM INC	KINGSTOWN MOBIL	6228 POST RD	884-4325	N/A	6:00 AM- 10:00 PM	V
76	WASAY MINI MART LLC	YORKTOWN MARKET	6769 POST RD	569-0271	N/A	7:00 AM- 12:00 PM	V
128	BUDDY'S ICE CREAM CORP	THE INSIDE SCOOP	30 TEN ROD RD	294-0091	N/A	12:00 PM- 10:00 PM	V
44	COLWEN MANAGEMENT INC	NORTH KINGSTOWN TOWNE SUITES	55 GATE RD	667-7500	42	24 HRS	V EXT
88	GARDNER'S WHARF		170 MAIN ST	295-4600	N/A	8:00 AM - 8:00 PM	V
78	JSC POST RD LLC	BURGER KINGS #1045	7041 POST RD	600-0039	75	7:00 AM- 12:00 PM	V
136	WALMART STORES EAST LP	WALMART #2261	1031 TEN ROD RD	294-0025	N/A	6:00 AM-11:00 PM	A

All taxes/water assessments have been paid to date K. O'Neill Collection Dept.
Date 12/14/22

21. First Reading – Amendment to Section 9-4

VOTED: That this shall constitute the First Reading of an Ordinance in Amendment of Chapter 9-4 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of North Kingstown, entitled, “Fee Schedule Enumerated - Table VI - Recreation Department Fees - Beach Parking Permits”, and that this be advertised and referred to the Regular Town Council Meeting of January 9, 2023 for Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption.

22. First Reading – Amendment to Section 11-37

VOTED: That this shall constitute the First Reading of an Ordinance in Amendment of Section 11-37 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of North Kingstown, entitled, “No Parking or Limited Parking”, and that this be advertised and referred to the Regular Town Council Meeting of January 9, 2023 for Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption.

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III. REPORTS

23. Report by the Town Manager

- I'll begin with an update on a number of projects which we'll be presenting before the Town Council in January and February. This update is for the benefit of both the Council and the general public so they can anticipate what will be discussed over the coming months.

As you know, the referendum question on retail marijuana establishments in North Kingstown includes drafting an Ordinance detailing where these retail establishments may locate, requirements, restrictions, licensing, etc. We are planning to present this report and action steps at your February 6th meeting.

At your next meeting on January 9th, we intend on presenting a report and proposed action steps on addressing short term rentals as well as a hopeful request for approval of a contract for a new restaurant at our municipal golf course.

We are then planning for your following meeting, January 23rd, to present a proposal of action steps for a new Recreation Center in North Kingstown and a proposal for a renovation of our Municipal Office Building at 100 Fairway Drive. These are both exciting, and critical, projects which we hope to accomplish.

And of course, we are in the middle of budget deliberations and look forward to presenting my Fiscal Year 2024 Budget to you on March 13th followed by Council deliberations with Department Heads and our Public Hearing on April 17th.

- I'm pleased to announce that our renovation of our North Kingstown Town Hall won an Architecture of Rehabilitation Award at the 2022 AIA Rhode Island Design Awards. The purpose of the award is to recognize achievements in design by architects in Rhode Island. Our congratulations to DBVW Architects on a well-deserved award and great job as well as the incredible work by our staff here at North Kingstown, Tower Construction, their subcontractors, and the many individuals involved who helped historically restore this important building.
- The R.I. Department of Transportation has announced that they intend on beginning the reconstruction of the Davisville Railroad Bridge project shortly. This project will include the demolition & replacement of the bridge, concrete sidewalk, concrete barrier and protective screen, utility work, pavement, numerous traffic detours, etc. This project has been coordinated with our Public Safety Departments. This is a complicated project as the bridge has various AMTRAK connections associated with the infrastructure. The anticipated completion date is May, 2024.
- The repaving of Boston Neck Road North from Wickford working south will begin in March of next year. The project will include ADA ramps, paving, and a planned traffic signal at Hamilton Elementary. They will be alternating this project all summer with the project taking place on Route 2, from 138 South. They are planning to have both projects completed by the end of summer or fall of next year.
- I will be participating in a R.I. League Executive Board Housing Workshop and Discussion with Housing Secretary Saal and the R.I. Department of Housing on January 18th. We will be discussing how municipalities and the state can work together to address our housing challenges and to hopefully protect the zoning and planning rights of

local cities and towns. I will report back to the Town Council with any resulting action steps that can be taken.

- We have constructed a safety, decorative fence along the waterfront at Updike Park. I want to thank the resident who reached out to us with this concern and suggestion. This project was reviewed by the Historic District Commission to ensure the fencing is in line with the historical character of the village.

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- Water Director Tim Cranston made a presentation to the R.I. Water Resources Board in November, as required, and the Board reported that they found our operations and Tim's presentation to be impressive and approved our five-year update plan. They stated that "the plan was consistent with the missions of the Board and state statute" and our approval is through November 17, 2027.
- As many of you know, we've been working with the Land Conservancy of North Kingstown, along with the owners of what is known as the Cruickshank property, to purchase a 355-acre open space easement. The intent of the acquisition is to protect this natural land while including a very low impact recreational use with limited trails and a small parking site.

This property is located off Tower Hill Road. Approximately 60% of the 355 acres are wooded swamp with intermittent streams and pools of water. Access to the site is available through an easement over land located in South Kingstown.

The Wetland Reserve Easement Program will pay for up to 90% of the appraised value. We applied to RIDEM to seek funding for the remaining 10%. This still needs to be negotiated.

The Town would be responsible for maintaining the property which is typical of open space acquisitions, and we are partnering with the Narrow River Land Trust and Land Conservancy to assist us with this.

This land is connected to adjacent open space locations and in total there will be approximately 700 acres of contiguous protected open space.

I am updating you on this project as we've been told that the State Conservationist will be signing the Wetland Reserve Easement Deed this week which will allow us to proceed with the closing on the 320-acre easement. We will then work on the potential DEM funding and will report back to the Town Council.

- The update and refresh of our Town Website is still on track for a launch date of January 23rd. We are also hoping to, simultaneously, roll out our new .gov address.
- As this is the last meeting of the year, I would like to wish the residents of North Kingstown a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

24. Alcoholic Beverage License Limits for 2022-2023

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To set the Alcoholic Beverage License Limits for 2022-2023 as follows:

Class A - 4
Class B - 28
Class BL - 10
Class C - 2
Class D - 1

25. Coastal Resources Management Council Application Number 2000-05-097

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor McCoy and unanimously

VOTED: That no substantive objection be filed to Coastal Resources Management Council Application Number 2000-05-097 to allow Andrew and Meagon Felix to construct and maintain a new 38.5' section of an existing boating facility by replacing the fixed pier with a new ramp and 150 sf. float, 4 Rogers Avenue, Plat 142, Lot 67.

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26. Coastal Resources Management Council Application Number 2022-11-064

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: That no substantive objection be filed to Coastal Resources Management Council Application Number 2022-11-064 to allow Andrew and Meagon Felix to construct and maintain a residential boating facility consisting of a fixed pier to a ramp and a float, 14 Rogers Avenue, Plat 142, Lot 71.

27. Arts Council – Appointment

The Council directed the Clerk to readvertise the vacancy of one (1) member to the Arts Council as there were no applicants.

28. Assessment Board of Review – Appointment

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint Steven Borowick, 205 Juniper Drive, to the Assessment Board of Review to December 1, 2025.

29. Charter Review Commission – Appointments

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint John V. Gibbons, Jr., 3 Stone Gate Drive, to the Charter Review Commission to December 31, 2024; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: That this appointment is made in accordance with Section 317 of the Town Charter as Mr. Gibbons has expertise and knowledge essential to this Commission.

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint the following four (4) members to the Charter Review Commission to December 31, 2024:

James Halley, 125 Plain Road
Anthony Miccolis, 32 Country Hill Lane
Sarilee Norton, 58 West Cove Drive
Randy Wietman, 40 Sanford Avenue

30. Conservation Commission - Appointments

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint the following two (2) members to the Conservation Commission:

Mary E. Kelly, 14 Plum Point Road, Saunderstown 02874, to October 1, 2023 to fill the unexpired term of Meg Kerr

Stacey Weinstein, 737 Old Baptist Road, to October 1, 2025

31. Economic Development Advisory Board – Appointment

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor McCoy and unanimously

VOTED: To continue to the Regular Town Council Meeting of January 9, 2023 the appointment of one (1) Second Alternate to the Economic Development Advisory Board.

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32. Groundwater Committee – Appointment

Motion by Councilor McCoy, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To continue to the Regular Town Council Meeting of January 9, 2023 the appointment of one (1) member to the Groundwater Committee.

33. Historic District Commission – Appointment

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint Joseph Gentile, 106 Roger Williams Drive, to the Historic District Commission to December 31, 2025.

34. Information Technology Advisory Committee – Appointments

The Council directed the Clerk to readvertise the vacancies of one (1) Alternate At-Large Member and one (1) Alternate Expert Member to the Information Technology Advisory Committee as there were no applicants.

35. Wickford Advisory Committee – Appointments

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Carrie Mitchell Kolb, 37 Standpipe Lane, Wickford Village Business Owner, to the Wickford Advisory Committee to October 1, 2025.

The Council directed the Clerk to readvertise the vacancy of one (1) Wickford Village Business Owner to the Wickford Advisory Committee to fill the unexpired term of Jean Miller-Ronci.

36. Wickford Village Design Guidelines Committee – Appointment

The Council directed the Clerk to readvertise the vacancy of one (1) member to the Wickford Village Design Guidelines Committee as there were no applicants.

37. Appointment of Town Council Member to School Building Subcommittee

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor McCoy and unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint Councilor Kimberly Ann Page as the Town Council Representative to the School Building Subcommittee.

38. Establishment of weekly Office Hours – Trial Basis

President Mancini stated that this was a request by Councilor Mandel to establish weekly office hours on a trial basis to be held at the Town Hall for one Council Member to meet with constituents.

Councilor Mandel stated that he feels it is important that the public knows that we welcome their ideas and thoughts. We have already had a forum during our meetings for the public to address the Council under public comment; however, in some cases constituents may have thoughts and/or ideas that take longer to express than 3 minutes. His motion would be on a trial basis to

establish office hours to be available an hour a week and see what happens. It will be useful if productive and utilized by the public. If neither of those things happen, we won't need to continue. The only downside would be donating our time, which isn't a downside. He further stated that he has discussed this with the Town Manager and understands that it is important to stay in lanes, and our goal is to not micromanage the Town Manager, although there may be cases where we refer questions to the Manager. This really is to focus on the big picture items that are the Council's business.

President Mancini stated that it is always good to have communication with our constituents and commends Councilor Mandel for doing this. However, he has a couple of jobs and will not be able to do this, but is always available to the public via phone or e-mail.

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Councilor McCoy stated that he supports this initiative and doesn't feel it is a requirement that all five council members do this. He thinks we are essentially talking about one person, one hour per week and he would be happy to do this.

Councilor Page stated that she is fine with this; however, she is not sure what her schedule will allow for her to participate. We will need to make sure that we follow the law in making sure that this does not become a rolling quorum when discussing these constituent issues and encouraged that the Manager and Staff be apprised of any idea, issues or complaints for input.

Councilor McCoy stated that the important thing here is trying to encourage the citizens of the town to use the departments and offices that are available to everybody first. If we can help develop a better understanding of the government and town works by encouraging them to use staff in place is a good thing.

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor McCoy and unanimously

VOTED: To establish weekly Office Hours (on a trial basis) at the Town Hall for one Council Member to meet with constituents on Tuesdays for the month of January between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

The Council took Item Number 40 next.

40. Correspondence

- A letter from the Land Conservancy of North Kingstown
- An e-mail from Joseph Gentile asking to be reappointed to the Historic District Commission
- An e-mail from Serena Mason regarding a light on Annaquatucket Road

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Jeannette Alyward
Town Clerk