

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 24th day of April, 2023 at the Town Hall Council Chambers, 80 Boston Neck Road, at 6:45 p.m.

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

ALSO PRESENT: A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager  
Jeannette Alyward, 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 April 24, 2023 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.

4. Class B-Limited Alcoholic Beverage License (new)

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To open the Public Hearing.

There was no public comment.

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To close the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor McCoy and unanimously

VOTED: To approve the application for a Class B-Limited Alcoholic Beverage License, expiring on December 1, 2023, by K&R II Enterprises, dba The Frozen Cow - Roy Boys Clam Shack, 6710 Post Road, subject to taxes and water paid to date; receipt of a Certificate of Good Standing; receipt of a Certificate of Liability Insurance; receipt of a copy of their Alcohol Server Training Certifications; and compliance with the recommendations of the Police Department, the Fire Marshall, the Planning Department, and the Building Official.

Clerk's note: The application by Shayna's Place, LLC, 45 Brown Street, was withdrawn by the applicant, therefore the limit for Class B-Limited Alcoholic Beverage Licenses remains at 10.

5. Class B-Full Alcoholic Beverage License, Victualling License, and Entertainment License (expansion of premises)

Motion by Councilor Anderson, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To open the Public Hearing.

Dan Goldman, 7 North Avenue, Providence, owner of Green River Silver stated that he is in favor of the expansion of Wickford on the Water as it is a real asset to the village and any expansion of this restaurant will be beneficial to the entire village and the businesses. Having them as neighbors has influenced his decision to increase his hours especially in the summer. Being in business in Wickford for 21 years he has never had an issue with parking in the village and a full parking lot is a sign of an economic village.

Jack Kliever, 75 West Main Street, stated he is a representative of the Wickford Merchants Association, and they are strongly in favor of this expansion. When people come to Wickford, they like to spend time here and need a variety of businesses including restaurants. He understands there are some concerns regarding parking, however, the merchants do not believe that this is an issue. The Merchant's Association hopes the Council approves this request.

James Halley, 125 Plain Road, encouraged the Council to approve this request as it is great to have another restaurant in Wickford. He has lived in North Kingstown since 1995 and has never experienced a parking issue in Wickford. If it becomes a problem in the future, he suggested that we find a solution rather than limiting the businesses in Wickford.

Mark Plympton, 12 Point View Drive, Tiverton, stated that he was born and raised in Wickford, his family owned Wickford Diner, 4 houses on Phillips Street, and he owned a house on 116 Pleasant Street as well as Tower Hill Road which the Town purchased from him for open space. He further stated that he is looking to come back to Wickford. He is currently developing properties in Providence, and he is considering investing in properties in Wickford. He has been hearing issues about parking in Wickford and when he came through Wickford tonight, he was astounded by the number of doors closed and businesses for sale. We have to enhance businesses and not scare them away. We put sewers in Wickford so businesses would thrive. Parking has never been an issue and if you have someone who wants to come here and invest their time and money, they should be supported. He further stated that as he sits here tonight, he is not comfortable investing in Wickford.

Rick Moore, 17 Main Street, stated that he is an abutter of Wickford on the Water, and he appreciates what John and Shannon Britto have done for the town and wishes them well in the future. However, tonight he and his wife Sue have two issues. The first being that the Town is undertaking a Parking Study and they would like to see the approval of the outside COVID seating delayed until that study is completed. He further stated that currently the parking area behind 7 Main Street which encompasses the outside COVID seating is very tight and as a result their fence is constantly being damaged. The second issue they have is the proposed 2<sup>nd</sup> floor outside seating. We understand that they are seeking 49 inside and outside. While they have no problem with adding 49 seats to the inside of the building, they have a major problem with the outside seating. They are currently experiencing excessive noise with the outside bar and COVID seating and additional seating on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor on a deck will enhance the issue. He further stated that what they are seeking for the expansion will total 199 seats. He further stated that they are requesting that the Council not approve the permanent COVID seats at this time.

Larry Ehrhardt, 49 Main Street, stated that he is concerned about the additional parking that is required to accommodate this expansion as he feels that currently there is a parking issue in Wickford. He further stated that the request for the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor outside seating is not properly before the Council as the deck that is currently there cannot accommodate those seats. He requested that the Council not approve the outside seating that is being asked for on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

Holly Walsh, 51 Phillips Street, stated she would encourage the Council to approve the request for the expansion of the premises. Wickford on the Water is a huge asset to the village as it can accommodate visitors and residents in the village.

Carrie Kolb, 37 Standpipe Lane, stated that she feels Wickford on the Water is the "new anchor" in Wickford since Wilsons closed. She further stated that Wickford has always been a residential and retail village. She encouraged the Council to approve this request.

Rick Laviolette, 65 Rolling Meadow Way, stated that he is the Vice-President of the Chamber and a 23-year resident of North Kingstown. He feels that Wickford on the Water is an asset to the community as he often brings clients to Wickford on the Water and they often want to come back and become patrons of the retail businesses. He urged the Council to approve their request for the expansion.

Anabel Avedesian, 60 Edgar Nock Road, stated that she has never attended a Council meeting, and she hopes the Council approves this request for expansion. She has lived in town for 20 years and has been a patron of Wickford for longer than that. She understands there are concerns about parking issues; however, this business brings life to Wickford, and we have been highlighted nationally for being a quaint beautiful village. She believes Wickford on the Water is the reason why we have received that notoriety.

Allie Hunt, 22 West Main Street, stated that Wickford on the Water is always open. She supports this request 100% and hopes the Council approves it.

Brian Baker, 29 Breakwater Lane, stated that he feels that Wickford on the Water is an asset to the community and hopes the Council approves the expansion.

Natalie Colletta, 31 Loop Drive, stated that her family is also a business owner in the village and feels that Wickford on the Water is an asset to the village and supports their request for expansion.

Julie Beebe, 74 Steamboat Avenue and owner of Yes Gallery stated that she feels that Wickford on the Water is a blessing to the village. John and Shannon Britto have been active with the Wickford Village Merchants Association and have contributed to the events in the village. She further stated that she encourages the Council to approve their request for the expansion.

John and Shannon Britto, owners of Wickford on the Water thanked everyone who spoke in support of them and their businesses. Mr. Britto stated that he is overwhelmed by the support and proud to be part of the Town. He also thanked the objectors to this request and stated that we are all in this together and his door is always open to find a solution to any problems as well as concerns. He further stated that he will be working with the abutters and will do his best to address their concerns. In regard to the parking concerns, he stated that he has secured additional parking at the church and his employees will utilize that space. He further stated that he is prepared to offer valet service if it becomes necessary.

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To close the Public Hearing.

After a brief discussion, a motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and

VOTED: To approve the request by JB on the Water, dba Wickford on the Water, 85 Brown Street, that the premises covered by their Class B-Full Alcoholic Beverage License, Victualling License, and Entertainment License, which expire on December 1, 2023, be expanded to include the outdoor and second floor seating as indicated on the diagram filed in the Town Clerk's Office, subject to taxes and water paid to date and compliance with the recommendations of the Building Official, the Fire Marshall, the Planning Department, the Police Department and all necessary state and local land use approvals.

President Mancini voted in the negative.

6. Second Reading – Amendment to Section 21-22; Article III; and Section 21-325

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor McCoy and unanimously

VOTED: To open the Public Hearing.

There was no public comment.

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor McCoy and unanimously

VOTED: To close the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilor McCoy, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To adopt an Ordinance in Amendment of Section 21-22 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of North Kingstown, entitled, "Definitions"; Article III, entitled, "Land Use Table"; and Section 21-325, entitled, "Development standards for certain uses", and that this shall constitute the Second Reading thereof.

7. Second Reading – Amendment to Chapter 8, Article XI

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To open the Public Hearing.

There was no public comment.

Motion by Councilor McCoy, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To close the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilor McCoy, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To adopt an Ordinance in Amendment of Chapter 8, Article XI of the Code of Ordinances, Town of North Kingstown, entitled, "Access by Minors to Tobacco Products", and that this shall constitute the Second Reading thereof.

8. Second Reading – Amendment to Section 12-1

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To open the Public Hearing.

There was no public comment.

Motion by Councilor McCoy, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To close the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilor McCoy, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To adopt an Ordinance in Amendment of Section 12-1 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of North Kingstown, entitled, "Alcoholic Beverages in Public Places", and that this shall constitute the Second Reading thereof.

9. Second Reading – Amendment to Section 13-6

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To open the Public Hearing

There was no public comment.

Motion by Councilor Anderson, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To close the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To adopt an Ordinance in Amendment of Section 13-6 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of North Kingstown, entitled, "Use of Tobacco Products", and that this shall constitute the Second Reading thereof.

#### 10. Public Comment

Jennifer Lima, 4 Hickory Drive East, stated that she is speaking tonight in her capacity as Co-President of Towards Antiracism North Kingstown. We have filed the necessary paperwork to host North Kingstown's first Pride Parade. She further stated that she is excited that Black Lives Matter Rhode Island and Queer Pack Rhode Island have been partners in hosting this event. She expects that the Pride Parade will be a wonderful event and hopes that we have everyone's support.

Harrison Tuttle, President of Black Lives Matter Rhode Island Political Action Committee, 131 Belmont Road, Cranston, stated that he is proud to be addressing the Council for the first time and is incredibly honored and happy to ask for the blessing for everyone to march with them on June 3<sup>rd</sup> for the first ever Pride Parade. We have been working with Senator Valverde and the North Kingstown Police Department to ensure that this is a safe event.

Nancy Sherman, 64 Pleasant Street, stated that she is requesting that an Olympic size pool be added to the referendum that will be coming up in the fall. She understands there will be three other bond requests for the new Middle School, Public Safety Complex, and the Recreation Center. However, she thinks it is past time for North Kingstown to have a pool as it is the best exercise for all ages. If a pool were to be placed on the ballot, there is work to be done regarding fees; however, she feels there is support and many people would be willing to assist in making this successful and profitable.

The Council took Item Number 43 next.

#### 43. Discussion/Adoption of Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget

President Mancini asked the Town Manager if he had anything to add regarding the budget. Town Manager Mollis stated that this budget process has been a lengthy one, it has been before the public at a public hearing, and it is a sound one. He commends the Council for the changes that have been made. He would also like to thank the Department Heads for their hard work on this budget and the process.

President Mancini stated this has been a process over several months, with several work sessions with staff, a public hearing, and tonight we will be adopting the final budget.

Councilor Mandel stated that when we started this process, we heard from the Interim Superintendent that we would have access to the School Department's financials. During the budget hearings, that morphed into something else and he's not sure what it is. Given the lead up to this and the fact that the School Department hasn't had a Finance Director over the last six months as well as interim Superintendents, he thinks the visibility into the finances is more important than it has ever been and would be much more comfortable approving the request for the School Department if we had read access by the Town Manager and Town Finance Director. He doesn't anticipate any problems with their budget and supports what the school has asked for but feels it is prudent that we have the opportunity to view their financials on an ongoing basis.

Councilor McCoy stated that it is his understanding that by the Charter we are required to approve the budget no later than May 3<sup>rd</sup>. From his perspective, he feels comfortable that in spite of the turns we have had within the School Committee and School Department, the budget that has been presented is a viable budget and he doesn't believe that we need to do a deep dive. He further stated that he is ready to vote on this budget tonight.

Councilor Page stated that she is also ready to vote on this budget tonight. As a Town Council, we approve the bottom line and as much as she has heard over many years and serving on the School Committee for 8 years that the Council should have more say, the Council's authority is limited to appropriating the funding.

Councilor Anderson stated that she is also ready to move forward, and the urgency of the School Department's request is such that we can't afford to delay or deny their budget request. However, moving forward her number one priority in terms of the Town's relationship with the School Committee will be to ensure that we have that read only access of their financials and to discuss the merits of that. She feels it is important that we follow through on that.

President Mancini stated that he feels the same as everyone else that we move forward with adopting this budget tonight. However, he feels that the Council should ask the Town Manager to have the discussion again with the School Administration and School Committee regarding having read only access of their financials and report to the Council at every meeting what the status of this request is. He further stated that he has every confidence that we can find a mutual agreement to have this happen.

Councilor Mandel stated that for the record he is not suggesting that we hold off adopting this budget and will vote favorably of the School Department’s budget request. It is not a question of control but to share information which he feels is important. He would urge his colleagues at the School Department to consider this read access request.

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: That the Town Council of the Town of North Kingstown hereby adopts the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 as follows:

General Fund	\$ 39,370,562.00
Debt Service	\$ 5,365,110.00
Allen Harbor	\$ 442,058.00
Golf Course	\$ 1,968,137.00
Water Fund	\$ 5,784,736.00
Municipal Court Fund	\$ 198,921.00
Sewer Fund	\$ 2,568,684.00
Transfer Station Fund	\$ 1,354,673.00
Library Fund	\$ 1,697,267.00
School Fund:	
Town Appropriation	\$ 59,526,442.00
School Aid	\$ 11,557,376.00
TOTAL	\$129,833,966.00

and it was

FURTHER VOTED: That the Town Council authorizes the strict enforcement of Sections 605 and 606 of the Town Charter; whereby the Town Manager shall review and revise allotments of several offices, departments and agencies of the Town so as to forestall the making of expenditures in excess of income; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: That the Town Council of the Town of North Kingstown hereby adopts the Final School Enterprise Funds Budget for the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 as follows:

School Food Service	\$1,150,000.00
Athletic Gate Receipts	\$ 35,000.00
Athletic Activities/Sports Camp	\$ 30,000.00
Computer Repair Maintenance Prog.	\$ 30,000.00
TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUNDS	\$1,245,000.00

and it was

FURTHER VOTED: That the Town Council of the Town of North Kingstown hereby adopts the Final School Restricted Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 as follows:

Restricted Funds	\$6,098,500.00 (special revenue funds)
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The Council thanked the Manager and Staff for their hard work and efforts in preparing this budget.

The Council took the Consent Agenda next.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Councilor Anderson, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To approve Consent Agenda Item Numbers 11 through 38 with the exception of Agenda Item Numbers 11, 19, and 21.

11. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 13, 2023 and the Work Session Meeting of March 16, 2023 as submitted by the Office of the Town Clerk and to continue the Minutes of the Work Session/Special Meeting of March 20, 2023 to the Regular Town Council Meeting of May 8, 2023.

12. Receipt of Donation

VOTED: To accept with gratitude the following donation in the amount of \$25.00:

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

13. Receipt of Donations

VOTED: To accept with gratitude the following two (2) 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:

Theodore Romanosky	\$100.00
Aline Cameron	\$ 25.00

14. Receipt of Donation

VOTED: To accept with gratitude the donation of \$5,058.40 given by Elizabeth D’Amico for the purchase of a replacement stove to be used at the Cold Spring Community Center in memory of her late husband Al D’Amico.

15. Receipt of Donation

VOTED: To accept with gratitude a donation of the following materials given by the North Kingstown Wickford Little League to be used to help assist with field improvements at Wilson Park and McGinn Park Baseball Fields:

- Field Armor Batter's Box/Catchers Area Fortification Panels: Wilson Park #2 Ed Cooney Field
- New Home Plate: Wilson Park #2 Ed Cooney Field
- Complete Set of New Bases/Mounting System: Wilson Park #2 Ed Cooney Field
- 2 Tons of Field Conditioner/Playing Surface for the following fields:
  - Wilson Park 1, 2, 3
  - McGinn Little League Field

16. Acceptance of Donation – Mill Cove Footbridge and Authorization for the Town Manager to execute a Maintenance Agreement

VOTED: To graciously accept the donation of any interest of the Land Conservancy of North Kingstown in the completed Mill Cove Footbridge; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: To authorize the Town Manager to execute a Maintenance Agreement with the Land Conservancy of North Kingstown as prepared by the Town Solicitor for the maintenance of the Mill Cove Footbridge and adjacent trails.

## 17. Letter of Resignation

VOTED: To accept the letter of resignation from Randy Wietman resigning from the Veterans Day and Memorial Day Parades Committee.

## 18. Letter of Resignation

VOTED: To accept the letter of resignation from Will King resigning from the Veterans Day and Memorial Day Parades Committee.

## 19. Approval of Eco-Land Art Installation Proposal

Motion by Councilor Anderson, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To approve the proposal submitted by MaryAnn O'Halloran and Susan Fox for Eco-Land Art Installation along the bike/walking path near the boat launch and Intrepid Drive and authorize the Town Solicitor to prepare a donation and maintenance agreement to be signed by the Town Manager.

## 20. Authorization to apply to the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

VOTED: To authorize the Planning Department to apply for funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to be used for a 5-year update to the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan.

## 21. Authorization for the Director of Public Works to enter into a Five-Year Subscription Agreement

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To authorize the Director of Public Works to enter into a Five-Year Subscription Agreement with Acuity Brands Technology Services, Inc., One Lithonia Way, Conyers, GA 30012, for monitoring and operating the Town's streetlights, in the amount of \$64,857.60.

Funding for this agreement is from General Operating Utilities - Utility/Streetlight Maintenance Account 00107030-531221.

## 22. Award of Contract

VOTED: To award the contract for road striping for the Department of Public Works, as part of the FY2023/FY2024 Regional Road Striping Contract, to Safety Marking, Inc., 255 Hancock Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06605, in the amount of \$50,000.00.

Funding for this contract is from Public Works Highway/Line Painting Account 00110020-531208.

## 23. Award of Bid

VOTED: To award the bid for the Design and Build of the Ryan Park Softball Backstop Replacement Project for the Recreation Department to Forenet, Inc., 495 Waites Corner Road, West Kingston, RI, in the amount of \$28,500.00.

Funding will be from the FY2023 Approved Budget – Recreation – Contractual Services 00116010 531206.

## 24. Award of Bid

VOTED: To award the bid for the Water Department for a Fire Hydrant Replacement Project to Atlantic Control Systems, 318 Dry Bridge Road, North Kingstown, RI 02852, in the amount of \$93,000.00.

Funding will be from Hydrants Account – 44040091 540514.



## 25. Class F Alcoholic Beverage License (new)

VOTED: To approve the application for a Class F Alcoholic Beverage License by the North Kingstown Senior Association, dba Friends of Beechwood, 44 Beach Street, to hold their Annual Meeting at the Beechwood Senior Center, 44 Beach Street, on Thursday, June 15, 2023, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., subject to taxes and water paid to date.

## 26. Annual Entertainment License (renewal)

VOTED: To approve to December 1, 2023 the renewal application for an Annual Entertainment License by the North Kingstown Arts Council, 80 Boston Neck Road, to hold various outdoor concerts, on various dates, on the grounds of the North Kingstown Town Beach Campus and bandshell, subject to taxes and water paid to date and compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Department, the Police Department, the Planning Department, and the Building Official.

## 27. Entertainment License (new)

VOTED: To approve the application for an Entertainment License by the Ocean State Pops Orchestra, PO Box 41357, Providence 02940, to hold an outdoor concert on the grounds of the North Kingstown Town Beach Campus and bandshell on Saturday, August 5, 2023 (rain date Sunday, August 6, 2023), from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., subject to taxes and water paid to date; receipt of a copy of their non-profit 501C3 paperwork; and compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Department, the Police Department, the Planning Department, and the Building Official.

## 28. Annual Exhibition License (no vendors) (renewal)

VOTED: To approve the renewal application for an Annual Exhibition License with no vendors by the North Kingstown Senior Association, Inc., dba Friends of Beechwood, 44 Beach Street, to hold a Fall Bazaar at the Cold Spring Community Center, 36 Beach Street, on Friday, November 3 and Saturday, November 4, 2023, and a Spring Bazaar on Friday, May 17 and Saturday, May 18, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., subject to taxes and water paid to date and compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Department, the Police Department, the Building Official, and the Planning Department.

## 29. Exhibition License (no vendors)

VOTED: To approve the application for an Exhibition License with no vendors by Meryl Gendreau, dba Grooves on West, LLC, 7358 Post Road, to hold a dance recital at the North Kingstown Town Beach Bandshell and the Cold Spring Community Center on Friday, June 23, 2023 (rain date Sunday, June 25, 2023), from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., subject to taxes and water paid to date and compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Department, the Police Department, the Building Official, and the Planning Department.

## 30. Clerk's note: There was no Item 30 as the agenda was misnumbered.

## 31. Exhibition License (no vendors)

VOTED: To approve the application for an Exhibition License with no vendors by the Wickford Village Association, c/o 17 Brown Street, to hold Harbor Lights on Brown Street and the bridge over the Harbor, on May 11, June 8, July 13, August 10, September 15, and October 13, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., subject to taxes and water paid to date.

## 32. Exhibition License (1-10 vendors)

VOTED: To approve the application for an Exhibition License with 1-10 vendors by Cocumscussoc Association, Smith's Castle, 55 Richard Smith Drive, to hold an Open House on the grounds of Smith's Castle on Saturday, May 6, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., subject to taxes and water paid to date; receipt of a copy of their Show Promoters Permit; receipt of a list of vendors at the Town Clerk's Office by Friday, May 5, 2023 (which shall include their name, address, phone number, Tax ID number, type of merchandise, and date of birth); and compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Department, the Police Department, the Planning Department, and the Building Official.

## 33. Fireworks Permit (new)

VOTED: To approve the application for a Fireworks Permit by the Town of North Kingstown, 100 Fairway Drive, to have a Fireworks Display at the Town Beach on Monday, July 3, 2023 (rain date Wednesday, July 5, 2023), at 9:00 p.m., subject to taxes and water paid to date, compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Department and the Police Department, and compliance with the State inspection of the vehicle transporting the fireworks.

## 34. Junkyard License Renewals

VOTED: To approve to May 1, 2024 the following list of Junkyard License Renewals subject to taxes and water paid to date and compliance with the recommendations of the Public Works Director and the Building Official.

## 35. Secondhand License Renewals

VOTED: To approve to May 1, 2024 the following list, as submitted, of Secondhand License Renewals subject to taxes and water paid to date.

## 36. Secondhand License (transfer) (renewal)

VOTED: To approve the application for transfer of a Secondhand License from Consignment Goods Too, LLC, dba RE Antiques, 7511 Post Road, to RE Antiques and Interiors, LLC, 7511 Post Road, subject to taxes and water paid to date, 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; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: To approve to May 1, 2024 the renewal application for a Secondhand License from RE Antiques and Interiors LLC, 7511 Post Road, subject to taxes and water paid to date.

## 37. First Bond Reduction

VOTED: To approve the request by Reynolds Farm Residential Development, LLC, for a first bond reduction on Reynolds Farm, Phase 2D, from \$1,448,336.82 to \$1,156,379.13, in the amount of \$291,957.69.

## 38. Placement by National Grid and Verizon New England Inc.

VOTED: To grant the petition by National Grid and Verizon New England Inc. for one (1) joint pole location and anchor on Spring Street.

**III. REPORTS**

## 39. Report by the Town Manager

Town Manager Mollis gave the following report:

- Our Town Beach is on schedule to open as planned starting Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. While access to our beach is free, parking passes will go on sale starting May 1st at Town Hall or May 15th at our Municipal Office Building. We will also be offering extended hours on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>; Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>; and the evening of Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup>. We also have mail-in options. All of the information will be posted on our Social Media Platforms and online on our website. As a reminder, all beach parking must be in the lot to the left as the parking lot to the right is for our Senior Center, Community Center, Wickford Art Association and Handicap Parking.

The Town is also looking to hire Gate Guards for our Town Beach to check parking passes. This is a great opportunity for a student, someone retired, or someone looking for extra hours. Please contact our Recreation Department to learn more about this opportunity.

- Speaking of our Town Beach, Chelsey and I have negotiated, and I have signed, another one-year Agreement with the YMCA for them to provide Lifeguard and oversight services for our Town Beach this summer. The cost is \$97,660 which is less than last year due to the YMCA no longer providing Gate Guard services. If the Council has any questions, please let me know.
- As I'm sure we've all seen, the Boston Neck Road Paving Project is in full swing. RIDOT has started milling and paving the 10-mile stretch beginning at Beach Street here in town. The project will proceed to the Route 138 ramps. RIDOT will pause this project sometime in early summer due to the summer beach season traffic and will return in the fall. They will also, at our request, install a new traffic signal and pedestrian crossing at Boston Neck Road and Hamilton Allenton Road near Hamilton Elementary School.
- The Providence Business News, in their March 31 – April 13 publication, ran a full-page pictorial feature on the renovation of our Town Hall here at 80 Boston Neck Road. It was a very favorable feature highlighting the renovation of our Town Hall with before and after pictures.
- We continue to make improvements to our Community Center, which functions as an Annex to our Senior Center, a space for limited Recreation Programs, and is available for rental for private functions. We've installed a new stove, have made isolated improvements to the interior and exterior, and have replaced all of our chairs.
- We have a very active Safety Committee here in North Kingstown where we meet with representatives of the R.I. Interlocal Trust each month. At our most recent meeting, we were told that North Kingstown is a strong performing community in regard to our Auto Losses and Claims and has been chosen to be a PILOT Community with their new Driving Simulator. The Simulator is intended to help communities reduce their claims even further by subjecting participants to certain driving conditions and provide them with content when they face these conditions in real time.
- North Kingstown Police Lieutenant Don Barrington has been selected to be the State Recipient for the Highway Safety Champion Award. This Award is given to officers who work to keep our highways and roads safe. There will be a ceremony in May which many of us will be attending.
- The town is upgrading our Financial Infrastructure Software this week. It has been a comprehensive project which we've been working on for almost a year. As a result, most of our online financial tools will be shut down on Thursday, April 27th with it hopefully back up and running this Friday, April 28th. We will be publicizing this information via our Social Media Platforms. Once it's complete, we will have an improved system in place which will be more efficient and will provide additional online services to our residents such as reminders, automatic payments, email notices, all bills in one shopping cart, savings to residents due to ACH payments and bills being under one account, etc. We're confident residents will be pleased with the additional resources and savings and my thanks to our Finance Department and all involved in making this happen.
- The R.I. Office of Energy Resources has nominated North Kingstown for its Municipal Award in their Lead by Example Clean Energy Awards. We were nominated for our EV Chargers Project, installation of high-efficiency boilers, installation of high-efficiency Water Heaters, the energy efficient improvements here at Town Hall, our LED conversions on over 2,500 streetlights, and our planned energy efficient projects for our Municipal Office Building. We are expecting to hear about the outcome of the Awards and will be attending a ceremony at the State House.
- We have begun our Street Sweeping Program. We have started in the North End of Town and with a couple of exceptions due to Parade Routes, etc. we will be traveling towards the South End of Town. As you know, we flip where we start and end each year in order to be fair.

- Due to positive performance within our Trust's Dental Pool, the Board of Trustees of the RI Interlocal Trust voted to return some of the equity to its members. As a result, the Town of North Kingstown received a \$10,733 disbursement which we chose to deposit into our OPEB Account.
- In addition to the Netting which you approved earlier in tonight's meeting as part of the backstop at Ryan Park, we are installing netting at Wilson Park in between the two Little League Fields which will provide spectator safety for those who attend the Little League games. This was a much smaller project than the Ryan Park project, which therefore did not require approval, but I wanted the Council to be aware --- especially for those who may be attending this weekend's Opening Day.
- As I mentioned in previous Manager's Reports, Amtrak has embarked on a project where they are improving railroad infrastructure along the Right of Way near the Davisville Bridge Railroad. They have advised us to expect an increased level of Amtrak personnel and vehicles in the area, periodic overnight work, increased noise levels and federally regulated audible warnings. These activities will take place over the weekends of April 14th, April 21st, April 28th, and May 5th.
- I participated in a Virtual Meeting with the Governor's Office and RIDOT last week to discuss the Governor's Road Repair Program. Should the General Assembly approve the Governor's proposal, communities would be eligible to receive over \$350,000 in matching funds to pay for improvements to bridges, roads, paving, potholes, sidewalk construction, etc. It is a 1 to 2 match which means a city or town would have to allocate \$700,000 to receive \$350,000. Fortunately, North Kingstown is in a perfect position as we have \$700,000 allocated in this year's budget. I will keep you up to date.
- An update on the Toy Library Project put forth by the Senior Student at North Kingstown High School as part of her Senior Project. The Trust has notified us that this will be covered under our Insurance Policy so there is no need for the student to obtain insurance as the Council had requested. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.
- As approved by the Town Council, we are beginning the AED Installation program. AEDs are beginning to be installed in all of our fields and recreational facilities. We will also be working with our local leagues to formulate Action Plans for the health and safety of the children participating. These AEDs will play a major role in these plans and the Town will offer to fund certain equipment necessary as these Life Saving Action Plans are put forward.
- Finally, I want to join the Town Council in commending Fire Chief Scott Kettelle and the entire North Kingstown Fire Department on their response to the Exeter Fire, as well as several brush fires that took place at the same time in Narragansett, East Greenwich, Coventry, and West Greenwich. Chief Kettelle's leadership saved many homes from being affected by this fire. He had over 25 fire trucks and 120 firefighters set up, preventing this situation from being much worse than it was. The personnel of the North Kingstown Fire Department played a major role with multiple Engine Companies, Brush Cars, and Chiefs. They were initially assigned to protect the Ladd Center and were then moved to establish a defensive line to prevent the fire from traveling along Route 102. Chief Kettelle was also actively involved in the days afterward as they began to recon the area and assure total extinguishment and then provided Governor McKee with a tour of the fire scene last Monday.

#### 40. Report by the Finance Director

Finance Director Lathrop stated that the Council has been provided with the year-to-date budget report with their packets.

The surplus is a combination of positive results in both revenues and expenditures. While we will not close on the Wickford Elementary property in this fiscal year as budgeted, positive results in department revenue and interest income more than offset this item.

Expenditures continue to run a positive variance. However, in the last quarter of the fiscal year, we see higher expenditures as departments look to spend their remaining budget and staff uses vacation time, which often results in additional overtime. We are optimistic that even with this trend, we will still end the year with a surplus in expenditures.

The Finance Department has been working for nearly a year on the required software upgrade. On April 27<sup>th</sup> we will start the final conversion and our system will be down for the day. We expect to be up the following day.

We will continue to monitor results weekly and update you should we see anything that would impact our projected results.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

##### 41. Audit Committee - Appointment

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Rachel Suvari, 110 West Main Street, Accounting Representative to the Audit Committee to March 1, 2027.

##### 42. Resolution in support of Rhode Island Day at Vicksburg National Military Park

A motion was made by Councilor McCoy, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously voted to adopt the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Seventh Rhode Island Volunteers was recruited in the summer of 1862; and

WHEREAS, Company F of the Seventh was recruited in North Kingstown; and

WHEREAS, the Seventh Rhode Island fought in the Battles of Fredericksburg, Vicksburg, Jackson, Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, North Anna River, Cold Harbor, Bethesda Church, Petersburg, Hatcher's Run, Weldon Railroad, and Polar Spring Church; and

WHEREAS, one in five men died serving in the Seventh Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, the Seventh Rhode Island suffered terribly in the 1863 Mississippi Campaign; and

WHEREAS, the following North Kingstown soldier died as a result of the Mississippi Campaign: Pvt. George P. Rose, Co. F; and

WHEREAS, in 1908, the Veterans of the Seventh Rhode Island dedicated a memorial to their regiment at Vicksburg National Military Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That we, the Town of North Kingstown declare Saturday, November 18, 2023 to be Rhode Island Day at Vicksburg National Military Park in the rededication of the memorial to the Seventh Rhode Island Volunteers.

##### 43. Correspondence

3/18/2023 – Rob Grandchamp - Request for NKTC Proclamation.

3/28/2023 – Tracy Schneider – Municipal Pool.

3/29/2023 – Julie Zawacki – School Safety Concerns.

3/30/2023 – Tim Cranston – Complaint about neighbor.

4/1/2023 – Katie Kelliher – Carbon Monoxide (CO) concerns at Reynolds Farm resulting from recent blasting.

4/1/2023 – Sean Taylor - Carbon Monoxide (CO) concerns at Reynolds Farm resulting from recent blasting.

4/1/2023 – Abby Aldridge - Carbon Monoxide (CO) concerns at Reynolds Farm resulting from recent blasting.

4/2/2023 – Sean Taylor - Carbon Monoxide (CO) concerns at Reynolds Farm resulting from recent blasting.

4/2/2023 – Mary Worobec – Net Zero School Buildings.

4/3/2023 – Mary Worobec – Net Zero School Buildings.

4/5/2023 – Steven Colucci – Traffic noise on RT 4.

4/6/2023 – Sean Taylor - Carbon Monoxide (CO) concerns at Reynolds Farm resulting from recent blasting.

4/7/2023 – Sean Taylor - Carbon Monoxide (CO) concerns at Reynolds Farm resulting from recent blasting.

4/11/2023 – Sean Taylor - Carbon Monoxide (CO) concerns at Reynolds Farm resulting from recent blasting.

4/17/2023 – Mike Donohue – Parking in Wickford Village/Wickford on the Water.

4/17/2023 – Will King – Resignation from the Parades Committee.

4/17/2023 – Randy Wietman - Resignation from the Parades Committee.

4/18/2023 – Peter Lussier – Bond Referendum.

4/19/2023 – Donna Sabitoni – Wickford on the Water.

4/19/2023 – Kathy Carlson – Municipal Pool.

4/19/2023 – Robert Jones – NKSD FY24 Budget Concerns.

4/19/2023 – Megan Reilly – NKSD FY24 Budget Concerns.

4/20/2023 – Sue Moore – Wickford on the Water.

4/20/2023 – Edward Renehan – RIDE reimbursements to NKSD.

4/20/2023 – Robert Jones – NKSD FY24 Budget Concerns.

4/21/2023 – Kevin Anderson – Wickford on the Water.

4/22/2023 – Dianne Izzo – 4th of July Fireworks & Parades Committee Resignations.

4/24/2023 – Carole Stone – Wickford on the Water.

4/24/2023 – Nancy Sherman – Municipal Pool.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Jeannette Alyward  
Town Clerk