

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 12th day of June, 2023 at the Town Hall Council Chambers, 80 Boston Neck Road, at 6:30 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Dr. Kimberly Ann Page

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 June 12, 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. Executive Session

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn into Executive Session pursuant to General Laws 42-46-4 and 42-46-5, Subsection (5) – Real Estate (Ownership/Development – 55 Brown Street).

MEETING RECONVENED AT 7:00 P.M.

Under the advice of the Town Solicitor, the Council did not have any discussion regarding the owner/development of 55 Brown Street other than this should be addressed in public session under Item Number 26.

4. Salute to Flag

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

I. PUBLIC HEARING

5. Second Reading – Amendment to Section 9-4

Motion by Councilor McCoy, seconded by Councilor Mandel 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 Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To adopt an Ordinance in Amendment of Section 9-4 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of North Kingstown, entitled, "Fee Schedule Enumerated - Table VIII - Public Works Department Fees", and that this shall constitute the Second Reading thereof.

6. Public Comment

President Mancini congratulated the North Kingstown Girls Lacrosse and Boys Tennis teams.

Kathleen Guarino, 139 Summit View Lane, read and filed the following statement:

"I am speaking tonight as a member of the Groundwater Committee. Sadly, this may be the last time I will be able to identify myself that way, much to my sadness and dismay.

Last Friday night I reviewed tonight's agenda and was shocked to see under New Business, #30, a Resolution Discharging the Groundwater Committee. This was the very first time I had heard of any hint of this. On questioning my colleagues on the Groundwater Committee, I found that they, also, were totally unaware and knew nothing about it. I ask you why was the Groundwater Committee not made aware of this plan? I have spent the last three days trying to find out what is going on and why nothing had been shared with the Groundwater Committee. What I finally discovered is that the Groundwater Committee is being disbanded tonight and its mission and charge is being relegated to the Conservation Commission.

The question remains, WHY? And why the secrecy? I read something about efficiency. Ralph Mollis said something about "Whenever a layer of government can be removed it is helpful to the people" (this is not a direct quote). I strongly disagree with that, by the way. I read something about "quorum issues" on the Groundwater Committee. That is a very misleading statement and needs further investigation. The Groundwater Committee has met regularly on a monthly basis. It is a very active committee and has been for many years. Disbanding the Groundwater Committee is a disservice to the people of North Kingstown.

All of North Kingstown's water comes from groundwater. We are a federally designated sole source aquifer community. If our water becomes contaminated, we do not have viable options. Keeping our groundwater clean and free of contamination is of the utmost importance. Our drinking water is a finite and threatened resource. We on the Groundwater Committee and all of those dedicated individuals who came before us going back to July 18, 1988, have worked hard to protect North Kingstown's drinking water resources for the people of North Kingstown. We have been on a mission and now that mission is being destroyed, all allegedly in honor of efficiency for town staff. The Groundwater Committee is being summarily disbanded when the threat to our water supply has never been higher. The danger of "forever chemicals" PFAS and PFOS etc. is here. And then there is climate change! Talk about the perfect storm! We are on the cusp of an unprecedented water emergency. Is this the time to disband the Groundwater Committee? Does it make any sense? I think not! It makes no sense.

I am counting on you to do the right thing.

In the interests of the people of North Kingstown, I am asking the members of the Town Council not to approve Agenda Item #30 on the Regular Agenda and not approve Agenda Item #22 on the Consent Agenda which would transfer all water issues to the Conservation Commission.

Please do the right thing."

Eric Wishart, 100-102 Saw Mill Drive, stated that he is here tonight as a member of the Planning Commission. With regard to Agenda Item #39, Appointment to the Planning Commission, he feels that Tracey McCue is an exemplary member of the commission and brings a set of skills that are needed for the commission. Please reappoint her to the commission.

Brian O'Dell, 152 Salisbury Avenue, read and filed the following statement:

"At this meeting, the School Committee will be asking you for \$1.7 million dollars to pay a design/engineering firm for Stage Two prework towards the proposed middle school project.

Despite years of study and countless meetings where they could have addressed this, apparently, they failed to plan for this expenditure at this time.

I watched them flail about at their last meeting trying to decide how to pay this expense – despite the fact that the engineering firm actually started in April, having already racked up nearly \$250,000 in time and material costs.

The School Committee discussed using School Department funds to pay this bill, but claimed they would be left with no fund balance if they did. Then they discussed taking money away from previously approved, and supposedly important, school capital improvement projects. That was shot down.

Ultimately, they hastily decided last Tuesday to come here tonight asking you to pay this bill – otherwise, they claim, the project will be in immediate jeopardy.

But why is this? Why didn't they plan for this cost? And why are they here tonight? Why is this a last minute emergency? According to the last published school financial report, they are sitting on millions and millions of surplus dollars. What would those funds be used for if not for something like this? Please hold them accountable.

This perceived mismanagement has stimulated other taxpayer questions:

Is the design/engineering Stage 2 cost really only \$1.7 million? The contract states the cost is \$1.7 million plus contingencies.

What assurances do we have that the ultimate school cost won't exceed the proposed \$167 million estimate?

Normally, towns do their engineering, design and cost estimate work before a bond amount is determined. Then they know more precisely what the bond ask should be. Not in this case.

What if engineering studies uncover unplanned environmental mitigation or infrastructure needs and costs?

What if the building and interest costs were not estimated correctly? Johnston was recently hit with an extra \$50 million in construction and interest costs, on top of their \$215 million bond, before they even started their projects.

What if North Kingstown doesn't actually get the 35% cost reimbursement from RIDE and then the extra 17.5% bonus reimbursement? Those are certainly not guaranteed.

Of course, there are many other unanswered questions. For example, with so many schools wanting new buildings, how do we expect to find a construction firm to meet our deadlines and cost requirements? And will we know before November what will happen to the existing Wickford and Davisville Middle School properties should the new school be approved? We should.

And while I'm asking, how are the School Department and Town going to pay for the reported \$55 million in required maintenance to existing school buildings? When is all that supposed to happen? How is that being paid for? Is any of that being held up waiting for the bond?

We deserve answers. And we deserve more prudent fiscal and project management than what we appear to be getting.

You can help by sending them back to figure out how to pay this \$1.7 million unplanned expense on their own."

Richard Welch, 8 Arrow Lane, stated that some 20 years ago the vote on the High School took over 3 years to put together. He feels we need more time getting this vote ready for the school. He also stated that he has not been impressed with the Water Department lately and that the Groundwater Committee needs to stay.

Marie Jackson, 29 Linwood Drive, stated that everything is hush hush about the Middle School. She stated that the road going in and out of the school cannot handle the traffic. Big trucks will be coming in and out to remove trees and do other things and the road can't handle it. She also stated that she is not happy that the School Bond and Fire safety building are on the same question.

Fran Slade, 30 Linwood Drive, stated that there are issues with the study of the soil and water at Quidnessett and how it affects the neighborhood stream and wetlands. The water comes from Signal Rock and the soil was contaminated by an energy company in Quonset, and there is an obnoxious odor. She stated we need an environmental impact study before giving the school one more dime. She also stated that she will be going to the Army Corp of Engineers meeting this week at Quonset.

Curt Fisher, 104 Phillips Street, stated that we need speed limit signs by the playground sign on Phillips Street for the safety of the children on the playground. He also stated that he supports the Groundwater Committee.

Florentina Duprey, 45 Edmond Drive, stated that she is not happy with the Middle School going in the Quidnessett neighborhood. She has two little kids, and she feels that the School Department is finding ridiculous ways to spend our money without answering questions like where the kids are going to be during construction. How are the children supposed to walk to school on that street? She also asked who could answer her other questions.

Rickey Thompson, 194 Plain Road, stated that he is in favor of the Groundwater Committee. He is an advocate for properly funding the School Department but feels this request is over the top. He doesn't feel that they should get any money.

Jan McAleer, 830 Ten Rod Road, stated that she is a member of the Conservation Commission. She asked the Council what they expect from the merger with the Groundwater Committee and what's the motivation behind it. She also stated that by rewording the Conservation Commission appointment language to say "shall have professional background" may restrict those that can apply.

Donna Hutchinson, 12 Enfield Avenue, stated she had two terms on the Conservation Commission and the best thing they did was ban plastic bags. She also stated that social media might be a good way to get qualified candidates for the vacancies on the committees and she supports combining the Conservation Commission and the Groundwater Committee.

Curt Fisher, 104 Phillips Street, thanked the Council for allowing public comment.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Councilor Anderson, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To approve Consent Agenda Item Numbers 7 through 23 with the exception of Agenda Item Numbers 9, 11, and 22.

7. 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

8. Receipt of Donations

VOTED: To accept with gratitude the following 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:

Li'l General Store	\$120.00
Heather and David Palmer	\$ 30.00
Harbor One Bank	(4) \$100.00 Visa Cards

9. Authorization for the Town Manager to execute the Control Plane Engagement Framework Agreement

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To authorize the Town Manager to execute the Control Plane Engagement Framework Agreement with Envision Technology Advisors, LLC, 999 Main Street, Suite 703, Pawtucket, RI 02860 (MPA-308 Award #3339043) for the professional services for the implementation of control plans for the authentication, authorization, and validation for security configuration, in the amount of \$68,500.00.

Funding is from Insurance Deductible Account #00105050-532403.

10. Bingo License (new)

VOTED: To ratify the Town Clerk's approval of the application for a Bingo License by the North Kingstown Educational Foundation, PO Box 809, for a Bingo Game which was held on Thursday, May 25, 2023 at the Carriage Inn, 1065 Tower Hill Road, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., subject to taxes and water paid to date.

11. Fireworks Permit (new)

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To approve the application for a Fireworks Permit by the Plum Beach Club, 224 Plum Beach Road, Saunderstown, to have a Fireworks Display at the Plum Beach Club Dock, on Friday, June 30, 2023, at dusk, 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.

12. Holiday Sales License Renewals

VOTED: To approve to July 1, 2024 the following list of Holiday Sales License Renewals subject to taxes and water paid to date:

Business Name	DBA	Location of Business	Mailing Address (if different)	Phone	Hours
ADVANCED COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES INC	WIRELESSZONE	76 GATE RD		886-8484	9:00 AM- 7:00 PM
BBA DONUTS INC	DUNKIN DONUTS	6923 POST RD		290-8718	4:00 AM- 10:00 PM
CAPITAL VENTURES CORPORATION	AMAZING NET	6774 POST RD	4 BEDSON RD, CRANTON RI	885-0209	10:00 AM- 10:00 PM
CARL, ERICSON & SUSAN E TRETZE	POST SHACK	7263 TOWER HILL RD		294-9088	8:00 AM- 6:00 PM
COLUBIA ENTERPRISES LLC	SEASONS CORNER MARKET SHELL #30	7025 POST RD	695 GEORGE WASHINGTON HWY, LINCOLN RI	884-9434	24 HRS
COLWEN MANAGEMENT INC/IRH HOTEL LLC	TOWNE PLACE SUITES NORTH KINGSTOWN	55 GATE RD	239 COMMERCE WAY STE 200, PORTSMOUTH, NH	667-7500	24 HRS
CPHILL INC	GOLD LADY JEWELERS	30 PHILLIPS ST		294-4995	9:30 AM- 4:30 PM
DAVES FRESH MARKETPLACE QUONSET INC	DAVES MARKETPLACE	105 GATE RD	1000 DIVISION ST STE 20 E. GREENWICH RI	295-0019	7:00 AM- 9:00 PM
DAVES FRESH MARKETPLACE WICKFORD INC	DAVES MARKETPLACE	125 TOWER HILL RD	1000 DIVISION ST STE 20 E. GREENWICH RI	264-3991	7:00 AM- 9:00 PM
DOLLAR TREE STORES INC	DOLLAR TREE #01724	6649 POST RD	500 VOLVO PARKWAY, CHESAPEAKE VA	884-0258	8:00AM- 9:00 PM
EVERYTHING UNDER THE SUN	MIDNIGHT SUN	13 W MAIN ST		316-0505	10:00 AM- 6:00 PM
GREEN INK INC	GREEN INK	89 BROWN ST		294-4266	10:00 AM- 6:00 PM
GREGORY & BIANCA BARRON	LAFAYETTE ANTIQUES	814 TEN ROD RD		295-2554	10:30 AM- 4:30 PM
HARRY & ELIZABETH SPRING	SPRING POTTERY	14 BROWN ST		284-6628	9:00AM-5:00 PM
HOME DEPOT USA INC	THE HOME DEPOT #2483	1255 TEN ROD RD	PO BOX 8000 MONSEY, NY	845-285-0912	6:00AM- 10:00 PM
HOMEGOODS INC	HOMEGOODS #1133	50 GATE RD	PO BOX 9358 FRAMINGHAM MA	294-9850	9:00 AM- 10:00 PM
JAY SMIT INC	COLONIAL WINE & SPIRITS	7745 POST RD		294-4623	9:00 AM- 10:00 PM
JITTERS CAFE INC	JITTERS CAFE	530 TOWER HILL RD		295-9155	6:00 AM- 5:00 PM
KAYAK CENTRE AT WICKFORD COVE	KAYAK CENTRE	70 BROWN ST		295-4400	10:00 AM- 5:00 PM
KEBRY QUONSET	ELECTRIC BUNGALOW	1 BROWN ST	32 LAWTON AVE	687-0747	9:00 AM- 7:00 PM
KOHL'S INC	KOHL'S #1221	110 GATE RD	PO BOX 3129 MILWAUKEE, WI	295-7955	8:00 AM- 9:00 PM
LOBI LYONS	BEAUTY AND THE BATH	11 W MAIN ST		294-3576	10:00 AM- 5:00 PM
MARINE CONSIGNMENT OF WICKFORD LLC		7725 POST RD		295-9709	9:00 AM- 4:00 PM
MARSHA KENTON & DARILYN CAMPBELL	CORNER CLIPBOARD	835 TOWER HILL RD		294-4720	10:00 AM- 5:00 PM
MARSHALLS OF MA INC	MARSHALLS #410	20 FRENCHTOWN RD	PO BOX 9158 FRAMINGHAM MA	884-7850	9:30 AM- 9:30 PM
MARYLOU'S COFFEE	MARYLOU'S COFFEE	7025 POST RD		398-7772	5:00 AM- 7:00 PM
MOKAYS FURNITURE INC	MOKAYS FRONT PORCH	751 TEN ROD RD		295-3350	9:00 AM- 5:30 PM
MOKAYS FURNITURE INC	MOKAYS FURNITURE INC	182 LAFAYETTE RD		295-1915	9:00 AM- 5:30 PM
MJ DONUTS INC	DUNKIN DONUTS	6166 POST RD		290-8718	5:00 AM- 8:00 PM
NANCY REID CARR	HONEY GALLERY	6465 POST RD		208-8637	10:00 AM- 5:00 PM
NEW CINGULAR WIRELESS PCS LLC	AT&T MOBILITY	6670 POST RD	1010 N ST MARYS ST 15TH FLOOR SAN ANTONIO TX	561-627-3365	9:00 AM- 7:00 PM
NK DONUTS INC	DUNKIN DONUTS	1241 TEN ROD RD		290-8718	4:00 AM- 10:00 PM
NORTH KINGSTOWN WINE & SPIRITS	WICKFORD PACKAGE STORE	44 W MAIN ST		294-4681	9:00 AM- 9:00 PM
NORTHLAND HEARING CENTERS INC	ASCENT AUDIOLOGY & HEARING	117	PO BOX 404, MINNEAPOLIS MN	952-947-4857	9:00 AM- 5:00 PM
OCEAN STATE JOB LOT OF #12015 LLC	OCEAN STATE JOB LOT #123	5957 POST RD	375 COMMERCE PARK RD RI	880-1890	8:00 AM- 7:00 PM
OFF THE VINE LLC	THE IMPRESSED OLIVE I	99 BROWN ST		609-309-1729	11:00 AM- 5:00 PM
OFFICE SUPERSTORE EAST LLC	STAPLES THE OFFICE SUPERSTORE	1007 TEN ROD RD	500 STAPLES DR, FRAMINGHAM MA	295-5505	8:00 AM- 8:00 PM
O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE STORES INC	O'REILLY AUTO PARTS #8304	7570 POST RD	PO BOX 9167, SPINGFIELD MO	522-5860	7:30 AM- 9:00 PM
PALMER REEBE	YES! GALLERY	17 BROWN ST		295-5525	10:00 AM- 8:00 PM
PETCO ANIMAL SUPPLIES STORES INC	PETCO #8759	1007 TEN ROD RD	654 RICHLAND HILL RD, SAN ANTONIO TX	372-9971	9:00 AM- 8:00 PM
PLEASANT STREET WHARF INC		110 PLEASANT ST		294-2791	8:00 AM- 8:00 PM
POST ROAD LIQUOR MART INC	KINGSTOWN LIQUOR MART	6800 POST RD		884-4203	10:00 AM- 8:00 PM
RAYO-R INC	GREEN RIVER SILVER CO	83 BROWN ST		295-0086	10:00 AM- 6:00 PM
RPC INC	RUMFORD PET EXPRESS	1340 TEN ROD RD	PO BOX 4996, RUMFORD RI	295-1310	9:00 AM- 9:00 PM
SALK'S OF NORTH KINGSTOWN LLC	SALK'S HARDWARE & MARINE	5958 POST RD		885-3700	8:00 AM- 7:00 PM
SEAWATER ENTERPRISES INC	THE NARRAGANSETT	4 BROWN ST	PO BOX 1440, EAST GREENWICH	644-5877	10:00 AM- 6:00 PM
SPIN WICKFORD COVE LLC	SAFE HARBOR WICKFORD COVE	49 RYEWOLKE ST		884-7014	7:30 AM- 6:30 PM
SMITH, SUSAN AMELIA	DIFFERENT DRUMMER	15 W MAIN ST		294-4867	10:00AM-6:00 PM
STARBUCKS CORPORATION	STARBUCKS COFFEE #14269	1370 TEN ROD RD	PO BOX 34442, SEATTLE WA	295-5236	5:30 AM- 7:00 PM
STICKNEY HOLDINGS LLC	SHELL FOOD MART	10 TEN ROD RD		294-2516	24 HRS
SUNRICH INC	7-ELEVEN STORE NO 33099	7330 POST RD		255-7255	24 HRS
TESOY BEARSKINS		17 BROWN ST		299-0282	10:00 AM- 5:00 PM
THE STOP & SHOP SUPERMARKET CO LLC	STOP & SHOP #716	90 FRENCHTOWN RD	1385 HANCOCK ST, CLINCH MA	884-9000	6:00 AM- 12:00 AM
THE TR COMPANIES INC	TR MAXX #449	6663 POST RD	PO BOX 9358 FRAMINGHAM MA	884-7674	9:30 AM- 9:30 PM
TRACTOR SUPPLY COMPANY	TRACTOR SUPPLY COMPANY #1301	6625 POST RD	5401 VIRGINIA WAY, BRENTWOOD TN	885-2089	8:00 AM- 9:00 PM
T'S VAULT LLC	T'S VAULT SMOOTHIE & JUICE BAR	78 GATE RD		601-9148	7:30 AM- 7:00 PM
VANESSA PICHÉ		10 MAIN ST		353-5890	11:00 AM- 4:00 PM
VILLAGE VETERINARY CENTER LLC		170 W MAIN ST		583-4660	9:00 AM- 5:00 PM
WICKFORD BURLING COMPANY LLC	WICKFORD LUMBER CO	434 TOWER HILL RD		295-8866	7:30 AM- 5:00 PM
WICKFORD LANES INC		7545 POST RD		294-9896	VARIES
WICKFORD SHIPYARD INC		125 STRAMFORD AVE		294-3361	9:00 AM- 4:00 PM
WORLD STORE LTD	THE WORLD STORE	16 W MAIN ST		295-0081	10:00 AM- 5:00 PM

All taxes/water assessments have been paid to date 06/21/23 Collection Dept.

Date 05/24/23

13. Holiday Sales License (renewal)

VOTED: To approve to July 1, 2024 the application for renewal of a Holiday Sales License by Keystone Novelties Distributors LLC, 531 N 4th Street, Denver, PA 17517, to temporarily sell sparklers and novelty devices under a tent at 6653 Post Road, subject to taxes and water paid to date and approval from the Building Official and the Fire Marshall.

14. Peddler License (renewal)

VOTED: To approve to July 5, 2023 the application for renewal of a Peddler License by Keystone Novelties Distributors, LLC, 531 N 4th Street, Denver, PA 17517, to temporarily sell sparklers and novelty devices under a tent at 6653 Post Road, subject to taxes and water paid to date and receipt of the following:

1. RI Retail Sales Tax Permit
2. Rhode Island Department of Health Certificate (if necessary)
3. Litter Tax Permit (if necessary)
4. Letter of consent from the property owner where vending (if stationary)
5. Motor Vehicle Registration (if necessary)

15. Holiday Sales License (renewal)

VOTED: To approve to July 1, 2024 the application for renewal of a Holiday Sales License by Keystone Novelties Distributors LLC, 531 N 4th Street, Denver, PA 17517, to temporarily sell sparklers and novelty devices under a tent at 1300 Ten Rod Road, subject to taxes and water paid to date and approval from the Building Official and the Fire Marshall.

16. Peddler License (renewal)

VOTED: To approve to July 5, 2023 the renewal application for a Peddler License by Keystone Novelties Distributors, LLC, 531 N 4th Street, Denver, PA 17517, to temporarily sell sparklers and novelty devices under a tent at 1300 Ten Rod Road, subject to taxes and water paid to date and receipt of the following:

1. RI Retail Sales Tax Permit
2. Rhode Island Department of Health Certificate (if necessary)
3. Litter Tax Permit (if necessary)
4. Letter of consent from the property owner where vending (if stationary)
5. Motor Vehicle Registration (if necessary)

17. Holiday Sales License (transfer) (renewal)

VOTED: To approve the application for transfer of a Holiday Sales License from LDD Petroleum Inc., dba Kingstown Mobil, 6228 Post Road, to PK Fuel Corp., dba Mobil, 6228 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 July 1, 2023 the renewal application for a Holiday Sales License from PK Fuel Corp., dba Mobil, 6228 Post Road, subject to taxes and water paid to date.

18. Victualling License (transfer)

VOTED: To approve to December 1, 2023 the application for transfer of a Victualling License from LDD Petroleum, Inc., dba Kingstown Mobil, 6228 Post Road, to RK Fuel Corp., dba Mobil, 6228 Post Road, subject to taxes and water paid to date; receipt of a certificate from the RI Department of Health; receipt of a copy of their Rhode Island Retail Sales Tax Permit; and compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Marshall, the Planning Department, the Water Department, and the Building Official.

19. Victualling License (transfer)

VOTED: To approve to December 1, 2023 the application for transfer of a Victualling License from Jonathan Sartell LLC, dba Kingston Pizza, 7415 Post Road, to Kurmanji LLC, dba Rhody Slice, 7415 Post Road, subject to taxes and water paid to date; receipt of a certificate from the RI Department of Health; receipt of a copy of their Rhode Island Retail Sales Tax Permit; and compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Marshall, the Planning Department, the Water Department, and the Building Official.

20. Victualling License (new)

VOTED: To approve to December 1, 2023 the application for a Victualling License by Starbucks Corporation, dba Starbucks Coffee, 105 Gate Road, subject to taxes and water paid to date, receipt of a certificate from the RI Department of Health, and receipt of a copy of their Rhode Island Retail Sales Tax Permit.

21. First Reading – Amendment to Chapter 2, Article V, Division 3

VOTED: That this shall constitute the First Reading of an Ordinance in Amendment of Chapter 2, Article V, entitled, "Boards, Commissions and Committees", Division 3, entitled, "Energy Advisory Commission" of the Code of Ordinances, Town of North Kingstown, and that this be advertised and referred to the Regular Town Council Meeting of July 17, 2023 for Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption.

22. First Reading – Amendment to Chapter 2, Article V, Division 4

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: That this shall constitute the First Reading of an Ordinance in Amendment of Chapter 2, Article V, entitled, "Boards, Commissions and Committees", Division 4, entitled, "Conservation Commission" of the Code of Ordinances, Town of North Kingstown, and that this be advertised and referred to the Regular Town Council Meeting of July 17, 2023 for Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption.

23. Second Bond Reduction

VOTED: To approve the request from Gordon Development Company, LLC, for a second bond reduction on Dusty Hollow, from \$138,057.41 to \$33,695.18, in the amount of \$104,362.22.

III. REPORTS

24. Report by the Town Manager

Town Manager Mollis gave the following report:

- Work is being completed on our new Senior Center Bus. We are hoping last-minute details and lettering will be finished this week and in operation within two weeks. We are hoping for a photo op before your next meeting on June 26th, depending on the availability of Mr. Tom Miozzi whose generosity allowed us to purchase this new bus and implement a more effective policy which would not require a CDL license to operate. I will get back to you with details shortly.
- Our Water Department has begun the approval process with the RI Department of Health and DEM for a new well site on town-owned property off Gilbert Stuart Road. This well will replace Wells 3, 6, 7 & 8 and will be sized to replace and most likely exceed the lost volume from all four of these wells. The proposed site has been tested and is PFAS free. This project will be completely paid for through the R.I. Drinking Water State Revolving Fund's Grant Program which we made a successful \$4 million application for within the last funding cycle. This is an exciting initiative which will have no financial impact on the Water Department's customers.
- As you know, it appears the former Walgreens location in Wickford Village has been leased to Dollar Tree. There has been some controversy as to whether this large retail establishment should be located within Wickford Village's smaller business environment. While the Town has worked with Walgreens over this past year in attempting to assist them in attracting a tenant to this open space, the Town has a limited role in enforcing what can go into this space. Dollar Tree is currently before the Wickford Village Design Guidelines Committee for approval of an expanded loading dock. The next meeting of the Committee is July 10th. It is also my understanding that the approval of this loading dock will not affect the leasing of this establishment to the Dollar Tree.
- During the last Town Council Meeting, we had a productive discussion concerning Boards & Commissions. One of the action items the Council delegated to us was to reach out to Boards and Staff and create guidance related to communication between the Council and the Advisory Boards. Of the 24 current Committees, 16 are either statutory in nature or currently provide scheduled updates or reports to the Town Council. That would leave approximately 8 Advisory Committees in question relative to creating guidance between the Council and the Board.

In a survey I conducted back in 2022, almost 2/3 of the Boards reported that their interaction with the Town Council was sufficient, with over 90% reporting that their interaction with the Town Staff & Administration was sufficient. There was a relatively even split as to whether they felt periodic reports to the Town Council was necessary and as to whether Council Liaisons were effective.

Our next steps will be to discuss with each of these 8, or so, Committees, as well as with Staff, and analyze how they feel their communication with the Town Council could **improve** and what steps could or should be taken to accomplish their and your objectives. We hope to report back to the Town Council sometime over the next couple of months.

- RIPTA has confirmed with my office that they will be implementing the Wickford Junction loop into Wickford Village as part of their Route 14 service effective this coming Saturday. We are hoping that this long-awaited loop will motivate visitors to visit Wickford and utilize the free parking and cost-efficient hourly service from Wickford Junction into Wickford Village as well as incentivizing MBTA and RI Airport Corporation to consider increasing daily services and adding weekend services to Wickford Junction. We also hope that this service will be utilized so that we can encourage RIPTA to consider our request for a dedicated service into Wickford. We will be working with RIPTA to advertise this service and we understand a Press Release and Social Media Videos are forthcoming.
- The Town will be hosting the RI Blood Center tomorrow, June 13th at our Community Center for a much-needed Blood Drive from noon till 6pm. Donations are by appointment. You can go on our Social Media Platform, the Blood Center's website, or call them directly to book an appointment.
- The General Assembly Session is coming to an end. The State Budget passed the House late Friday night and has been sent to the Senate. Senate Finance Committee is scheduled to hear the Budget tomorrow. At first glance, it appears that our town will be receiving approximately \$300,000 more than originally anticipated. I say at first glance because the Funding Formula is complex, and I want to further research to insure none of the additional monies are restricted. It also appears that the date for being required to have construction documents in order to receive the additional housing bonuses for our proposed Middle School Bond has been pushed to June 30, 2024 from December 30, 2023. And I'm waiting for confirmation, but I understand the legislation authorizing our two Bond Questions has been sent to the Governor's desk.
- As the Council Members are aware and attended --- the Town signed the Education Compact with the State and Governor McKee's Office. I have followed up with establishing an internal committee to work on an innovative educational project in order to apply for one of the many grants available for out-of-school, innovative, education initiatives. We are excited about this project and opportunity, and I will keep the Town Council up to date.
- Some Council Members have asked me for a status update on Cannabis establishments -- - as you know you, the Council, have passed all of the necessary Ordinances relative to the Referendum Question that was passed to allow retail establishments here in town. To date we have not received any inquiries for a potential establishment here in North Kingstown.
- Finally, a brief update on the Cyber Attack which took place back in April. We are almost two months into this attack and our work, and improvements, continue on a daily basis. We've spent approximately \$220,000 on various items related to this attack and have estimated approximately \$25,000 in lost revenue to date. These figures will grow over the coming months. The Forensic Audit continues. It appears we've been very fortunate, to date, thanks to the hard work of multiple staff and years of preparation and fortification. We've implemented significant upgrades and improvements to our system since the attack.

Mike Forlingieri and I attended a 1-hour workshop sponsored by the RI League of Cities and Towns regarding Cyber Attacks. It was informative, but also reassuring in that it confirmed the steps we took prior to the attack and the action we've taken since the attack. It was also eye-opening. There has been a 91% increase in Cyber Attacks in February of this year, a 62% increase in March of this year, with 71% of attacks suffering losses over \$5 million. And as we know, and considering the fact that our Pentagon was subject to a Cyber Attack, despite our efforts, and there have been and continue to be many, none of us are immune from these attacks. However, we will continue to be aggressive in this area and I will continue to keep the Town Council up to date.

Councilor McCoy asked if there are any opportunities for the RI State Police and the National Guard to conduct penetration testing on municipalities to determine if the efforts of what we are doing are effective. IT Director Mike Forlingieri stated that once we get everything in place, we will have MSI which is a multi-state agency conduct a full penetration test and they will assess any vulnerabilities. He further stated that there will be a series of penetration tests.

Councilor McCoy asked when the FY2023 Audit will be started. Mr. Mollis stated that the work has already been started and the Audit will be completed by December 31st.

President Mancini stated that the Dollar Tree Store is moving along. He asked if there is any way we could speak with the corporate office to have them recognize that they are moving into an historic village, and they should gear the operations so that they blend in with the village. Mr. Mollis stated that yes, we can do that. He further stated that he will discuss with them the importance that the exterior look should be in line with the village as well as the interior look and the merchandise being offered. He will report back to the Council.

President Mancini stated that the Council received an e-mail from a constituent regarding the noise along Route 4 who indicated that he will be forwarding some information to the Council. President Mancini requested that the Manager meet with DOT to determine if they can accelerate some noise mitigation solutions. Mr. Mollis stated that he can certainly do that and that the Police Department is also on top of this issue. He will include them in the conversation with DOT.

25. Report by the Interim Finance Director

Deb Bridgham, Interim Finance Director stated that the Council has been provided the Year-to-Date Budget Report reflecting May. She further stated that we are currently projecting a surplus of \$1,237,213 which is approximately 1.1% of the total budget. The surplus is the result of an increase in revenues, the largest portion is interest income, which is derived from rising interest rates and sound investment strategies. There has also been an increase in collections of tangible property over budget and an increase in state aid on motor vehicles.

She further stated that we have our first meeting with our Audit firm in July; however, the Finance Department has already started preparing for the audit. The auditors will be in the office the second week of August. I will inform the Manager of any significant changes.

In answer to President Mancini's question of what the variance is in the projected surplus this month versus last month, Ms. Bridgham stated that she didn't bring that with her tonight but believes it is very similar.

Councilor Mandel stated that he was surprised to see that the PILOT revenues are down a little bit and asked what the reason would be. Mr. Mollis stated that we are projecting \$4,395,000 which is \$184 different than what we budgeted.

Councilor McCoy stated that there is legislation proposed regarding tangible property taxes and asked if there are any thoughts or information of what we should expect if that legislation should pass. Mr. Mollis stated that it is his understanding that they talked about this for a while, and it looks like they will exempt the first \$50,000 and will be effective in 2024. It will positively affect 80% of the businesses; however, it ties our hands as it removes one more tool out of our toolbox. While he thinks it is good for small businesses, we will need to explore how to make up that revenue.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

26. Update, Discussion, and Possible Action regarding 55 Brown Street

Mr. Mollis stated that in an effort to keep the Council up to date on this project, he met with Eve Clulow on June 1st. The agreement we had with Eve was that we asked in the amendment that she furnish to the Town on or before July 31st a mortgage commitment which would show sufficient financing so she can complete the renovations and receive a CO by September 30, 2024. It also required her to obtain a building permit and start construction by October 31, 2023.

Failure to do so would allow the Town at our discretion to purchase the Annex any time prior to September 2024 for the sum of \$100,000 plus the cost of verified improvements by Eve's corporation. Since Eve appeared before the Council, she has received some disturbing news on the construction costs. When she first started this project, the projected construction costs were \$1.2 million and as a result of a number of things, she has now received an estimate of \$5.9 million which doesn't include soft costs. Eve has indicated that she still wants to move forward; however, she will not be able to meet the terms of this amended agreement. If we were not to extend this contract, we would be looking at our right to repurchase the property and we would not be using the \$100,000 we received from Eve as that \$100,000 was given to the Library as a result of the lawsuit. We are already out \$100,000. It is an interesting situation we have been put in and he is asking the Council's permission to invite Eve to either the July or August meeting to make a presentation and then a decision can be made on how we move forward.

In answer to Councilor McCoy's question if there is an option to extend those deadlines, Mr. Mollis stated yes.

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to invite Ms. Clulow to a future Council Meeting for a status update and a possible decision on how to move forward.

V. NEW BUSINESS

27. School Committee Request – Discussion, Presentation and Possible Action for Funding of the Architect Fee through November 2023 for the proposed Middle School Project

School Committee Chair Erin Earle stated that the Council has been provided with back up materials. We are here tonight to present some information and we can come back with more information if necessary. She further stated that also joining us tonight is our new Director of Finance Joe Pesaturo, Ingrid Knox the OPM on the project, Mike Waterman our COO, and Interim Superintendent Frank Pallotta. Last Tuesday the School Committee was presented with an official bill for the work required for our Stage 2 application. There are two different stages of the applications to be put forward for the building process. Stage 1 has been submitted and approved and Stage 2 is due in September. Although it is great news that these deadlines have been extended which will help us, we are still on the aggressive timeline of the September Stage 2 application and the November 8th Special Election. The extension will help us if the bond passes. When the School Committee discussed this last week, we did anticipate this amount for work that is needed, and this was part of the original presentation of the project and the 18% that was part of the larger number for the soft costs which equates to \$30 million of which this \$1.7 million is part of. When the committee was discussing how to fund the \$1.7 million, we felt it was a large enough decision for the Town so we wanted to bring it forward to the Council in an official manner but have more of a conversation and collaboration of how we could fund this. If the bond passes, we could be reimbursed by the bond, if it doesn't pass then the Town would be responsible for that expense. When we worked through what we were looking at and where we could get the funds from, we wanted to bring this to the Council as we look at this as a town project and not just a school project. We want to make sure the Council has an understanding of where we would potentially be taking the money from, where those costs would then affect future projects, and have a larger understanding of all of those pieces that would then go into play. We are here tonight to present the information that the Council has been provided in their packets, to answer any questions the Council may have, and to provide any additional information that the Town may need for the Council to make a decision on where the funds could come from. She further stated that they are also happy to answer any questions on what work is going on in this part of the project. In the Council's packet, the School Department has provided a review of the school's fund balance, CIP projects and the proposal from Perkins Eastman, the CIP list, and the agreement with the architect firm. She apologized for supplying this information today and understands that the Council may need time to review and digest it. She stated that she and President Mancini agree that this should be put on the Council's next agenda for action.

Councilor McCoy stated that he watched the last School Committee Meeting and asked if the scope of work by the architect is for the RIDE requirements or any optionally deliverables that the School Committee thought may be required. Mr. Waterman stated first, he would like to address a few comments that were made in public comment. We have created a web page dedicated to this middle school project and the first item is the Education Facility Master Plan which was done in 2021. Many questions he heard tonight can be answered by reviewing that plan and he addressed why the Quidnessett site was chosen and what other public owned properties were looked at for this school. There is also a series of videos of public meetings and presentations. Mr. Waterman further stated that in this \$1.7 million proposal there is a site engineer, a traffic engineer which has already started the work. Once we receive these reports, they will be posted on the website. There is also Geotech Engineering, an environmental study has been going on for a series of weeks. In answer to Councilor McCoy's question if the environmental study includes groundwater, Mr. Waterman stated that it does. Mr. Waterman stated that in addition, we have electrical, mechanical, and plumbing engineers, educational planning which has taken place already, structural engineering, landscaping engineering, cost estimating consultant, IT/AV and Technology engineering. All of these are required by RIDE in this phase of the project.

Councilor McCoy stated his question was if the architect is overseeing these studies required by RIDE and what he is understanding is correct.

President Mancini stated this money, whoever pays for it, would be eligible for reimbursement on the state minimum (35%). The bonus money that we would apply for would also be reimbursable when and if we achieve those numbers. He further stated that he agrees that this is a community project and appreciates the School Committee's positioning in that way. As a community, we need to figure out a way to work together to make sure that this is a successful project. He further stated that this seems unusual and would like to know what other communities are doing in regard to having their towns fund this. Dr. Earle stated that is one of the questions she has asked. What we have learned is that it is across the board how different communities are funding these Stage 2 plans. Some School Departments are funding it, others the Towns are funding it, and some are a combination.

Councilor Anderson stated that the big question is why should the Town fund this. She thinks she is hearing the philosophical point that this is a community project and she asked if there are financial concerns to do this. Dr. Earle stated that she thinks what is important is that the Council understands that the fund balance and CIP projects have a long-term impact and if the School Department solely paid for this it would have significant impact on other capital projects being done. There are some substantial projects in the short and long term. We are working on the update of the 5-year CIP. Some immediate projects are a rooftop unit at Stony Lane, and a significant project at Hamilton. We could cover the \$1.7 million but it would impact on those projects that have to be done at other schools. Of course, if the bond passes, this \$1.7 million would get rolled into the bond.

President Mancini stated that it is worth repeating that this is on an accelerated process and the reason for that is the bonus state aid that is available.

Dr. Earle stated that this discussion on the need for a middle school started in 2018 and the Master Plan that was completed in 2021 and it is an important document as it maps out how we got to this point. The important piece that people need to understand is that we can get 35% reimbursement based on what the Town's percentage is. There are specific incentives for communities like to build new school buildings and if we hit those bonuses there is an additional 17.5% which would save the taxpayers over the long term. The condition of Wickford Middle School is beyond repair and these incentive bonuses are a wonderful opportunity that we can't afford to miss.

Councilor Anderson asked if the Town were to fund this \$1.7 million, what is the timeline to give the Town read access to the school's financial program. Dr. Earle stated she feels it is important to have our new Superintendent Dr. Duva part of that conversation and expects that a meeting will be scheduled with the Town Manager in mid-July.

Councilor Mandel stated that he thinks that we are all on record of supporting the School Committee and we want great schools for our kids. As was pointed out, this information came to the Council very late today and there is a lot of information to absorb. If he understands correctly, if the bond passes, the money is reimbursable. Dr. Earle stated that if the bond passes, this cost could be rolled into the bond. Ingrid Knox, OPM stated that if the bond passes, the Town chose to include this cost in the bond and will get the 35% RIDE reimbursement via the Pay Go Program within the first few months.

Councilor Mandel stated that if the School Department were to fund this \$1.7 million and then reimbursed, assuming that the bond passes, then there would be no long-term concerns as Dr. Earle mentioned. If the bond doesn't pass, the School Committee could come back to the Council and ask for assistance and relief in covering some of the costs, and asked why we wouldn't do it that way. Dr. Earle stated that is a risk and the School Committee wanted to make sure that the Council was aware of what the School Committee was doing. She further stated that in the Council's packet, the documents walk through where our money is going, and it would potentially mean we would have to pause certain projects while we wait. If we were to fund the \$1.7 million, we wouldn't be able to move forward with the Stony Lane and Hamilton projects. Again, we want to be transparent with the Council about what may happen if we expend that \$1.7 million and the bond doesn't pass, how it would affect the projects that are essential to being done.

Councilor Anderson stated that we have heard about what the impact to the schools would be if we were to fund this. She asked what the impact would be to the Town if we were to fund this. Mr. Mollis stated the minor impact would be the fact that we are going out to bond and we want to ensure we have a large fund balance as that affects our interest rate by the rating agencies. The second issue is that pulling \$1.7 million from our fund balance would be a loss of \$80,000 annually of interest earnings, and the Town also has a CIP/Facilities assessment, and the number is substantial. What we are doing now is reviewing the Facilities Assessment and trying to determine what we can afford. If we were to look at the total for all the CIP projects, we would be in the same position as the School Department as it would take tens of millions of dollars to complete all those projects.

Councilor McCoy stated that one of the things that stood out to him was the \$96 million CIP projects in the school's plan being completed over 5 years. He asked where that money would come from. Mr. Waterman stated that as part of our Stage 2 submission due in September, we are looking at all the projects and we received a preliminary cost from a different architect at \$96 million and approximately \$20 million is for Wickford Middle School. These are not educational enhancements but fixing structural deficiencies. The next question is where that funding would come from. Councilor McCoy stated his concern is that if the voters approve all three referendums, we will be putting a lot of money on our credit card so to speak which will result in a significant increase of property taxes for the citizens of our Town. Now we are talking about \$96 million of additional work, which could be less if we didn't make investments in Wickford Middle, Davisville Middle, and Quidnessett. Mr. Waterman stated that is correct and we will be reassessing that to get a better handle on what the number would be if the bond were to pass.

Councilor McCoy asked if these projects are prioritized by school, safety, and habitability. Mr. Waterman stated that RIDE spells out what the priorities are, and we have to include those priorities in our submission.

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to revisit this issue at the June 26, 2023 Town Council Meeting.

The Council recessed the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

The Council reconvened the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

28. Coastal Resources Management Council Application Number 2023-01-037

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: That no substantive objection be filed to Coastal Resources Management Council Application Number 2023-01-037 to allow the Town of North Kingstown to construct and maintain improvements to the Wickford Municipal Parking Lot to include replacing 178 ft. of deteriorated riprap wall with a granite block seawall, stormwater management and water quality treatment, installation of tide gates on outfalls, limited fill to raise grades and reconfiguring parking area, Brown Street, Plat 117, Lots 208, 212, 213, 214, and 288.

29. Coastal Resources Management Council Application Number 2023-04-066

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: That no substantive objection be filed to Coastal Resources Management Council Application Number 2023-04-066 to allow Monarch Rev. Family Trust and Leif and Adrienne Heimbold to construct and maintain a shared residential boating facility consisting of a 75.1' fixed pier to a 3 x 40' aluminum gangway to a 13.2' x 22.0' float, terminating at 50' from MLW, 10 and 16 Riptide Drive, Plat 42, Lots 41 and 42.

30. Resolution Discharging the Groundwater Committee

Councilor Anderson stated that she would recommend that we table this item. She is generally open to rethinking boards and commissions and anything we can do promote efficiency and effectiveness in terms of outcomes, staff, and volunteer time. However, she thinks we need to engage members of those boards and commissions meaningfully and substantively in that conversation. We need to do this publicly, transparently and collaboratively and respect in deference to the roles, scopes and expertise of these groups and their members. She would appreciate further conversation on how we can retain the work and expertise of members of any board or committee before we make any changes or consolidation of any committee. She further stated that she feels that Councilor Page should be part of this conversation.

Motion by Councilor Anderson, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To continue to the Regular Town Council Meeting of July 17, 2023 a resolution discharging the Groundwater Committee.

31. Asset Management Commission - Appointments

Motion by President Mancini, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint the following five (5) members to the Asset Management Commission to July 1, 2026:

John Pyne, 315 Butternut Drive, At-Large Representative, reappointment
James Halley, 125 Plain Road, At-Large Representative, reappointment
Susan Gardiner, 77 Holly Hills Lane, Saunderstown, At-Large Representative,
reappointment
Lisa Bowe, 432 Wickford Point Road, School Committee Representative,
reappointment
John Lees, 11 Prospect Avenue, Technical Representative

32. Audit Committee - Appointments

Motion by Councilor Anderson, seconded by President Mancini and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Kerry McKay, 747 Shermantown Road, Saunderstown, At-Large Representative to the Audit Committee to March 1, 2027.

The Council directed the Clerk to advertise the vacancy of one (1) At-Large Representative to the Audit Committee.

33. Building Code Board of Appeals – Appointments

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint the following three (3) members to the Building Code Board of Appeals to July 1, 2028:

Tracey McCue, 31 Chimney Rock Drive
Jacob Clemen, 64 Pleasant Street, First Alternate
Joseph Gentile, 106 Roger Williams Drive, Second Alternate

34. Charter Review Commission – Appointment

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Melissa Devine, 373 Fletcher Road, to the Charter Review Commission to December 31, 2024.

35. Information Technology Advisory Committee - Appointments

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

36. Leisure Services Advisory Committee - Appointments

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

VOTED: To reappoint the following two (2) members to the Leisure Services Advisory Committee to July 1, 2026:

Keith Finck, 13 Walnut Road
James Findley, 123 Valley Street

and it was

FURTHER VOTED: To continue to the Regular Town Council Meeting of June 26, 2023 the appointment of a third member to the Leisure Services Advisory Committee to allow President Mancini to speak with both applicants.

37. Library Board of Trustees - Appointment

Motion by Councilor Anderson, seconded by Councilor McCoy and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Thomas Sgouros, 15 Boston Neck Road, to the Library Board of Trustees to October 1, 2023, to fill the unexpired term of Martha Parks.

38. Personnel Board – Appointment

There were no applicants. The Council directed the Clerk to advertise the vacancy of one (1) member to the Personnel Board.

39. Planning Commission – Appointment

Motion by Councilor Anderson, seconded by President Mancini and unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint Tracey McCue, 31 Chimney Rock Drive, to the Planning Commission to July 1, 2029.

40. Probate Judge – Appointment

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint Brian Fielding, 307 Orchard Woods Drive, Saunderstown, as Probate Judge to July 1, 2024.

41. Veterans Day & Memorial Day Parades Committee – Appointments

There were no applicants. The Council directed the Clerk to advertise the vacancies of two (2) members to the Veterans Day & Memorial Day Parades Committee.

42. Veterans Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee – Appointment

Motion by Councilor McCoy, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint Patricia Siegmund, 10 Kent Street, to the Veterans Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee to July 1, 2024.

43. Wickford Advisory Committee - Appointment

Motion by Councilor Anderson, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Donald (Pierce) Nixon, 89 West Main Street, Wickford Village Business Owner, to the Wickford Advisory Committee to October 1, 2023 to fill the unexpired term of John Kliever.

44. Wickford Village Design Guidelines Committee - Appointment

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Donald (Pierce) Nixon, 89 West Main Street, Alternate Business Property Owner, to the Wickford Village Design Guidelines Committee to December 31, 2024.

45. Zoning Board of Review - Appointment

Motion by Councilor Anderson, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint Patricia Siegmund, 10 Kent Street, to the Zoning Board of Review to July 1, 2026.

46. Town Council's Request to RI Department of Transportation

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To direct the Town Manager to send a letter to the RI Department of Transportation requesting the installation of a crosswalk linking 80 Boston Neck Road to Veterans Memorial Park/Updike Avenue.

47. Vote Ordering Tax

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: That the Town Council of the Town of North Kingstown does hereby levy and order an assessment and collection of a tax on the ratable real estate and tangible personal property in a sum not less than \$85,400,000 and not more than \$89,000,000, said tax is for ordinary expenses and charges and sinking funds, for the payment of interest and indebtedness in whole or in part of said Town, and for other purposes authorized by law.

The Tax Assessor shall apportion said tax on the inhabitants and ratable property of said Town upon the assessed valuations determined by the Tax Assessor as of the 31st day of December A.D., 2022, according to law and shall, on completion of said apportionment, date, certify and sign the assessment and deliver to and deposit the same in the Office of the Town Clerk in accordance with law.

The Town Clerk on receipt of said assessment, shall forthwith make a copy of same and deliver it to the Town Treasurer, who shall forthwith issue and affix to said copy a warrant under his/her hand, directed to the Collector of Taxes of said Town, commanding him/her to proceed and collect said taxes of the persons and estates liable, therefore.

Real and personal property tax upon assessed valuations determined by the Tax Assessor as of December 31, 2022, shall be due and payable on or before the 31st day of July A.D., 2023.

Said taxes, if levied in excess of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), may be paid in quarterly installments, the first installment of twenty-five per centum (25%) on or before the 31st day of July A.D., 2023 and the remaining installments as follows: twenty-five per centum (25%) on or before the 31st day of October A.D., 2023; twenty-five per centum (25%) on or before the 31st day of January A.D., 2024; twenty-five per centum (25%) on or before the 30th day of April A.D., 2024.

Each installment of taxes if paid on or before the last day of each installment period successively in order shall be free from any charges of interest.

If the first installment or any succeeding installment of either real and personal property taxes is not paid by the last date of the respective installment period, but said delinquent taxpayer is otherwise current on his installment tax payments, then such installments of either unpaid real and personal property tax or excise tax upon registered motor vehicles and trailers, shall carry until collected an interest penalty at the rate of twelve percent (12%) per annum running from August 1, 2023 for the first installment, from November 1, 2023 for the second installment, from February 1, 2024 for the third installment, and from May 1, 2024 for the fourth installment. In all other circumstances, unpaid installments, of either real and personal property tax or excise tax upon registered motor vehicles and trailers, shall carry until collected an interest penalty at the rate of twelve percent (12%) per annum running from August 1, 2023; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: That should said due date of July 31st, October 31st, January 31st, and April 30th fall on a Saturday or Sunday, then the installment is due on the subsequent business day.

48. Vote of Appropriation – All Funds

Motion by Councilor Anderson, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: That the Final Budget as adopted by the Town Council on April 24, 2023 in accordance with Section 1008 of the Town Charter is hereby approved and appropriated. The final budget being appropriated for the current expenses of the Town for the ensuing fiscal year to be taken from any funds in the Town Treasury not otherwise appropriated. With reference to the expenses of the School Department, estimated revenues, together with an amount received from General Property Tax and unappropriated funds balances sufficient to make the combination equal the total appropriation are hereby appropriated; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: That any and all grant funds received by the Town of North Kingstown during the current fiscal year be and the same are hereby appropriated.

49. Vote of Appropriation – Library Fund

Motion by Councilor Anderson, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: That the North Kingstown Free Library, represented by the Library Board of Trustees or its designated agents, be authorized to apply for, to receive and to disburse any and all funds to which the North Kingstown Free Library may be entitled under any grant programs in Fiscal Year 2023/2024; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: That all funds received under such grant programs are hereby appropriated.

50. Vote of Appropriation – School Funds

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: That the North Kingstown School Department, represented by the School Committee or its designated agents, be authorized to apply for, to receive and to disburse any and all funds to which the North Kingstown School Department may be entitled under any grant programs in Fiscal Year 2023/2024; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: That all funds received under the foregoing be and are hereby appropriated and the receipt of same shall be reported to the Town Council.

51. Vote to Apply for and Receive Funds – Development Surety

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: That the Town Council or its designated agent or agents be and hereby is authorized to apply for and to receive such funds as may be required to complete roadway construction, drainage, water pipe installation, surveying, and traffic and street sign purchase and erection in plat development areas wherein the developer has filed, or caused to be filed, with the Town, as surety, cash, letter of credit, a bank passbook in the name of the Town of North Kingstown from a bank located within the incorporated boundaries of the State of Rhode Island, or a certified check made payable to the Town, such sums to be drawn from the posted sureties of the defaulted developers; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: That all such sums of money as may be received by the Town for or on behalf of any such plat developer who may have defaulted, be appropriated, said monies to be utilized for the completion of roadway construction, drainage, water pipe installation, surveying and traffic and street sign purchase and erection in said development.

52. Correspondence

5/31/23 – Shawn J. Brown: Information about House Bill 5792 & Senate Bill 0454 currently before the Rhode Island General Assembly.

6/1/23 – Margaret Kerr: Information (Handouts & Presentations) pertaining to the NKDTC's Green Homes and Buildings Forum.

6/2/23 – Peter Lussier: Bond Questions.

6/3/23 – Tom Sgouros: Interest in Library Board of Trustee Vacancy.

6/6/23 – Keith Finck: Interest in re-appointment to the Leisure Services Advisory Committee.

6/6/23 – Megan Reilly: Feedback on the 6/6/23 NKSC meeting.

6/7/23 – Rachel Armentano: Concerns about NKSD districting and student enrollment.

6/8/23 – Steven Colucci: Concerns about Route 4 noise and traffic issues.

6/9/23 – Kara Martone: Concerns about the \$1.7M architect fee for NKSD middle school.

6/10/23 – Kathleen Guarino: Concerns about change to NK committees, specifically the Groundwater Committee.

6/11/23 – Dianne Louise Izzo: Concerns about change to NK committees, specifically the Groundwater Committee.

6/12/23 – Ellen Waxman: Concerns about agenda item related to ownership and development of 55 Brown Street.

6/12/23 – Robert Jones: Opinions and recommendations concerning the NKSC's capitol request.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Jeannette Alyward
Town Clerk