

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 16th day of August, 2023 at the Town Hall Council Chambers, 80 Boston Neck Road, at 7:00 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
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 August 16, 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.

President Mancini led those in attendance in a moment of silence in memory of the passing of Bruce Menzies and Michael Angelo LoPresti.

4. Public Comment

Mike Donohue, 141 West Main Street, stated that he has some concerns with Agenda Item Number 38 (Request for Class B-Full Liquor License Limits increase for West Main Street). He is concerned about the parking. There is no parking there so people would be parking on Main Street. It is a busy street and there are no sidewalks or crosswalks in that section. He also stated that we are putting more demands on parking and the parking study is not yet complete. He then asked what the right number of liquor licenses for the Wickford area is.

Alex Allenson, 117 Austin Road, stated that she has concerns with Agenda Item Number 18 (Lease Agreement between the Town and the NK Animal Shelter Support Foundation). She stated that she is a volunteer at the Animal Shelter and the shelter is understaffed and needs more paid employees. She asked who will get the dogs their rabies shots, who will deal with the dogs that are deemed vicious, and now that the shelter will be run by volunteers will the adoption prices go up and who is in charge of that. Her ultimate concern is the animals at the shelter.

Richard Lamere, 50 Birchwood Drive, stated that he is concerned about the North Kingstown Animal Shelter Support Foundation. He tried to look up information on the internet and couldn't find much information about them. He asked if there is a legal issue, who is responsible for any liabilities. Would it be the Foundation or the taxpayers.

Curtis Fisher, 104 Phillips Street, stated that the mosquitos seem to be getting worse over the last few summers, and we need to do an abatement on them. We should start planning for this now.

Amanda Nelson, 53 Asqah Drive, stated that she works at the South Kingstown Animal Shelter and was previously a Narragansett Animal Control Officer. She has some concerns about the North Kingstown Animal Shelter Support Foundation. She stated that she has heard the part-time animal officer has resigned and a dog from North Kingstown ended up in South Kingstown because there were no volunteers available. She stated the Town should be careful with the liabilities of volunteers and make sure they are properly trained.

Lenore Montanaro, 252 Haverhill Avenue, stated her background is in animal welfare law and she has done a lot of research in a legal perspective about animal shelters. She comes here today as a resident and not in any legal capacity. She is curious about the lease and how the foundation was selected. She asked if there is a no kill policy, if there is a veterinarian available, and what types of medication are on the premises.

Kristin Clark, 142 Cole Drive, stated that she sent an e-mail to the Town Council with concerns about the animal shelter. This situation needs to be fully addressed and not piece mailed. She is concerned that this is not a workable set up.

I. SPECIAL BUSINESS

5. Advise and Consent of the Town Council of the Town Manager's appointment of the Director of Finance

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: In accordance with Section 510 of the North Kingstown Charter, the Town Council hereby gives their advise and consent of the Town Manager's appointment of Debra J. Bridgham to the position of Director of Finance.

The Council took Agenda Item Number 37 next.

37. Proposed Ballot Questions

President Mancini stated that we have deliberated these bond questions in the past and tonight the Council will determine placement of these questions on the ballot and a date to hold a special election. He further stated that Dr. Page is the Council Representative to the School Facilities Subcommittee who will provide an update.

Councilor Page stated that although she has not been able to make all the meetings, she has watched them on video. She has been very impressed with the architect for the middle school project. There were several concerns a few months ago regarding the Quidnessett site and when it was determined there were wetland issues, only the School Committee and the architect were able to pivot to determine other options. Since then, we have had two meetings where we were able to see a detailed plan for the proposed middle school to be located at Davisville. We actually had a meeting with the Town Manager, the Council President, and Paul Jordan from DEM who explained to us that if we move the fields, we will have to make sure that we have the same number of fields relocated on the site and open to the public and meet the criteria and intent of acceptance of those grants. The approval process to have this accomplished will take time; however, Mr. Jordan was confident that such approval is obtainable.

Councilor Page further stated that she has heard some people say that we are going from two middle schools to one. She was curious how many districts have one middle school, so she did some research and found out that there are approximately 24 districts that have one middle school. Those that do have one middle school are in the towns that we typically compare ourselves to such as East Greenwich, Barrington, and South Kingstown who recently went from two down to one. The more she has listened at these meetings she has realized that this is a well-planned and intentional project and is a plan that will sustain the community for long into the future and will be equitable for all students. Again, she is very impressed that every concern has been addressed and a great plan has been presented to move forward with a new middle school that will provide for our children not only in the immediate future but 10 - 20 years from now. We should be excited and proud of not only the work that our School Committee has done but also of those who have participated in these meetings. Everyone on this committee wants what is best for the community.

She is very much in favor in putting this bond question forward to the citizens of North Kingstown. She urged residents to come to these meetings or watch the meetings online so they can be informed.

Mr. Mollis stated that we have thoroughly vetted the Public Safety Complex and Rec Center and feels that there is an overwhelming amount of support for the Public Safety Complex and for the want for the rec center. We do have potential sites for both these projects, and we are excited to put together renderings and information for the public on all three projects in these two questions.

President Mancini stated that at this point, he is turning the meeting over to Councilor Page as he has recused himself from voting on this item.

Councilor McCoy stated that he has attended most of the building subcommittee meetings and he agrees with Councilor Page's comments regarding the architect and their work product. He appreciates their efforts on behalf of the Town. One of the things that came out at last night's meeting was that it did not sound like the subcommittee had taken the Quidnessett site off the table. For the record, he stated that it is his opinion that site is not an appropriate location for a new middle school, whether it would be for 1,200 students or 600 students. Last night Superintendent Duva outlined quite a few recommendations to the subcommittee and suggested things that the School Department and School Committee needs to do to engage the public. They include determining the enrollment projections, how many elementary schools will be needed in the future, crowding at Hamilton Elementary School, bus transportation, a traffic study on School Street, updating the capital improvement plan, which he requested be provided to the Council. He further stated that Dr. Duva stated that there will be community forums with elementary school parents.

Councilor McCoy stated that he agrees to having the referendum be held in November and that he supports putting both questions on the ballot. He further stated that the Town needs to do more work to explain each project to the public. Again, he feels we should have had three separate questions.

Councilor Mandel stated that he also has watched many of the subcommittee meetings and agrees with Councilor McCoy that there is still a lot of work to be done and the need for public forums and various studies. He also knows that there are a lot of questions not completely answered and is confident that over the next few months prior to the referendum those questions and concerns will be addressed. He supports putting both questions on the ballot and holding the Special Election on November 7th.

Councilor Anderson stated that she also supports having both questions on the ballot and holding the Special Election on November 7th.

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

VOTED: That the Town Council orders that the following questions shall be placed on the ballot at a Special Election to be held on November 7, 2023:

1. AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF NORTH KINGSTOWN TO ISSUE NOT MORE THAN \$222,460,000 OF BOND AND NOTES OF WHICH (1) UP TO \$167,460,000 IS FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL AND (2) UP TO \$55,000,000 IS FOR A NEW PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX

(Chapters 36 & 37 - Local Acts 2023)

"Shall an act, passed at the 2023 session of the General Assembly, entitled, 'AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF NORTH KINGSTOWN TO ISSUE NOT MORE THAN \$222,460,000 BONDS AND NOTES OF WHICH (1) UP TO \$167,460,000 IS FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL AND (2) UP TO \$55,000,000 IS FOR A NEW PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX' be approved?"

YES

NO

2. AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF NORTH KINGSTOWN TO ISSUE NOT MORE THAN \$25,000,000 OF BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE AN INDOOR RECREATION CENTER/EMERGENCY SHELTER

(Chapters 41 and 42 - Local Acts 2023)

"Shall an act, passed at the 2023 session of the General Assembly, entitled, 'AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF NORTH KINGSTOWN TO ISSUE NOT MORE THAN \$25,000,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE AN INDOOR RECREATION CENTER/EMERGENCY SHELTER' be approved?"

YES NO

President Mancini recused himself from the vote as he represents unions that may work on these projects.

The Town Council took the Consent Agenda next.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To approve Consent Agenda Item Numbers 6 through 31 with the exception of Agenda Item Numbers 6, 12, 14, 17, and 18.

6. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and was

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 26, 2023, as amended, to include the following comment under the Manager's Report:

Clerk's note: Upon reviewing the minutes and a subsequent discussion with Mr. Mollis, Councilor Mandel requested that it be noted that Mr. Mollis's research indicated that bicycles (or any vehicle operated by human power) may travel on sidewalks unless prohibited by official traffic control devices.

Councilor McCoy voted in the negative.

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 17, 2023 as submitted by the Office of the Town Clerk.

7. Tax Abatement List #870

VOTED: To approve Tax Abatement List #870 submitted by Deb Garneau, Tax Assessor, in the amount of \$27,824.97; and it was

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

8. Receipt of Donations

VOTED: To accept with gratitude the following donations in the amount of \$6,065.00:

For: Beechwood Senior Center	
To be used for Instructors	
From: North Kingstown Senior Association	\$4,000.00

For: Beechwood Senior Center To be used for Supplies	
From: North Kingstown Senior Association	\$2,000.00
For: Beechwood Senior Center To be used for the Mealsite	
From: Anonymous	\$ 25.00
Anonymous	25.00
For: Beechwood Senior Center	
From: Concetta Nicolosi	\$ 15.00

9. Receipt of Donations

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

NKHS Class of 1973	\$250.00
C. E. Briggs and J. A. Mayberry Briggs In Memory of Linda Briggs	\$ 50.00
Paul R. Cappola and Diana F. Wantoch In Memory of Lance Woodward	\$ 50.00

10. Award of Bid

VOTED: To award the bid for the Water Department for the purchase of fifteen (15) Fire Hydrants to Putnam Pipe, 86 Elm Street, Hopkinton, MA 01748, for a total bid price of \$45,722.85.

Funding is from Capital Outlay 44040090 550701 - Water Service Improvements.

11. Award of Contract Extension

VOTED: To approve the award of extension of contract for expanded scope of services by the BETA Group, Inc. for the Wickford Waterfront Improvement Project, in the amount of \$31,490.00.

Funding is from FY2024 - Planning Department - Restricted Grant Match - Wickford Waterfront Project.

12. Award of Contract

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To approve the award of contract for the Department of Public Works for Professional Engineering Services for the Hamilton-Allenton Landfill Closure Design and Construction Documents, to GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc., 249 Vanderbilt Avenue, Norwood, MA 02062-533 (MPA Award #3722035), in the amount of \$148,000.00.

Funding for this Contract is from previously authorized bonds.

13. Acceptance of a Contribution

VOTED: To accept a contribution on behalf of the Police Department from the RI Interlocal Risk Management Trust (The Trust) in the amount of \$1,000.00 to offset annual fees related to the RI Police Accreditation Commission.

14. Acceptance of the Advancing Learning Beyond 180-Day School Year (Learn 365) Grant

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To accept the Advancing Learning Beyond the 180-Day School Year (Learn365) Expanded Grant in the amount of \$305,000.00.

15. Acceptance of a Soil Health Stewards Program Grant

VOTED: To accept a Soil Health Stewards Program Grant through the American Farmland Trust in the amount of \$10,000.00 to allow the Town to implement a Soil Health Stewards Action Plan.

16. Authorization for the Town Manager to execute a Construction and Maintenance Agreement

VOTED: To authorize the Town Manager to execute a Construction and Maintenance Agreement with the RI Department of Transportation for construction, installation, and maintenance of an Emergency Vehicle Priority Control System at the intersections of (1) Boston Neck Road (RI Route 1A)/Hamilton Allenton Road/Salisbury Avenue and (2) Boston Neck Road (RI Route 1A)/Plum Point Road/RI Route 138.

17. Authorization for the Town Manager to sign an Extension of a Lease Agreement

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor McCoy and

VOTED: To authorize the Town Manager to sign an Extension of the Lease Agreement between the Town of North Kingstown and the North Kingstown Food Pantry, Inc., for the premises located at 445 School Street, for an additional 20-year term, expiring on December 31, 2047.

Councilor Page recused herself from voting on this item.

18. Authorization for the Town Manager to execute a Lease Agreement

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To authorize the Town Manager to execute a Lease Agreement between the Town of North Kingstown and the North Kingstown Animal Shelter Support Foundation (a Rhode Island non-profit Corporation), for a five (5) year term, for the premises known as the North Kingstown Animal Shelter, located at 395 Hamilton Allenton Road (Plat 080/Lot 001).

19. Transfer to Various Funds

WHEREAS, as part of closing the Town's financial book for the fiscal year, it is tradition that unspent funds of various accounts are transferred from the General Fund to other funds to be used in subsequent years; and

WHEREAS, the Town Manager has reviewed the recommendations of the Interim Director of Finance and funds being transferred have specific purposes; and

WHEREAS, making these transfers will positively impact the finances of the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the following transfers of FY 2023 funds are approved:

Planning & Development		
From: 00109010-550520	Grant Match	\$50,000
To: 00100000-315003	Restricted Grant Match	\$50,000
For: Wickford Waterfront Project		

From: 00109010-550510	Post Road Façade	\$59,264
To: 00100000-315004	Restricted Post Road Façade	\$59,264
For:	FY2024 Post Road Façade Improvement Program	

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Public Works - Facilities

From: 00110070-531101	Capital Reserve	\$309,661
To: 30010070-531101	Restricted Capital Reserve	\$309,661
For:	Repair/Replacement of Bandshell at Town Beach and replacement of Station 5 Standby Generator	

Public Works - Highway

From: 00110020-512350	Overtime Snow Plowing	\$17,006
00110020-540306	Road Salt	\$49,945
00110020-540502	Soil, Sand, and Gravel	\$21,453
To: 00100000-315001	Restricted Snow Removal	\$88,404
For:	Snow removal tasks and equipment	

From: 00110020-531111	Overlaying Services	\$56,443
To: 30010020-531111	Restricted Overlaying Services	\$56,443
For:	FY2024 Overlay/Paving Program	

20. Class F Alcoholic Beverage License

VOTED: To approve the application for a Class F Alcoholic Beverage License by Elizabeth Marshall, dba North Kingstown High School Class of 2013, 38 Howard Street, Newport 02840, to serve beer and wine at the Cold Spring Community Center and Band Shell, 35 Beach Street, for a class reunion to be held on Sunday, September 3, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., subject to taxes and water paid to date; receipt of a Certificate of Insurance; receipt of Alcohol Server Training Certificates; and compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Department, the Police Department, the Building Official, and the Planning Department.

21. Amendment to an Exhibition License (1-10 vendors)

VOTED: To amend the Town Council vote of June 26, 2023 approving an Exhibition License with 1-10 vendors by Mike Mangasarian, dba Cranston Sports Card Show, 118 Harmon Avenue, Cranston 02910, to hold a Sports Card and Memorabilia Show at the Wickford Middle School, 250 Tower Hill Road, by changing the dates from Saturday, July 15, 2023, from 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. (rain date Sunday, July 16, 2023), to Saturday, August 12, 2023, from 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. (rain date Sunday, August 13, 2023); and it was

FURTHER VOTED: To ratify the Town Clerk's approval for an Exhibition License with 1-10 vendors by Mike Mangasarian, dba Cranston Sports Card Show, 118 Harmon Avenue, Cranston 02910, to hold a Sports Card and Memorabilia Show which was held on Saturday, August 12, 2023, from 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. (rain date Sunday, August 13, 2023), subject to taxes and water paid to date; receipt of a list of vendors at the Town Clerk's Office by Friday, August 11, 2023; and compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Department, the Police Department, the Building Official, and the Planning Department.

22. Amendment to an Exhibition License (no vendors)

VOTED: To approve the request to amend 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, changing the event of August 10, 2023 to Thursday, August 17, 2023; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: To authorize the Town Manager to approve rain dates for September 15 and October 13, 2023 if needed.

23. Exhibition License (no vendors)

VOTED: To approve the application for an Exhibition License with no vendors by Nancy Rafi, dba RI Witches Guild, 45 Madison Avenue, to hold a Witch's Dance Parade in Wickford and at

the Town Beach, on Saturday, October 21, 2023 (rain date Sunday, October 22, 2023), from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 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.

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24. Exhibition License (11-20 vendors)

VOTED: To approve the application for an Exhibition License with 11-20 vendors by Anthony Gorton, dba Kicks and Tricks, 127 Louisiana Avenue, Warwick 02888, to hold a sneaker exhibit at Wide World of Indoor Sports, 1610 Davisville Road, on Sunday, August 27, 2023, from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., subject to taxes and water paid to date; receipt of a Show Promoter's Permit; receipt of a list of vendors at the Town Clerk's Office by August 25, 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 Building Official, and the Planning Department.

25. 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:

HOLIDAY SALES
TC MEETING 8/16

Business Name	DBA	Location of Business	Phone	Hours
Dania Food Mart LLC	Dania Food Mart	7000 Post Rd	398-2858	6:00 am- 12:00 am
The Choc Shop	The Chocolate Shoppe	7 W Main St	641-1008	11:00 am- 5:00 pm
The Sew-Op LLC	The Sew-Op	31 W Main St	447-5500	11:00 am- 5:00 pm

All taxes/water assessments have been paid to date DCB Collection Dept.
Date 8/4/23

26. First Reading – Amendment to Chapter 19, Article II, Section 19-42 (2)

VOTED: That this shall constitute the First Reading of an Ordinance in Amendment of Chapter 19, Article II, Section 19-42 (2) of the Code of Ordinances, Town of North Kingstown, entitled, “Homestead Exemption”, and that this be advertised and referred to the Regular Town Council Meeting of September 11, 2023 for Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption.

27. First Reading – Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan

VOTED: That this shall constitute the First Reading of an Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan by amending the Future Land Use Map relating to the future land use designation of Assessor's Plat 177, Lots 29 and 30, from Commercial (C) to Light Industrial (LI) (Uncodified Ordinance); and that this be advertised and referred to the Regular Town Council Meeting of September 25, 2023 for Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption.

28. First Reading – Amendment to Section 21-362 and Section 21-363

VOTED: That this shall constitute the First Reading of an Ordinance in Amendment of Section 21-362 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of North Kingstown, entitled, “Zoning Map” and Section 21-363, entitled, “Assessor’s Plats”, Assessor's Plat 177, Lots 29 and 30 (Frenchtown Road), and that this be advertised and referred to the Regular Town Council Meeting of September 25, 2023 for Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption.

29. First Reading – Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan

VOTED: That this shall constitute the First Reading of an Amendment to the North Kingstown Comprehensive Plan by amending the Future Land Use Map relating to the future land use designation of Assessor's Plat 130, Lot 65, which is also known as 3760 Quaker Lane, from Low Density Residential (LDR) and Commercial (C) to Commercial (C), and that this shall be advertised and referred to the Regular Town Council Meeting of September 25, 2023 for Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption.

30. First Reading – Amendment to Section 21-362 and Section 21-363

VOTED: That this shall constitute the First Reading of an Ordinance in Amendment of Section 21-362 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of North Kingstown, entitled, “Zoning Map” and Section 21-363, entitled, “Assessor’s Plats”, Assessor's Plat 130, Lot 65 (3760 Quaker Lane), and that this be advertised and referred to the Regular Town Council Meeting of September 25, 2023 for Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption.

31. Second Bond Reduction

VOTED: To approve the request by Camp Ave. Properties LLC, for a second bond reduction on Tide Mill Landings South, from \$90,176.79 to \$60,402.41, in the amount of \$29,774.38.

III. REPORTS

32. Report by the Town Manager

Town Manager Mollis gave the following report:

- As you’re aware, we completed a comprehensive Facilities Conditions Assessment Report earlier this year. This Assessment resulted in hundreds of pages of valuable information totaling \$30 million of Projects that should be addressed over the next 5 – 10 years. Our Public Works Department further analyzed this information to provide a capital improvement priority list of projects they’d like to tackle, along with a timeline. They compiled a 3-year list of projects, through Fiscal Year 2026, totaling \$4 million along with additional priority projects totaling an additional \$5,440,000. I have provided each of you with a hard copy of the information compiled along with the accompanying memorandum.

It should be noted that these projects are restricted to facilities, engineering and other projects and don’t include many of the other projects we have planned as well as unplanned project priorities such as Allen Harbor Dredging.

This also includes, as the Council requested, the Annaquatucket Sidewalk Project. The Council had asked that we put together a priority list for the next few fiscal years and include this potential Sidewalk Project. This project, while important, doesn’t necessarily equate in priority to some of the various other priorities we need to address. This is something we can further discuss with you, the Town Council, after you’ve had the opportunity to review this information. It is also something we can discuss during next year’s budget deliberations.

- We’ve had many discussions and outreach from constituents regarding the lengthy delay at the Route 4 intersection traffic signals. DOT has been consistent that they do not want to alter the traffic light pattern during the summer months as it would create an unsafe backlog of traffic along Route 4. Our North Kingstown Police Department has reached out to DOT with some safety concerns resulting from the long delays. DOT has, once again, agreed to evaluate the timing on the lights and if at all possible, shorten the length of time that the lights are green along Route 4 on both the northbound and southbound lanes in an attempt to alleviate some of the congestion on our local roads. In addition, we will be attempting to rekindle the conversation, with DOT, of a potential, but costly, traffic pattern solution along these intersections.
- We have expressed our interest in participating in the State Municipal Road Fund. The program provides a 33% match from the State towards paving projects. We are eligible for a maximum allocation of \$576,227. Based on our Fiscal Year 2024 paving budget of \$750,000, we could receive \$369,403 for FY2024. We expect that our FY2025 paving budget would provide us with the \$206,824 balance to allow us to reach our maximum

allocation. We will continue to work on this as a priority and I will continue to keep you up to date.

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- The Off-Shore Wind Farm Project is scheduled for construction this fall. As a result, we have scheduled bi-weekly meetings with all the parties involved in this extensive project. They provided us, at our last meeting, with an updated Route Map which shows the landfall of the cables within the Quonset Industrial Park, traveling along Circuit Drive, then along QDC property parallel to Camp Avenue and connecting with the Substation. This confirms the information we were provided with during our PILOT negotiations that there won't be any cable construction along the town roads. I will continue to keep you up to date as a result of our meetings with them.
- Mr. Steven Colucci, a constituent, has appeared before previous Council Meetings and provided the Council, and Town, with a report on the detrimental impact of excessive noise along Route 4. I've asked our Police Department to provide an update on their plans to address this issue.

First, as Mr. Colucci pointed out, car audio levels are governed by R.I. General Law and enforceable by police departments. However, there isn't a State Law prohibiting the use of "Jake Brakes".

In regard to signage, RIDOT may be hesitant to provide signage along Route 4 as a certain amount of noise pollution is expected along this highway and they would like to avoid sign pollution along this major artery to South County and Newport.

The North Kingstown Police Department is as active along Route 4 as possible. Our town is unique in the sense that it is the only town in South County with 3 highways running through its jurisdiction. Any motorist traveling to the South County Beaches or Newport must at some point drive through North Kingstown. With this increased traffic comes increases in motor vehicle violations and accidents. The North Kingstown Police Department created a traffic enforcement unit to enforce traffic laws and investigate serious crashes. We've received grant money to prioritize speeding, seat belt enforcement, distracted driving and impaired driving. As we can imagine, having an active presence solely on Route 4 is a large task for any law enforcement entity and they do their best, working with the State Police and surrounding agencies, to enforce the laws and maintain a quality of life along this and all thoroughfares. We will continue to do our best to prioritize this.

- The Leisure Services Advisory Committee met last month and has recommended no change to the current Allen Harbor rates. As a result, there will not be an Ordinance introduction before the Town Council on this issue. I will be attending their next meeting, later this month, where they will review and make a recommendation regarding our Golf Course rates.
- An update on the proposed round-about in Wickford Village. We received word that the project is scheduled for the summer of 2024. We have reached out to DOT requesting a change to the schedule to Spring of 2024 or Spring of 2025. They've acknowledged our request and have advised it is under consideration. The project will result in sporadic road closures, will not disturb the existing curb cuts, and DOT will include us in the next design stage. The draft plan is a round-about that will be flat, striped and have appropriate signage, all for safety purposes. I will keep the Council up to date on its progress as well as any input we have in design.
- In other RIDOT news, our Planning Department has reached out to DOT for a status update on the traffic signal at Hamilton Elementary with the continued request that its installation take place before the first day of school. They have advised us that they expect to complete the work by the end of August and will keep us up to date.

- A brief update on the ongoing Parking Study in Wickford. A Public Engagement meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 30th at 6:00pm at our Town Hall here at 80 Boston Neck Road. This will be an opportunity for the firm to discuss the on-going Parking Study with community members, present an overview, and obtain public feedback. This will be followed by further studies and a potential final presentation in late Fall of this year.

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- A few miscellaneous items:

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse will be visiting Town on Tuesday, August 22nd. He'll be meeting with some of our Senior Citizens at our Senior Center that morning. We look forward to joining him and I look forward to meeting with him afterwards to discuss some of the Town's projects and priorities.

Wickford Harbor Lights was rescheduled to tomorrow night, Thursday, August 17th.

And I was asked to serve on the Governor's Workforce Board Local Advisory Committee. This Committee is comprised of various stakeholders from throughout R.I, representing numerous industries with an overall mission to address the needs of the labor market, business market and draft policy on how federal dollars can be used to connect the two needs.

33. Resolution in Support of joining Rhode Island Community Learning Center Compact

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

WHEREAS, the Town of North Kingstown recognizes that a culture of continuous learning is essential to the fabric of the community – whether it's out-of-school learning, learning new job skills, or learning healthy habits. Moreover, as Rhode Islanders, we recognize that all of us together have a role to play in adding 1 million hours of out-of-school learning time per year across our state to help improve educational outcomes, increasing per capita income, and living healthy lives; and

WHEREAS, the Town of North Kingstown aspires to be among the very best public education systems in New England and the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Town of North Kingstown will foster a culture of innovation, collaboration, and increased awareness of learning opportunities for all community members; and

WHEREAS, the Town of North Kingstown will explore participating in and creating learning opportunities that support and enhance efforts both inside and outside of the traditional school settings and schedules to enhance learning outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the Town of North Kingstown will work to ensure that the children and adult learners are exposed to and deeply engaged in learning activities of all kinds, including professional development, job training, and physical and mental health education and screening; and

WHEREAS, while each city and town in Rhode Island is unique, there are several specific actions steps that municipal leaders can take to help advance the concept of expanding the culture of continuous learning. Below is a sample of potential ways that municipal leaders can engage in this effort:

Workforce Development

- Educate residents on available job training programs, apprenticeships, and continuing education opportunities
- Provide support throughout the job application process, including resume and cover letter review, mock interviews, and interview attire guidance
- Collaborate with local higher education and training organizations to offer

certification and trainings to fill local employment gaps, such as lifeguard, EMT, HR and CNA certifications

- Offer digital literacy courses and ensure residents have ample access to digital resources such as computers and webcams to enable the job search and interview process
- Conduct an employer needs assessment and engage with local employers to establish employment pipelines and workforce development programs

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- Host a job fair and professional networking opportunities
- Support residents of all ages with career exploration and skills assessments to determine potential industries of best fit
- Create a workforce development taskforce to strategize on areas of growth and opportunity for your community
- Maintain a community job board and identify additional online job search resources

Health

- Conduct a community-wide health assessment survey to identify knowledge gaps and needs for services and programming
- Host preventative care, dental health, and immunization clinics
- Facilitate a public health marketing campaign to educate residents on the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and resources within the community to help achieve it
- Support aging residents during the annual open enrollment period for Medicare
- Foster a safe space where residents can participate in mental health screenings, peer support and mentoring programs, and substance use disorder meetings
- Provide homeowners and renters with lead identification and mitigation resources
- Host educational seminars on the importance of developing healthy habits and offer programs to help implement the habits, such as nutrition consultations, chronic disease management programs, and increasing access to fresh fruits and vegetables through community farmers markets
- Designate areas within community centers or public libraries as “tele-health spaces” and provide the necessary technology for residents to privately receive tele-health services
- Distribute health monitoring devices to residents such as blood pressure cuffs, pulse oximeters, blood glucose monitors, and pedometers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That North Kingstown proudly supports and joins the Rhode Island Community Learning Center Compact.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

34. Authorization to install, operate and maintain a Tide Gage at Brown Street

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Anderson and

VOTED: To authorize the installation, operation, and maintenance of a Tide Gage at Brown Street in cooperation with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) in the amounts as follows:

Year 1	\$30,000.00
Year 2	\$12,400.00
Year 3	\$12,950.00
Year 4	\$13,500.00
Year 5	\$14,050.00

Funding for Year 1 will be from Fund Balance, Years 2-5 will be from Water Department Budget - Groundwater Protection Education Account.

Councilor McCoy voted in the negative.

V. NEW BUSINESS

35. Coastal Resources Management Council Application Number 2023-02-038, RI Department of Environmental Management Water Quality Certification Application Number WQC-23-039, and Dredge Permit Number 23-197

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor McCoy and unanimously

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VOTED: That no substantive objection be filed to Coastal Resources Management Council Application Number 2023-02-038, RI Department of Environmental Management Water Quality Certification Application Number WQC-23-039, and Dredge Permit Number 23-197 to allow Quonset Development Corporation to perform maintenance and improvement dredging at the Port of Davisville.

36. Veteran's Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee – Appointment of High School Principal

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Shivali Finkelstein, Principal, North Kingstown High School, to the Veteran's Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee.

Item Number 38 was taken next.

38. Request for Class B-Full Alcoholic Beverage License Limits increase

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To receive and file the request by Press, LLC, 30 West Main Street, to increase the Class B-Full Alcoholic Beverage License Limits from 28 to 29; and to direct the Clerk to advertise the available license.

39. Correspondence

E-mails from:

07/22/2023 – Donna Lico – Transfer Station Fees and Hours

07/28/2023 – Frances Slade – Concerns about Green Inc. & Sewage Sludge Processing

08/01/2023 – Gregory Rego – Notice of Harassment by NKPD

08/02/2023 – Cate Brown – Thoughts on North Kingstown Recreation Park Projects

08/07/2023 – Holly Quinn – Project Cost of Capital Improvement Plan

08/08/2023 – Christiana Rydeski – Sachem Road Stop Sign Request

08/10/2023 – John Machata – Ryan Park Update Follow Up

08/11/2023 – Peter Lussier – Middle School Project & Perkins Eastman

08/14/2023 – Megan Reilly – Bond Questions

08/14/2023 – Kristin N. Clark – Plans for North Kingstown Animal Shelter

08/15/2023 – John Machata – Rainbow Bridge Now Safer

08/15/2023 – John Machata – Update on Ryan Park Trail

08/15/2023 – Lisa Casey – Animal Control

08/15/2023 – Dennis Tabella – North Kingstown Animal Shelter

08/16/2023 – Richard Lamere – North Kingstown Animal Shelter

8/16/2023 – Chris and Donna Callaghan – North Kingstown Animal Shelter

8/16/2023 – Josh Lipinski – Town Beach altercation with Mr. McClatchy's dog

8/16/2023 – Kara Marton – Bond Questions

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8/16/2023 – Vanessa Oakes – North Kingstown Animal Shelter

Councilor Mandel gave the following report of Office Hours held on August 8th:

Sharon Uber, 11 King Phillip Circle, requested tax relief for senior citizens and expressed her discomfort with gender fluidity.

Virginia Sanders, former resident now living in East Greenwich, also expressed opposition to gender fluidity.

Curt Fisher, 104 Phillips Street, wanted to thank the administration for the sign that was installed on Phillips Street cautioning motorists of children playing on the playground at the Wickford Elementary School and asked that a similar sign be installed westbound on Phillips Street. He also urged that we urge Jamestown to improve their water capacity by removing silt from their reservoir so they can have less dependence on North Kingstown in the event of a water emergency.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Jeannette Alyward
Town Clerk