

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 February, 2024 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
James M. Callaghan, 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 February 12, 2024 was called to order by President Mancini.

2. Notice of Meeting being posted

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

3. Salute to Flag

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

I. PUBLIC HEARING

4. Second Reading – Amendment to Section 9-4

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To open the Public Hearing.

There was no public comment.

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To close the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilor Page, 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 VI – Recreation Department Fees", and that this shall constitute the Second Reading thereof.

II. SPECIAL BUSINESS

5. Presentation by the Asset Management Commission – Capital Improvement Program
FY2025-FY2029

Ed Cooney, Chair of the Asset Management Commission gave the following presentation:



Town of North Kingstown
Asset Management Commission
FY 2025– FY 2029 CIP

February 12, 2024
North Kingstown Town Council

Process

- AMC met to discuss Department requests
 - November 2nd, 9th, 16th December 7th, 14th, January 4th & 25th
 - Public Safety, Public Works, Recreation, Library School, & Water Departments made presentations
 - Town Manager & Finance Director made a presentation as well

2018 Bond Referendum

- Voters approved \$27.0 million of authorized bonds on November 6, 2018
 - \$13.5 million for School Department projects
 - \$13.5 million for Town projects
- Period of deferred maintenance coincided with “debt cliff”
 - Able to complete projects without additional strain on operating budget or increase tax rates

2018 Bond Referendum

- Town
 - Only project remaining is the closure of the Landfill on Hamilton Allenton Rd.
 - Will not be completed until a later date
- School
 - \$0.3 million remaining to be spent on future NKHS HVAC Projects

November 2023 Bond Referendums

Two Bond Questions Totaling \$247.5 million – Over 7,600 or 34.0% of registered voters participated

1) New Middle School & Public Safety Complex

- A. \$222.5 million - \$167.5 M for the Middle School & \$55.0 M for the Public Safety Complex
- B. 61.9 % Against vs. 38.1 % Approve

2) Recreation Center

- A. \$25.0 M
- B. 64.6 % Against vs. 35.4% Approve

CIP Rankings

- Four Funding Sources:
 - Authorized Bonds
 - Enterprise Funds
 - Non-Enterprise Funds
 - School Department
- Eight members submitted priority rankings
 - 1 being lowest priority 5 being highest priority
 - 45 would be highest possible score

Enterprise Funds

1. Golf Course Clubhouse Work (42/45)
2. Replacement of Watermain in Saunderstown Village (41/45)
3. Watermain Condition Assessment (40/45)

Non-Enterprise Funds

1. Public Safety Complex (40/40)
2. Road Maintenance Projects (38/40)
3. (tie) Replacement of 2 fire doors & frames on lower level at Library (36/40)
3. (tie) Facilities Improvements/Maintenance (36/40)

School Department

1. Fire Alarm System – Hamilton El (40/40)
2. NKHS Roof Replacement (36/40)
3. Hamilton EL: Building Envelope/Masonry Repair (29/40)

Departmental Requests

	Pre-25	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total
Public Safety	\$ 0.0	\$ 1.0	\$ 54.0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 55.0
Public Works	4.7	7.4	1.8	-	-	-	13.9
Recreation	0.05	1.0	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.8
School	-	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	5.0
Library	-	0.05	-	-	-	-	0.05
Water	0.3	1.4	0.05	-	-	-	1.7
Total	\$ 5.0	\$ 11.9	\$ 57.3	\$ 1.1	\$ 1.1	\$ 1.1	\$ 77.5

Requests by Fund Source

	General Fund	Enterprise	Authorized Bonds	Unauthorized Bonds	Grants & Other
Public Safety	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 55.0	\$ -
Public Works	8.4	-	1.7	-	3.9
Recreation	0.4	0.9	-	-	0.6
School	5.0	-	-	-	-
Library	-	-	-	-	0.05
Water	-	0.3	-	-	1.5
Total	\$ 13.8	\$ 1.2	\$ 1.7	\$ 55.0	\$ 5.9

AMC Recommended Projects

	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total
Clubhouse Work	\$0.05	\$0.05	\$ 0.05	\$ 0.05	\$ 0.05	\$ 0.25 M
Saunderstown WM	0.06	TBD	-	-	-	TBD
Water Main	0.05	0.05	0.05	-	-	0.15 M
Public Safety HQ	-	1.0	54.0	-	-	55.0 M
Roads	0.8	0.8	-	-	-	TBD
Library Doors	TBD	-	-	-	-	1.6 M
Facilities Improvements	0.8	-	-	-	-	0.8 M
HES Fire Alarm	0.3	-	-	-	-	0.3 M
NKHS Roof Replacement	0.5	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	4.5 M
HES Envelope	0.2	-	-	-	-	0.2 M
Total	\$ 2.8 M	\$ 2.9 M	\$ 55.1 M	\$1.05 M	\$1.05 M	\$ 62.9 M

Recommended Projects by Source

	General Fund	Enterprise	Unauth Bonds	Grants & Other
Clubhouse Work	\$-	\$250,000	\$-	\$-
Saunderstown WM	-	TBD	-	-
Water Main	-	150,000	-	-
Public Safety HQ	-	-	55.0 M	-
Roads	1.6 M	-	-	-
Library Doors	TBD	-	-	-
Facilities Improvements	400,000	-	-	-
HES Fire Alarm	309,750	-	-	-
NKHS Roof Replacement	4.5M	-	-	-
HES Building Envelope	204,960	-	-	-
Total	\$7.0 M	\$400,000	\$55.0 M	-

FY 23 Facilities Assessments

- Studio Jaed Comprehensive Facilities Assessment for Town
 - Estimates 10 year forecasted need of approx. \$28.5 M
- Edward Rowse Architects Comprehensive Facilities Assessment for NKSD
 - Estimates need of \$97.0M
- Total \$125.5 M for both Town and School Assets

Recommendations

- 1) Present Clear Funding Plans in the Budget
 - Facilities Assessments demonstrate the urgent need to create an Asset Protection Fund by Town Council Ordinance
 - Find additional sources of revenue
 - Continue to Clearly Identify Projects funded in FY 2025
 - Annually publish a five-year plan for projects and show the funding
- 2) Create and fill and FTE for a Grant Writer
- 3) Encourage Greater Collaboration between Town Management and the School Department

Thank You

- Adam White, Kris Kinder
- Ralph Mollis, Deb Bridgham, Dr. Duva
- Most importantly the members of AMC
 - Great group of dedicated volunteers willing to give up their free time to help to put together this document for you.

Mr. Cooney reminded the Council that the terms of four members of the Asset Management Commission will be ending in September and he hopes that those members will reapply.

In answer to President Mancini's question how many times the committee met; Mr. Cooney responded eight. President Mancini thanked Mr. Cooney and the members of the Asset Management Commission for their dedicated service.

Councilor Mandel thanked Mr. Cooney for the great presentation which covers a lot and gives the Council a lot to think about. Councilor Mandel asked regarding the non-enterprise funds, the third priority appears to be a tie for the replacement of two fire doors and frames on the lower level of the library, what the cost would be. Mr. Cooney stated it is estimated to be approximately \$15,000, a low cost and a high impact project. Councilor Mandel stated that he didn't understand why the roof replacement for the school department shows \$500,000 in FY2025 and \$1 million over the next four years. Mr. Cooney stated that was submitted to the AMC by the school. That project will be more than \$4.5 million. Dr. Duva was trying to do his best to understand the limits in terms of funding and this is just a proposal and a method to get it done. Is it the optimal method that would be for the Council to decide. He further stated that prior to what was submitted to the AMC there was a much larger figure for next year that would have funded the roof replacement, security enhancements for the elementary school, and some additional work. He further stated that he thinks that the number presented could be adjusted to the projects and could be shovel ready by splitting the cost over two fiscal years. Mr. Mandel stated that he is familiar with the different projects falling under the rubric, and he applauds the notion of being realistic and scaling down to be manageable. He still doesn't understand how we could replace a roof over a five-year period. He asked if the Asset Management Commission believes this could be done. Mr. Cooney stated that personally he doesn't think it should be done and would recommend that it be done over two fiscal years. Start in the spring of 2025 and finish over the summer/fall.

President Mancini stated that to him the biggest capital asset we need is a new middle school and asked why it is not part of this report. Mr. Cooney stated that it was not presented. President Mancini stated that he understands that and asked if the AMC only reviews what is presented realizing the needs independently. Mr. Cooney responded that they had a detailed conversation with the School Department and the night before we met with the School Department the Building Committee voted not to pursue the new middle school at that time. They didn't have a presentation that included a priority for a middle school. We asked them during that time period to come back to us when they have a plan to move forward. We strongly encouraged them, and again we are an advisory body and not an appropriation body which is the Council, that before they come to the Council with any bond request, they come back to the Asset Management Commission so we can have those discussions and make a recommendation to the Council. Since they didn't have a plan at that time, we didn't have a discussion whether it would be one or two middle schools and to have an opinion would be premature. President Mancini stated that he would disagree. He is surprised that there is no mention of our biggest capital need.

President Mancini stated that he would like to know if the Asset Management Commission has any recommendations of fiscal programs to fund these initiatives or is that something they expect the Council to do. Mr. Cooney stated that we made the recommendation to find additional revenue sources, such as hiring a grant writer, go out to bond which he wouldn't recommend for maintenance projects, and the AMC has been recommending for several years that the Council create and fund an Asset Protection Fund. He further stated that there was an opportunity and discussion with the Charter Review Commission to have that in the Charter, and there was opposition to that, and he doesn't disagree with that, but there are things that can be done. He further stated that the AMC is willing to have this discussion with the Council. President Mancini stated that he is just looking for recommendations. Mr. Cooney stated that the AMC did discuss potential revenue if the Town were to have a retail marijuana location but understood that isn't feasible at this time as there are only a number of licenses. We also discussed the possibility of collecting an additional one percent on the realty transfer stamps but understands that would require going to the general assembly for a statutory change.

President Mancini stated that what he is getting out of the conversation is that for the Town to find funding is challenging and that is what we face as a community. We have the need to budget for capital and the community hasn't done the best job to maintain our assets and we are not getting any financial recommendations because it is hard. The Council will continue to work with the Asset Management Commission to continue these challenging discussions. He further stated that in regard to a grant writer position it is his experience that there are not many opportunities for capital projects that we are discussing. He asked that if the Asset Management Commission knows of any potential grants to please share them with the Council. Mr. Cooney stated that the playground improvements have all been grant funded and he believes that there are foundations that would fund projects such as a recreation center. President Mancini stated that those typically require a match, which is fine. President Mancini thanked Mr. Cooney.

Councilor McCoy thanked Mr. Cooney and the members of the Asset Management Commission for the work that they do. He further stated that in November we went to the voters asking to borrow \$55 million for a new public safety building. Mr. Cooney stated that it was a much larger number as it was a combined question. Councilor McCoy stated that is correct, but the Public Safety Building number was \$55 million. In looking at the report, we are talking about \$1 million in FY2025, \$54 million in FY2026, and he asked if that was correct. Mr. Cooney stated that is what was presented; however, he believes that there may be the need for a different plan, and it is under further study. Councilor McCoy stated that it seemed clear at the time that a new public safety building was a priority for the community, and it seems like we are kicking the can down the road and asked if it is still a priority. Mr. Cooney stated that for the AMC based upon the condition of that building, it is a top priority. He further stated that again, things are fluid, the voters rejected that bond, and we need to go back to the table on both the middle school project and the public safety building. Again, when we have a better plan, he would recommend that the Asset Management Commission have the discussion prior to going to the general assembly for enabling legislation for a bond for either or both of these projects. Councilor McCoy stated it is his opinion that everyone has an opinion about the bond and why it failed. When he looked at the data of the results of the election, the majority of the voters who voted in the referendum were over the age of 54. He thinks people who were opposed to the bond were very effective at making it clear about potential tax increases that would occur if the bond passed. He thinks that is the main reason why the bond failed.

Councilor McCoy stated that from his perspective in regard to the facility assessment and there being a giant wish list, the priorities should be safety related, need to be done, and not nice to have unless we have the financial resources to do that. He asked what the percentage was of what was presented in the category of "nice to have". Mr. Cooney stated that we looked at the building envelope, exterior, interior, HVAC systems, lighting systems, fire safety, security, elevators, hazardous abatements and not a wish list, but a list of things that will fall off the list as a result of completing projects. Something that may be a priority in year 10 could move up to year six, or a priority in year six could move down to year 12. The facility assessment is a great tool for us to use to monitor the needs.

Councilor McCoy stated that he has been following the Capital Improvement Plan for the school pretty closely, and it was mentioned that it was \$97 million, but at a previous meeting it was \$112 million. Mr. Cooney stated that one plan included the middle schools, and the other did not. What was presented to the AMC did not include the middle schools. Councilor McCoy asked if the facility assessment has been completed for Wickford Middle School. Mr. Cooney stated that he doesn't believe they have done it at this point. Councilor McCoy stated that the question that is most on the community's mind is if the Wickford Middle School could be renovated and if so, what the cost would be or if it is beyond its useful life. Mr. Cooney stated that he would agree that we need to know that. He further stated that the School Department has been very cooperative with these discussions, and we need to keep in mind that they have been short-staffed, but Dr. Duva has been very accommodating.

Councilor Page thanked Mr. Cooney for his presentation. She stated that several years ago as a School Committee Member, she was the liaison to the Asset Management Commission and remembers it well. Some of the same things being said tonight are the same as what she heard 15 years ago. She remembers the long conversations on how to rank these issues and concerns on how to fund these capital needs. We build great buildings, but we don't think about how to maintain these building in the future. It has been an ongoing structural problem, as well as maintaining a reasonable tax rate. The Council needs to find a mechanism to fund maintaining these buildings and she understands the frustration of all sides. She also stated that she is on the Building Committee, and they did not make a recommendation regarding the middle schools but spent a lot of time on the many needs of the school facilities. Mr. Cooney stated that he agrees, and it is frustrating that a number of the school projects have been on the Asset Management Commission's priorities for years and they wonder why they haven't been done. Councilor Page stated that we are open to having discussion during the budget process of funding for these capital needs.

Mr. Mollis stated that the report the Asset Management Commission provides is a document that we use during the budget process. He further stated that he is opposed to having a grant writer as we are probably one of the most successful municipalities in the state in obtaining significant grants. Regarding the Asset Protection Fund recommendation, we do that. For example, over the last six years we have spent over \$18 million on protecting our assets, new machinery, vehicle replacements, and building improvements, just from the General Fund. We spent \$6 million at the Golf Course from the Enterprise Fund, the Water Department has spent approximately \$16 million, and Allen Harbor has spent \$1.3 million over the same period. These projects were funded from approved budgets in capital lines within the various departments.

After a brief discussion, the Council thanked Mr. Cooney and all the members of the Asset Management Commission for their hard work and dedication to this commission.

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To receive and file the Capital Improvement Program for FY2025-FY2029.

6. Presentation by Susan Fox and MaryAnn O'Halloran

Susan Fox thanked the Council for the opportunity to give an update on the Eco-Land Art Project that was approved by the Council last summer/fall.



We are now at the place where this project is complete. We have one more thing to do; however, we would like to invite the Council to the opening of this art piece on April 28th and we will be doing a planting at that time as well. We hope that you will enjoy this as it was a delight to create this piece with the 16 volunteers that assisted.

President Mancini appreciates the positive contribution they have given to North Kingstown.

Councilor Mandel asked what time on April 28th is the opening. Ms. Fox stated 2:00 p.m. and the Council will be receiving a formal invitation. She further stated that this will be an interactive event with the plantings and hopes everyone brings a friend.

The Council took Item Number 8 next.

8. Public Comment

Harris Chorney, 2 River View Road, Narragansett, read the following statement:

“Members of the Town Council:

I very much appreciate the opportunity to address the Town Council this evening. My name is Harris Chorney and I am the chair of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island. The Jewish Alliance is the largest Jewish organization in Rhode Island, providing support and services directly, and through our partner agencies to the estimated 18-20,000 Jewish residents of Rhode Island, many of whom reside in the Town of North Kingstown.

At its most recent two meetings, this Town Council was requested by a town resident to consider putting forth a resolution demanding an immediate and permanent ceasefire in the Israeli/Hamas war.

I stand before you today with a deep sense of responsibility and ask you not to consider such a resolution. The R.I. Jewish community is concerned, nervous, and isolated – particularly in light of the surge in antisemitism and hate speech directed at Jews and supporters of Israel, which have increased nationally over 360% between October 7, 2023 and January 7, 2024. Rhode Island has not escaped its share of antisemitic incidents since October 7.

Let me be very clear – We abhor the loss of innocent life, whether Jewish or Arab, Israeli or Palestinian. War is horrible. Like most Americans, The Jewish Alliance wants the war to end. But it also wants a ceasefire ONLY once the hostages are released and Hamas is removed from power. Calling for an immediate ceasefire in effect excuses the indiscriminate rape, murder, and torture of innocent Israelis – Jewish and not Jewish. The barbarity of the crimes committed on October 7th are too graphic and disturbing to describe in detail, but Israel has the right and duty to defend itself and to ensure that Hamas never again can commit such atrocities.

Here's the irony – Israel was brutally attacked by Hamas, which broke an existing ceasefire, and which publicly acknowledges it is committed to the destruction of Israel and the murder of Jews anywhere – that truly is the definition of genocide. Yet, people who propose such resolutions never mention Hamas and its atrocities of genocide.

The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island stands for peace and stands against all hate. The only chance for peace begins with the end of Hamas rule. An immediate ceasefire would guarantee future war, bloodshed, and suffering by both Israelis and Palestinians.

The VERY FEW one-sided resolutions that have been passed in this country are filled with inflammatory rhetoric and language that demonizes Israel with the goal of ultimately ending the existence of the world's only Jewish state. The language used hurts Jews; it is designed to do so. The language is also designed to spread division in this country and will exacerbate the rhetoric that has already led to the meteoric rise of antisemitism that I referred to earlier.

The Jewish Alliance requests that you not participate in furthering this divide and we urge that you not consider any resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire. We encourage the Town Council to consider alternative approaches that promote constructive engagement and mutual understanding. To that end, the Jewish Alliance stands ready to assist the Town Council and Town management.

Again, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak with you this evening, and thank you for your public service.”

President Mancini stated that if a member of the Council so chooses to put a resolution forward, they have a right to do so. To date, that has not been the case and we like to only do resolutions that impact town government or the residents of North Kingstown. He further stated that this is a complex issue, and a resolution would need due process for both proponents and opponents for any issue. The gravity of the situation in Gaza and many other places around the world are unspeakable and our hearts go out to all sides. He personally doesn't think that the Council passing a resolution is helpful, but he would defer to members on the Council if they would like to do a resolution. He thanked Mr. Chorney for his comments.

The Council took Item Number 7 next.

7. Report by Kayla VanGorden

Kayla VanGorden stated that she is the Manager of the Learn 365 Grant which the Governor awarded the Town to be used for the Recreation Department in conjunction with the School Department. Our Youth Commission is a Middle School program intent on increasing attendance and overall academic success within our middle schools. We opened the application process to both our middles schools for students to apply to be part of the commission on the basis of their involvement within the community and their interest of continued involvement. Over the course of the last few months, we have been able to select eight students, two from Davisville Middle School and 6 from Wickford Middle School. We were able to meet for the first time this past Saturday. At this meeting, we talked about what would be expected of the middle school students, as well as their interest in goals in being part of the commission. She further stated that her role in the commission is to be a facilitator and the commission really is run and directed by the students who had a lot of great ideas related to recreational sports, school improvements, and ways to get the community more involved. There was a lot of discussion about equity in sports, as well as providing the Recreation Department with recommendations for vendors and snacks for the summer programs. Hopefully as we move forward, we will focus on more specific goals. She further stated that she was very impressed with the majority of these

middles school students and how willing they were to serve the community going forward in different roles within the commission.

FEBRUARY 12, 2024

BOOK 111 PAGE

Ms. VanGorden stated that they also held their financial aid completion night on February 8th at the high school. We reached our goal of serving 50 individuals with their financial aid needs. The majority were parents with their high school seniors and set up the FASA ID's. One of the benefits was that we were able to have the Rhode Island College Planning Center come to the event and provide additional services and expertise on the new FASA portal as well as create appointments with those students to revisit the application process sooner. The FASA portal has been totally revamped and is experiencing some bugs, so this will be very helpful to them and their parents. She thanked the Guidance Department at the High School who coordinated with the students which increased attendance.

Ms. VanGorden thanked the Council for the opportunity to present this update of the Learn 365 Program.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To approve Consent Agenda Item Numbers 9 through 23 as presented with the exception of Agenda Item Numbers 17 and 23.

9. Tax Abatement List #876

VOTED: To approve Tax Abatement List #876 submitted by Deb Garneau, Tax Assessor, in the amount of \$475.53; and it was

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

10. Receipt of Donations

VOTED: To accept with gratitude the following donations in the amount of \$4,350.00:

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 the Faith Fund	
From: First Baptist Church in Wickford	\$ 310.00
For: Beechwood Senior Center To be used for the Mealsite	
From: Anonymous	\$ 25.00
For: Beechwood Senior Center	
From: Anonymous	\$ 15.00

11. Acceptance of a Donation

VOTED: To accept with gratitude the donation of 2.49 acres of land located at 7335 Post Road, Assessor's Plat 136, Lot 19 from Kilday Properties, LLC.

12. Letter of Resignation

VOTED: To accept the letter of resignation from Christopher J. Zangari, resigning from the Zoning Board of Review, and that the Town Council President send a letter of appreciation to him for the dedicated service he gave to the Town of North Kingstown; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: To appoint John Kliever, 75 West Main Street, as a full member from First Alternate, to the Zoning Board of Review to July 1, 2024, to fill the unexpired term of Christopher Zangari; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: To appoint Edwin Andrews, 50 North Road, as First Alternate from Second Alternate, to the Zoning Board of Review to July 1, 2025; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: To advertise the vacancy for one (1) Second Alternate to the Zoning Board of Review to July 1, 2024.

13. Award of Contract

VOTED: To award a three (3) year contract for the Planning Department for Assessor's Parcel and Zoning Layer Maintenance and Web Geographic Information System (GIS) Application and data reconciliation for the conversion of the town's existing tax map data; parcel updating on a continuous as-needed basis; online mapping application and as-needed updates and corrections to the zoning layer, one record parcel map set; Viewpoint/Open Gov and Vision Appraisal GIS integration and as-needed data reconciliation in the amount of \$80,200.00 over the three year term and not to exceed \$5,000.00 per year for data reconciliation.

Funding for this contract is from Tech Upgrade (ARPA) - Account #17809010-54112 (\$80,200.00) and Planning Department Budget - Contractual Services - Account #00109010-531206 (up to \$5,000.00 per year).

14. Award of Bid

VOTED: To award the bid for the Department of Public Works for one (1) 2024 Kubota RTV X1100 CWL-H w/Plow Attachment to Norfolk Power Equipment, Inc., 5 Cushing Drive, Wrentham, MA 02093, in the amount of \$28,768.53.

Funding for this purchase will be as follows:

- FY2024 Recreation/Playground Equipment Account 00116010-555201 (\$18,000.00) and Public Works Restricted Snow Removal Account 00100000-315001 (\$10,768.53)

15. Award of Bid

VOTED: To award the bid for the Town of North Kingstown Annual 4th of July Fireworks Display and Barge (2024-2026) to Ocean State Pyrotechnics, 26A Woody Hill Road, Hope Valley, RI 02832, as follows:

Year	Date	Rain Date	Display	Barge
2024	Wednesday, July 3rd	Sunday, July 7th	\$18,000	\$15,000
2025	Thursday, July 3rd	Monday, July 7th	\$18,000	\$15,000
2026	Saturday, July 4th	Monday, July 6th	\$20,000	\$15,000

Funding for this item will be budgeted to Recreation/Contractual Services 43021060-531206.

16. Award of Concession Contracts

VOTED: To authorize the Recreation Director to award and sign Concession Contracts for Mobile Food Services for Wilson Park to sell non-alcoholic drinks, soft drinks, novelty ice cream items, and other various snack products to:

- Knightstand, LLC, dba Del's Lemonade of North Kingstown, 10 Woodridge Drive, Saunderstown - \$11,000.00
- Matthew Picard, dba The Snack Shack, 223 Dahlia Drive, North Kingstown - \$6,500.00

Revenue from the Contracts will be from Recreation Revenue Account #00147016-471008.

17. Award of Contract

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To award the contract for the Tax Assessor's Office for the Statistical Revaluation of Real Property within the Town of North Kingstown to Vision Government Solutions, 1 Cabot Road, Suite 100, Hudson, MA 01749, in the amount of \$169,000.00.

Funding is from FY2024 Budget - Tax Revaluation Reserve Fund - \$67,600.00 and State of Rhode Island - \$101,400.00.

The Council requested that the Town Manager and Tax Assessor meet with the constituent who provided an alternative to the reval process and report back to the Council.

18. Detective License Renewals

VOTED: To approve the following list of Detective License Renewals, expiring on December 1, 2024, subject to taxes and water paid to date, receipt of a bond, and receipt of a recommendation from the North Kingstown Police Department:

1/31/2024

Detective Renewal License
Town Council
2/12/2024

NK#	Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Business Add	Phone	email
26	Martin Hyman	641 Congdon Hill Rd	North Kingstown	RI	02852	641 Congdon Hill Rd	294-3183	n123pp@gmail.com
13	Victor Pichette	42 Main St	East Greenwich	RI	02818	320 Phillips St	477-4748	vpichette@gmail.com

All taxes/water assessments have been paid to date 2/6/24 collection dept

19. Refuse Collector – Commercial for Hire License (new)

VOTED: To approve to January 1, 2025 the application for a Refuse Collector - Commercial for Hire License by Paul R. Mumford & Son Cesspool Service Inc., 160 Railroad Avenue, Saunderstown 02874, subject to taxes, water, and any other assessments paid to date; receipt of a bond; inspection approval from the Transfer Station; and receipt of a Certificate of Insurance.

20. Refuse Collector- Commercial for Hire Licenses (2) (renewal)

VOTED: To approve to January 1, 2025 the renewal application for two (2) Refuse Collector - Commercial for Hire Licenses by D Lewis & Son, Inc., 252 South Road, Exeter 02822, subject to taxes and water paid to date, receipt of a bond, inspection approval from the Transfer Station, and receipt of a Certificate of Insurance if needed.

21. Victualling, Dance, and Amusement License Renewals

VOTED: To approve to December 1, 2024 the following list of Victualling, Dance, and Amusement License Renewals, subject to taxes and water paid to date and compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Marshall, the Building Official, and the Water Department:

VABDJ LICENSE RENEWALS
February 12, 2024

NK #	NAME	DBA	BUSINESS LOCATIO	PHONE	SEATS	HOURS	LIC. HELD
135	HTTM ENTERPRISES INC	THE PLACE	95 BROWN ST	294-0800	16	11:00 AM- 10:00 PM	V
199	LIGHTHOUSE COFFEE ROASTERS LLC		7446 POST RD	575-1110	20	6:30 AM- 3:00 PM	V
269	STARBUCKS CORPORATION	STARBUCKS COFFEE #68522	105 GATE RD	206-594-7273	10	6:00 AM- 7:00 PM	V

ALL TAXES/WATER ASSESSMENTS HAVE BEEN PAID TO DATE K. O'Neill COLLECTION DEPT.
DATE 2/7/2024

22. Amendment of Town Council vote of January 22, 2024 to increase the Alcoholic Beverage License Limits

VOTED: To amend the Town Council vote of January 22, 2024 by increasing the Class B-Full Alcoholic Beverage License limits from 29 to 30 for Overabarrel LLC, dba Barrique Wine Bar, 7610 Post Road, Unit 5, to 27 to 28.

FEBRUARY 12, 2024

BOOK 111 PAGE

23. Resolution in support of proposed Legislation

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

WHEREAS, Houseboats are currently being manufactured to provide permanent or rental housing permanently berthed in local marinas; and

WHEREAS, the Harbor Management Commission requests the support for enabling legislation to be introduced by the State Legislators, allowing cities and towns in Rhode Island to regulate the use of houseboats in their communities; and

WHEREAS, this enabling legislation, currently a joint effort with Newport and Narragansett, would support the goals set forth in the North Kingstown Harbor Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, this enabling legislation would allow the Town to adequately enforce building code compliance, wastewater control, taxation, and assure that adequate public safety measures are in place.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the North Kingstown Town Council supports the proposed enabling legislation to be introduced by Representative Carson and the North Kingstown Legislative Delegation allowing coastal communities to regulate houseboats; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That this Resolution be sent to Representative Carson, the North Kingstown Legislative Delegation, the North Kingstown Harbor Management Commission, and the North Kingstown Harbormaster.

IV. REPORTS

24. Report by the Town Manager

Town Manager Mollis gave the following report:

Projects

- I joined our Town Council members, our State Delegation, Statewide Officials and Federal Officials at the January 26th announcement of the \$81 million federal grant establishing a new connection from 1-95 to North Kingstown. This long-awaited project will establish the completion of the final link between Interstate 95 and Route 4. This is a 'game changing' project for our Town and Quonset Industrial Park. Our residents, visitors to North Kingstown and those who work in North Kingstown but live outside of our town are well aware of the challenges and inconvenience of accessing, in particular, Route 95 South. This will be a significant improvement to our economic development, quality of life for our residents, our visitors and our workforce. I will keep the Town and the Council up to date on the progress of this project as I become aware of updated information.
- The R.I. Department of Transportation has notified us that the Davisville Bridge Project, or what we refer to as the Devil's Foot Road Bridge Project, has been rescheduled. This is due to the contract being cancelled. They have advised us that this will be incorporated into a different design/build project which will go out for RFP late Spring/early Summer. No work is anticipated this year and will be dependent upon working around Amtrak's availability. This has been reviewed with Public Safety and Public Works and RIDOT has provided flexibility which will not affect these services or our public safety.
- We continue to have our regularly scheduled bi-weekly meetings with Revolution Wind regarding their Offshore Wind Farm Project. Work still continues at their onshore substation. The contractor continues excavation for the underground duct bank. They are also installing sheet piles at the substation site. This work will cause noise and

vibrations and public outreach has continued with no complaints to date. We've coordinated the option of opening the emergency gate and this will be controlled and monitored by our Police Department.

FEBRUARY 12, 2024

BOOK 111 PAGE

Revolution Wind will be hosting an Onshore Construction Open House, as requested by the Town Council, on Wednesday, February 21 from 6pm — 7:30pm here in our Council Chambers. Anyone interested in attending can register on the Revolution Wind website or via our many social media posts. As always, if there are any questions or concerns, residents should feel free to contact Revolution Wind at 401-251-2207 or info@revolution-wind.com.

- The R.I. Public Transit Authority/RIPTA has announced changes to services statewide, with some affecting North Kingstown. These changes are due to the challenge of recruiting drivers and lack of ridership. RIPTA is scheduling public hearings on these proposed changes for February 12th - 15th, February 19th, and February 21st. You can visit RIPTA.com/PublicHearings for more information. The proposed changes affecting North Kingstown are:
 - The Route 14 service will be changed from 3 trips to Salt Pond Plaza in Narragansett to 3 trips to Newport.
 - The Route 64 service will be eliminated.
 - Route QX will be eliminated.
 - Information on the impact and locations of public hearings can be found on RIPTA's website.
- We are excited to announce that the improvements to the Courts at Wilson Park and McGinn Park are underway. As a result, the Skatepark at McGinn is currently closed. Wilson Park Courts will be closed this week and McGinn Park Courts will close down February 26th. It is the expectation that all renovations & improvements will be completed by June 1st with all of the newly renovated and new facilities open for the Summer Season.
- The State Traffic Commission has approved the installation of a crosswalk across Boston Neck Road connecting our Town Hall to the Veterans Memorial Park. We received a follow up letter from them on January 22nd informing us that the crosswalk and wheelchair ramps will be installed as part of a future RIDOT construction project with no timeline given.

Finances

- We have completed and submitted our Fiscal Year 2023 Audit to the Auditor General by the extended January 31st deadline. We are scheduling a presentation to the Town Council for your next meeting on February 26th.
- I will be presenting the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2025 at your March 4th meeting. I will also be presenting a supplemental ARPA Plan immediately after the Budget Presentation at this same meeting as this will be an important supplement and compliment the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget. This will be followed by your meeting with myself and Department Heads the evening of March 11th and all day on March 12th followed by Public Hearings on April 3rd.
- I want to update you on the financial repercussions of the Cyber Attack last Spring. While we were very successful in our handling of the Cyber Attack, from the initial moments, to protecting our information and that of others, to communicating our response and offering Identity Protection to over 100,000 individuals, we did incur a substantial financial burden as a result of this attack. Our total expenses were \$1,144,550, with the majority of expense being \$562,000 for Fraud Protection services and over \$400,000 for the services and infrastructure improvements provided by our third-party consultant. Our Policy Limit on our Cyber Insurance is \$500,000. The result is over \$600,000 in expenses which will not be covered, with approximately \$500,000 of those expenses affecting our FY2024 Budget and the remainder affecting our FY2023 Budget. Deb Bridgham has included this expense in the prior Monthly Report that she provided to the Town Council when she projected a surplus for this Fiscal Year.

Staffing

- Due to the upcoming retirement of our current Library Director, the Library Board of Trustees is in the process of a search for a new Director with an anticipated start date of July 1st. I have been in regular contact with current Director Susan Aylward and have reached out to the Board of Directors as well. I am hoping they will keep me up to date on their process and I will keep the Council up to date as well.

Miscellaneous

- We are hosting an E-Waste Collection event at our Municipal Office Building from 9am till noon on Saturday, March 9th. Information has been posted on our Social Media Platforms. Last year we collected 33,000 pounds of E-Waste which was 12,000 pounds more than calendar year 2022.
- As you know, we had a Blood Drive on January 30th and it was another success. We had 36 donations which the Blood Center projects will help save 108 lives. Our next Drive will be April 9th. Our thanks to Matunuck Oyster Bar for sponsoring this Drive with gift cards to all donors.
- Due to tomorrow's storm, the Municipal Office Building, Senior Center, and Library will be closed.
- Finally, I was reappointed to the RI Interlocal Risk Management Trust's Board of Trustees and their Finance Committee for a term expiring December, 2027.

The Council thanked Mr. Mollis for his thorough report.

V. NEW BUSINESS**25. Request by Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of Rhode Island**

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: That the North Kingstown Legislative Delegation is hereby requested to submit An Act Authorizing the Town Council of the Town of North Kingstown to exempt from taxation real property of Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of Rhode Island (Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island), a qualified tax-exempt corporation under Sec. 501(c)3 of the United States Internal Revenue Code, for the property located at 2865 Tower Hill Road, Saunderstown, Plat 005/Lot 001.

26. Request for a Water Main Extension

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: That the request for the installation of approximately 1,610 feet of eight (8) inch water main connecting to the existing twelve (12) inch water main on Post Road, to service Post Road Apartments, consisting of 77 apartments, be approved subject to the following conditions:

1. Water modeling was conducted for 77 apartment units split between two buildings with 46 two-bedroom units and 31 one-bedroom units for a total of 123 bedrooms. Any addition to the number of dwelling units, substantial changes in building configurations, or additional uses proposed for the site will require additional water modeling.
2. The water system design as yet to be submitted for technical and construction approval must be without substantial changes in elevation and layout from the plan submitted to the Water Department with their modeling application submitted in December 2023.
3. That the water infrastructure must be completely installed within 24 months of the approval. Failure to install the water infrastructure as approved within the 24 months will

result in automatic revocation of this approval. No extension to this requirement will be provided without the approval of the Town Council.

4. All water improvements are to be paid for by the developer and must be installed in accordance with the North Kingstown Department of Water Supply standards and procedures in place at the time of the installation or as otherwise required by the Director of Water Supply.

FEBRUARY 12, 2024

BOOK 111 PAGE

5. The development must be constructed in complete compliance with all applicable Town Ordinances, and/or conditions as imposed by the Planning Commission, Town Council, or the Water Department.
6. No inground irrigation systems shall be permitted to be connected to the municipal water system.
7. The water infrastructure shall be looped back into the Post Road water main at the northern edge of the property and an additional fire hydrant must be installed by the developer at the beginning of the roadway into the property adjacent to its Post Road intersection.
8. The submitted modeling plans are for hydraulic analysis only. Construction plans, to include location of tapping sleeves, valves, air release valves, fire hydrants, and blow off assemblies must be submitted and approved by the Director of Water Supply prior to initiating construction. The Director of Water Supply may approve minor field changes during construction.
9. In accordance with the North Kingstown Department of Water Supply Planning, Material and Construction Specifications, as built plans (hard copy and digital copy) shall be submitted to the Town Engineer and the Director of Water Supply upon completion of the work.

27. Appraiser of Dog Damages

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor McCoy and unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint Captain John MacCoy, 8166 Post Road, as Appraiser of Dog Damages to April 1, 2025.

28. Arts Council - Appointments

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint the following six (6) members to the Arts Council to March 1, 2026:

Roberta Belanger, 114 Pleasant Street
Gail Shawn Burda, 35 Harrington Road
Gerry Grabowski, 169 Georgia Avenue
Nancy Sherman, 64 Pleasant Street
Donna Vanderbeck, 57 Lindley Avenue

The Council directed the Clerk to advertise the four (4) vacancies.

29. Assessment Board of Review - Appointment

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint Nicholas Reuter, 49 Brigade Drive, Saunderstown, to the Assessment Board of Review to December 1, 2026.

30. Compensation Commission - Appointments

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To continue to the February 26, 2024 Town Council Meeting the appointment of five (5) members to the Compensation Commission.

FEBRUARY 12, 2024

BOOK 111 PAGE

31. Conservation Commission - Appointments

Motion by Councilor Anderson, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint the following three (3) members to the Conservation Commission to March 1, 2027:

Ahren L. Cohen, 400 Forge Road
Amy N. Sonder, 30 Elam Street
Janice K. McAleer, 830 Ten Rod Road

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint the following two (2) members to the Conservation Commission to March 1, 2026:

Patricia E. Siegmund, 10 Kent Street
Kathleen Guarino, 139 Summit View Lane

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Joseph Fontaine, 75 Juniper Drive, to the Conservation Commission to March 1, 2025.

The Council directed the Clerk to advertise the remaining one (1) vacancy.

32. Economic Development Advisory Board – Appointment

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To advertise the vacancy of one (1) Second Alternate to the Economic Development Advisory Board.

33. Harbor Management Commission - Appointments

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint the following three (3) members to the Harbor Management Commission to March 1, 2026:

Keith Finck, 13 Walnut Road, Recreational Boating Representative, reappointed
Kay Ho, 139 North Road, Environmental/Conservation Group Representative,
reappointed
Matthew Collins, 196 Pendar Road, Marina/Boat Yard Operator Representative

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint Ernest Wilcox, 38 Enfield Avenue, Commercial Fishing Representative, to the Harbor Management Commission to March 1, 2026; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: This appointment is made in accordance with Section 317 of the Charter as Mr. Wilcox has expertise and knowledge essential to this commission.

34. Personnel Board - Appointment

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Stacey Weinstein, 737 Old Baptist Road, to the Personnel Board to March 1, 2027.

FEBRUARY 12, 2024

BOOK 111 PAGE

35. Tree Warden - Appointment

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint J. Peter Morgan, 70 Paddock Lane, Saunderstown 02874, as Tree Warden to March 1, 2025.

36. Veterans Day & Memorial Day Parades Committee - Appointments

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor McCoy and unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint the following four (4) members to the Veterans Day & Memorial Day Parades Committee to March 1, 2027:

John E. Fitzgerald, 170 Beach Street
Nancy Hillner, 805 Main Street, Apt. 101, Hope Valley 02832
Stanley T. Spink, 15 Barolay Drive
Brian Votolato, 62 Glenwood Drive

The Council directed the Clerk to advertise the remaining three (3) vacancies.

37. Discussion regarding Programs that would allow “older residents to work off property taxes” as requested by Councilor Mandel

Councilor Mandel stated that he has provided an AARP article reviewing that several municipalities and jurisdictions around the country have adopted programs allowing senior residents who apply to work off part of their property taxes by filling positions or temporary opportunities that the town has available. For example, in North Kingstown, someone may volunteer to work at the beach checking beach stickers or possibly work at the recreation camps. The whole idea is that we know that we have seniors in town that may be house rich but cash poor seeing their taxes go up and are seeking ways to find relief. This is not relief that reduces the tax burden but allows them to work off that tax burden.

Councilor Mandel stated that he is not an expert in this area but if this is something the Council may want to consider, he would propose to ask the administration to look at this and see if it is practical and check with other municipalities to see what the pros and cons would be.

President Mancini asked what the basis was for Councilor Mandel to bring this forward. Councilor Mandel stated that when we had our bond question last year, we received some feedback from seniors who had trouble staying and affording their homes and were concerned what the tax impact would be if those bonds passed. In trying to think of what practical measure we could take, this, although a small measure, could help our seniors.

Mr. Mollis stated that if the Council would like us to do some research, we can certainly do that as there are a lot of questions we would need to address and we can bring it back to the Council in the future.

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to have the Manager research this proposal.

38. Correspondence – as of 12:00 p.m. today and does not include emails pertaining to the planning or conduct of the NK350th Anniversary

01/15/2024 – Elena Tillman – Subj: Plastic Trash/Pollution on Calf Pasture Loop

01/22/2024 – Sarah Leonard – Subj: NKSC Appointment

01/23/2024 – Cindy Booth – Subj: NKSC Appointment

01/23/2024 (2x) – Kathleen Guarino – Subj: NKSC Appointment

01/23/2024 – Heather Murphy – Subj: NKSC Appointment

FEBRUARY 12, 2024

BOOK 111 PAGE

01/28/2024 – Megan Lawler – Subj: NKSC

01/29/2024 – Tom Sgouros – Subj: Tax Assessments

01/29/2024 – Donna Hutchinson – Subj: Wakefield Innovation – Better Street Design

01/29/2024 – Megan Lawler – Subj: NKSC

01/29/2024 – Heather Murphy – Subj: NKSC – Transgender Policy

01/30/2024 – Tom Sgouros – Tax Assessments

01/31/2024 – Mike Donohue – Subj: Janice McAleer’s Application to Serve on the Conservation Commission

02/01/2024 – Kay Ho – Subj: RT-4 and Bicycles

02/12/2024 (2x) – Megan Lawler – NKSC

02/02/2024 – Sarah Kelly-Palmer – Subj: Letter from the Executive Committee of the NKDTC

02/07/2024 (2x) – Alan LaFlamme – Subj: Status Update – Internal Affairs Complaint

02/07/2024 – Howard Brown – Subj: Your LTE of January 11, 2024

02/10/2024 – Shareff S. Champlain – Subj: Republic of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

02/10/2024 – Joe Gentile – Subj: Appointment to Conservation Commission

02/11/2024 – Alex Cutter – Subj: Foreign Policy - Gaza/Palestine

02/11/2024 – Judi Dill - Subj: Foreign Policy - Gaza/Palestine

02/11/2024 – Daniela Volkovinsky - Subj: Foreign Policy - Gaza/Palestine

02/11/2024 – Susan Price - Subj: Foreign Policy - Gaza/Palestine

02/11/2024 – Stanley Freeman - Subj: Foreign Policy - Gaza/Palestine

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Jeannette Alyward
Town Clerk