

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 December, 2024 at the Town Hall Council Chambers, 80 Boston Neck Road, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT WERE: Dr. Kimberly Ann Page, President Pro-Tem
Linnea M. Drew
Elizabeth Hill Ross
Matthew B. McCoy

ABSENT: Gregory A. Mancini, President

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 December 16, 2024 was called to order by President Pro-Tem Page.

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 Pro-Tem Page led those in attendance in a salute to the flag.

4. Public Comment

David Caldwell, 6500 Post Road, stated that he would like to speak about our Comp Plan and how we are making some very good progress. He went by Yorktown Park today and saw an excavator there where the park had experienced flooding issues as in other areas of town. When we did the 1994 Comp Plan, which he worked on as a URI student, no one was discussing climate change. Now we have more to work with and there are a lot of people here tonight with expertise on this topic. In the private sector, there are a lot of environmental and economic sustainable decisions. Right now, because the energy codes have changed, you can build new buildings with electric heat pumps for the same cost. We should be building our new buildings all electric which can be done at the same cost. Over the years, he has been involved with the town, and we like to make these decisions that are economically and environmentally sustainable, and he is willing to assist in these efforts as he builds and renovates buildings that are environmentally sustainable for the next generations.

Peg Parker, 1140 Gilbert Stuart Road, stated that she would like to echo what Mr. Caldwell stated that as a town we need to look at climate change impacts. She is happy the School Committee is present tonight as we need to build smart when constructing the new middle school. She is happy to hear that geothermal and solar was included in the bond issue which passed. We want to make sure that aspect is in the contract for the new school. She would like to say that as a longtime resident in the southern end of town we need to help residents be resilient in climate change, especially in drought situations. Her property is surrounded by acres of trees and she and her neighbors were extremely concerned about wildfires. The water lines do not come far enough south and there are no fire hydrants. She encouraged the Council to work on this issue and keep it front and center.

Diane Hill, 40 Heritage Road, stated that she has been concerned about climate crisis since she learned several years ago that science is telling us that when we reach certain tipping points the changes will be permanent and irreversible. She loves living in North Kingstown and we are already seeing impacts from climate change. The most joyous role she has in life now is being a grandparent to 2 children who have grown up here. She is hoping that knowing when we reach these tipping points and see the impacts, such as fires and flooding all over south county and Rhode Island, it is very important that this becomes a priority. She further stated that she would ask the Council to consider this issue in every decision that they make.

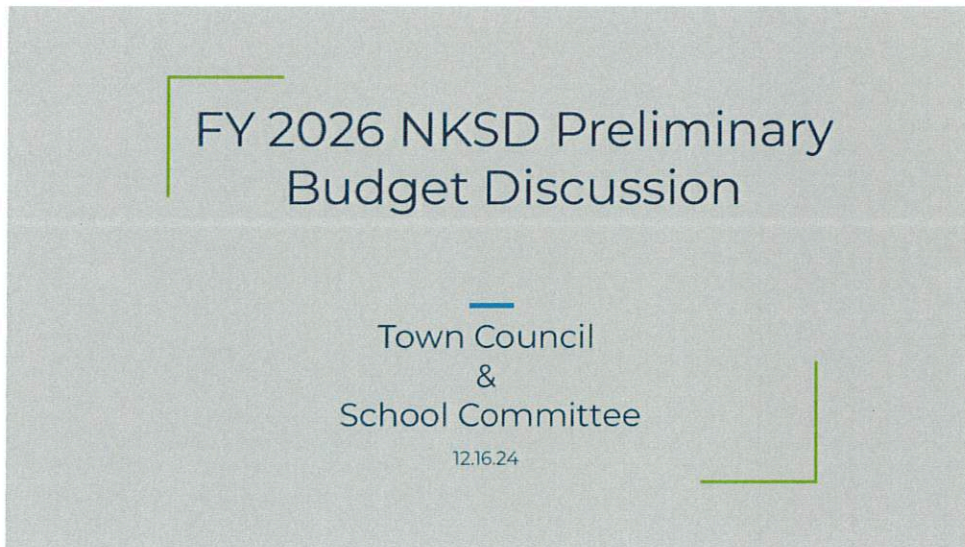
Donna Lico, 62 Edgewood Drive, stated that she is also concerned about the effects of climate change in North Kingstown. She would like the Council and School Committee to think about our Comprehensive Plan as we move forward with our plans, especially in building our new middle school and that it is a net zero building. She further stated that she hopes that everyone is considering the building that our students will be learning in 50-75 years from now. Even now there are days that it is impossible to be productive in schools due to the indoor climate. Also, this is a great opportunity for our secondary students to learn more about clean energy and building practices that are forward thinking. She hopes that the School Committee will involve students in this project as a learning experience.

The Council moved on to Item Number 5 and stated that they will resume Public Comment after Item Number 6.

I. SPECIAL BUSINESS

5. Joint Meeting with the School Committee

School Committee Chair Erin Earle, School Committee Members Robert Case, Megan Reilly, and Sheri Kennedy, Superintendent Ken Duva, and Assistant Superintendent Robert Mezzanotte were present. Chair Earle thanked the Council and stated that the School Committee is looking forward to working with the Council during the budget process. She further stated that the current School Committee has not yet had the opportunity to start budget discussions; however, the presentation tonight is very preliminary. Superintendent Duva gave the following presentation:



Budget Process:

- Our district strategic plan leads the discussion for our budget requests.
- Administrators meet with their building staff and department chairs to receive requests for the budget.
- Administrators make decisions based on what is educationally right for students and teachers.
- The Superintendent and Director of Finance review all requests for approval.
- Our budget is designed to fund expenses related to the known student population, the needs of the upcoming school year, and historical experiences related to programmatic expenses.
- We will consider the interests of the school community in developing our budget.
- The budget will provide a high quality education based on the academic and social-emotional needs of all students pre-K through 12th grade.

Priorities are to invest the community's resources to promote improvement, effectiveness, and efficiency with a focus on:

- Vision and goals of our District Strategic Plan;
- Projected student enrollment for each grade;
- Prioritizing academic and social-emotional needs of students;
- Prioritizing instructional needs of teachers and staff;
- Curriculum and instruction needs based on school achievements and new educational reform;
- Enhancement and sustainability of our Facility and Technology infrastructures;

Overview of District

\$80,032,214 - Total FY 2025 School Budget
(Including Town Appropriation, State Aid and Supplemental Revenue)

3787 - Total Enrollment (October 2024 census data)

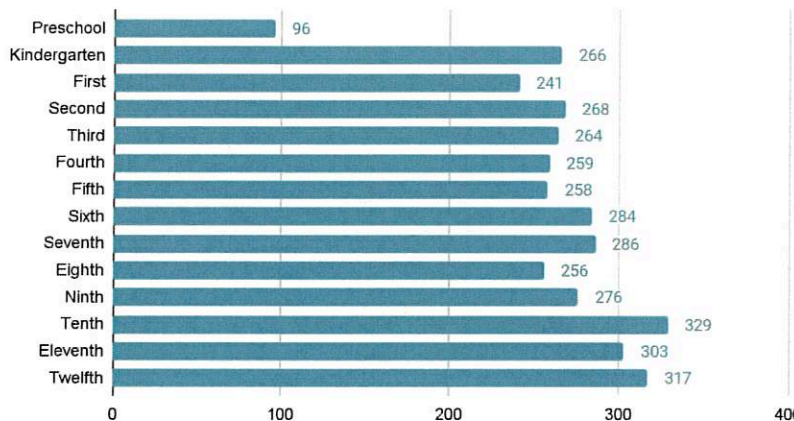
1655	Preschool through fifth grade
820	Middle School: sixth - eighth grade
1312	Secondary: ninth through twelfth grade
25	Alternate Learning Placements
17	Out of District Placements

26.5 % - Percentage of Free and Reduced

22.8% - Percentage of Differently Abled Learners

2.5% - Percentage of Multilingual Learners

Student Projections 2025/2026

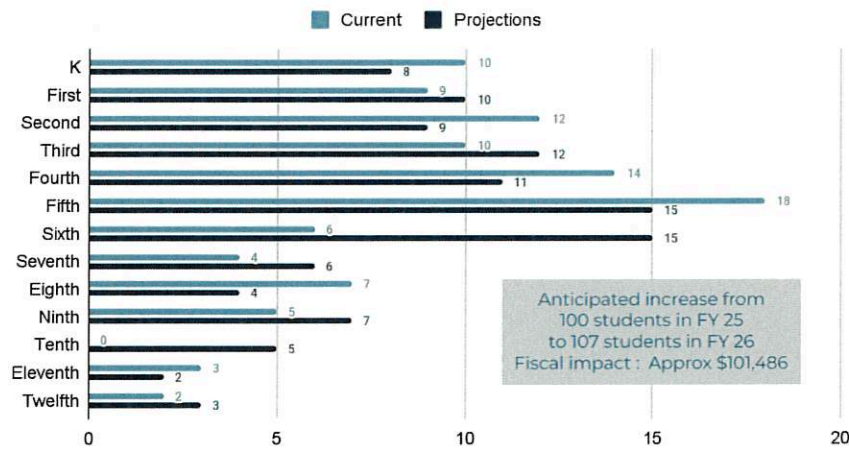


Enrollment and Staffing Impacts:

- Enrollment in PreK increased slightly in 24/25 and we anticipate that it will increase again in FY26 for special populations.
- Addition of new classrooms (K and Compass K) at Stony Lane in 24/25 will increase both supply and staffing budget for FY26
- Anticipate the District will be at max capacity for PreK and Kindergarten as well as Grade 5 at FC and Grade 3 at FP
- Further analysis of class projections, sections, and staffing will be completed for the elementary level.
- 3,787 actual students in 24/25 and projection of 3703 for 25/26 (2.22% decrease overall) but increase in special populations
- Continuation of enhancements in special education programming at the elementary and middle school level that could impact staffing for FY26
- Critical ESSER positions were moved into the School Unrestricted budget for FY25 and those positions will remain in the budget for FY 26

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Charter Student Projections



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Budget Impacts FY 26:

Salary Increases (contractual):

- ESP: Standard Step Increase - Contract negotiations currently in progress
- NEANK/Admin: 3% increase

Pension:

- Employee Retirement System (certified personnel) 15.10% (2.9% decrease)
- Municipal Employee Retirement System 16.80% (0.833% increase)

Health Insurance:

- Budgeted increase of 6.5% (based on percent change for FY 25)

Transportation:

- Contract negotiations currently in progress with the NK Bus Contractor Association
- Necessary Fleet Upgrades (i.e security cameras)
- Summer School and Late Busing

Out of District Tuitions:

- Plan for 1.5-2.0% increase

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Budget Impacts FY 26:

Grant Funding:

- ESSER and ARP grants have officially ended. Expenses will re-enter the unrestricted budget that have been covered for the last few years. (I.e Summer School, HQCM and Technology purchases, psychologists/evaluations)
- Unknown allocations for the CRP including Title I, II, III, and IDEA B

Redistricting:

- Possible increase in staffing and furnituring of classrooms

Technology:

- Critical replacements for Administrative technology (i.e laptops)
- 5- year technology plan for grades 1,6, and 9 will require a lease previously purchased through ESSER
- Equipment for new classrooms

Facility:

- Critical vehicle and equipment upgrades

Administrative Office Relocation

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Facility Maintenance Expenditure

Under Rhode Island General Law 16-7-36(11), "Maintenance expenditures" means amounts spent for repairs or replacements for the purpose of keeping a school facility open and safe for use, including repairs, maintenance, and replacements to school facilities' heating, lighting, ventilation, security, and other fixtures to keep the facility in effective working condition.

- Maintenance shall not include contracted or direct custodial or janitorial services;
- expenditures for the cleaning of a school facility or its fixtures;
- the care and upkeep of grounds, recreational facilities, or parking lots;
- or the cleaning of or repairs and replacements to movable furnishings or equipment.

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Budget Impacts FY 26:

Capital Improvement Costs:

Potential increase in Operating Budget to meet requirements of the Maintenance of Expenditure.

Rhode Island General Law 16-7-36(11), "Maintenance Expenditures"

- Square Footage of all school buildings times \$3.00 per sq ft;
- 3% of total replacement value of buildings
- 3% of operating budget

Historically, NKSD calculates MOE using 3% of the operating budget = \$2,472,995.00

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FY 26 Anticipations

- Projected Expenditures: \$82,433,179 (3.0% increase from FY25 budget)
- Projected Revenues (\$18,609,890)
 - Tuitions: \$4,316,049
 - Preschool Tuition: \$150,000
 - State Aid: \$13,448,841*
 - Medicaid: \$310,000
 - Other Earnings: \$135,000
 - Investment Earnings: \$250,000
- Anticipated Town Appropriation: \$63,823,289 (3.91% increase)

*assumes level funding from FY25

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Councilor McCoy thanked Dr. Duva for his presentation. He stated that there are contract negotiations with the ESP and asked when that will be complete. Dr. Duva stated that the negotiations have just started and hopefully over the next few months it will be complete. Councilor McCoy asked Dr. Duva if he anticipates whether any salary rates will be known when the budget is submitted. Dr. Duva stated that that is the goal; however, he is reluctant to talk too much as they are still in negotiations. Councilor McCoy stated that there have been changes to how custodial services are being handled. Dr. Duva stated that there have been no changes; however, we are reviewing data to see if this is something that would be cost effective. Councilor McCoy stated that it appears that the School Department is looking for a 4% increase over last year. Dr. Duva stated that what he presented is preliminary at this time. Councilor McCoy asked in regard to the facility maintenance expenses, how are these different from the items that were in the CIP list that were included in the bond. Dr. Duva stated that the CIP 5-year plan identified items for next year and will make up the maintenance number which also includes the salary of the facilities director. Dr. Duva stated that what he presented are examples of what is reflected in the state law, not necessarily specific items. The security vestibule, HVAC work was included in the CIP/bond. Councilor McCoy asked if there are any items that Dr. Duva can see where reductions can be made. Dr. Duva stated this is a high-level review and we still need to look at everything line by line.

President Pro-Tem Page stated that this is a difficult process and encouraged everyone to work together with the Manager, as this will be a difficult budget year overall and it is very early in the process.

Town Manager Mollis stated that he looks forward to working with the school administration in the budget process. Although last year's budget was a difficult budget, he enjoyed working with them and embraced the input that he was able to give. He further stated that he would like to reiterate that this will be one of the most difficult budgets, and whatever we can do to reduce expenses will be important. We also have salary increases, state aid will be a challenge, and we have two bond projects that we will be funding in FY2026. Anything we can do to bring costs down will be very important to our taxpayers. We have planned this as we have built up our surplus and we are in good shape financially. However, with the loss of COVID grants, we all will be looking to see how and if we can fund those programs/projects. Again, he is looking forward to working with the school administration.

President Pro-Tem Page stated that she appreciates that both administrations have an excellent working relationship.

Chair Earle thanked Dr. Duva for putting together this presentation. The School Committee approved a budget advisory committee last year who will be working through this budget process. She thanked the Council for the opportunity to begin the budget process and discussions as they will be presenting a budget that benefits the students of this town using the available data.

President Pro-Tem Page thanked the School Committee and administration for their presentation and stated that the Council looks forward to working together in the budget process.

6. Discussion – Invitation to Legislative Delegation

President Pro-Tem Page stated that every year the Council invites the Legislative Delegation to a meeting to discuss legislative priorities for the upcoming session and suggested the first meeting in January. Ms. Alyward requested that the Council and School Committee send what their priorities are before that meeting so she can forward them to the delegation.

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to invite the North Kingstown Legislative Delegation to the January 13, 2025 Council Meeting.

The Council went back to Item Number 4 - Public Comment.

Mary Worbeck, 25 North Road, stated that she wants to talk about items that are in our Comp Plan as she was thinking about the future of our town. She stated that she took a ride through the Quonset Business Park which employs about 25,000 people, and in the next five years, they expect that amount to increase approximately 25%. The year 2030 is an important date as it is in our RI Act on Climate, which mandates that we have a 45% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by decreasing our reliance on fossil fuels. Our town Comprehensive Plan, Section 4.5, calls for increasing our solar development and mentions service parking lots as a way of accomplishing this. As she drove through the business park, she was influenced by the miles and miles of parking lots. We should view this as a raw resource as an opportunity for solar energy. To date, the majority of large solar projects in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island have been in forest and agriculture land. The town's Comprehensive Plan also states that we need to partner with other entities, and she suggested that the Town should partner with the state to do solar projects in those parking lots at the business park. Tonight, she was informed that there may be some progress on this and hopes the Council can let the public know what those efforts are. She further stated that voters approved an affordable housing bond which is also in our Comp Plan, and we should not be speaking of renewal energy and new building in Town separately. They should be spoken about in the same conversations. She looks forward to having a presentation on how the Town is enacting the Comprehensive Plan in the very near future.

Rick Sellers, 17 Johnson Avenue, stated that he brings expertise to the Town as he was the head of Good Energy in Paris. The market aggregation plan that the Town has in place has Good Energy to work on solar as right now we are sending that energy to other places. If we build solar here in North Kingstown, the money recirculates in North Kingstown's economy and acts as an economic tool. He hopes that the Town considers this and works in partnership with other entities. He stated that with his expertise in this area he would like to help the Town.

Sally Kingsbury, 44 Edgar Nock Road, stated this past fall she was part of the group that worked with the library to display a photo gallery of different weather events that were provided by residents of the Town. We also had a series of lectures which were attended 100%. She feels there is a great desire by the community to learn more and participate in these discussions. She hopes the Council would consider having some type of get togethers to have presentations about different issues the Town is facing in long-term planning issues. Everyone is experiencing some type of climate issues. She has lived in the Town of North Kingstown for ten years and she has noticed a huge difference. She also suggested that we include students in these discussions because they are learning more about this.

Bob Vanderslice, 151 Prospect Avenue, congratulated the Council on their election and thanked them for their service. He further stated that he is a charter member for Climate Conversations. Theresa Creen was one of our first speakers and she had a blueprint on how to tackle overwhelming problems in dealing with climate, which is a three-step process. Number One, know your risk; Number Two, have a plan; and Number Three, take action. With regard to Number One, we have a Town Council and School Committee who are aware of the risks facing this town. In regard to Number Two, we do have plans such as the Comprehensive Plan. It has been his experience that some members of the Town are not convinced that following the Comprehensive Plan is part of their job.

Mr. Vanderslice hopes that the Council, Town Manager, town employees, and committees work together to determine priorities and decide who is responsible for moving forward with these plans. He doesn't believe that we have universal acceptance of that yet. With respect to Number Three, he thinks that the time to take action is now. He is looking forward to seeing what the Council can do to provide a progress report and where we are going in the future. We are here to help and support the actions the Council will take.

Tom Sgouros, 15 Boston Neck Road, stated that he hauled his boat yesterday for the season and as he was cleaning the bottom of the boat, he noticed a lot of tube worms and not the typical barnacles. Tube worms are a southern phenomenon which is affecting us already. His first job out of college in 1982 was climate research which was funded by grants by oil companies and at that time no one doubted that it was happening, and we called it greenhouse effect. Here we are 40 years later, action is happening but not at the pace that is appropriate for the action taking place 40 years later. A lot of times it seems as if the climate is too big of a problem for a town to take on. One of the things he would like to do is encourage people and say we have met these challenges before. In the 80's and 90's we were worried about the hole in the ozone and acid rain, which through good policy, laws, and international cooperation were addressed, and progress was made. This is the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Clean Water Act and drinking water has gotten better. These are problems that can be solved provided that all of us, including North Kingstown, put our shoulders to the wheel to show this is important to do. He feels the Town has a role in leading the way for the citizens and other towns in Rhode Island. The Comp Plan has a road map to accomplish this, and it is our responsibility to report to our residents how we are doing.

Meg Kerr, 151 Prospect Avenue, stated that she is on several boards and commissions in the state and on the North Kingstown Planning Commission; however, she is speaking tonight as a resident. She had the opportunity to go to Senator Whitehouse's Energy and Environment Leaders Day last Friday. Senator Whitehouse is our national leader in speaking on climate change and he gave a distinct description of how we deal with climate change and said we had scientists who realized what was going on with the greenhouse, climate change, and CO2 admissions. Then it was turned over to the politicians, and Senator Whitehouse said we did a terrible job, internationally, nationally, statewide and locally. It has become a very difficult issue, and we are dealing with the consequences locally as everyone is. The Climate Conversations Group, whom some have spoken from tonight, organized lectures at the library, and organized a photo exhibit, all of which were heavily attended. In order to continue this work and engage the community in climate change, we need to know more about what the Town is doing. We sent a letter to the Council requesting a briefing on how we are doing on all the actions in the Comp Plan so as we continue these workshops, we will be able to support the work the Town is doing. Within the next six weeks, we ask that the Council and Town provide that information at a meeting. The Climate Conversations Group is doing some of this work for the Town and we can add some value on how we move forward. Ms. Kerr thanked the Council for allowing these comments tonight and looks forward to hearing how the Town is implementing these actions in our Comprehensive Plan and report on future actions planned for 2025 to prepare the Town for climate disruptions.

Richard Welch, 8 Arrow Lane, stated that he would like the Council to discuss the following items with the Legislative Delegation:

- Traffic lights at the Route 4 and Oak Hill Road and West Allenton Road intersections
- Traffic Plan that the DOT presented to the Town Council connecting Tower Hill Road and Route 4
- Limited weight on the bridge over Route 403 and Davisville Road as for the past 2 plus years these limits have restricted school buses and commercial traffic over 5 tons. This needs to be addressed as soon as possible
- Resurfacing of Phillips Street

Rickey Thompson, 194 Plain Road, stated that the appointment to the Quonset Development Corporation Board of Directors should be a Council Member and not a resident. He asked the Council to appoint Councilor Hill Ross as she has indicated an interest in serving on this board.

The Council took the Consent Agenda next.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Councilor McCoy, seconded by Councilor Drew and unanimously

VOTED: To approve Consent Agenda Item Numbers 7 through 24 as presented with the exception of Agenda Item Numbers 8 and 18.

7. Approval of Minutes

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 2, 2024 as submitted by the Office of the Town Clerk.

8. Receipt of Donations

Motion by President Pro-Tem Page, seconded by Councilor McCoy and unanimously

VOTED: To accept with gratitude the following donations in the amount of \$7,543.00:

For: Beechwood Senior Center To be used for Mealsite Programs	
From: Anonymous	\$ 25.00
Anonymous	25.00
For: Holiday Giving Program	
From: M. Jane Viera	\$2,000.00
Debra and Robert Semple	1,000.00
St. Paul's Episcopal Church	1,000.00
North Kingstown Woman's Club	750.00
Joseph and Kathleen Gallichio	500.00
Newcomers and Neighbors Club of NK	500.00
Narragansett Bow Hunters	318.00
Sharon Wallace	300.00
Paula Silvia	300.00
Lisa Bowe	250.00
Casey Family	150.00
Kate Church	125.00
Brian and Jacqueline LeBlanc	100.00
Gerard and Marie Cobleigh	100.00
Anonymous	100.00

9. Acceptance of a Grant

VOTED: To accept the annual grant from the Thomas and Erma Wood Peirce Cemetery Fund II in the amount of \$406.00 for the upkeep and maintenance of the William Smith Cemetery (NK013).

10. Acceptance of a Grant

VOTED: To accept a grant from the 100 Club of Rhode Island to be used by the Police Department for the purchase of eighteen (18) FoxFury Command+ Tilt White LED Headlamps in the amount of \$2,969.82.

11. Award of Bid/Contract

VOTED: To award the bid for the Fire Department for Rescue Billing to Comstar, LLC, 8 Turcotte Memorial Drive, Rowley, MA 01969, for (4.5%) four point five percent of incoming revenue for a 3 year contract, renewable at 4.5% for Years 4 and 5.

Funding is from the Fire Department Rescue Billing Account.

12. Award of Bid

VOTED: To award the bid for Municipal Curbside Recycling Automated Collection (Bi-Weekly) to Waste Management of Rhode Island, Inc., 1610 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920, for a bid price of \$500,851.00, for Year One commencing July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, with a commitment to renew annually for Years 2-5; contingent upon availability of funds and satisfactory performance by the vendor.

Funding is from FY2026 budget line-item Transfer Station/Recycling Pick-up Services 16210060-530610.

13. New Year's Eve Policy for Alcoholic Beverage Licenseholders

VOTED: To adopt a New Year's Eve Policy for the operation of establishments holding Class B-Full, Class B-Limited, and Class D-Full Alcoholic Beverage Licenses as follows:

- a. Permission is granted to serve food until 2:00 a.m., January 1, 2025.
- b. All sales of liquor will cease at 1:00 a.m., January 1, 2025, with no stockpiling of drinks prior to the hour of 1:00 a.m.
- c. Establishments holding Dance Licenses will be allowed dancing until 2:00 a.m., January 1, 2025.

14. Detective License Renewals – 2025

VOTED: To approve the following list of Detective License Renewals, expiring on December 1, 2025, subject to taxes and water paid to date, receipt of a bond, and receipt of a recommendation from the North Kingstown Police Department:

12/3/2024

Detective Renewal License
Town Council
12/16/2024

NK#	Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Business Add	Phone	Email
58	John J Staba	42 Main St	East Greenwich	RI	02818	320 Phillips St	524-5242	detectivastaba@gmail.com
54	Michael Clemente	6101 Post Rd #38	North Kingstown	RI	2818	6101 Post Rd #38	365-3438	privateinvestigatornow@gmail.com
66	Peter J Bruno	44 Anthony Drive	North Kingstown	RI	2852	44 Anthony Drive	268-2482	pbruno58@gmail.com

All taxes/water assessments have been paid to date 12/15/24 collection dept

15. Annual Entertainment License (renewal)

VOTED: To approve to December 1, 2025 the renewal application for an Annual Entertainment License by Lafayette Band Inc., PO Box 855, North Kingstown, to hold various indoor and outdoor concerts, on various dates at various locations, subject to taxes and water paid to date and compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Department, the Police Department, the Planning Department, and the Building Official.

16. Entertainment License (new)

VOTED: To approve the application for an Entertainment License by Michael Iadevaia, 50 Autumn Drive, for the North Kingstown School Department to hold an outdoor concert featuring Elementary School students on the grounds of the North Kingstown Town Beach Campus and bandshell, on Monday, June 9, 2025 (rain date Tuesday, June 10, 2025), from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., subject to taxes and water paid to date and compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Department, the Police Department, the Planning Department, and the Building Official.

17. Annual Exhibition License (no vendors) (renewal)

VOTED: To approve the renewal application for an Annual Exhibition License with no vendors by the North Kingstown Senior Association, Inc., 44 Beach Street, to hold a Fall Bazaar at the Cold Spring Community Center, 36 Beach Street, on Friday, October 17 and Saturday, October 18, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 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.

18. Exhibition License (61 or more vendors) (not to exceed 250 vendors)

Motion by President Pro-Tem Page, seconded by Councilor Drew and unanimously

VOTED: To approve the application for an Exhibition License with 61 or more vendors, not to exceed 250 vendors, by the Wickford Art Association, 36 Beach Street, to hold the Wickford Art Festival on the grounds of Wilson Park, 211 West Main Street, on Saturday, July 12, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, July 13, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., subject to taxes and water paid to date; receipt of a list of vendors at the Town Clerk's Office by July 10, 2025 (which shall include their name, address, phone number, Tax ID Number, type of merchandise, and date of birth); and compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Department, the Police Department, the Planning Department, and the Building Official.

19. Refuse Collector – Commercial For Hire License Renewals - 2025

VOTED: To approve to January 1, 2026 the following list of Refuse Collector – Commercial For Hire License Renewals, subject to taxes, water, and any other assessments paid to date; receipt of a bond; inspection approval from the Transfer Station; and receipt of a Certificate of Insurance if needed:

12/4/24

Commercial For Hire
Town Council Meeting 12/16/24

Lic #	NAME	DBA	ADDRESS	TOWN	STATE	ZIP	PHONE	Reg #
111	Paul Mumford		160 Railroad Ave	North Kingstown	RI	02852	401-295-8505	18V617
25	D&N Services		2131 Plainfield Pike	Johnston	RI	02919	401-943-6315	27011
34	BW Rubbish		2380 Middle Rd	East Greenwich	RI	02818	401-885-3243	104908
52	Edward Briggs Disposal	Briggs Disposal	600 Carrs Pond Rd	East Greenwich	RI	02818	401-294-6391	01703
59	Edward Briggs Disposal	Briggs Disposal	600 Carrs Pond Rd	East Greenwich	RI	02818	401-294-6391	18X253
82	Waste Managomot	MTG(Mega Disposal)	19 Industrial Way	Seekonk	MA	02771	508-336-8466	1820
83	Waste Managemet	MTG(Mega Disposal)	19 Industrial Way	Seekonk	MA	02771	508-336-8466	1AC17

All taxes/water assessments have been paid to date 12/12/24 collection dept

20. Refuse Collector – Commercial Not For Hire License Renewals – 2025

VOTED: To approve to January 1, 2026 the following list of Refuse Collector – Commercial Not For Hire License Renewals, subject to taxes, water, and any other assessments paid to date; receipt of a Certificate of Insurance if needed; and receipt of a list of their North Kingstown clients:

12/9/2024

REFUSE COLLECTORS LICENSE - CNFR
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
12/11/2023

Lic. #	NAME	DBA	ADDRESS	TOWN	STATE	ZIP	Phone	REG #
150	LEO LAVALLEE	LAVALLEE LANDSCAPING	780 HATCHERY RD	NORTH KINGSTOWN	RI	02852	545-0061	115750
12	PETER QUINN	QUINN CONSTRUCTION	189 DEACH ST	NORTH KINGSTOWN	RI	02852	603-6110	54121
99	ARCH SERVICE LLC		45 MEADOWLAND DR	NORTH KINGSTOWN	RI	02852	743-2338	1V1983
135	TIM FLYNN		151 SACHEM RD	NORTH KINGSTOWN	RI	02852	204-3842	1MY308
21	MED LANDSCAPING		3560 QUAKER LN	NORTH KINGSTOWN	RI	02852	294-7546	4437
23	MEB LANDSCAPING		3560 QUAKER LN	NORTH KINGSTOWN	RI	02852	294-7546	44438
84	ESSEX VILLAGE RHF PARTNERS LP	ESSEX VILLAGE APARTMENTS	12 FISCHER DR	NORTH KINGSTOWN	RI	02852	884-6474	24390
74	Caldwell & Johnson Inc		6500 Post Rd	NORTH KINGSTOWN	RI	02852	885-1770	106133
75	Caldwell & Johnson Inc		6500 Post Rd	NORTH KINGSTOWN	RI	02852	885-1770	1DT677
76	Caldwell & Johnson Inc		6500 Post Rd	NORTH KINGSTOWN	RI	02852	885-1770	111783
77	Caldwell & Johnson Inc		6500 Post Rd	NORTH KINGSTOWN	RI	02852	885-1770	69617

All Taxes/Water Assessments have been paid to date for above applicants CCB Collection Dept
Date 12/19/24

21. Victualling License Renewals – 2024-2025

VOTED: To approve to December 1, 2025 the following list of Victualling 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:

VARDI LICENSE RENEWALS
December 11, 2024

NK#	NAME	DBA	BUSINESS LOCATION	PHONE	SEATS	HOURS	LIC. HELD
206	Cloud Donuts Inc	Cloud Donuts	6688 Post Rd	401-388-8889	24	6:00am-3:00pm	V
254	RADNASPAMI LLC	OPEP GAS	6680 POST RD	269-816-3811	0	8:00AM-9:00PM	V
270	CHIPOTLE MEXICAN GRILL OF COLORADO LLC	CHIPOTLE MEXICAN GRILL #3998	118 GATE RD	6143187478	61	10:45AM-10:00PM	V
116	Ocean State Soccer School		Concession Stand Wilcox Park	401-372-7117	0	8:00AM-2:00PM	V
78	Wasy Mini Mart LLC (Need DOH)	Yorktown Market	6769 Post Road	888-0271	0	7:00am-12:00am	V
74	First Baptist Church in Wickford		34-44 Main St	401-294-4595	200	10:00am-1:00pm	V
91	Speedway	Speedway/2823	1820 Boston Neck Rd	401-294-2563	0	6:00am-10:00PM	V Ext
304	Sunrich Inc	7-Eleven	7330 Post Rd	401-295-7295	N/A	24 hrs	V Ext

ALL TAXES/WATER ASSESSMENTS HAVE BEEN PAID TO DATE CCB COLLECTION DEPT.
DATE 12/18/24

22. Victualling License (transfer)

VOTED: To approve to December 1, 2025 the application for transfer of a Victualling License from Pizza Pros, Inc., dba Dominos, 5951 Post Road, to Kingstown Pizza Company, Inc., dba Dominos, 5951 Post Road, subject to taxes and water paid to date; receipt of a certificate from the RI Department of Health; receipt of a copy of their Rhode Island Retail Sales Tax Permit; and compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Marshall, the Planning Department, the Water Department, and the Building Official.

23. First Reading – Amendment to Section 11-66

VOTED: That this shall constitute the First Reading of an Ordinance in Amendment of Section 11-66 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of North Kingstown, entitled, "Stop Signs", and that this be advertised and referred to the Regular Town Council Meeting of January 13, 2025 for Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption.

24. Joint Pole Location

VOTED: To grant the petition by Rhode Island Energy and Verizon New England Inc. for one (1) joint pole relocation on Willett Road contingent upon a requirement that the installer of this pole be responsible for any necessary trimming of the street tree adjacent to this proposed new pole and that the street tree be protected from damage during said installation.

III. REPORTS

25. Report by the Town Manager

The Town Manager gave the following report:



December 16, 2024

Manager's Report

A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager

Projects/Initiatives

Revolution Wind
Offshore Wind Farm



North Kingstown Police
Department
Update from Chief Urban: January



- Bi-weekly meetings continue.
- Their work continues on the Offshore Wind Farm with significant site work at the Onshore Substation, Circuit Drive Roadway and Interconnection Facility.
- Community outreach also continues, including with a local Toys for Tots holiday campaign.
- Town Councilors were taken on a tour a few weeks ago; we were able to see first-hand the progress of the project and the aspects of the project that we discuss virtually each week. The current schedule is for RI Energy to assess the site sometime in the March 2025 timeframe, with the project being energized in the early part of 2026, providing power to the grid in mid-2026. This will result in tax revenue and contributions via the Host Community Agreement, sometime in 2026 as well.
- Questions/Concerns? Contact Revolution Wind at (401) 255-2207 or info@revolution-wind.com – we receive weekly reports on these matters.
- Chief Urban and the North Kingstown Police Department will present a traffic/speed zone report for the community to include recommendations at a January Town Council meeting.
- Chief Urban and I will be meeting a final time this week as they finalize the comprehensive report complete with statistics and recommendations to address traffic/speeding concerns in our community.

- Our bi-weekly meetings continue with Revolution Wind regarding their Offshore Wind Farm Project. Work continues at their Onshore Substation, Circuit Drive Roadway and Interconnection Facility. Their community outreach continues. In addition to their successful response to community concerns, their contributions to the community also continue as they have organized a Toys for Tots Drive.

They hosted a tour of our Town Council a couple of weeks ago which was very helpful as we were able to see, first-hand, the progress as well as now have a firsthand experience regarding many of the aspects of the project which we discuss virtually every other week. Their schedule has R.I. Energy accessing the site sometime in March of next year, with the project being energized sometime in the beginning of 2026 and the project providing power to the Grid in mid-2026. These steps will result in tax revenue, as well as contributions via the Host Community Agreement, taking place sometime in 2026 as well.

As always, anyone having any questions or concerns are encouraged to contact Revolution Wind at 401-251-2207 or info@revolution-wind.com. They provide us with weekly reports on all contacts and how they were resolved.

- A reminder that Chief Urban and the North Kingstown Police Department will be presenting a traffic/speed zone report for our community with recommendations at a January Town Council Meeting. I will be meeting one final time with Chief Urban and his team this week as they finalize a comprehensive report with eye-opening statistics and concrete recommendations by the North Kingstown Police Department.

Projects/Initiatives

Senior Center Analysis Results



- Town Councilperson Matt McCoy asked that we prepare an analysis outlining statistics for participation and programming at our Senior Center, for the upcoming FY26 budget process.
- The analysis shows that the Senior Center is returning to pre-COVID participation and has witnessed a significant increase in participation since FY2021:
 - 24,579 visits in 2021, compared to 56,846 visits in 2024
- This and additional findings will be discussed further during budget deliberations.

FY24 Draft Financials Received by Audit Committee



- FY2024 Draft Financials were presented to the Audit Committee just before Thanksgiving. This is the earliest we have ever had our draft financials and is dramatic progress from 8 years ago when the FY2016 Audit was finalized in May of the following year.
 - I want to thank our Finance Department, the School's Finance Department, and our auditing firm for their outstanding work.
 - There is significant good news in the Draft Financials, showing a growing surplus on the Town's balance sheet and a growing surplus on the school's financials.
 - Interest income being generated by our surplus provides revenue to reduce our tax rate, and more.
 - The Audit Committee and Auditors will present the Audit during an Exit Conference with Town Council sometime in early 2025.

- Council Person Matt McCoy, during our recent November Town Council Meeting, asked that we prepare an analysis for the upcoming budget process outlining statistics for participation and programming at our Senior Center. I provided the Town Council with an 8-year analysis through FY2024 which will be available again during the budget deliberations. The analysis shows that the Senior Center is returning to pre-COVID participation and has witnessed a significant increase in participation since FY2021, with 24,579 visits in 2021 compared to 56,846 visits in 2024. We will share this and discuss this further during budget deliberations.
- We presented FY2024 Draft Financials to the Audit Committee just before Thanksgiving. This is the earliest we have ever had draft financials and is dramatic progress from 8 years ago when our FY2016 Audit was finalized in May of the following year. I want to thank our Finance Department, the School's Finance Department, and our Auditing Firm for their outstanding work.

There is significant good news in the Draft Financials, showing a growing surplus on the Town's balance sheet, a growing surplus on the school's financials, interest income being generated by our surplus providing revenue which reduces our tax rate and other good news throughout this lengthy document. The Audit Committee and Auditors will present the Audit during an Exit Conference with the Town Council sometime in early 2025.

- We received an update from the R.I. Interlocal Trust on our Property Claims experience. While our more recent Property Claims are up due to the necessity of putting aside reserves for the various and ongoing claims against the School Department, the remainder of our Town is performing exceptionally well in comparison to our peers, and we have virtually 100% participation in all of the Trust's preventive programs. This will have a positive impact on the premiums for the upcoming fiscal year.
- We had a meeting with the R.I. Department of Transportation on December 5th regarding their plans to work on the Frenchtown Road Bridge from July 2025 – June 2026; the South County Trail Bridge from May 2025 – July 2026; and the Devils Foot Road/Railroad Bridge from March 2025 – November 2025. This construction will have an impact on traffic throughout North Kingstown and East Greenwich as well as along Route 4. Our Public Safety Departments expressed concern regarding response times of which RIDOT stated they will review and make necessary adjustments. They also expressed traffic concerns with the 3 projects taking place simultaneously. I will continue to keep the Town Council and public up to date.

Projects/Initiatives

Save America's Treasures Grant Application Submitted



- An application to the National Park Service for a Save America's Treasures program grant for \$270,000 was submitted to fund the renovation and restoration of the Old Town Meeting House.
 - My thanks to all involved in the writing and submission of this application.
 - I will keep the Council and public up to date.

Wickford Waterfront Project Municipal Parking Lot Update



- The Wickford Waterfront Project within the Brown Street Municipal Parking Lot continues.
- The retaining wall is in the process of being constructed; this needs to be completed before sidewalk, drainage, and surface parking lot improvements can be addressed.
 - Dewatering of the cofferdam experienced some obstacles but is moving forward as well.
 - Concrete footing of the masonry wall is currently being worked on.
 - BETA is scheduled to take drone footage of the project area during construction as it continues to progress.
 - I hope to have additional updates, and a more detailed one at an upcoming January meeting.
- Thanks to BETA and NEBB for their partnership last weekend in the Holiday events as they helped to dress up the site for the weekend's festivities which was appreciated and noticed by all.

- I'm happy to announce that we have successfully sent in our application to the National Park Service for a Save America's Treasures Grant in the amount of \$270,000 to be used towards the renovation and restoration of our Old Town House. My thanks to all involved in getting this application completed. I will keep the Town Council and public up to date.
- The Waterfront Project within our Municipal Parking Lot in Wickford continues to move forward. The retaining wall is in the process of being constructed as this needs to be completed before the sidewalk improvements, drainage and surface parking lot improvements can be completed. Dewatering of the cofferdam has had some obstacles but is moving forward as well. Concrete footing of the masonry wall is being worked on. BETA is scheduled to take drone footage of the project area during construction. Again, the project is progressing, and I hope to have a more detailed update at one of our January meetings.

My thanks to BETA and NEBB for their partnership last weekend in the Holiday events as they helped to clean up and dress up the site for the weekend festivities, which was appreciated by all.

Projects/Initiatives

Planning Department Post Rd. Decorating Contest



- The Post Road Winter Wonderland Decoration Program is moving forward successfully with the inclusion of a decorating competition for the first time this year. Voting is live on our website and a QR Code has been distributed to participating businesses.
 - Over 47 Post Road businesses are participating with 7 plazas and 11 new entities in the mix.
 - The winner of the decoration contest will be announced at the Polar Plunge at the Town Beach on January 1st.
 - To vote: https://bit.ly/vote_winterwonderland

Election Day 2024 Thank You to all involved!



- With Election Day behind us, I want to thank the Town Clerk's Office, the Board of Canvassers, and all those who worked on, or prior to, Election Day here in North Kingstown.
- With over 17,000 people voting and over a 73% turnout, North Kingstown had one of the highest turnouts in all of Rhode Island.
 - More impressively, over half of those voters voted early in our Municipal Office Building or by mail, seamlessly handled by those working within our Municipal Office Building while still maintaining daily operations.

- This year's Post Road Winter Wonderland Decoration Program is moving forward successfully with the inclusion of a decoration competition this year. Voting is live on our Town website and can also be accessed via QR code distributed to participating businesses. Over 47 businesses along Post Road are participating, with 7 plazas and 11 new businesses. The winners will be announced at the Polar Plunge event at our Town Beach on January 1st.

- With Election Day behind us, I want to take a moment to thank our Town Clerk’s Office, Board of Canvassers, and all those who worked on or prior to Election Day here in North Kingstown. With over 17,000 people voting, and over 73% turnout, North Kingstown had one of the highest turnouts in all of Rhode Island. More impressively, over half of those voters voted early in our Municipal Office Building or by Mail, seamlessly handled by those working within our Municipal Office Building while still maintaining daily operations. A job well done and our thanks to them for their dedication and great work.

Projects/Initiatives

Wickford Elementary Update



- We are attempting to set up a meeting with the developer of Wickford Elementary. They've indicated there is availability after the first of the year.
 - I hope to have an update on this project with some concrete information at one of the January 2025 Council Meetings.

Town Beach Update



- It appears for the first time in many years, we are moving forward with Town Beach operations without the assistance or a contract with the Greater Providence YMCA. This will be challenging as one of the reasons behind this is shortage of lifeguards. We are currently aggressively pursuing the hiring of Lifeguards and other personnel. We hope to have the Summer 2025 plan prior to Budget deliberations, I will provide an update to Council as this develops.
- The 2024 Beach season experienced a net loss over \$100,000. While our Town Beach expenses totaled over \$163,000, our revenues for parking passes were just over \$62,000.
 - This challenge will be exaggerated in 2025, for the Town Beach and Summer Camp, as RI's minimum wage is going to be increasing again on January 1st by \$1.00/hour. These increases have an adverse impact on our balance sheet for our Town Beach, Summer Camps, and the cost of camp on our local families.

- We are attempting to set up a meeting with the developer of Wickford Elementary, which they've indicated availability sometime after the first of the year. I hope to have an update on this project with some concrete information at one of our January Town Council Meetings.
- As I've mentioned in recent Manager's Reports, it appears we will be, for the first time in many years, moving forward with Town Beach operations without the assistance or contract with the Greater Providence YMCA. This will be challenging as one of the reasons behind this is the shortage of lifeguards. We are currently aggressively pursuing the hiring of Lifeguards and other personnel. We hope to have a plan for the Summer prior to budget deliberations.

It should be noted that the 2024 Town Beach season experienced a net loss to the Town of over \$100,000. While our Town Beach expenses totaled over \$163,000, our revenue for parking passes resulted in just over \$62,000. This challenge will be exaggerated in 2025 -- for both the Town Beach and our Summer Camp --- as Rhode Island's Minimum Wage is going to be increasing again on January 1st by \$1.00 an hour. These increases have had an adverse impact on our balance sheet for our Town Beach, our Summer Camp, and the cost of camp to our local families. I hope to report to the Town Council over the next few months on our finalized plans for our Town Beach and our 2025 season.



December 16, 2024

A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager

Thank You

The Council thanked the Manager for his thorough report.

Finance Director Deb Bridgham stated that on October 4, 2024, a memorandum of understanding was signed by the Town Manager with the Rhode Island Department of Administration, Division of Purchasing for the Town to participate and contract for natural gas through the State's contractor NRG/Direct Energy.

This contract will begin in January 2025 and go through December 2026 (24 months) with the contract rate of \$0.06297/therm.

We currently do not have a contract rate with any supplier and the rates fluctuate based on the market. In 2023-2024, it varied from \$0.06523/therm to \$0.06831/therm.

This is another energy savings program that the Town has used to stabilize the cost of the continued increase in energy.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

26. Discussion/Possible Action – Award of Bid – Renovation to the Municipal Office Building

Mr. Mollis stated that in 2015/2016 the Town occupied 100 Fairway Drive because of the numerous fire and building code violations related to the Town Hall. Before the Town's occupancy, this building was used by the School Department and was vacant. The Town Council and the School Committee agreed that the school district abandon and return the facility and premises to the town. This began renovations to the building for the town administration to occupy.

After the building had been occupied by the Town for multiple years, it was discussed that the town offices were outgrowing this space, and the building could use some necessary repairs. Discussions including building upgrades, schematic designs, and 3D renderings began and led us to an early preliminary construction cost estimate of \$2,227,303.13. At the March 27, 2023 Town Council Meeting, the Council voted to award Professional Architectural Consulting Services to Aharonian & Associates, which began the actual design and specifications to be created for a construction RFP.

During this process with the architect, the Town had three major goals, make the building more accessible and user friendly for the public, provide better working conditions for the employees, and renovate the building envelope including energy efficient measures. These goals consisted of creating a new entrance and lobby, adding a small addition, new drop ceiling and flooring, proper HVAC throughout the building, and new windows, siding, and roof. There were other insignificant changes included in the design which would have helped with our space needs and workflow within the departments.

The project design and specifications were completed and publicly bid. The bid opening took place in November, with two bids submitted. The low bid was \$6,218,889 for construction with an additional cost of \$125,000 if the town chose to complete the project in phases and not completely vacate the building. Knowing that this number was over budget, we went back to work to reduce the scope of the project, which was a difficult task knowing that the objective was to meet those three major goals. Working closely with our architect, we started removing insignificant sections of the renovations and what we determined to be the costly parts of the project. Examples were the additions, the new basement space under the proposed lobby, all interior adjustments and improvements related to office areas, material changes, and site changes eliminating some of the scope of work. Additionally, we wanted to know what costs we could save by eliminating the HVAC upgrades as this was the most expensive identified by both bidders.

With the scope reductions, we began the competitive negotiation process with both bidders on December 9th. The architect, his staff, Public Works Department staff, and representatives from both bidders sat and reviewed the scope reductions and both bidders were able to ask questions with each other being in the room. The contractors reduced the scope of work bid, which was due on December 13th and was opened by the Purchasing Agent. The lowest bid of the two submissions received was \$4,677,416, with an additional deduction of \$757,000 related to HVAC work making the total with bid deduct alternate \$3,920,416. It is important to note that the bidders were within \$43,000 for the proposed HVAC work.

The Public Works Department, after careful consideration including new building costs knowing that the insurance replacement value of this building is currently \$3,558,000 and that the reduced scope of work continues to be over budget and would not achieve our minimal goals, is recommending that we do not exercise any of the submitted bids for this project. We would however like to propose using the established specifications to work on the existing building envelope, ADA access, interior improvements, and safety/security. Each project would be bid individually and be brought to the Council for approval.

After a brief discussion, a motion by Councilor McCoy, seconded by Councilor Drew and unanimously

VOTED: To table the award of bid for the renovations to the Municipal Office Building based on the recommendation of the Town Manager.

27. Request that the North Kingstown Legislative Delegation submit Legislation

Motion by President Pro-Tem Page, seconded by Councilor McCoy and unanimously

VOTED: That the North Kingstown Legislative Delegation is hereby requested to submit legislation and seek passage of an Amendment to RIGL 44-3-4 as follows:

§ 44-3-4. Veterans' exemptions.

(a)(1) The property of each person who served in the military, national guard, or naval service of the United States in the war of the rebellion, the Spanish-American war, the insurrection in the Philippines, the China-relief expedition, or World War I, and the property of each person who served in the military, national guard, or naval service of the United States in World War II at any time during the period beginning December 7, 1941, and ending on December 31, 1946, and members who served in uniform during the Cold War between 1947 through 1991, including those members who did not serve in a declared war or conflict and the property of each person who served in the military, national guard, or naval services of the United States in the Korean conflict at any time during the period beginning June 27, 1950, and ending January 31, 1955, or in the Vietnam conflict at any time during the period beginning February 28, 1961, and ending May 7, 1975, or who actually served in the Grenada or Lebanon conflicts of 1983-1984, or the Persian Gulf conflict, the Haitian conflict, the Somalian conflict, and the Bosnian conflict, at any time during the period beginning August 2, 1990, and ending May 1, 1994, or in any conflict or undeclared war and who was honorably discharged from the service, or who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable, or who, if not discharged, served honorably, or the property of the unmarried widow or widower of that person, is exempted from taxation to the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), except in:

(viii) North Kingstown, where the exemption is ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) a two hundred dollar (\$200) tax credit or the equivalent assessment dollars;

And

(e) In addition to the previously provided exemptions, any veteran of the military or naval service of the United States who is determined, under applicable federal law by the Veterans' Administration of the United States to be totally disabled through service-connected disability may, by ordinance, passed in the city or town where the veteran's property is assessed, receive a ten thousand dollar (\$10,000) exemption from local taxation on his or her property whether real or personal and if the veteran owns real property may be exempt from taxation by any fire and/or lighting district; provided, that in the town of: *North Kingstown*, where the amount of the exemption shall be ~~eleven thousand dollars (\$11,000) commencing with the December 31, 2002;~~ a two hundred fifty dollar (\$250) tax credit or the equivalent assessment dollar assessment; and for the town of *Westerly*, where the amount of the exemption shall be thirty-nine thousand dollars (\$39,000) commencing with the December 31, 2005 assessment; and in the town of *Cumberland*, where the amount of the exemption shall not exceed forty-seven thousand five hundred forty-four dollars (\$47,544); and the town of *Narragansett*, where the amount of the exemption shall not exceed twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) from the assessed value of real property or twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000) from the assessed value of a motor vehicle; and in the city of *Cranston*, commencing with the December 31, 2016 assessment, where the exemption will not exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) and be extended to the unmarried widow or widower of such veteran, and in the town of *Tiverton*, where, by ordinance, a tax credit of two hundred dollars (\$200) or greater shall be applied to the qualified veteran's property assessment tax bill.

and it was

FURTHER VOTED: That the North Kingstown Legislative Delegation is hereby requested to submit legislation and seek passage of an Amendment to RIGL 44-3-5 by adding:

§ 44-3-5. Gold star parents' exemption.

(a) The property of every person whose son or daughter has served with the armed forces of the United States of America and has lost his or her life as a result of his or her service with the armed forces of the United States of America, providing the death was determined to be in the line of duty, shall be exempted from taxation to the amount of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) in accordance with similar provisions of § 44-3-4 applying to honorably discharged veterans of the armed forces; provided, that there shall be but one exemption granted where both parents of the deceased son or daughter are living; provided:

(15) North Kingstown. The town of North Kingstown may provide, by ordinance, a tax credit of two hundred dollars (\$200), or the equivalent assessment dollars for persons receiving a gold star exemption;

and it was

FURTHER VOTED: That the North Kingstown Legislative Delegation is hereby requested to submit legislation and seek passage of an Amendment to RIGL 44-3-12 by adding:

§ 44-3-12. Visually impaired persons — Exemption.

(d) The town of North Kingstown may, by ordinance, provide a tax dollar credit reduction or the equivalent assessment dollars, for such legally blind person.

and it was

FURTHER VOTED: That the North Kingstown Legislative Delegation is hereby requested to submit legislation and seek passage of an Amendment to RIGL 44-3-13.9 by amending:

§ 44-3-13.9. North Kingstown — Exemption of elderly persons.

The town council of North Kingstown may, by ordinance, exempt from taxation the real property situated in the town which is owned and occupied by any person over the age of sixty-five (65) years, and the exemption may be in an amount up to but not in excess of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) of valuation shall be a four hundred fifty dollar (\$450) tax credit or the equivalent assessment dollars and only one exemption is allowed to co-tenants, joint tenants, and tenants by the entirety even though all or more than one of them are sixty-five (65) or more years of age and occupy the property. In addition to a requirement of domicile within the town of North Kingstown at the time of making application for the exemption, the ordinance may also require that an applicant for the exemption must be a resident of the town for a period of up to but not in excess of twenty (20) years prior to the date of assessment for the year for which the exemption is claimed; and the ordinance may also require that an applicant for the exemption must have owned and had title to the real estate where he or she resided during any period of residency required by the ordinance. The ordinance may also provide for a graduated schedule of increasing exemptions, the largest of which may not exceed thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) of valuation, which may be based on a graduated schedule of the number of years, up to but not in excess of twenty (20), an applicant for the exemption has resided in the town and/or owned and had title to real estate where he or she resides. The ordinance may also provide, at the discretion of the town council, for a review of the exemption amount and residency requirement at which time the amount of the tax credit or the equivalent assessment dollars and residency requirement may be adjusted. The exemption provided in accordance with the provisions of this section is in addition to any other exemption to which a person may be entitled under any other law or ordinance.

and it was

FURTHER VOTED: That these amendments become effective on July 1, 2025.

*Amended at the Town Council Meeting of January 27, 2025.

*Councilor Hill Ross requested that the Town Manager evaluate the impact of freezing property taxes for the over 65 residents that have been in town for 15 years or more and report back to the Council. Mr. Mollis stated that he can provide that evaluation using various tax rate scenarios showing what the impact would be.

28. Alcoholic Beverage License Limits 2024-2025

Motion by Councilor Drew, seconded by Councilor McCoy and unanimously

VOTED: To set the Alcoholic Beverage License Limits for 2024-2025 as follows:

- Class A - 4
- Class B - 28
- Class BL - 10
- Class C - 3
- Class D - 1

29. Appointment to the Quonset Development Corporation Board of Directors

Motion by President Pro-Tem Page, seconded by Councilor McCoy and was

VOTED: To appoint Randy Wietman, 40 Sanford Avenue, North Kingstown, RI 02852, to the Quonset Development Corporation Board of Directors to December 31, 2027.

Councilor Hill Ross voted in the negative.

30. Arts Council – Appointment

There were no applicants. The Council suggested that the membership be reduced to 12 and asked the Clerk to put this on a future agenda.

31. Assessment Board of Review – Appointment

There were no applicants. The Council directed the Clerk to readvertise the vacancy.

32. Asset Management Commission – Appointment

There were no applicants. The Council directed the Clerk to readvertise the vacancy for a Town Council Representative.

33. Building Code Board of Appeals – Appointment

There were no applicants. The Council directed the Clerk to readvertise the vacancy for a Second Alternate.

34. Charter Review Commission – Appointments

Motion by President Pro-Tem Page, seconded by Councilor McCoy and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint the following six (6) members to the Charter Review Commission to December 31, 2026:

Melissa Devine, 373 Fletcher Road, reappointment
John V. Gibbons, Jr., 3 Stone Gate Drive, reappointment
James Halley, 125 Plain Road, reappointment
Anthony Miccolis, 32 Country Hill Lane, reappointment
Sarilee Norton, 58 West Cove Drive, reappointment
James C. Sheehan, 40 Blueberry Lane

35. Economic Development Advisory Board – Appointment

Motion by Councilor McCoy, seconded by Councilor Drew and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint the following two (2) members to the Economic Development Advisory Board to December 1, 2027:

James Halley, 125 Plain Road
Bjorn Wellenius, 44 Veil Court, reappointment

The Council directed the Clerk to readvertise the remaining two (2) vacancies.

36. Historic District Commission – Appointments

Motion by Councilor McCoy, seconded by Councilor Hill Ross and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint the following three (3) members to the Historic District Commission:

James Shriner, 59 Washington Street, to December 31, 2027, reappointment
Amy Jenner, 6 Bay Street, to December 31, 2027
Jules Starr Wagner, 180 West Main Street, to December 31, 2026,
to fill the unexpired term of Steven Borowick

37. Library Board of Trustees – Appointment

Motion by President Pro-Tem Page, seconded by Councilor McCoy and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Kathy Schnebly, 23 Tamarack Circle, to the Library Board of Trustees to October 1, 2025, to fill the unexpired term of Rini Georgekutty.

The Council took Item Number 42 next.

42. Zoning Board of Review – Appointment

Motion by Councilor McCoy, seconded by Councilor Hill Ross and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Richard Welch, 8 Arrow Lane, Second Alternate to the Zoning Board of Review to July 1, 2027, to fill the unexpired term of John Lees.

The Council took Item Number 38 next.

38. Sewer Appeals Board - Appointment

Motion by Councilor McCoy, seconded by Councilor Hill Ross and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Richard Welch, 8 Arrow Lane, Alternate Member to the Sewer Appeals Board to October 1, 2026, to fill the unexpired term of Randy Wietman.

39. Veteran's Liaison – Appointment

Motion by Councilor McCoy, seconded by Councilor Drew and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Brian Votolato, 62 Glenwood Drive, as Veteran's Liaison to July 1, 2025.

40. Wickford Advisory Committee – Appointments

Motion by Councilor McCoy, seconded by Councilor Drew and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Kim Cowan, 4 Matteson Street, At-Large Member to the Wickford Advisory Committee to October 1, 2027.

The Council directed the Clerk to readvertise the vacancy for a Wickford Village Business Owner.

41. Wickford Village Design Guidelines Committee – Appointments

Motion by Councilor Hill Ross, seconded by Councilor McCoy and unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint Betty Givan, 611 Pendar Road, Business Property Owner to the Wickford Village Design Guidelines Committee to December 31, 2027.

The Council directed the Clerk to readvertise the vacancy for an Alternate Business Property Owner.

The Council took Item Number 43 next.

43. Correspondence

At the meeting of January 27, 2025, the Council will present any correspondence that they receive.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Jeannette Alyward
Town Clerk