

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 27th day of January, 2025 at the Town Hall Council Chambers, 80 Boston Neck Road, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT WERE: Gregory A. Mancini, President
Linnea M. Drew
Elizabeth Hill Ross
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 January 27, 2025 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. SPECIAL BUSINESS

4. Presentation by Marcum, LLP and receipt and filing of the Annual Audit Report

Kyle Connors of Marcum LLP gave the following presentation of the Town's 2024 Annual Audit:



Town of North Kingstown 2024 Financial Statements

January 27, 2025 | Presented by: Kyle Connors, CPA

MARCUM
ACCOUNTANTS • ADVISORS

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Introduction

- 01 Presentation will review the Town's 2024 financial statement audit results
- 02 Feel free to ask questions at any time

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Town General Fund

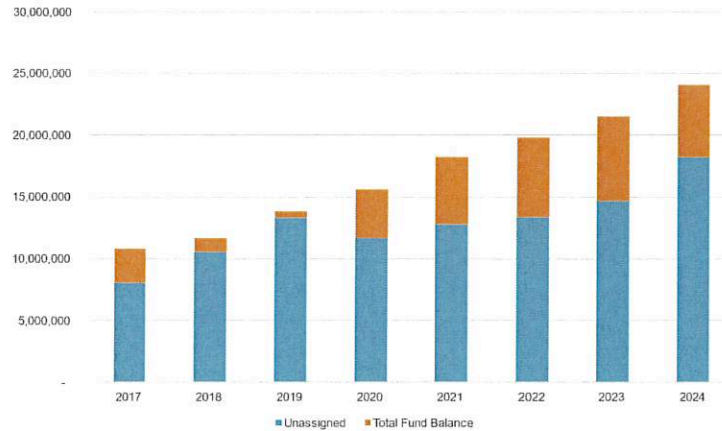
- Total Fund Balance increased by \$2.6 million
- Unassigned Fund Balance = \$18.2 million
- Unassigned Fund Balance represents 17.3% of Operating Budget
- Current level is within healthy target of 8-18% of budgeted expenditures

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Fund Balance: Last Eight Years



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Results of Operations

- Revenues were above budget by \$3.97 million
- Property taxes \$1.4 million above what was anticipated
 - Strong collections in the current year of both current and prior year taxes
- Intergovernmental revenue \$625 thousand above what was budgeted – predominately housing aid
- Investment income \$1.5 million above budget
- Tax collection percentages:
 - *99.2% collection of current year assessment*

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Results of Operations (Continued)

- Expenditures were \$ 1.0 million above appropriated amounts
- Favorable results in these areas:
 - *Public Works*
- Unfavorable results in these areas:
 - Finance– Termination retirement pay
 - Information Systems– Cyber deductible
 - Police / Fire– detail / OT

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School Department

- Unrestricted fund ended year with assigned fund balance of \$ 11.3 million which is 8.0% of operating budget
- Fund balance increased in current year by \$929 thousand
- Revenue was favorable compared to the budget by \$ 1.0 million
 - Predominately due to investment earnings and additional state aid

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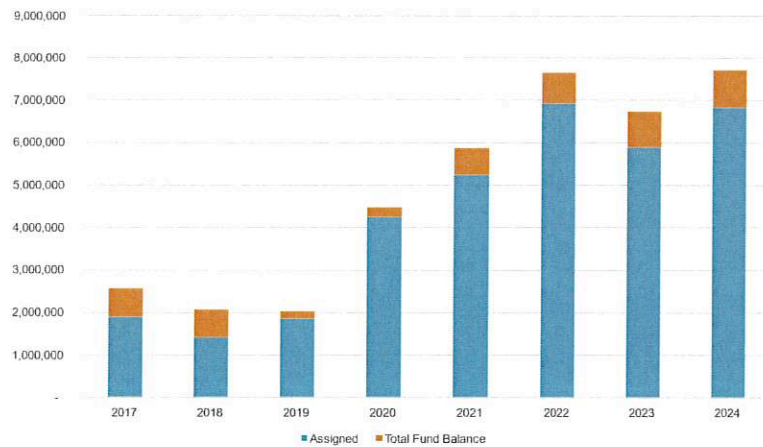
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School Department (Continued)

- Expenditures were \$2.1 million below appropriations
 - Favorable variance in salaries of \$1.5 million and professional services of \$443 thousand
- School department transferred \$1.7 million to the school capital project fund
- School expended \$1.9 million in Federal ESSER funds that were new in 2024
- School Lunch Fund recognized net decrease in net position of \$56 thousand for a total of \$1.9 million

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School Department Fund Balance: Last Eight Years



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Water Department

- Operating revenues amounted to \$4.6 million, a decrease from prior year revenue of \$4.9 million
- Operating expenses were \$2.8 million, a decrease from prior year amount of \$3.2 million
- Operating income of \$1.9 million in 2024 compared to \$1.7 million operating income in 2023
- Fund has net position of \$18.4 million – with a net position of \$9.9 million unrestricted for operational use

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Sewer Department

- Operating revenues amounted to \$1.9 million, and increase from prior year revenue of \$1.6 million
- Operating expenses were \$1.3 million, an increase from prior year amount of \$1.2 million
- Operating income of \$533 thousand in 2024 compared to \$434 thousand operating income in 2023
- Fund has net position of \$930 thousand

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Town Pension Plans

- Plans are administered through the State of Rhode Island
 - MERS General Employee Plan funded at 83.90%
 - MERS Fire Plan funded at 86.69%
 - MERS Police Plan funded at 84.79%
 - Teachers Retirement Plan funded at 65.80%
- The Town has made all required contributions to these plans as prescribed by the State dating back to 2014 (introduction of GASB 68).
- Total State Plan Net Pension Liability reported in the 2024 financial statements totals \$66.9 million

Other Post-Employment Benefits

- Town plan funded at 18.2% with a total net OPEB liability of \$14.0 million
 - Context – plan was funded at June 30, 2023 at 17.2%, up 1.0% from prior fiscal year due to net investment activity and actuarial assumptions
 - Plan was funded at 4.3% in 2018

Recommendations / Other

- One material weakness issued in the current year for the removal of unbilled accounts receivable and deferred inflow relating to the sewer fund. No impact on net position or revenue recognition.
- Continue cybersecurity training on an annual basis – recommending performing vulnerability testing proactively.

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Questions?



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ThankYou!

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President Mancini asked if there was only one “deficiency” found which was in the Sewer Department. Mr. Connors replied yes. In answer to President Mancini’s question if the Town is in a good financial position, Mr. Connors replied yes.

President Mancini asked Jeff Wadovick, Chair of the Audit Committee to let the public know what steps the Audit Committee went through in analyzing this audit. Mr. Wadovick stated that there is an ordinance that established the Audit Committee whose role is to assist the Council in the oversight of the financial statement process. The Audit Committee meets on a regular basis during the audit process and works closely with the Finance Departments of both the town and school, as well as management, to review and assess certain aspects of the financial picture of the town and School Department. We meet with the auditor during this process to review all the findings and issues. The Town of North Kingstown is a very comprehensive and complex organization with many moving parts with large dollar amounts. Again, the Audit Committee’s role is oversight and provides a second set of eyes. The audit report is over 200 pages long and part of that is because the accounting industry has made it complicated for the average person to understand as well as the disclosures required. The Town is very healthy in three of the four pension areas, the School Department being the least funded at 65%. The funding of these funds is dictated by the state and both the school and town are paying those required payments. North Kingstown has made every required pension payment. Mr. Wadovick encouraged the Council and the public to review page 199 of the report which gives a ten-year perspective on the financial statements.

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

VOTED: To receive and file the Annual Audit Report for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2024.

The Council thanked Mr. Connors and Mr. Wadovick for their presentation and comments.

The Council took Item Number 16 next.

16. Report by the Finance Director

Finance Director Deb Bridgham gave the following report:

Town of North Kingstown Fiscal Year 2025 December Financial Report



Presented by: Deb Bridgham,
Finance Director

January 27, 2025

This presentation is based on the FY 2025 revised budget. The Council approved the increase in revenues for State Aid for Education and the Libraries. The expenses, or transfers, have also increased for these line items. Also included are the revenues and expenditures through December 31st, along with projections for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Revenue Type	FY 2025 Revised Budget	FY 2025 July-December	% of Total Budget	FY2025 Projection	Variance
Taxes, Interest	\$87,535,731	\$47,661,136	54.5%	\$87,535,731	n/a
Pilots	\$ 5,649,927	\$ 2,337,858	41.4%	\$ 5,649,927	n/a
State Aid	\$ 8,349,345	\$ 3,000,564	35.9%	\$ 8,704,417	\$355,072
Department	\$ 4,271,855	\$ 2,867,815	67.1%	\$ 4,572,966	\$301,141
Other	\$ 2,885,116	\$ 2,157,247	74.8%	\$ 3,605,528	\$720,412
Passthrough:					
Library	\$ 325,575	\$ 169,547	52.1%	\$ 325,575	n/a
School					
Unrestricted	\$13,448,841	\$ 7,665,662	57.8%	\$13,448,841	n/a
Restricted	\$ 45,954			\$ 45,954	n/a
Total	\$122,512,344	\$65,859,829	53.9%	\$123,888,969	\$1,376,625


Revenues: Projections include increases over revised budget of \$1,376,625. The largest portion of the increase is due to the investment of the Town's funds in high yielding accounts.

REVENUE VARIANCES			
INCREASE	STATE AID		
	Tangible Property	\$ 329,980	The reimbursement is based the grand lists' assessed value at the rate set in 2024 (17.85 per thousand). This amount will not vary each year. Approximately 902 businesses received an exemption; maximum exemption is \$50,000 per business.
	Public Service	\$ 25,142	Budgeted \$367,0604, Adopted Budget \$392,206
	Aid to Education	\$ 237,147	Additional Expense reflected in Revised Budget amount – approved by Council September 2024
	Grant in Aid Library	\$ 10,694	Additional Expense reflected in Revised Budget amount – approved by Council September 2024
	DEPARTMENT		
	Inspection Fees	\$ 55,000	2% on construction cost budget to actuals
	Police Detail	\$ 265,500	Billing for police detail increased and collections strong
	OTHER		
	Interest Income	\$ 962,510	Continue High Yield Investment
DECREASE	Insurance Payment	\$ 53,754	Final payment to cyber claim
	Grant Revenue	\$ 12,648	Learn 365 RI Admin Fees
	Energy Refunds	\$ 69,606	Rhode Island Energy refund
	OTHER		
	Sale of Property	\$ 300,000	Postponement of sale of Wickford EL

The Town has had an increase in police detail activity which generates unanticipated revenue. The other major factor was the amount received for Tangible Personal Property Tax. Due to the uncertainty of the amount we would receive, we made the decision not to include an amount when adopting the budget.

Expense Type	FY 2025 Revised Budget	FY 2025 July-December	% of Total Budget	FY2025 Projection	Variance
Salary	\$20,827,811	\$10,089,444	48.4%	\$21,177,811	\$350,000
Fringe Benefits	\$9,213,681	4,590,991	49.8%	\$9,253,681	\$40,000
Department Operations	\$8,145,111	\$4,214,371	51.7%	\$8,145,111	n/a
Utilities, Civic Contributions, QDC	\$2,456,109	\$610,472	24.1%	\$2,456,109	n/a
Library Appropriation	\$1,700,791	\$848,290	50.2%	\$1,700,791	n/a
School Appropriation	\$61,416,009	\$30,708,005	50.00%	\$61,416,009	n/a
School State Aid	\$13,448,838	\$6,692,555	50.5%	\$13,448,838	n/a
Unrestricted	\$45,954			\$45,954	
Restricted					
Debt Service	\$5,258,038	2,629,019	50.0%	\$5,258,038	n/a
Total	\$122,512,344	\$60,383,147	49.3%	\$122,902,344	\$390,000

Expenses: The increase in salary and fringe benefits are attributed to additional costs from union negotiations, increase in pension and health cost, and police detail wages. The projections also included savings from positions currently open and savings from positions recently filled.



EXPENDITURE VARIANCES			
INCREASE	STATE AID		
	Aid to Education	\$ 237,147	Additional Aid reflected in Revised Budget amount – approved by Council September 2024
	Aid to Libraries	\$ 10,694	Additional Aid reflected in Revised Budget amount – approved by Council September 2024
	DEPARTMENT		
	Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$ 390,000	Contractual obligations Police and Local 1033. Health, Dental, and Pension rates higher then originally provided. Increase in Police Detail Cost, offset with increase in revenue Total fiscal impact reduced due to unfilled positions as of December 2024.

The net of all those results in an increase of \$390,000. We will continue to monitor salaries and benefits closely, specifically overtime. Departmental operational expenses are projected as budgeted. We will have a more in-depth analysis in the next few months and will make adjustment if necessary.

Town of North Kingstown December FY2025 Financial Report



Summary: Surplus of approximately \$987,000

Why

Interest Income
State Tangible Tax Reimbursement
Open Positions reducing Fiscal Impact of Union Negotiations and
Contractual Obligations (Pension, Health & Dental)

Questions ??

Based on information available at this time, I am pleased to report a projected surplus of \$987,000.

President Mancini thanked Ms. Bridgham for her report.

The Council took Item Number 5 next.

5. 350th Anniversary Celebration Report

Mike Donohue gave the following report:

He thanked the Council for the opportunity to share the activities of the 350th Anniversary. We started planning in September 2023, with 13 members appointed with Councilor McCoy serving as Chair. The committee met over 31 times. Three major signature events were the Gala, Family Day, and the Parade. All of which were extremely successful.

Other events included:

- Kickoff Event
- Speaker Series - 25 events
- Receipt of the World War II Heritage Community Designation
- Founders Day
- History Hunt
- Legacy Trees
- Bike Safety Event
- Christmas at the Castle
- Festival of Lights

Our Sponsors were:

Sachem Level - \$10,000

- Centreville Bank
- Revolution Wind

Roger Williams Level - \$5,000 - \$9,999

- Daves Market
- Fresh Maps
- Taylor Rental

Mary Thomas Level - \$1,000

- Historic Wickford, Inc.
- Quonset Development Corporation
- Rhode Island Real Estate
- BankRI
- Goldman Sachs
- Richard's Pub/Ritrovo
- Toray
- Pleasant Street Wharf

Seabee Sponsor Level - \$500

- Riverhead Building Supply
- Caldwell Banker
- Blue Bus Foundation

Additional in-kind donations were received from NoKo Coffee, Allie's Donuts, Quonset O Club, Kayak Center, and Cardi's Furniture

Mr. Donohue further stated that the full report of the 350th Anniversary Celebration is available on the Town's website as well as videos of all the events.

Clerk's note: A copy of the report is filed with the back-up materials for this meeting.

Councilor McCoy presented members of the Committee and others with Certificates of Special Recognition from Governor McKee.

6. Presentation/Discussion – Traffic Calming

Motion by Councilor McCoy, seconded by Councilor Drew and unanimously

VOTED: To continue the Presentation/Discussion regarding Traffic Calming to the Town Council Meeting of February 10, 2025.

7. Public Comment

Brett Mallery, 731 Annaquatucket Road, stated that he would like to see an increase in the maintenance budget for the school system in this year's budget. He also stated that North Kingstown should educate people on what center lanes are for and how to use them. He would like to thank the North Kingstown Police Department for the new signs and increased patrol around the High School and Hamilton Allenton Road areas.

Karen Salvatore, 621 Gilbert Stuart Road, asked a couple of questions about the budget. She stated that the teachers are funded at 65% and why not 100%. The second question is about the Police Department detail revenue which is listed at 265.5. Is that a negative figure? She also stated that she would like to see live video at that scale of the proposed roundabout in Wickford, and we should look at pedestrian and car accident data in that area.

Curtis Fisher, 104 Phillips Street, stated that regarding Item Number 6 (Presentation/Discussion - Traffic Calming - Police Department) which was postponed to the next meeting, he doesn't believe we need secret cameras looking at the citizens.

Joe Teixeira, 200 Delano Drive, stated that at the last meeting he gave a copy of a letter to the Council that has now been posted in the Independent regarding the tax rate for residents who are 65 years or older and have been a resident of the Town for at least 15 years. He looks at this like playing let's make a deal - Door #1 is to freeze the tax rate, Door #2 is to not freeze the tax rate but give a \$1,000.00 credit to these residents, and Door #3 is we need to do something. President Mancini stated that he is in this category and is getting killed with taxes. He stated that we need to do something - Door #3 is in your hands.

Kerry Lanoie, 7366 Post Road, read the following statement:

"I am the vice president of the Post Road Business Alliance, and I am here with a group of our members. The Post Road Business Alliance is a group of over 35 Post Road merchants and property owners that formed to encourage economic growth, community engagement, and advocate on behalf of our members.

In a short time, we have gained traction through our accomplishments:

1. We have taken a census of existing businesses on Post Road.
2. We have organized formally into a 501(c)6 business league with nonprofit status.
3. We have worked with Ben Mandel from the Town to double participation in the 2024 Holiday Decorating contest.
4. We have had conversations with businesses asking for attention to building aesthetics and have already seen some quick visual improvements.
5. We have identified two areas for "adopt-a-spot" type initiatives.
6. We are planning a spring cleanup event in conjunction with Earth Day.
7. We have established relationships with the town's Code Enforcement Department, the Chamber of Commerce, our state representatives, and we are here tonight to introduce ourselves to you. We are here to build community and work together with the Town through positivity and action.

The Post Road Business Alliance recognizes the positive impact of the funds that North Kingstown has allocated to Post Road in the past. We strongly support and encourage the continuation of funding for the Façade Improvement Program in the coming fiscal year's budget and hope that this program will incorporate beautification initiatives, policy modifications and civic events that benefit Post Road and our town. The availability of façade improvement funds demonstrates that the town is working alongside the Post Road businesses to encourage business reinvestment and economic growth.

In regard to the upcoming sidewalk project, the Post Road Business Alliance wants to reiterate that we fully support the state funded sidewalk project. We are looking forward to infrastructure improvements which we believe will bring a significant increase in accessibility, unification, and beautification to the oldest road in Rhode Island. Because construction of the sidewalks will have a direct and material impact on our livelihoods, communication between the town and our group is key to ensuring success.

The Post Road Business Alliance has a few questions in regard to the sidewalk project:

1. Is the sidewalk project linked to any other project in town, as derailment of this state funded project would be a huge setback for the Post Road businesses?
2. Can our group weigh in with feedback on the project's design and implementation plan? For example, curb cuts and crosswalks.
3. Do you have a plan for long term maintenance of the sidewalks? While new sidewalks will give a huge boost to the look of Post Road, there is nothing more unsightly than sidewalks that are not maintained.

Once again, we thank the Council in advance for your continued support of Post Road. Our excitement is contagious. Momentum can be exponential. Without the town's support, without your support, progress on Post Road may stall. Please continue to support Post Road, its businesses, and our Post Road Business Alliance initiatives.

Thank you."

Meg Kerr, 151 Prospect Avenue, would like a status update of the Public Safety and School Bond projects. She asked where we could find these updates and suggested that maybe the Town Manager could provide these updates in his Manager's Reports.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

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

VOTED: To approve Consent Agenda Item Numbers 8 through 14 as presented with the exception of Agenda Item Numbers 8, 9, 10, and 11.

8. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor McCoy and was

VOTED: To approve, as amended, the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 16, 2024 as submitted by the Office of the Town Clerk.

President Mancini abstained as he was not present for this meeting.

9. Authorization for the Town Manager to sign a Water Line Easement Agreement

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Drew and unanimously

VOTED: To authorize the Town Manager to sign a Water Line Easement Agreement between the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation, acting by and through its agent and attorney in fact Quonset Development Corporation, and the Town of North Kingstown.

10. Award of Bid/Lease Purchase

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Drew and unanimously

VOTED: To award the bid/lease purchase for the Fire Department for one (1) Class A Pumper to Allegiance Fire and Rescue, 2181 Providence Highway, Walpole, MA 02081, in the amount of \$1,123,301.00.

Funding will be through a lease purchase agreement which will be funded through the Rescue Billing Account.

11. Sole Source Purchase

Motion Councilor McCoy, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To approve the sole source purchase for the Fire Department for the replacement of fifteen (15) air cylinders for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus from MES Shipman's Fire Equipment Co., 172 Cross Road, Waterford, CT 06385, in the amount of \$20,920.50.

Funding for this purchase is from Rescue Billing, Account No. 16708030 540202.

12. Peddler License (renewal)

VOTED: To approve to February 1, 2026 the application for renewal of a Peddler License by Buttercup the Flower Truck LLC, 4 Brown Street, subject to taxes and water paid to date.

13. Refuse Collector – Commercial For Hire License (renewal)

VOTED: To approve to January 1, 2026 the application for renewal of a Refuse Collector - Commercial Not For Hire License by Wickford Village Realty Limited Partnership, 66 Intrepid Road, subject to taxes and water paid to date.

14. Joint Pole Locations

VOTED: To grant the petition by Rhode Island Energy and Verizon New England, Inc. for four (4) joint pole locations on Newcomb Road with the stipulation that joint pole numbers P 59-75, P 59-50, and P 59-25 be placed outside of the sidewalk in the grass to prevent any obstruction of pedestrian traffic. If this is not possible, the Town requests that the poles be placed as far to the edge of the sidewalk as they can to give the largest clearance.

III. REPORTS

15. Report by the Town Manager

January 27, 2025

Manager's Report

A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager

**Projects/Initiatives****Revolution Wind
Offshore Wind Farm**

- Meetings with Revolution Wind regarding their Offshore Wind Farm Project continue.
- Construction is progressing without any local issues, and with significant community outreach.
- Anyone with questions or concerns is encouraged to contact Revolution Wind directly: (401) 255-2207 or info@revolution-wind.com – we receive weekly reports on how any concerns are resolved.

**North Kingstown
Police Department
Flock Cameras**

- The Flock Cameras previously discussed and approved at a Town Council meeting have been installed. There is a link on the North Kingstown Police Department website with more information on this technology: <https://transparency.flocksafety.com/north-kingstown-ri-pd>
- These cameras are used solely to enhance public safety by helping law enforcement locate stolen vehicles and suspects involved in crimes, and with investigation support. They are not used for real-time surveillance of vehicles or individuals and are in compliance with all privacy laws and have been strategically placed to ensure legal requirements and privacy considerations are accounted for.

**Proposed Developments
Wickford Jxn & Post Rd**

- The proposed development of a residential complex in line with our development plan and a vision set forth years ago when the Train Station was developed, has obtained consensus regarding preliminary approval from the Planning Commission.
- It is on their 2/18 Agenda for Final Review and approval.
- The long-awaited redevelopment of the commercial space on Post Road colloquially known as the Tarbox Lot, was reviewed by the Planning Commission and has been continued for further discussion and review to concerns with the queuing of traffic and revision of plantings and greenery.

- Our meetings with Revolution Wind regarding their Offshore Wind Farm Project continue. Construction is progressing without any local issues. Revolution Wind continues with their aggressive community outreach.

Anyone having any questions or concerns are encouraged to contact Revolution Wind at 401-251-2207 or at info@revolution-wind.com. They notify my office weekly to update us on all contacts and how they were resolved.

- The Flock Cameras, discussed and approved at previous Council Meetings, have been installed. The North Kingstown Police Department has a link on their website with information regarding the Flock Cameras. These cameras are used solely to enhance public safety by helping law enforcement locate stolen vehicles, suspects involved in crimes and investigation support. They are not used for real-time surveillance of vehicles or individuals and are respective and in compliance with all privacy laws. They have been strategically placed to maintain a secure environment for residents and visitors and our policy ensures the use of Flock Cameras align with legal requirements and privacy considerations.
- The proposed Wickford Junction residential complex, a complex in line with our development plan and a vision set forth years ago when the Train Station was developed, has obtained consensus regarding its preliminary approval from the Planning Commission. It is on their February 18th Agenda for final review and approval. The long-awaited commercial development on what we know as the Tarbox Lot on Post Road was reviewed by the Planning Commission and has been continued for further discussion and review due to concerns with the queueing of traffic and revision of plantings and greenery.

Wickford Village: Projects Update

55 Brown Street



- The individual purchasing 55 Brown Street, the Old Library, has an exciting vision and places for the building that was revealed to me in our recent meeting, that are sure to further enhance Wickford Village.
- They were in the process of closing at the time of our meeting and will keep in touch with us regarding their plans and the many steps that will be required to accomplish them.

Wickford Elementary



- At our meeting last week, the developer hopes to receive approval next week from the Historical Preservation Commission with the reduced project scope.
- We will assist with CRMC approval as this project is of significant municipal importance.
- We are working with them to finalize development of public access path to the water and library, and on the removal of oil tanks on the property.
- They have hopes we can find allowable, alternative methods to address the affordable housing requirement.



- I had a meeting with the individual purchasing 55 Brown Street, and they have an exciting vision and plan for this building which should enhance Wickford Village even further. They were in the process of closing at the time of our meeting and will keep in touch with us regarding their plans and the many steps ahead of them.
- We had a meeting with the developer of Wickford Elementary and their attorney last week. They've reduced the scope of the project and hope to receive approval of the Historical Preservation Commission within the next month. We will be assisting them with CRMC approval, letting CRMC know that this is a project of significant municipal importance, and are hoping we can hear from CRMC within the next three months. We are working with the developer to finalize the development of the public access path to the water and library and will present this to CRMC for their review as well. They will be working with us over the coming weeks to plan for the removal of the oil tanks on the property, will be finalizing preliminary plans for Planning Commission review, and will be working with us regarding the struggles they are having with the affordable housing component with the hope of finding allowable, alternative methods to address this requirement. I will continue to keep in touch with them and keep the Council up to date.

Wickford Village: Projects Update

Municipal Parking Lot
Brown Street



- We had an internal meeting with staff and our Engineering Consultant regarding the ongoing work in the Municipal Parking Lot on Brown Street in Wickford Village.
 - As reported last month, work continues on the construction of the retaining wall which must be completed before work can begin in other areas of this important project.
 - We are working to address some frustrating challenges, and I hope to have another update for you at the next Council Meeting.

- We also had a meeting with internal staff and our Engineering Consultant regarding the ongoing work in the Municipal Parking Lot in Wickford Village. As I reported last month, work continues on the construction of the retaining wall before they can begin tackling the many other aspects of this important project. We have experienced some frustrating challenges which we are addressing. I hope to have a more up to date status update at your next Council Meeting.

Projects/Initiatives

FY26 Budget
Update



- Finance Director Deb Bridgham and I attended and presented at the most recent meeting of the Asset Planning Commission.
 - They were very complimentary on the thoroughness of Staff presentations this year, and were equally appreciative.
 - It was a very productive recap and meeting.
- I want to thank the members of this Commission for their work. We look forward to receiving their report as it is a valuable tool as I compile the upcoming FY26 Budget.

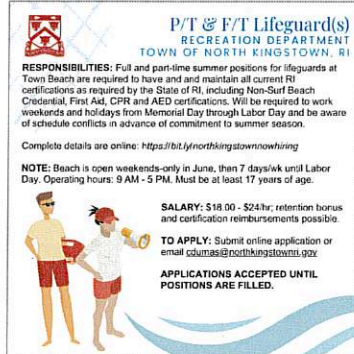


- Deb and I continue our work in making what is a very challenging FY26 Budget.
 - I will be presenting the budget at your March 10th meeting, followed by budget sessions with Department Heads and myself the following week, and then Public Hearings on April 21st.

- Finance Director Deb Bridgham and I attended and presented at the most recent meeting of the Asset Management Commission. They were very complimentary on the thoroughness of the presentations of Staff this year and were equally appreciative. It was a very productive recap and meeting. I want to thank the members of this Commission for their work, and we look forward to receiving their report as it is a valuable tool as I compile the upcoming Fiscal Year 2026 Budget.
- Speaking of the budget, we continue our work in compiling what is a very challenging budget. I will be presenting the budget at your March 10th meeting, followed by budget sessions with Department Heads and me the following week and the Public Hearings to be held on April 21st.

Projects/Initiatives

Recreation Department Town Beach Update



P/T & F/T Lifeguard(s)
RECREATION DEPARTMENT
TOWN OF NORTH KINGSTOWN, RI

RESPONSIBILITIES: Full and part-time summer positions for lifeguards at Town Beach are required to have and maintain all current RI certifications as required by the State of RI, including Non-Surf Beach Credential, First Aid, CPR and AED certifications. Will be required to work weekends and holidays from Memorial Day through Labor Day and be aware of schedule conflicts in advance of commitment to summer season.

Complete details are online: <https://bit.ly/northkingstownnowhiring>

NOTE: Beach is open weekends-only in June, then 7 days/wk until Labor Day. Operating hours: 9 AM - 5 PM. Must be at least 17 years of age.

SALARY: \$18.00 - \$24/hr; retention bonus and certification reimbursements possible

TO APPLY: Submit online application or email columas@northkingstownri.gov

APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL POSITIONS ARE FILLED.

- As I've mentioned in prior Manager's Reports, this is the first of many years we are moving forward with Town Beach operations without the assistance or partnership of the Greater Providence YMCA.
 - This is a challenge, and I'd like to reiterate my desire to reach anyone who would like to be considered for a Lifeguard position here in North Kingstown.
 - Please visit our website, Social Media platforms, or reach out directly to our Recreation Department for complete details: <https://www.northkingstownri.gov/jobs.aspx>

- As I've mentioned in prior Manager's Reports, this is the first year in many years we have been moving forward with Town Beach operations without the assistance or partnership with the Greater Providence YMCA. This is challenging and I want to reiterate my outreach for anyone who would like to be considered for a Lifeguard Position here in North Kingstown. Please visit our website, Social Media Platforms, or reach out directly to our Recreation Department.

Other News

Wickford Harbor Seal Tours



- Annual Seal Tours from Wickford Village are returning this year.
 - The Coastal Queen takes visitors to nearby areas to view seals from a safe distance while providing bar service, warm indoor seating, and an approximately 75-min. cruise round trip from the Municipal Dock in the parking lot at the end of Main Street.
 - For more information, visit their website: <https://www.cruiseri.com/tours-from-wickford>

Employee Spotlight Christian Ellerbe & Dave Creta



- I would like to thank and recognize **Christian Ellerbe & Dave Creta** of our Parks Department for their winter work to personally build 10 new picnic tables and refurbish 2 existing picnic tables that will be added to Wilson Park, our Town Beach, and Rosehill this spring and summer.
 - Without question, these efforts will improve visitors' and residents' experiences at some of our most popular recreation areas.

RI League of Cities and Towns Municipal Leadership Academy Kate Glass



- Congratulations to **Kate Glass** of my office for being selected to participate in the Rhode Island Cities and Towns Municipal Leadership Academy class beginning on January 31st.
 - Kate was chosen from a substantial number of applicants across the state.
 - I've had the privilege of speaking to previous classes and know they are fortunate to have someone of her experience and work ethic join them.

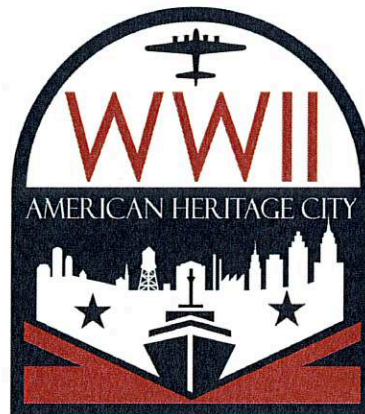
- The Annual Seal Tours from Wickford Village returns this year. The Coastal Queen will take visitors out to various viewing areas in search of seals. The Coastal Queen provides bar service, warm indoor seating and the cruise, departing from the Municipal Parking Lot Dock, is approximately 75 minutes. Please visit their website for more information.
- My thanks to Christian Ellerbee and Dave Creta of our Parks Department for their winter work of personally building 10 new picnic tables and refurbishing 2 of our existing picnic tables to be added to Wilson Park, our Town Beach, and Rosehill this coming Spring and Summer. These efforts will unquestionably improve the visitors' experiences at areas which were already well received and enjoyed by many.
- And finally, our congratulations to Kate Glass of my office for being selected to participate in the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns Municipal Leadership Academy. Kate was chosen among a substantial number of applicants from across the State. This program begins on January 31st and runs through mid-May. It is a program I've had the privilege of speaking before and they are fortunate to have someone of Kate's caliber, experience, and work ethic join them. Congratulations.

Thank You



January 27, 2025

A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager



IV. NEW BUSINESS

17. Correspondence

- Katie Anderson emailed questions that were presented at the last meeting.
- Brice Lico emailed support of the rotary.
- Jennifer Lima on behalf of TANK urged the Council to adopt an Immigrant Protection Ordinance as proposed by the ACLU.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Jeannette Alyward
Town Clerk