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 10th day of March, 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 March 10, 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.

President Mancini led those in attendance in a moment of silence in memory of Capt. John Douglas Andrews who was a long-time resident.

I. PUBLIC HEARING

4. Request by William Pennoyer on behalf of the Veterans Day & Memorial Day Parades Committee to name a portion of the property adjacent to the Municipal Parking Lot as "Anchor Park"

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor McCoy and unanimously

VOTED: To open the Public Hearing.

Bill Pennoyer, former Chair of the Veterans Day & Memorial Day Parades Committee stated that this area has served as the "marshal area" for parades and Pearl Harbor remembrance ceremonies. He feels that it seems appropriate to name this area as Anchor Park because the area is just as important as Veteran's Park and Updike Park.

Randy Wietman, 40 Sanford Avenue, stated that he agrees with Mr. Pennoyer and asked the Council to vote in favor of naming the area as Anchor Park.

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor McCoy and unanimously

VOTED: To close the Public Hearing.

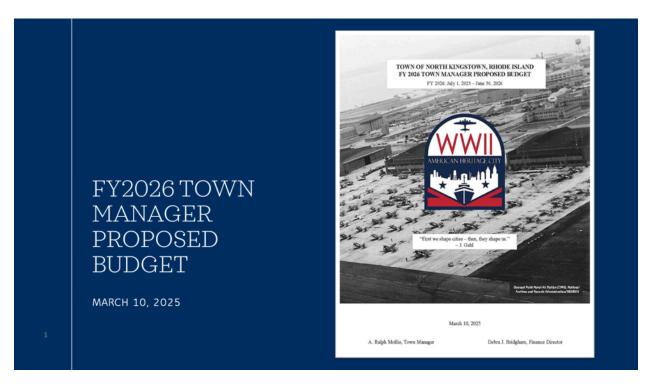
Motion by Councilor McCoy, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To approve the request by William Pennoyer on behalf of the Veterans Day & Memorial Day Parades Committee to name a portion of the property adjacent to the Municipal Parking Lot as "Anchor Park".

II. SPECIAL BUSINESS

5. Introduction/Presentation of the Town Manager's Preliminary Budget

Town Manager Ralph Mollis gave the following presentation:



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to Kate Glass, Executive Assistant & Director of Communications, and Deb Bridgham, Finance Director, for their hard work and dedication in preparing another award-winning budget format for Fiscal Year 2026.



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I want to thank our Department Heads on recognizing these challenges and compiling departmental budgets that continue to provide outstanding services and exciting initiatives while keeping in mind impact on our taxpayers.

This has been one of the most challenging budgets this community has seen due to current economic conditions coupled with:

- · the state-mandated statistical property revaluation
- elimination of the motor vehicle tax and personal property tax exemption
- the state deficit
- reduction in state aid to education
- the impacts of an increased minimum wage
- labor negotiations during a period of high inflation with our employees earning less than their peers
- and attempting to finance voter approved school and public safety bond projects with RIDE reimbursements and our debt cliff.



As I propose our FY26 Budget, I would like to look back for a moment on a remarkable year.

We celebrated our town's 350th Anniversary with a year-long celebration of more than 70 individual events; enacted a budget which called for no tax increase; broke ground on the highly-anticipated upgrade and renovation to Yorktown Park; completed renovations and additions to multiple state-of-the-art parks; embarked on climate resiliency projects; and improved communication strategies and information notification for our residents, just to name a few.

North Kingstown is a sought-after destination for visitors, residents, and businesses.



🔯 2025-2026 BUDGET OVERVIEW

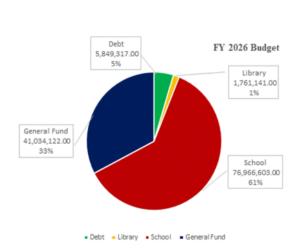
	FY 2025	FY 2026	% CHANGE
	2023	2020	CHANGE
MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES (ADMINISTRATION, IT, SENIOR CENTER, RECREATION, PLANNING, CIVIC CONTRIBUTIONS, UTILITIES, ETC.)	38,421,695	40,276,780	3.4%
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT (TOWN APPROPRIATION)	61,416,009	63,504,153	3.4%
QUONSET DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION MUNICIPAL SERVICES	691,015	757,347	9.6%
LIBRARY	1,700,791	1,761,141	3.6%
DEBT SERVICE	5,258,039	5,849,317	11.25%
STATE AID TO EDUCATION	13,494,792	13,462,455	0%

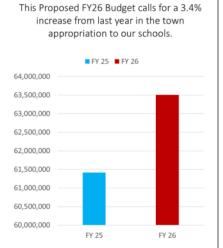
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SCHOOL 2022 2023 2024 2025 **AVERAGE** APPROPRIATIONS NORTH KINGSTOWN 2.5% 3.7% 3.9% 3.1% 3.3% BY MUNICIPALITY EAST PROVIDENCE 1.3% 4.0% 3.7% 2.6% 2.9% LITTLE COMPTON 2.6% 3.4% 2.3% 3.0% FOSTER 1.0% 5.2% 1.6% 2.8% 2.6% PORTSMOUTH 2.3% 1.7% 3.4% 2.7% 2.5% COVENTRY 3.3% 2.9% 1.0% 1.0% 2.0% NEW SHOREHAM 1.9% 1.9% 4.0% 2.7% 3.0% SCITUATE 2.3% 1.3% 3.0% 2.4% Statistically, North Kingstown has been EAST GREENWICH 1.8% 1.7% 2.5% 4.0% 2.5% one of the most generous communities NARRAGANSETT 2.0% 1.3% 1.8% in all of Rhode Island in our annual LINCOLN 1.8% 0.3% 2.5% 2.9% 1.9% appropriation to our School SMITHFIELD 2.3% 3.4% 1.9% 1.0% 1.0% Department, averaging 3.3% in annual BURRILLVILLE increases over the past four years. 0.0% 2.1% 1.2% 1.9% 1.3% NEWPORT 0.0% 1.0% 2.0% 3.4% 1.6% In comparison, other communities WESTERLY 1.2% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.3% provided an average of a 1.69% during WOONSOCKET 0.0% 0.9% 0.0% 0.1% 0.3% this same time period. NORTH PROVIDENCE 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.6%









FY2026 PROPOSED BUDGET: MUNICIPAL HIGHLIGHTS

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



Receiving the endorsement of our ITAC Committee, we are funding an increase in the Information Technology budget to continue to protect our IT infrastructure, replace end-of-life equipment, and invest in modern hardware and software to strengthen our defenses for cybersecurity.

ROAD PAVING & MAINTENANCE



Continuation of our commitment to improve over 150 miles of paved roads in our community, with an appropriation of \$750,000.

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SENIOR & HUMAN SERVICES



FY26 Proposed Budget includes a 6.5% increase for the Senior & Human Services, reflecting the growth in programming we've seen with participation returning to pre-COVID levels with 56,846 visits in 2024, a 131% increase from 2021.

RECREATION



Programming for all ages continues to be funded, included our highly sought after and affordable Summer Camp.

COMMUNITY POLICING INITIATIVES

UTILITY SAVINGS WITH REMOTE NET METERING

INITIAL FUNDING OF SCHOOL & PUBLIC SAFETY CAPITAL PROJECTS

AND MORE!

ENTERPRISE FUNDS

These are self-supporting funds generating revenue from users and are funded outside of the General Fund. They have no impact on our tax rate.













	FY 25 REVENUES	FY 26 REVENUES
GOLF COURSE	2,354,300	2,378,250
MUNICIPAL COURT	202,096	301,363
SEWER	2,044,993	2,108,504
TRANSFER STATION	1,276,880	1,263,871
WATER	6,900,474	5,924,994
ALLEN HARBOR	476,900	438,805

FY 26	FY 25
EXPENDITURES	EXPENDITURES
2,378,250	2,315,110
301,363	202,096
2,280,198	2,419,412
1,385,636	1,390,103
5,924,994	6,900,475
450,273	437,657

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FUNDING OUTSIDE OF OUR MUNICIPAL BUDGET

AS MENTIONED IN OUR NEW, TWICE MONTHLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER



POST ROAD/WEST MAIN ST. SIDEWALKS



\$8M estimated cost, covered by federal loans, grants, and state funds to replace sidewalks in disrepair and install sidewalks, drainage, and ADA accessibility where they don't current exist along approx. 2.5 miles of a heavily trafficked transportation artery and connection to other communities.

WICKFORD WATERFRONT PROJECT



Project to address climate resiliency of our Brown St. Municipal Parking Lot in Wickford Village, to include the reconstruction of an existing seawall inline with RI Historic Preservation Commission guidelines to minimize flooding, regrading of the parking lot, installation of pervious paving, the incorporation of bioswales in upgraded landscaping, lighting and signage

SEA WALL REVETMENT AT TOWN BEACH



Funded by an OSCAR grant from CRMC, the Town will be able to procure \$300,000 in engineering services to design a project redesigning the existing sea wall which has sustained damage from storms and building on earlier collaborations with Save The Bay and CRMC for technically feasible solutions to enhance long-term resiliency at our Town Beach

RENOVATIONS TO YORKTOWN PARK



Funded in FY25 with ARPA funds, the significant construction at Yorktown Park includes grading and drainage improvements, walkway repairs, landscaping, new playground equipment, pavilion repairs, improved lighting, upgraded seating, workout and play features, as well as permanent yard game installations.

NORTH KINGSTOWN FAMILY DAY



Community-funded through individual donations and inkind and business sponsorships, Family Day 2025 will provide a free day of fun to residents and family members of all ages at Wilson Park. It will showcase community organizations, offer fun interactions with our Public Safety departments, and much more to continue the momentum and community spirit that started with our 1st Family Day commemorating our 350th Anniversary last year.

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ASSET MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Recognizing the hard work and efforts of our Asset Management Commission, this FY26 Proposed Budget also addresses many of the priorities they listed in this year's Capital Improvement Plan.

Over the next 15 months, we intend to address studies for the Water Department's Well 3 Replacement and Water Line Infrastructure project along Post Road and Poplar Point; assess our Water Lines; continue road maintenance; begin renovations at the Municipal Office Building; begin HVAC improvements at our Senior Center; work toward Community Center improvements; and many other initiatives to maintain and protect our existing infrastructure.

AMC Recommended Projects by Fund

| PROJECT | Greened | Interprise | Authoritized (Mouthworked | Grunth, Other (Mouthworked | Mouthworked | Mo

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In addition to maintaining and preserving physical Town assets in the FY26 Proposed Budget, we are committed to funding our most valuable asset, our employees.

I regularly receive compliments regarding our staff's professionalism, work ethic, and dedication, across departments and job hierarchies; from our DPW plow drivers' going above and beyond to repair minor damage from snow removal, to administrative staff being consistently responsive and attentive to a variety of concerns, and a host of examples in between.

A 2024 municipal salary survey comparing similarly situated communities, revealed our employees are, on average, compensated below their peers.

This FY26 Proposed Budget provides funding improvements via negotiated Collective Bargaining Agreements to close that gap.



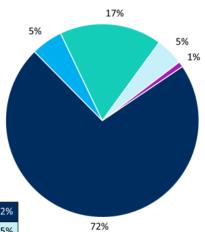
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FUNDING THE FY26 PROPOSED BUDGET

Revenue in our budget provides us with funding to attain our goals and sustain our accomplishments.

We are able to propose a budget with tax rates among the lowest in Rhode Island because of our successes with PILOTs at Quonset, interest revenue from our surplus, our Finance Department's efforts to maximize revenues, our successful grant applications, and a strong cash balance.

RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL & TANGIBLE TAXES	90,082,587	72%
QUONSET BUSINESS PARK PILOTS	6,595,027	5%
STATE AID/MOTOR VEHICLE REIMBURSEMENTS	21,403,512	17%
DEPARTMENTAL REVENUES & ALL OTHERS	5,812,434	5%
HOTEL, MEAL & BEVERAGE TAXES	1,112,956	1%



TAX EXEMPTIONS

We are also able to maintain significant assistance to generations of residents with over \$3.8M in direct tax relief through tax exemptions in the FY 26 Proposed Budget.

FY 2024	TAX RATE 14.34	#	TOTAL EVALUATION ELIGIBLE
BLIND	6,883	16	480,000
SR. INCOME	231,594	135	16,150,230
DISABLED	5,081	8	354,340
GOLD STAR	473	3	33,000
INCOME	3,080	5	214,775
VETERAN	217,385	1,208	15,159,330
VETERAN DISABLED	12,771	61	890,60
DISABLED H.	5,406	1	377,000
FLAT ELDERLY	959,776	2,231	66,930,000
HOMESTEAD	2,429,274	6,612	169,405,453
TOTAL	3,871,724	10,280	269,994,728

TAX RATES

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While it is very preliminary, we understand there is concern about the tax rate resulting from the historic increase in property values from the recent state-mandated statistical revaluation.

	FY 2025 ACTUAL		FY 2026 PROPOSED BUDGET
RESIDENTIAL	14.34	1	11.05
COMMERCIAL	16.28	1	14.79
TANGIBLE/PERSONAL PROPERTY	17.28		17.85
*HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION RATE (5% REDUCTION)	13.62	1	10.50

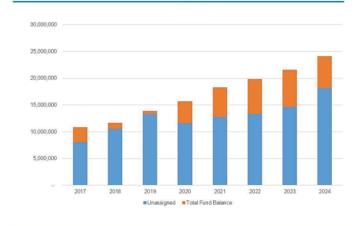
These reductions are possible due to our solid financial foundation, producing continuous balanced budgets and an unrestricted Surplus/Fund Balance growth shown on the next slide.

FUND BALANCE

The Proposed FY26 Tax Rate reductions are possible due to our solid financial foundation, producing continuous balanced budgets and an unrestricted Surplus/Fund Balance growth from \$7.5M in 2017, to \$18.2M in 2024.

This surplus is critical as we endeavor to finance our upcoming voter-approved Bond Projects with maximum reimbursement and our debt cliff.

Fund Balance: Last Eight Years



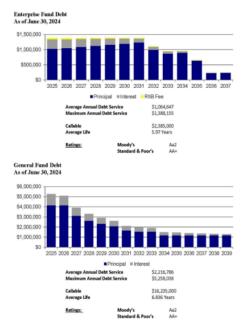
marcumllp.com

SOURCE: Pg 4/Auditors' 01/27/2025 presentation to Town Council

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DEBT

As of June 30, 2024 at the close of Fiscal Year 2024, the Town has an outstanding balance of \$47,939,091 on general obligation bonds. This represents 26.63% of the Town's debt limit threshold.



SOURCE: Pg 87/FY26 Town Manager's Proposed Budget

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NORTH KINGSTOWN

RHODE ISLAND

RIDE-rated 5-star elementary school in 2024

Leader in State for Levels of Town Appropriation Funding Education

#1 Best Places to Raise a Family/Washington County (Niche)

Among largest collection of historic colonial homes in America

#2 Best Historic Small Town in America/2024 by USA Today Reader's Choice poll

Decreases in student absenteeism in 2024

Multiple North Kingstown businesses recognized in the RI Monthly Best Awards Hall of Fame (Del's Lemonade & Allie's Donuts)

#1 Best Suburb to Buy a House/Washington County (Niche)

Multiple North Kingstown businesses recognized in RI Monthly/2024 Annual Awards for South County, including: Best Latin Restaurant (El Tapatio), Diner (Jigger's South), Coffee Shop (Jitters Café), Vintage Store (Re Antiques & Interiors), Fitness Studio (Wild Flow), Gift Store (Serendipity), Local Event (Wickford Harbor Fire), & Florist (Flowers by Bert & Peg)

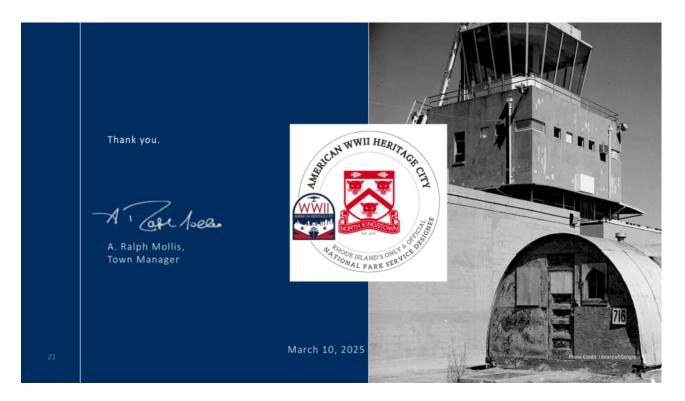
FY2026 BUDGET PROCESS

The next steps for our FY26 Budget will be Budget Sessions with Town Council and the Administration on March 18th, followed by the planned adoption of the Preliminary Budget, and **Public Hearings on April 21**st.

I encourage residents to join us on April 21st as we strive to adopt a budget which builds on our successes with continued momentum.



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The Council thanked Mr. Mollis for the excellent presentation.

6. Public Comment

President Mancini congratulated the North Kingstown Girls 4 X 8 relay team for winning the New England Champions and also the Girls Basketball Team for the Division 1 State Champions.

Jennifer Lima, 4 Hickory Drive East, stated that she is the president of TANK and they will be holding their third annual parade on Sunday, June 1, 2025.

Richard Welch, 8 Arrow Lane, stated that the Town needs to make sure we have enough money for the school construction bond project before we start it. He also stated that he is not happy with the tax appraisal process because you have to make an appointment in order to talk to someone about your revaluation. This has not been the process in the past and he wants to be able to confront the people with how they got their information. He also stated that he is not in favor of the roundabout and many people need to say something before something is done.

Councilor Hill Ross stated that there are more names coming and there are sign-up sheets in the businesses in Wickford if anyone wants to sign them.

Randy Wietman, 40 Sanford Avenue, stated that a couple of weeks ago the Independent had an article on the Wickford El project and the information given was not correct. President Mancini called and there was a correction made, but they originally stated that Wickford El would be turned into apartments by the Town of North Kingstown. He wanted to bring this up to stop the rumors. He also stated that about two months ago we talked about the roundabout. People are saying they don't know anything about it after spending $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours talking about it. He would like to thank the Council for putting the information out there in different ways.

Mike Donohue, 141 West Main Street, read the following statement:

"I am a trustee of the North Kingstown Free Library. I am speaking for myself this evening, but I believe my fellow trustees agree with my concerns.

You have before you tonight a proposed resolution requesting the Rhode Island Office of Library Information Services not adopt the proposed regulation changes that increase the hours of operations and staffing levels for small libraries. We believe that the proposed regulation changes, if adopted, will result in much higher costs for library service in North Kingstown and poorer levels of service.

North Kingstown is blessed with three existing public libraries, the publicly supported North Kingstown Free Library, and two smaller private, independent libraries, the Willett Free Library in Saunderstown and the Davisville Free Library in the Davisville section of town. Both smaller libraries have existed in their villages for over one hundred years, are largely self-financing through local fundraising, and offer both books and programs to their membership. Their range of programs is impressive, and they use the statewide public library system for inter-library loans and other services. Under the regulations, to remain open, they would be forced to expand their hours of operation and add staffing significantly with no additional funding to cover the costs of these mandates.

If regulations are enacted, the Davisville Free Library has indicated that they will be forced to close, and the Willett Free Library will withdraw from the Ocean State Library system due to the increased financial cost of complying with new regulations.

The Office of Library Information Services states the regulation changes are meant to standardize library services in the smaller libraries in Rhode Island and encourage smaller libraries to merge with larger libraries, assuming that there are economies of scale that would result in such mergers. That assumption is faulty. If the smaller libraries chose to or were forced to merge with the North Kingstown Free Library, the North Kingstown Free Library operational costs would increase as employees of the merged libraries would need to become unionized town employees for wages and benefits, the town would become responsible for additional buildings and grounds for maintenance purposes and the workload of our existing administrators would increase, all resulting in higher payroll expenses, maintenance expenses or a reduction in services or hours of opening. Alternatively, maintaining all existing programs and the new programs and sites would require a much higher municipal contribution to library operations, all in an era where pressure on municipal budgets for schools and other public services is only expected to increase.

I would ask you to recognize all of the potential ramifications of the unfunded mandates associated with the effects of the changed regulations and to support the resolution as proposed at today's meeting. Please support the current libraries in North Kingstown as we continue to offer great library service throughout the community.

Thank you."

Jennifer Shaker, 146 Main Street, Director of the Willett Free Library, read the following statement:

"For those of you who have not been to visit recently, the Willett Free Library located at 45 Ferry Road in Saunderstown, is a special place. We were founded in 1885 by a group of enthusiastic neighbors as 'a circle for mutual improvement', and we have been serving the community ever since. We started as a grassroots movement to provide shared educational resources, and we proudly continue that mission today by welcoming over 7,000 patrons annually, circulating over 5,000 books, and providing over 600 programs a year. We do all of this in 28 hours a week, with three part-time staff members, and with a very modest budget that is mostly fundraised by our board members.

I am here tonight because the Library Board of Rhode Island is proposing a new set of Minimum Public Library Standards that will unfairly threaten our ability to serve the North Kingstown community. Among other things, they will require small, independent libraries like the Willett Free Library and the Davisville Public Library to increase our hours of operation to 35 hours a week and add additional degreed staff members, which will amount to a 40% increase in expenditures without any additional funding. For our library, this is an unachievable goal that will result in a loss of services. We would be unable to comply with these new requirements, and we would be forced to leave the statewide library consortium and become a private library. We would lose our small amount of state funding, our ability to participate in the interlibrary loan program, and we would be forced to reduce our hours of operation.

I encourage you to support the resolution stating that the Town of North Kingstown opposes these new regulations. Thank you for your consideration."

Paulina Sheehy, 569 Boston Neck Road, stated that she has two children who go to Hamilton School and asked the Council to look at the School Budget and redistricting.

Sarah Galvan, 71 Annaquatucket Road, stated that she is the parent of three children and the redistricting plan has a lack of transparency and needs more data. She asked that the Council hold off on approving the School Budget until more information is provided.

Teresa Hirsch, 20 Swan View Lane, stated that she would like more transparency from the School Department on the redistricting. She stated that at the last School Committee Meeting there were many questions and there were no answers provided. She asked about the voluntary and involuntary lottery system of the schools and why is there so much speed involved in redistricting. She asked if the teachers and staff are comfortable with this redistricting plan. She further stated that she doesn't want the Council to accept the budget as proposed tonight.

Kevin Hirsch, 20 Swan View Lane, read the following statement:

"I have two children attending Hamilton Elementary this fall. I would like to speak to you specifically about the unintended economic risks that would result from the School Committee's recent draft policy proposal, entitled, "Establishing School Attendance Boundary Lines". This is relevant for the Town and Town Council due to the significant impact school boundaries have on the residential market.

In this draft, what caught my eye is the concept of a perpetual redrawing of school district lines. The draft states that the Superintendent will evaluate "at least annually" whether new school boundary changes are to be considered. Imagine a perpetual cycle of school boundary changes each and every year coming from the School Committee. This activity would lead to economic instability for Wickford and North Kingstown.

A school boundary change introduces tremendous uncertainty. Right now, parents in NK are all on edge. The last such boundary line change took place in 2019, and from what I hear, it caused a great deal of stress and instability.

Home values are very sensitive to school district designation. People purchase homes close to a local school with the full understanding that their children will go to that local school. When changes to this practice occur, or if school boundaries are Gerrymandered in the extreme, local housing demand is affected and uncertainty in future school boundary action can only cause further turbulence in the housing market.

School district mapping is right up there in importance with zoning or planning to the growth and wellbeing of the town. I would suggest that such an incredibly sensitive and important determination of housing demand not be left solely in the hands of the Superintendent or with the School Committee members – at least not without careful review or participation by the Town Council. This will give us all more transparency, scrutiny and public awareness to the process, which as I mentioned has the potential to become an annual event.

President Mancini and Town Council, I would urge careful consideration of how and when the Town Council might have representation and detailed analysis on the school boundary process, for which there are certain costs imbedded in this proposed school budget.

Thank you."

Bob Armentano, 20 Sanford Avenue, stated that he agrees with Kevin on the school boundaries, and he also agrees with Jen Lima and he supports the Pride parade. He stated that he is mainly here tonight as a concerned parent of the redistricting and how quickly this came up. Please make sure that we are getting transparent with the redistricting.

Nicole Pichette, President of the Board of Trustees Davisville Free Library, read the following statement:

"As the Board of Trustees of the Davisville Free Library, we would like to bring to your attention the impact the proposed RI Public Library Minimum Standards will have on our library. We understand that the intent of these standards is to expand access to and increase the quality of libraries in Rhode Island. In the case of this library, it will have the opposite effect. If the Minimum Standards are approved as drafted, they will put too much pressure on our finances and fundraising abilities. The library currently raises about 2/3 of our budget through fundraising and grant writing. As it currently stands, the Davisville Free Library operates on the smallest budget for any library in the State of Rhode Island. The adoption of these standards will require us to make some hard decisions about the level of service the library is capable of providing.

The Minimum Standards proposal to require libraries to be open 35 hours per week, up from 25 hours per week, would require a 40% increase in the Davisville Free Library's hours of operation. We estimate this would increase the budget by \$25,000 for labor expenses alone, not including overhead. With no additional funds allotted by the State of Rhode Island or the Town of North Kingstown, the Davisville Free Library would be forced to raise the equivalent of more than one quarter of our current operating budget for additional expenses. It is not an achievable expectation or goal.

If the Davisville Free Library attempted to absorb the increased expenses, the current level of library service would not be maintained. Funds for programming and collection development would be withheld to compensate for additional staffing and overhead expenses. This would impact our community by reducing the programming we offer, including important early literacy programs like Storytime and Music & Movement Storytime, as well as the Summer Reading Program, after school clubs, book clubs, educational offerings for adults and children, and craft programs. Nearly 2,000 children and families out of 7,000 total visitors took part in programs at the Davisville Free Library last year.

Davisville Free Library serves the north end of North Kingstown, which includes individuals who do not have the ability or transportation to access Wickford and the North Kingstown Free Library for additional Library services. Davisville Free Library serves the neighborhoods that attend Quidnessett Elementary School, the only Title 1 School in North Kingstown. In addition, one mile away is Kingstown Crossings, a HUD subsidized housing development run by Crossroads Rhode Island.

While there are other libraries available in our town, our library is a unique community asset for all those who come through our doors. The revised Minimum Standards would negatively affect our library and our ability to serve you."

Dianne Izzo, 62 Poplar Avenue, stated that out of all the recommendations, the library has two concerns. The first one is the financial aspect of the library and the second one is the recommendation for more hours. In order to help them with all of the recommendations, we may need to help them with other things. She thanked Town Manager Mollis for the fantastic presentation on the budget.

Amanda Mellor, 204 Steamboat Avenue, stated that she would like to thank the Town for putting on the family day event this year. Her family really enjoyed it and is glad to see it will be recurring. She also stated that they moved here less than a year ago and they just received their new evaluation which showed an increase of about 30%. On top of that, she learned they may be in the redistricting area as well. She is wondering if the new evaluation has anything to do with the redistricting.

Karen Salvatore thanked the Town Manager for the budget. She came in at the end of the presentation, but she did hear about the historic homes. Historic homes are one of the things that make North Kingstown special, but one of the things we are rapidly losing is our colonial stone walls. She suggested that maybe we should develop some kind of program that allows us to give incentives to people whose stone walls are still intact. This is an asset we don't want to lose. She also stated that in reference to the Wickford roundabout, this is her third request for an actual

active same size video of the roundabout, and she would also like data on both vehicle and pedestrian accidents.

MARCH 10, 2025

BOOK 112 PAGE

President Mancini stated that the Town Council has no jurisdiction on the school redistricting and state law doesn't allow us to have the jurisdiction. We are only allowed to give them a bottom-line number. He stated that at the next meeting with the School Committee, he will relay all the concerns to them. He stated that you should continue to lobby them because they are the decision makers.

Councilor McCoy stated that there was a question asked earlier in the meeting if the redistricting affects the new appraisals. Town Manager Mollis stated that on a statistical revaluation, it does not.

Councilor Page stated that her family moved around a lot because they were in the Navy. She stated that her children went to different schools at times, and it was hard on them, but she found that her attitude had a lot to do with it. She stated that after being here a year, the school redistricted and her children went to another school. She stated that we have great teachers in North Kingstown. After 6 years in elementary and five schools later, both kids did great.

Councilor Drew stated that she understands as she has a first grader at Fishing Cove Elementary School and another one coming up. She stated that her house will never be redistricted because it is on that street, but she still understands the public's concerns. She encourages everyone to keep talking to the School Committee.

Councilor McCoy stated that he watched the public comment from the School Committee Meeting of February 24th, and one of the things people seem to be interested in is the planning and development of redistricting in the future. Town Manager Mollis stated that the School Department has reached out to us and the Planning Department has provided them with a five-year look ahead of all proposed development.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Drew and unanimously

VOTED: To approve Consent Agenda Item Numbers 7 through 12 as presented with the exception of Agenda Item Numbers 10 and 11.

7. Approval of Minutes

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 10, 2025 as submitted by the Office of the Town Clerk.

8. Receipt of Donation

VOTED: To accept with gratitude the following donation in the amount of \$50.00:

For: Beechwood Senior Center

To be used for Senior Programs

From: Joan Morito \$50.00

9. Authorization for Town Manager to accept the Offer of Just Compensation and Repurchase

for Temporary Easements

VOTED: To authorize the Town Manager to accept the Offer of Just Compensation and Repurchase for Temporary Easements related to the Post Road and West Main Street Sidewalk Improvements.

10. Authorization to apply for the National Park Service 2024 Historic Preservation Fund Semiquincentennial Grant

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Drew and unanimously

VOTED: To table the authorization for the Planning Department to apply for the National Park Service 2024 Historic Preservation Fund Semiquincentennial Grant for the "Old Town House".

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11. Amendment to the 2025 Town Council Meeting Schedule

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor McCoy and unanimously

VOTED: To amend the 2025 Town Council Meeting Schedule as follows:

- Change the June 2, 2025 Council Meeting to June 9, 2025
- Change the June 16, 2025 Council Meeting to June 23, 2025
- 12. Exhibition License (1-10 vendors)

VOTED: To approve the application for an Exhibition License with 1-10 vendors by Towards an Anti-Racist North Kingstown (TANK), 4 Hickory Drive East, to hold a Pride Celebration following the Pride Parade, at Wickford Middle School, 250 Tower Hill Road, on Sunday, June 1, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., subject to taxes and water paid to date; receipt of a DOT Permit; receipt of a Show Promoter's Permit; receipt of a list of vendors at the Town Clerk's Office by May 12, 2025; and compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Department, the Police Department, the Building Official, and the Planning Department.

IV. REPORTS

13. Report by the Town Manager

Town Manager Mollis gave the following report:



March 10, 2025

Manager's Report

A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager



Regular Update:

- As the School Building Subcommittee hasn't met since my last Manager's Report, I don't have any updated news to report
- As mentioned previously, we made changes to our Stage II Application with RIDE per RIDE comments and teacher feedback to maximize state reimbursement.
 - My understanding is that RIDE is now reviewing the revised application.
- Our next Subcommittee meeting is Wednesday, March 12th at 4:30 p.m. at the School Administration building at 100 Romano Vineyard Way.
 - These meetings are open to the public and are available on the School Department's YouTube channel @NKSchoolCommittee: https://www.youtube.com/@NKSchoolCommittee/playlists
- I expect to have updated information in my next Manager's Report.
- Pepartment Capital Projects. As the School Building Subcommittee hasn't met since my last Manager's Report, I don't have any significant updates. As I mentioned last meeting, we made changes to our Stage II Application with RIDE as per RIDE comments and teacher feedback with a purpose of maximizing our state reimbursement. My understanding is that RIDE is reviewing a revised Stage II application. Our next meeting of the Subcommittee is this Wednesday, March 12th at 4:30 at the School Administration Building at 100 Romano Vineyard Way. These meetings are public and are also recorded. I look forward to providing updated information in my next Manager's Report.



Public Safety Complex Project

Regular Update:

- We had what I felt was a very productive, initial 2025 meeting of our Committee on February 26th.
- The current committee is comprised of representatives from Police, Fire, Public Works, my office, our Town Solicitor, and various individuals representing the architectural firm and their team.
 - We put together a plan for both projects, continued reviewing potential footprints with suggestions for revision, discussed various alternatives for a construction method, discussed timeline and cash flow, the various contracts we needed to enter into, and put forth a plan of review for the potential property in Quonset Business Park along with a plan to pursue the property and receive Town Council direction and approval.
 - Our next meeting is this Wednesday. I expect to have more information in my next Manager's Report.

As to my regular update on the Public Safety Complex Project, we had what I felt was a very productive, initial 2025, meeting of our Committee on February 26th. The current committee is comprised of representatives from Police, Fire, our Town Solicitor, Public Works, my office, and various individuals representing the Architect Firm and their team. We put together a plan for both projects, continued reviewing potential footprints, discussed various alternatives for a construction method, discussed timeline and cash flow, discussed the various contracts needed to enter into, and put forth a plan of review for the potential property in Quonset Business Park along with a goal of pursuing the property, and receive Town Council direction and approval. Our next meeting is this Wednesday, and I will have more information in my next Manager's Report as well.

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Revolution Wind



Regular Update: Offshore Wind Farm

- We had our bi-weekly meeting with Revolution Wind the week before last, regarding their Offshore Wind Farm Project in Quonset Business Park.
 - o Construction continues with no changes since my last Manager's Report.
 - Additional activities such as cable pulling and interconnection work continues to take place within Quonset Business Park.
- As always, anyone with questions and /or concerns is encouraged to contact Revolution Wind directly, at (401) 251-2207 or info@revolution-wind.com. All calls and how they were resolved are reported to my office.
- We also had our regular bi-weekly meeting with Revolution Wind the week before last regarding the Offshore Wind Farm Project that is taking place within Quonset Business Park. Construction work continues with no changes since my last Manager's Report.

As always, anyone having any questions or concerns are encouraged to contact Revolution Wind at 401-251-2207 or at info@revolution-wind.com. Revolution Wind reports all calls, and how they were resolved, to my office.

Projects/Initiatives

Wickford Waterfront Project



- Work is nearing completion on the masonry wall with the final steps requiring the placement of stone at the base to shore up the surrounding area.
 - Once that is complete, the metal bracing and sheeting can be removed. Then, backfill and paver installation behind the wall can begin.
 - At that point, we will begin working with them on removing some of the fencing.
- We have experienced some frustrations with the contractor as to unnecessary delays and work stoppages.
 While we are told we are still on schedule, we have meetings scheduled with our Engineer and the contractor over these next few days. I will keep the Council up to date and attempt to include more information in my next report.

Climate Resiliency

Ready, Set, Rhody Initiative Kicked Off in North Kingstown



- On February 27 th, North Kingstown hosted Governor McKee, Lt. Governor Matos, representatives from Commerce and Planning and several others as they announced the beginning of a program to work with selected municipalities on targeted infrastructure vulnerability assessments to municipalities to include ways to increase resilience for vulnerable business districts in their communities that are subject to coastal erosion, flooding, and other weather events.
- Thank you to the Town Council as well as representatives from our Planning Department for joining this event
 as I know this topic is important to them, and all of us. We look forward to working with the State and their
 selected expert environmental engineering firm, Fuss & O'Neill, on this project.

A brief update on the Wickford Waterfront Streetscape Project taking place in the Municipal Parking Lot in Wickford – work is nearing completion on the masonry wall with the final steps requiring the placing of stone at the base to shore up the surrounding area. Once that is complete, the metal bracing and sheeting can be removed. This will then allow the area to be backfilled and work on the paver installation behind the wall to begin. We will be working with them on removing some of the fencing as well. We have experienced some frustrations with the Contractor as to unnecessary delays and work stoppages. While we are told we are still on schedule, we have meetings scheduled with our Engineer and the Contractor over these next few days and I will keep the Council up to date and will attempt to have more information on my next Manager's Report.

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• Speaking of Climate Resiliency Projects, North Kingstown was proud to host the Ready, Set, Rhode Press Event on February 27th as we welcomed Governor McKee, Lt. Governor Matos, representatives from Commerce and Planning, and others as they announced the beginning of this program working with municipalities on vulnerability assessments and remediation plans for small business districts vulnerable to coastal erosion, floods and other weather events. This was followed by an interview I had with PBS this past week as they wanted to follow up with me on this state project.

I want to thank our Town Council as well as representatives from our Planning Department for joining this event as I know this topic is important to all of them, and all of us. We look forward to working with the State on this project.



Updates/Events

North Kingstown Notes

Newsletter Reminder

- A reminder to sign up for our newsletter, North Kingstown Notes: https://bit.ly/NKNOTES
- This free, email newsletter provides the latest and official Town news, information, events, and connections to resources and arrives in your Inbox 2x/month.

Recreation Department

Reminders

- Our Recreation is hiring Lifeguards & Gate Guards for the Town Beach, Camp Counselors for Summer Camps, and seasonal help at the Golf Course.
 - For complete details: https://www.northkingstownri.gov/jobs.aspx
- Registration for summer camps will open at 9:00 a.m. on April 2nd
- The Annual Egg Hunt at Wilson Park will take place on April 12th
- Programming is also available for April School Vacation week. See the Recreation Catalog for complete details: https://secure.rec1.com/Rl/north-kingstown-ri/catalog



North Kingstown Day at the State House Thursday, March 13th at 3:30 p.m.

- Plans include informational tables to be set up in the State House Rotunda, followed by a brief speaking program and the showing of our 350th Anniversary Video in the House Lounge then an introduction and recognition during the House Session starting at 4:00 p.m.
- A reminder to sign up for our Newsletter, North Kingstown Notes. This newsletter provides the latest official town news, information, events and connections to resources. Simply visit our website and sign up with your email address. This new initiative is receiving a positive welcome as it keeps residents and visitors up to date on what is taking place in town.
- Speaking of what is taking place in town, a reminder that our Recreation Department is hiring Lifeguards and Gate Guards for our upcoming Summer Season at our Town Beach, as well as hiring seasonal help at our Golf Course. Our Recreation Department's Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Wilson Park will take place on April 12th. Registration for our Recreation Department's Summer Camp will be taking place soon. And visit the Recreation Department's website for information on a variety of programming that is being provided for kids during April vacation.

North Kingstown Day will take place this Thursday at the State House beginning at 3:30. Initial plans are for informational tables to be set up in the State House Rotunda, followed by a brief speaking program and showing of our 350th Anniversary Video in the House Lounge, followed by introduction and recognition during the House Session at 4pm.

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Updates

I will be back at the State House on March 14th, following North Kingstown Day, to be part of a group of Mayors and Managers participating in a Lunch Meeting with Governor McKee and his staff relative to issues important to cities and towns during the current session and upcoming Fiscal Year.



Recreation Department

Facility rentals are online

- Recreation Staff worked hard to rollout an online portal within their website for groups and individuals to rent certain Recreation facilities online.
 - School Department and local youth leagues have priority, and residents and visitors are welcome to use our facilities according to published availability on the "Facility Rentals" tab: https://secure.rec1.com/RI/north-kingstown-ri/catalog
 - For questions regarding this new system, please contact the Recreation Department at 268-1500 x242.

Federal Appropriation Applications

- We will be reapplying for federal funds with both the Offices of Senator Reed and Senator Whitehouse for a Broadband/Wi-Fi and Security Camera System as we did in FY25; those decisions have not yet been made, so we were advised to again apply for FY26.
 - The system would provide for internet and security cameras in some recreational areas to provide accessibility for the community and leagues using these community amenities, and for our public safety departments to reduce crime and vandalism.
 - There are no matching funds required; this will be on the March 24th Town Council Agenda.
- I will also be back at the State House the following day as I will be part of a group of Mayors and Managers participating in a Lunch Meeting with Governor McKee and his staff relative to issues important to cities and towns during this current session and upcoming Fiscal Year.
- Through the hard work of our Recreation Department Staff, they have rolled out an online portal within the CivicRec site for groups or individuals to rent our facilities online. This will be helpful for our local youth leagues and our School Department, both who will have priority, as well as residents and visitors who wish to use our facilities. This pertains mostly to our Community Center and Field rentals. Feel free to reach out directly to our Rec Department at 268-1500, extension 242, or via email, with any questions relative to this new program.
- Our Recreation Department will also be reapplying for a Federal Appropriation with both Senator Reed's and Senator Whitehouse's offices for Town Broadband and Security Camera Systems. We applied last year as well and were advised by our delegation to put in applications for 2026 as decisions haven't been made for 2025 as of yet. The funds will be used for the installation of Broadband and Security Cameras in our public recreational areas. This will provide accessibility for the community and leagues who utilize these facilities as well as partnering with our Police and Fire Departments to reduce crime and vandalism. There is no match required, and





Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs will be before the Town Council at their March 24th meeting to officially inform the Council and receive permission to reapply.

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Other News

Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust Grant Awards



- Congratulations to Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs, Recreation Director, on receiving two of The Trust's Safety and Risk Management Awards:
 - The Town has been awarded \$1,250 for Chelsey to attend the National Conflict Resolution Center Certification Training
 - And \$480 for Life Safety & Emergency Action Go-Bags for our Town Beach (to improve first aid readiness).
- Chelsey and the Town of North Kingstown will be recognized for these awards at The Trusts' Loss Prevention Luncheon later this month.

Committee Appointment

 I have been appointed to The Trusts' Property and Casualty Underwriting Committee and will serve in this capacity, in addition to my place on their Finance and Investment Committee and Executive Board.

• In some RI Interlocal Trust news:

Congratulations to Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs on receiving two of the Trust's Safety and Risk Management Awards. The Town has been awarded \$1,250 for Chelsey to attend the National Conflict Resolution Center Certification Training as well as a \$480 award for Life Safety & Emergency Action Emergency Go-Bags for our Town Beach. Chelsey, and the Town, will be recognized for these awards at their Loss Prevention Luncheon later this month.

And the Trust has asked me to serve, and I was appointed to, their Property and Casualty Underwriting Committee. I also serve on the Trust's Finance and Investment Committee as well as their Executive Board.

Thank You





March 10, 2025

A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager



The Council thanked Mr. Mollis for his report.

V. NEW BUSINESS

14. Town Manager's recommendation to Fund the North Kingstown Food Pantry's request for a contribution to their Capital Campaign

Motion by Councilor McCoy, seconded by Councilor Drew and was

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VOTED: To approve the Town Manager's recommendation to fund the North Kingstown Food Pantry's request for a contribution to their Capital Campaign in the amount of \$150,000.00.

Funding for this contribution is from the Town's Unassigned Fund Balance.

Councilor Page recused from voting on this item.

15. Resolution requesting the Rhode Island Office of Library Information Services not adopt the proposed regulation changes that increases the hours of operations and staffing levels for libraries

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

WHEREAS, the citizens of the Town of North Kingstown receive library services from the public library known as the North Kingstown Free Library and also two independent and private libraries, the Davisville Free Library and the Willett Free Library; and

WHEREAS, the Library Board of Rhode Island by and through the Office of Library Information Services is proposing new regulations that will require an increase in the hours of operations and staffing levels in the two private independent libraries; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Library Information Services does not provide any additional funding for the increased cost of requiring these additional library services and requirements in their newly proposed regulations; and

WHEREAS, these newly proposed regulations are an unfunded mandate that takes local control away from 2 libraries that have been successfully serving the community for more than 100 years; and

WHEREAS, the Town of North Kingstown already has too many unfunded mandates from both the federal and state governments. To now add yet another such mandate without the requisite funds needed takes more local resources away from other community pressing needs; and

WHEREAS, these newly proposed regulations will increase the operating costs of the Davisville Free Library and Willett Free Library up to 40%; and

WHEREAS, the Davisville Free Library and Willett Free Library cannot afford this type of increase to their operating budgets; and

WHEREAS, these proposed new regulations will likely result in less library access in the form of one library leaving the OSL consortium and the other closing all together.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the North Kingstown Town Council strongly opposes that portion of the draft regulations that increases the hours of operation and staffing levels; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Town of North Kingstown requests that the Rhode Island Office of Library Information Services not adopt that portion of the Library Board of Rhode Island's proposed changes in light of the adverse effects on library service and operations in North Kingstown, or alternatively specifically exempt the Town of North Kingstown from this portion of these regulations that would cause undue harm to the residents of North Kingstown.

16. Assessment Board of Review - Appointment

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor McCoy and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Amy Jenner, 6 Bay Street, to the Assessment Board of Review to December 1, 2027.

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17. Personnel Board - Appointment

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Drew and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Amy Jenner, 6 Bay Street, to the Personnel Board to March 1, 2028.

18. Veterans Day & Memorial Day Parades Committee – Appointments

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Drew and unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint the following two (2) members to the Veterans Day & Memorial Day Parades Committee to March 1, 2028:

Lee C. Hardgrove, 31 Landing Lane Mary Ellen Madsen, 67 Eastwick Road

19. Veterans Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee – Appointments

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

VOTED: To reappoint the following two (2) members to the Veterans Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee to July 1, 2025:

Brett Mallery, 731 Annaquatucket Road Patricia Siegmund, 10 Kent Street

20. Correspondence

2/25/2025 - Donna Hutchinson, 12 Enfield Avenue - Trash at Town Landing - Asking town to return trash barrels to the town landing.

2/25/2025 – Janet Christensen – Trash at Town Landing – Asking town to return trash barrels to the town landing; cited that people are dumping dog refuse bags and other trash.

2/25/2025 – Courtney Morting – Wickford Pet Waste – Asking town to install pet waste disposal station with bags around West Main Street in Wickford to address pet waste issues.

2/26/2025 – Rachel and Bob Armentano, 20 Sanford Way – School Redistricting – Concerns about Hamilton redistricting that affects neighborhood very close to Hamilton who will be moved to Fishing Cove.

3/1/2025 – Dr. Nicole Kim – School Redistricting – Concerns about Hamilton redistricting that affects neighborhoods very close to Hamilton who will be moved to Fishing Cove.

3/4/2025 – Tom Briody – Social Media Remarks – Asked School Committee and Town Council for action regarding transphobic comments made by a NK resident on a picture of the 4 x 800 New England champion NK girls track team.

3/4/2025 – Suzan Evenson - School Redistricting - Concerns about Hamilton redistricting that affects neighborhoods very close to Hamilton who will be moved to Fishing Cove.

3/5/2025 – Ed Renehan – Social Media Remarks – Responded to Tom Briody.

3/6/2025 – Megan Kurth, 117 Lantern Way – Deforestation in North Kingstown - Expressed deep concerns about deforestation in NK to accommodate solar, especially as it relates to the negative effects of tree removal on handling climate change (increased flooding, increased temperature).

3/7/2025 – Kara Martone – 73 Woodridge Drive – NKSD Budget - Asking TC to consider the NKSC-approved budget and to send it back to the SC to further tighten the budget.

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3/9/2025 — Breah Anderson-Wood — School Redistricting - Concerned about the lack of transparency in the school redistricting process, including limited access to information and public engagement opportunities, little clarity on the pivotal criteria, and exclusions of practical alternatives. Asked TC to engage with SC to ensure more transparent procedures are implemented.

3/10/2025 - William Lightell – School Redistricting - Concerns about Hamilton redistricting that affects neighborhoods very close to Hamilton who will be moved to Fishing Cove, especially citing a projection for Hamilton enrollment to decrease and additional neighborhoods to be built in other districts.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Jeannette Alyward Town Clerk