



**Vincent P. Baccari, Jr., Town Clerk**  
**Town of Johnston**  
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**Johnston Town Council**

**Linda L Folcarelli**  
**Councilwoman - District 1**

**Lauren A. Garzone**  
**Vice-President**  
**Councilwoman - District 2**

**Alfred T. Carnevale**  
**Councilman- District 3**

**Robert V. Russo**  
**President**  
**Councilman - District 4**

**Robert J. Civetti**  
**Councilman - District 5**

## **Special Meeting**

### **Minutes**

**January 28, 2025**

The Johnston Town Council held a special meeting on **January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025** at the Johnston Municipal Court, 1600 Atwood Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919.

*Votes may be taken on all items below*

Council President Russo called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

- **Roll call**

All Councilmembers were present except for Councilman Civetti

Also present were: Mayor Joseph M. Polisena, Jr., William J. Conley, Jr., Esq., Vincent P. Baccari, Jr, and Donna Dumont, stenographer

- **Resolution 2025-10: A resolution regarding a hearing pertaining to the property located at Assessor's Plat 37, Lot 193**

Mayor Polisena, Jr., addressed the Council and spoke about the need for a new Fire Station Headquarters, Police Department Headquarters and Town Hall Building

The mayor noted that he approached several property owners for the project but none of them were a proper fit so he is requesting that the Council authorize acquiring the property located at Assessor's Plat 37, Lot 193 at 178-200 George Waterman Road for the construction of the facilities

The mayor spoke about deficiencies at the Town Hall including accessibility, the HVAC system, a hole in the roof and many other issues

Fire Chief David Iannuccilli addressed the Council and noted that the Headquarters was built in 1968 and the building was shared with the Police Department until 1978

Chief Iannuccilli spoke about many issues at the Fire Station Headquarters including the cost of repairing the aging facility, the electrical system being at capacity, the roof needing replacement and many others

Fire Marshal, John Robinson noted that the building does not meet the current fire code and that the dispatching system is past the end of its life and replacement parts are getting harder to find

IAFF President, Kieth Calci noted that the apparatus floor should not be on the same floor and adjacent to the sleeping quarters, there is only one way out of the rooms and that there is visible water damage and mold in the building

Police Chief, Mark Vieira addressed the Council and noted that the Police station was built in 1978 for approximately 34 employees

Chief Vieira discussed deficiencies including the electrical system, plumbing system and frequent flooding problems in the basement rooms, including the telecom room

Remy Mendez, IBPO, Local 307 President spoke about the building, the lack of an interview room, lack of hot water in the bathrooms an aging radio system and the lack of privacy for the detectives

Brian Thalman, DiPrete Engineering Senior Project Manager assessed the project and noted that the property presented some challenges but nothing too large that can't be overcome and that keeping the three building separate makes sense

Solicitor, William J. Connley, Jr., reviewed the legal procedure for the process of acquiring the property via eminent domain and that the construction of the three new buildings is critical to the future of the Town and presents an exceptional opportunity and an ideal location

Mr. Conley noted that some preliminary work including title work and appraisals have already begun and that it all can be completed in a timely manner

Mayor Polisena Jr., thanked everyone for their work and support of the project and noted that this is a rare opportunity to protect those that protect us

Council President Russo allowed members of the public to speak

Jairson Ascon: Spoke about the housing crisis and the need for affordable housing

Councilwoman Garzone made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-10

The motion was seconded by Council President Russo

Roll Call Vote:

District 1: Aye to adopt

District 2: Aye to adopt

District 3: Aye to adopt

District 5: Absent

District 4: Aye to adopt

Motion carried; Vote 4-0

Councilman Carnevale made a motion to adjourn the meeting

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Garzone

Motion carried; Vote 4-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

FOR DETAILED COMMENTS/STATEMENTS REGARDING ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
WITHIN, PLEASE REFER TO THE TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE STENOGRAPHER

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Vincent P. Baccari, Jr.,  
Town Clerk