REGULAR SESSION

JANUARY 5, 2026

At a REGULAR SESSION of the Town Council of the Town of South Kingstown, County of Washington, in the State of Rhode Island held at the Town Hall, in and for said Town on the 5th day of January, 2026 at 6:03 PM.

PRESENT: Rory H. McEntee, President
Michael K. Marran, Vice President
Patricia A. Alley
Deborah D. Bergner
Jay G. Wegimont

1. A. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to recess to Closed Executive Session pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2) to discuss matters pertaining to litigation re: Police.

Regular Session is reconvened at 7:05 PM

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to seal the minutes of the Closed Executive Session pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2) to discuss matters pertaining to litigation re: Police.

Mike Ursillo, Town Solicitor notes no votes were taken in Closed Executive Session.

Nichole C. Romane
Town Clerk

REGULAR SESSION

JANUARY 5, 2026

At a REGULAR SESSION of the Town Council of the Town of South Kingstown, County of Washington, in the State of Rhode Island, held at the Town Hall, in and for said Town on the 5th day of January 2025 at 7:12 PM.

PRESENT: Rory H. McEntee, President
Michael K. Marran, Vice President
Patricia A. Alley
Deborah D. Bergner
Jay G. Wegimont

2. REGULAR SESSION

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag is given.

B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

The Land Acknowledgement Statement is read.

3. ROLL CALL

Roll Call is taken and all members are present.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

(CA) A. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to grant a Firearms/Ammunition License for the year beginning December 1, 2025 to IDGR15, LLC d/b/a Peace Dale Shooting Preserve, 371 Rose Hill Road, Wakefield, RI 02879. Application by James Waugh, Member, Renewal. License No. 66495.

Convened to Work Session.

Nichole C. Romane
Town Clerk

WORK SESSION

JANUARY 5, 2026

At a WORK SESSION of the Town Council of the Town of South Kingstown, County of Washington, in the State of Rhode Island held at the Town Hall, in and for said Town on the 5th day of January, 2025 at 7:12 PM.

PRESENT: Rory H. McEntee, President
Michael K. Marran, Vice President
Patricia A. Alley
Deborah D. Bergner
Jay G. Wegimont

5. WORK SESSION - DISCUSSION RE: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FY 2026-2027 – FY 2031-2032

A. James Manni, Town Manager thanks the Finance Department and Department Directors for all of their hard work and begins the presentation of the Proposed Municipal Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for the Fiscal Period 2026-2027 to 2031-2032. To develop this six-year plan, department directors and staff prepare their annual capital project requests and identify new projects. The criteria for project ranking are based on addressing health and safety concerns; meeting federal or state mandates and/or legal obligations; securing any outside funding to reduce the tax burden; affordability; preservation of existing tax base while assuring infrastructure and assets; and identification of available resources. This first year of the CIP is referred to as the Capital Budget or the “Pay As You Go” portion of the Capital Plan and the subsequent 5-years reflect planned activity subject to budget approval and changes due to unforeseen circumstances/funding uncertainties.

The Town Manager reviews the timeline for adoption of the CIP, with a Public Hearing scheduled for the Town Council meeting on January 26, 2026, and a summary of the General Fund Pay-Go funding. Department requests for General Fund Pay-Go funding totaled $2,077,796 and the total projected cost of the program for all Funds is estimated at $154,698,057.

B. The Town Manager begins reviewing the General Fund Capital Budget by Department and notes that the proposed Facilities Department CIP request can be reduced bringing the Capital Budget increase of $94,496 down to $74,496.

Brian Silvia, Finance Director notes that during the Facilities Department Capital Budget review meeting, additional funds were discovered within the Facilities Capital Reserve Fund to use towards the proposed projects.

The Finance Director reviews a summary of the proposed funding levels of the Operating Funds, the 6-year General Fund Capital Project funding, the 6-year Non-Major Funds Capital Project funding, the 6-year Enterprise Funds Capital Project funding, and the 6-year School Department Funds Capital Project funding. It is noted that the School Department is proposing to use their own Capital Reserve Funds, Fund-429, for FY 2026-2027 and FY 2027-2028 projects without using the Town Capital Reserve Funds, Fund-428, designated for the School Department.

The Finance Director further reviews a summary of the 6-year Capital Project funding for all Funds.

C. Fair Share Development Fees for educational facilities have been suspended since 2017. The Recreational and Open Space Fair Share Fees provide funding for acquisition of open space and/or conservation land to meet Town open space standards, and to acquire land for active recreation facilities and development of these properties. Fees are proposed to increase in FY 2026-2027 to $5,523 for single households and $4,277 for households with two bedrooms or less.

Discussion ensues relative to potentially lowering the Fair Share Development Fees for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and the revenue received from these fees.

The Finance Director reviews the 5-year average Fair Share Development Fee income and the projected Fund Balance of approximately $620,809.

Discussion ensues relative to the justification for the fee increase, the difference between single households and households with two bedrooms or less, which fee applies to ADUs, potentially adding a separate Fair Share Development Fee category for ADUs and providing an analysis of what the revenue would look like.

The Finance Director reviews the 5-year average for Real Estate Conveyance Fee income and the total projected annual allocation of approximately $694,901 towards the General Fund, Debt Service Fund (Open Space), and the Affordable Housing Fund.

Discussion ensues relative to Real Estate Conveyance Taxes.

There are three funds that have received Conveyance Tax revenue in the past which include the Open Space Fund, Affordable Housing Fund, and the Village Infrastructure Fund. The Town Council determines the allocation of these fees.

The Finance Director reviews the Town's Fund Balance Policy that was adopted to secure and maintain a strong investment grade rating from rating agencies, meet cash flow needs, and reduce susceptibility to emergencies or unanticipated expenditures and/or revenue shortfalls. The Town uses the Government Finance Officers' Association (GFOA) guidelines as a target and therefore maintains an Unassigned Fund Balance in the range of 10% to 17% of General Fund revenues. The GFOA recommends at a minimum, that general purpose governments, regardless of size, maintain unrestricted budgetary fund balance in their general fund of no less that two months of regular general fund operating revenues. The projected Unassigned Fund Balance is approximately $18,061,190.

D. James Rabbitt, Director of Planning presents the Planning Department's request for FY 2026-2027 funding in the amount of $100,000 for development of Town-wide design guidelines and comprehensive review.

Lori-Ann Fox, Information Technology (IT) Director presents the IT Department's request for FY 2026-2027 funding in the amount of $125,000 for network/fiber ring equipment and firewall replacement, and digital document retention.

Discussion ensues relative to cybersecurity and the RI Secretary of State's retention policies.

WORK SESSION

JANUARY 5, 2026

Matthew Moynihan, Police Chief presents the Police Department's request for FY 2026-2027 funding in the amount of $164,500 for the Communications equipment reserve, police vehicle reserve and replacement program, and firearm replacement and optic upgrade project.

Discussion ensues relative to end of life of the firearms and the justification for changing firearm brands.

Craig Stanley, Chief of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) presents the EMS Department's request for FY 2026-2027 funding in the amount of $70,000 for base station radios, power stretcher paramedic 1, and EMS facility upgrades.

Mark Russo, Facilities Director presents the Facilities Department's request for FY 2026-2027 funding in the amount of $245,000 for the Town Hall/Facilities Building Capital Reserve, Public Services Building Capital Reserve Fund, and the Library facilities Capital Reserve.

Discussion ensues relative to the long-term plan for the Public Services Building and the proposed improvements to Town Hall.

The Facilities Director presents the Pay-Go funding request for the Community Recreation Center in the amount of $55,000. This request will fund 13 capital projects including major plumbing upgrades, ceiling mounted projectors, gym equipment control panel, basketball hoop electric motor replacements, bleacher replacement, divider curtain replacement, HVAC upgrades, basketball hoop height adjusting motors, flooring repairs/replacement, heavy duty patio furniture, parking lot repair, score board replacement, and the building expansion fund.

The Facilities Director presents the Pay-Go funding request for the Senior Services Center in the amount of $50,000. This request will fund 5 projects including Senior Center expansion fund, HVAC replacement, shingle roof replacement, flooring replacement, and kitchen equipment replacement.

The Facilities Director presents the Pay-Go funding request for the Neighborhood Guild in the amount of $100,000. This request will fund 3 projects including electrical upgrades, HVAC system install, and fire alarm, smoke and heat detectors replacement.

Discussion ensues relative to the ceiling mount projectors and potentially allowing the public to rent the projectors.

Michael Stach, Harbormaster/Natural Resource Officer presents the Natural Resource Officer Division's request for FY 2026-2027 funding in the amount of $80,000 for the Town Farm Park/Marina Park Master Plan and shoreline right-of-way monumentation and survey.

Discussion ensues relative to public right-of-way to the water, timeline to complete the shoreline right-of-way monumentation survey, and an update on the new Harbormaster boat purchased last year.

Theresa Murphy, Leisure Services Director presents the Park Maintenance Division's request for FY 2026-2027 funding in the amount of $444,000 for a chain link fence replacement at Old Mountain Field, a portable stage, court resurfacing in parks, Town Beach maintenance, playground improvements, a front-mount mower with bagger, a skid steer loader, and a pick-up truck ¾ ton with liftgate and plow.

Discussion ensues relative to Town Beach sand replenishment, interest in installing a splash pad at one of the parks, interest in adding outdoor exercise equipment to parks, and an update on the improvements at Fagan Park.

Richard Bourbonnais, Public Services Director presents the Public Services Department request for FY 2026-2027 funding in the amount of $1,594,072 for road safety enhancements, medium dump truck replacement, mini excavator, Superintendent vehicle replacement, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation reserve, salt barn maintenance, roadside mower with boom and head, one ton pick-up truck replacement, Gravely Hill Road pavement maintenance, and the dams/bridges reserve fund.

Discussion ensues relative to the Saugatucket culvert replacement timeline.

The Public Services Director presents the Water Division's request for FY 2026-2027 funding in the amount of $350,000 for Victoria Lane water tank cleaning and maintenance, Mautucket water tank cleaning and maintenance, equipment storage building replacement, and Factory Pond well field feasibility study.

The Public Services Director presents the Wastewater Division's request for FY 2026-2027 funding in the amount of $400,000 for wastewater outfall diffusers, Silver Lake area interceptor cleaning, repair and maintenance, aeration panels maintenance, doors and frames for the wet side/dry side at Kingston Pump Station, doors and frames for the wet side/dry side at Silver Lake Pump Station, and AC for Wastewater Facility 2nd level breakrooms and conference rooms.

The Finance Director presents the Town Assessor Department's request for FY 2026-2027 funding in the amount of $95,000 for the Property Revaluation Program.

The Finance Director presents the Communications Department's request for FY 2027-2028 funding in the amount of $100,000 for a Town Hall Fire Alarm upgrade. It is noted that the Communications Department is not requesting funding for FY 2026-2027.

The Debt Service Fund is currently projected for a borrow of $65,000,000 in FY 2026-2027 for the next round of Bond Anticipation Notes (BANS) for the construction of a new high school and athletic field complex.

Discussion ensues relative to BANS rate, market trends, when the BANS are due, and the interest rate.

The Finance Director reviews the current debt level and limit, outstanding and future debt obligations of the Town, and projected debt service obligations of the Town from FY 2025-2026 to FY 2031-2032.

The Finance Director further reviews a summary of the School Department's proposed capital projects and reiterates that the School Department is proposing to use their own Capital Reserve

Funds, Fund-429, for FY 2026-2027 and FY 2027-2028 projects without using the Town Capital Reserve Funds, Fund-428, designated for the School Department.

Discussion ensues relative to Fair Share Development Fee allocation for recreational facilities, potentially lowering the Fair Share Development Fees for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), and additional information on Fair Share Development Fees.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS - NONE

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to adjourn at 9:30 PM.

Nichole C. Romane
Town Clerk