

**REGULAR SESSION**

**APRIL 6, 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 6<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026 at 7:16 PM.

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

**1. REGULAR SESSION**

**A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance is given.

**B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT STATEMENT**

The Land Acknowledgement Statement is read.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Roll Call of the Town Council is taken and all members are present.

Roll Call of the School Committee is taken and Carol Vetter, Chairwoman; James L. Restivo, Vice-Chair, Stewart Lander; Katherine Macinanti, Bradley M. Shear, and Paula J. Whitford are present.

Michelle Brousseau is absent.

Also present: James M. Manni, Town Manager; Brian Silvia, Finance Director; Michael Podraza, School Superintendent; Daniel Seger, Assistant School Superintendent; and Patricia Proctor, School Chief Financial Officer.

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

**A.** Jim Manni, Town Manager reviews a request to execute letters of support for the Town's Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Community Project Funding / Congressionally Directed Spending requests.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to authorize the Town Council President to execute letters of support on behalf of the South Kingstown Town Council for the Town's Fiscal Year 2027 Community Project Funding / Congressionally Directed Spending requests submitted to the offices of Representative Seth Magaziner and Senator Jack Reed, as well as a letter of support to Senator Sheldon Whitehouse's office for the Downtown Wakefield Main Street Reconstruction and Safety Improvements Project, as further described in a memorandum from the Deputy Town Manager/ DOAS dated March 30, 2026, entitled "Request for Resolution Authorizing Letters of Support for Federal Community Project Funding / Congressionally Directed Spending Requests.

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### 4. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Notice having been duly given, a Public Hearing, with School Committee participation is held relative to the Town Council's Preliminary Budget for FY 2026-2027 as adopted on March 18, 2026. This Public Hearing will address all funds contained within the Town Council's Preliminary Budget.

Council President McEntee notes that the Council Chambers is at capacity and that Public Comments will be limited to two minutes to accommodate as many speakers as possible.

James Manni, Town Manager presents an overview of the budget hearing and adoption process in accordance with the Town Charter. The second required Public Hearing with the School Committee will be held on Thursday, April 7, 2026. The Town Council will consider any petitions filed for revisions to the Preliminary Budget and adopt its Final Budget at a Public Hearing on Monday, April 27, 2026.

The Town Manager reviews the preliminary adopted operating budget highlights, noting that \$2.2 million of the debt service is directly related to the school bond, and personnel costs.

Brian Silvia, Finance Director reviews a summary of estimated net assessed property values, less exemptions, the proposed tax levy, and the impact of the tax levy up to the State cap of 4%.

The Town Manager reviews the median assessed values for single-family properties and notes that the Town cannot increase the tax levy past the State cap of 4%. He further explains the exemptions required by the State necessary for the Town to exceed the 4% tax levy cap.

The Finance Director reviews the property tax need to support School and Town operations, the proposed tax levy breakdown and allocation summary, a summary of changes enacted during the Preliminary Budget Adoption including Human Services/Outside Agencies (HSOA) allocation, year-end projections, and the debt obligations of the Town.

Dennis Bernier, Union Fire District Fire Marshal enters the meeting

The Fire Marshal announces that the Council Chambers is over capacity, stairs and hallways are blocked, and requests that meeting participants clear the crowded areas for safety reasons.

Council President McEntee pauses the meeting.

Discussion ensues relative to changing the meeting location to a larger venue, cancelling the Public Hearing scheduled for April 7, 2026, Open Meetings Act noticing requirements, and the requirement to hold two Public Hearings to discuss the Budget prior to April 18, 2026.

Council Vice President Marran motions to reschedule the two required Budget Public Hearings to dates uncertain during the week of April 12 at the South Kingstown High School is seconded by Council Member Wegimont.

Further discussion ensues, and it is

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to continue the two Budget Public Hearings to the week of April 12, dates to be determined, at the South Kingstown High School.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to adjourn at 7:56 PM.

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Emily R. Houle  
Town Clerk