

**REGULAR SESSION**

**APRIL 27, 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 27<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026 at 6:31 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 and/or act upon matters pertaining to potential litigation re: DISH, LLC and one other matter, and pursuant to 42-46-5(a)(5) to discuss and/or act upon matters related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes.

Regular Session is reconvened at 7:27 PM.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to seal the minutes of the Closed Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) to discuss and/or act upon matters pertaining to potential litigation re: DISH, LLC and one other matter, and pursuant to 42-46-5(a)(5) to discuss and/or act upon matters related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes.

Amy Goins, Town Solicitor, notes that one vote was taken in Closed Executive Session.

Emily R. Houle  
Town Clerk

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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 27<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026 at 7:30 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 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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**A. Work Session:** UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: that the minutes of the Work Sessions on March 23 and April 9, 2026 are accepted, approved, and placed on file.

**B. Regular Session:** UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: that the minutes of the Regular Session on March 23, 2026 are accepted, approved, and placed on file.

**5. INTERVIEWS**

**A.** The Town Council interviews Jennifer Krueger relative to her interest in being appointed to the South Kingstown Housing Authority.

**B.** The Town Council interviews Susan Axelrod relative to her interest in being reappointed to the Planning Board.

**C.** The Town Council interviews Maria Mack relative to her interest in being reappointed to the Planning Board.

**D.** The Town Council interviews Armand Monaco relative to his interest in being reappointed to the Planning Board.

**E.** Paul Arnold is not present to be interviewed.

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Council President notes that appointments will not be made until the advertising cycle has been completed on May 1.

Discussion ensues relative to reappointments.

Town Manager's Report A. is brought forward.

**12 A.** James Manni, Town Manager, introduces a presentation by Chris Little regarding the Champagne Heights Project.

Chris Little, South Kingstown Housing Authority (SKHA) Chair, presents the progress made to construction on the Champagne Heights project and funding received from Rhode Island Housing. He reviews the construction schedule and next steps including Final Approval by the Planning Board, outstanding State permits, and communication to abutters.

Discussion ensues relative to naming Champagne Heights after Corporal David B. Champagne, as discussed during the March 23, 2026 Town Council meeting.

Chris Little presents the SKHA's vision for the community, efforts to keep residents in mind, the addition of 33 new units to the Champagne Heights development, the potential addition of 22-24 one-bedroom housing units at Fournier Estates, and shared elements including the Administration Building and Community Center.

Mr. Little thanks the Town Council for their ongoing support.

The Town Council compliments

The Consent Agenda is brought back.

**7. CONSENT AGENDA**

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to approve the Consent Agenda as indicated by (CA) on same with the exception of 7A.

**(CA) B.** UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to authorize the Town Assessor to abate taxes in the amount of \$16,648.07, as shown on Tax Abatement Request No. 662.

**(CA) C.** UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to authorize the Town Clerk to advertise for Order of Notice a Public Hearing relative to an application for a license to keep and sell alcoholic beverages in South Kingstown in accordance with General Laws of 1956, as amended, as follows:

**CLASS B VICTUALLER LIQUOR LICENSE**

Application for a Class B Victualler Liquor License by Sipan, LLC d/b/a Twisted Pizza Wakefield, 28 Old Tower Hill Road, Wakefield, RI 02879 by Unsal Urda, Managing Member for the dining rooms and bar area in accordance with a Special Exception granted by the Zoning Board of Review on September 19, 1990; and as further defined in a site plan on file in the Town Clerk's office.

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**(CA) A.** Discussion ensues relative to the replacement of the double door entering into the Town Clerk's Office.

Mark Russo, Director of Facilities, confirms that the new door is a fire door accounted for in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to authorize an award of contract to New England School Services, 98 Hicks Avenue Medford MA 02155 for the Town Clerk Double Door Replacement, in an amount not to exceed \$16,496.00 including a contingency, funded through the Facilities Capital Reserve 426 Fund, as further described in a purchasing recommendation from the Director of Facilities to the Town Manager dated April 16, 2026, entitled, "Town Clerk Double Door Replacement."

**8. LICENSES**

**A.** Maura Bushior is present, and after discussion and testimony it is

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to grant a Miscellaneous Permit to the National MS Society, 1111 Cromwell Avenue, Bldg.3, Suite 302C, Fairfield, CT 06067 to conduct a portion of the Bike MS: Ride the Rhode in South Kingstown on Saturday, June 13, 2026 from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM subject to the execution of a hold harmless agreement indemnifying the Town. Application by Rupa Blackwell, Production Lead. New; License No. 92709.

**B.** Kathleen Bessette is present, and after discussion and testimony it is

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to grant a Miscellaneous Permit to conduct the Run4Kerri 4-mile memorial road race on Sunday, August 2, 2026 from 6:00 AM to 11:30 AM to The Kerri Lynn Bessette Female Athletic Scholarship Fund, Inc., 78 Bedford Drive, Wakefield, RI 02879 subject to the execution of a hold harmless agreement indemnifying the Town, issuance of a certificate of insurance naming the Town as an additional insured in the amounts specified by the Finance Director, and approval by the Traffic and Transportation Review Committee. Application by Kathleen M. Bessette, Director. Renewal; License No. 93046.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – 30 Minutes**

Council President McEntee invites residents to come forward with comments.

Jim O'Neill comments on the School Budget, the Champagne Heights project, Affordable Housing developers, and the RI Ethics Commission.

Bret Harrington comments on the Public Hearing held on April 6, 2026, the School Budget, and the importance of education.

Bob Trager comments on the Budget Public Hearings held on April 14 and April 15, 2026 and the state of the world.

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Fran O'Brien, Business Manager for RT Transportation, comments in response to a recent complaint received from a resident regarding transportation of home pieces on local roads to the South Shore Village Development and notes that the company is fully in compliance with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation and that the drivers have no violations on record.

Dorald Beasley comments on the Public Hearings on April 14 and April 15, 2026, proposed School budget cuts, teacher benefit packages, and marijuana dispensaries.

**10. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**A.** Notice having been duly given, a Public Hearing, continued from March 23, 2026, is held relative to proposed amendments to the South Kingstown Town Code, Chapter 19 Utilities, Article III. Water Supply, Division 8 Penalties, Section 19-292. Fines, and Division 10. Water Supply Restrictions, Section 19-318. Imposition of restrictions on use of water supply, as follows:

**AMENDMENTS TO THE TOWN CODE  
CHAPTER 19 – UTILITIES**

\* \* \*

**ARTICLE III. – WATER SUPPLY**

\* \* \*

**DIVISION 8. – PENALTIES**

\* \* \*

**Sec. 19-292. - Fines.**

Any person who shall continue any violation beyond the time limit provided for in section 19-291 shall have service discontinued and be subject to a fine not exceeding ~~one~~ five hundred dollars (\$4500.00) for each violation. Each day in which such violation shall continue shall be deemed a separate violation.

\* \* \*

**DIVISION 10. – WATER SUPPLY RESTRICTIONS**

**Sec. 19-318. Imposition of restrictions on use of water supply.**

(a) Purpose. The purpose of this section of the rules and regulations is to provide for a means of conserving the town's supply of potable water and to minimize the risk associated with excess water demand by restricting the use of water for lawn and landscape irrigation on occasions of actual or anticipated shortages and when deemed necessary for the health, welfare or safety of the town residents.

(b) Applicability. The provisions of this section shall be applicable between Memorial Day and Labor Day to all properties within the town that receive potable water from Veolia Water Rhode Island Inc. (or its successors) and South Kingstown Owned Water Districts. The restrictions in this section shall not apply to properties used for agricultural operations, as indicated on the list established by the division of agriculture at the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management as provided for in G.L. 1956, § 2-23.1-3.

(c) Duration of restrictions for lawn and landscape irrigation. Irrigation of lawns and landscaping shall be restricted to two (2) days per week in accordance with the following schedule (Refer to Irrigation Map 1 - South Shore and Irrigation Map 2 - Veolia/Middlebridge):

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DISTRICT 1: USE OF SPRINKLERS FOR LAWNS AND LANDSCAPING ALLOWED ON MONDAY AND THURSDAY ONLY – Irrigation Map 1, West of Moonstone Beach Road and Irrigation Map 2, West of the Saugatucket River.

DISTRICT 2: USE OF SPRINKLERS FOR LAWNS AND LANDSCAPING ALLOWED ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY ONLY – Irrigation Map 1, East of Moonstone Beach Road and Irrigation Map 2, East of the Saugatucket River (including SK Middlebridge customers).

No sprinkler operation will be permitted in any district between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. or the entirety of Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday.

(d) Exemption. Hand watering of flowers and/or vegetable gardens, meaning watering without the use of sprinklers, is permitted at any time.

(e) Imposition and removal of more stringent restrictions. When the director anticipates a lack of water availability or a shortage of potable water, based on weather conditions, drought conditions, and patterns of water consumption, the Town, in cooperation with Town public water suppliers, may institute more stringent restrictions. While such restrictions are in effect, the director shall certify weekly in writing to the town manager the water consumption of the preceding 7-day period for the South Kingstown South Shore and Middlebridge water districts. If, on the basis of daily records, present and anticipated weather conditions, patterns of consumption and after consultation with Town public water suppliers, the director determines that the danger of shortage of potable water has ended, the director shall forthwith remove any and all restrictions theretofore imposed. Notice of the removal of such restrictions shall be published by the director in the same manner in which notice of the proclamation and restrictions was given in the first instance.

(f) Enforcement. The director shall diligently enforce this section in accordance with Division 8 of this article.

(g) In-ground sprinklers. Use of in-ground sprinklers shall be in accordance with the following:

- (1) All connections to a public water supply for the purpose of irrigation of lawns and landscaping shall be protected by a backflow device as specified in the state building code plumbing regulation SBC-3, dated May 1, 1997, or as revised.
- (2) Every person making connection to the municipal water system for the purpose of irrigation of a lawn and landscaping installed after May 1, 1998, shall apply for a permit with the town building official as specified in the state building code plumbing regulation SBC-3, dated May 1, 1997, or as revised.
- (3) All connections to the municipal water system for the purpose of irrigation of lawns and landscaping should have as part of the installation a rain switch device to prevent the initiation of the irrigation sequence in wet weather conditions.
- (4) All connections to the municipal water system for the purpose of irrigation of lawns and landscaping should have as part of the installation a pressure-reducing valve set to limit the water pressure applied to the irrigation system to at or below 60 psi (per square inch).

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- (5) All connections to the municipal water system for the purpose of irrigation of lawns and landscaping should have as part of the installation sprinkler heads capable of delivering no more than five gallons per minute flow per sprinkler head at 60 psi (per square inch).

\* \* \*

This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage.

Richard Bourbonnais, Public Services Director, reviews amendments to the draft Ordinance.

Amy Goins, Town Solicitor, confirms that amendments were made as discussed.

Discussion ensues relative to language relating to an agricultural exemption.

The Town Solicitor reviews the agricultural exemption written into the Applicability Section.

Discussion ensues relative to including the use of drip irrigation in community gardens to the agricultural exemption, adding a visual aid such as a table describing watering schedules, and adding a private garden exemption.

The Town Solicitor notes that adding private vegetable and herb gardens to the agricultural exemption may create issues with compliance and enforcement.

Further discussion ensues.

The Public Services Director recommends an exemption to vegetable and flower gardens.

The Town Solicitor reviews amendments removing the agricultural exemption and replacing language in Section d. Exemption to allow hand watering and drip irrigation of vegetable and flower gardens.

Discussion ensues relative to water conservation education.

Council President McEntee invites residents to come forward with comments.

There being no public comments, it is

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to close the Public Hearing.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to adopt amendments to the South Kingstown Town Code, Chapter 19 Utilities, Article III. Water Supply, Division 8. Penalties, Section 19-292. Fines, and Division 10. Water Supply Restrictions, Section 19-318. Imposition of restrictions on use of water supply, as amended, as follows:

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**AMENDMENTS TO THE TOWN CODE  
CHAPTER 19 – UTILITIES**

\* \* \*

**ARTICLE III. – WATER SUPPLY**

\* \* \*

**DIVISION 8. – PENALTIES**

\* \* \*

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(a) Purpose. The purpose of this section of the rules and regulations is to provide for a means of conserving the town's supply of potable water and to minimize the risk associated with excess water demand by restricting the use of water for lawn and landscape irrigation on occasions of actual or anticipated shortages and when deemed necessary for the health, welfare or safety of the town residents.

(b) Applicability. The provisions of this section shall be applicable between Memorial Day and Labor Day to all properties within the town that receive potable water from Veolia Water Rhode Island Inc. (or its successors) and South Kingstown Owned Water Districts. The restrictions in this section shall not apply to properties used for agricultural operations, as indicated on the list established by the division of agriculture at the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management as provided for in G.L. 1956, § 2-23.1-3. This ordinance shall not apply to hand watering (without the use of sprinklers) of flowers or irrigation by any means of fruit/vegetable gardens.

(c) Duration of restrictions for lawn and landscape irrigation. Irrigation of lawns and landscaping shall be restricted to two (2) days per week in accordance with the following schedule (Refer to Irrigation Map 1 - South Shore and Irrigation Map 2 - Veolia/Middlebridge):

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- (4) All connections to the municipal water system for the purpose of irrigation of lawns and landscaping should have as part of the installation a pressure-reducing valve set to limit the water pressure applied to the irrigation system to at or below 60 psi (per square inch).
- (5) All connections to the municipal water system for the purpose of irrigation of lawns and landscaping should have as part of the installation sprinkler heads capable of delivering no more than five gallons per minute flow per sprinkler head at 60 psi (per square inch).

\* \* \*

This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage.

Discussion ensues relative to codification of the Ordinance.

**B.** Notice having been duly given, a Public Hearing is held relative to adoption of the Town Council's Final FY 2026-2027 Budget, as follows:

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FY 2026-2027 Adopted Preliminary Budget

**FY2027**

<b>Adopted Budget Program</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Property Tax Needed</b>	<b>\$21,740,968</b>	<b>\$59,512,404</b>	<b>\$81,253,372</b>
Prior Years Taxes, Interest & PILOTS	\$327,511	\$896,509	\$1,224,020
<b>Current Year Taxes - Need</b>	<b>\$21,413,457</b>	<b>\$58,615,895</b>	<b>\$80,029,352</b>
Percent of Overlay	26.76%	73.24%	100.00%
Overlay & Abatements	229,476	628,154	857,630
<b>Net Property Tax Levy</b>	<b>\$21,642,933</b>	<b>\$59,244,049</b>	<b>\$80,886,982</b>
<b>R.E. Assessed Value, as of 12/31/25</b>			<b>8,876,821,594</b>

<b>Fiscal Year 2026-2027</b>			
<b>Proposed Budget Program</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Property Tax Needed</b>	<b>\$21,642,933</b>	<b>\$59,244,049</b>	<b>\$80,886,982</b>
Allocation of Levy	26.76%	73.24%	100.00%
<b>Gross Tax Levy</b>	<b>\$21,642,933</b>	<b>\$59,244,049</b>	<b>\$80,886,982</b>
Motor Vehicle Excise Tax	N/A	N/A	0
Tangible Property (RATE LOCK)	296,681	812,118	1,108,799
<b>Net Property Tax Levy</b>	<b>\$21,642,933</b>	<b>\$59,244,049</b>	<b>\$80,886,982</b>
<b>R.E. Assessed Value, as of 12/31/25</b>	<b>2,348,322,506</b>	<b>6,428,155,256</b>	<b>\$8,776,477,762</b>
<b>Tax Distribution - FY 2027</b>	<b>\$2.43</b>	<b>\$6.66</b>	<b>\$9.09</b>
<b>Tax Distribution - FY 2026</b>	<b>\$2.45</b>	<b>\$6.49</b>	<b>\$8.94</b>
<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>			
<b>Property Tax Rate Increase - \$</b>	<b>(\$0.02)</b>	<b>\$0.17</b>	<b>\$0.15</b>
<b>Property Tax Rate Increase - %</b>	<b>-0.73%</b>	<b>2.59%</b>	<b>1.68%</b>
<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>			
<b>FY 2025-2026 Levy</b>	<b>\$21,236,162</b>	<b>\$57,944,158</b>	<b>\$79,180,320</b>
<b>Property Tax Levy Increase -\$</b>	<b>\$406,771</b>	<b>\$1,299,891</b>	<b>\$1,706,662</b>
<b>Property Tax Levy Increase -%</b>	<b>1.92%</b>	<b>2.24%</b>	<b>2.16%</b>

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<b>Town General Fund</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>		
<b>Expenditure Statement</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>ADOPTED</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>	<b>\$ Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
General Government	\$ 5,959,623	\$ 7,107,704	\$ 7,416,355	\$ 308,651	4.34%
Public Safety	15,625,801	16,267,280	17,185,683	918,403	5.65%
Public Works	3,209,931	3,600,039	3,734,340	134,301	3.73%
Leisure Services	2,251,345	2,465,948	2,676,993	211,045	8.56%
Public Libraries	1,418,091	1,535,315	1,579,958	44,643	2.91%
Other Expenditures	843,950	882,000	921,500	39,500	4.48%
Employment Benefits	2,746	-	-	-	#DIV/0!
Human Svcs & Outside Agencies	179,717	182,050	182,050	-	0.00%
Capital Outlay	2,043,935	1,983,300	2,057,796	74,496	3.76%
<b>TOTAL Town General Fund</b>	<b>\$ 31,535,139</b>	<b>\$ 34,023,636</b>	<b>\$ 35,754,675</b>	<b>\$ 1,731,039</b>	<b>5.09%</b>

<b>Town General Fund</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>		
<b>Revenue Statement</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>ADOPTED</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>	<b>\$ Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Property Taxes	\$ 18,014,237	\$ 19,814,182	\$ 19,958,932	\$ 144,750	0.73%
State Aid	6,798,669	6,673,707	7,094,709	421,002	6.31%
Licenses/Fees/Rents	1,848,071	1,742,141	1,820,670	78,529	4.51%
Dept Rev/Fine/Charge	2,531,416	2,579,832	2,984,257	404,425	15.68%
Investment Income	2,286,941	896,799	950,000	53,201	5.93%
Operating Transfer In	916,830	657,909	866,627	208,718	31.72%
Fund Balance	1,793,608	1,659,066	2,079,479	420,413	25.34%
<b>TOTAL Town General Fund</b>	<b>\$ 34,189,772</b>	<b>\$ 34,023,636</b>	<b>\$ 35,754,674</b>	<b>\$ 1,731,038</b>	<b>5.09%</b>

<b>School Fund</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>		
<b>Expenditure Statement</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>ADOPTED</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>	<b>\$ Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Wages		\$ 31,294,286	\$ 30,367,435	\$ (926,851)	-2.96%
Benefits		13,993,108	15,022,290	1,029,182	7.35%
Services		15,993,387	17,160,811	1,167,424	7.30%
Commodities		1,901,755	3,180,740	1,278,985	67.25%
Debt Service/Misc. Expenses		79,768	81,756	1,988	2.49%
Adj. Entry to Balance Budget	-	-	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	#DIV/0!
<b>TOTAL School Fund</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 63,262,304</b>	<b>\$ 64,313,032</b>	<b>\$ 1,050,728</b>	<b>1.66%</b>

<b>School Fund</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>		
<b>Revenue Statement</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>ADOPTED</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>	<b>\$ Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Prop Tax/Usage Fees		\$ 55,994,773	\$ 56,994,773	\$ 1,000,000	1.79%
State Aid		5,633,447	5,359,259	(274,188)	-4.87%
Tuition Income		180,000	200,000	20,000	11.11%
School Trust Funds		34,000	34,000	-	0.00%
Medicaid		525,000	525,000	-	0.00%
Miscellaneous		209,600	200,000	(9,600)	-4.58%
Transfer in From Other Funds		608,295	-	(608,295)	-100.00%
Fund Balance		77,189	1,000,000	922,811	1195.52%
<b>TOTAL School Fund</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 63,262,304</b>	<b>\$ 64,313,032</b>	<b>\$ 1,050,728</b>	<b>1.66%</b>

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<b>Town General Fund</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>		
<b>Expenditure Statement</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>ADOPTED</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>	<b>\$ Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Wages	\$ 17,112,917	\$ 17,859,558	\$ 18,898,463	\$ 1,038,905	5.82%
Benefits	7,111,077	8,221,808	8,431,589	209,781	2.55%
Services	3,547,425	3,938,935	4,327,917	388,982	9.88%
Commodities	988,333	1,279,229	1,296,937	17,708	1.38%
Capital Outlay	2,598,507	2,542,056	2,617,719	75,663	2.98%
Contributions to HSOA	176,880	182,050	182,050	-	0.00%
<b>TOTAL Town General Fund</b>	<b>\$ 31,535,139</b>	<b>\$ 34,023,636</b>	<b>\$ 35,754,675</b>	<b>\$ 1,731,039</b>	<b>5.09%</b>

<b>Town General Fund</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>		
<b>Revenue Statement</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>ADOPTED</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>	<b>\$ Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Prop Tax / Usage Fees	\$ 77,232,380	\$ 79,090,751	\$ 81,253,372	\$ 2,162,621	2.73%
State / Federal Aid	6,798,669	6,673,707	7,094,709	421,002	6.31%
Licenses / Fees / Rents	1,848,071	1,742,141	1,820,670	78,529	4.51%
Dept. Rev. / Fines / Charges	2,531,416	2,579,832	2,984,257	404,425	15.68%
Investment Income	2,286,941	896,799	950,000	53,201	5.93%
Operating Transfers In	916,830	657,909	866,627	208,718	31.72%
Operating Transfers Out	(59,218,143)	(59,276,569)	(61,294,440)	(2,017,871)	3.40%
Fund Balance	1,793,608	1,659,066	2,079,479	420,413	25.34%
<b>TOTAL Town General Fund</b>	<b>\$ 34,189,772</b>	<b>\$ 34,023,636</b>	<b>\$ 35,754,674</b>	<b>\$ 1,731,038</b>	<b>5.09%</b>

<b>Peace Dale Office Building</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>		
<b>Expenditure Statement</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>ADOPTED</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>	<b>\$ Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Wages	\$ 9,593	\$ 9,847	\$ 10,109	\$ 262	2.66%
Benefits	3,456	3,675	3,760	85	2.31%
Services	42,625	51,242	51,685	443	0.86%
Commodities	2,031	3,585	4,393	808	22.54%
Capital Outlay	60,104	42,300	45,146	2,846	6.73%
<b>TOTAL Peace Dale Office Bldg</b>	<b>\$ 117,809</b>	<b>\$ 110,649</b>	<b>\$ 115,093</b>	<b>\$ 4,444</b>	<b>4.02%</b>

<b>Peace Dale Office Building</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>		
<b>Revenue Statement</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>ADOPTED</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>	<b>\$ Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Licenses/Fees/Rents	\$ 95,237	\$ 98,125	\$ 101,689	\$ 3,564	3.63%
Dept Rev/Fine/Charge	10,092	9,600	10,500	900	9.38%
Investment Income	9,728	2,924	2,904	(20)	-0.68%
Usage Fees	102	-	-	-	#DIV/0!
<b>TOTAL Peace Dale Office Bldg</b>	<b>\$ 115,159</b>	<b>\$ 110,649</b>	<b>\$ 115,093</b>	<b>\$ 4,444</b>	<b>4.02%</b>

<b>Senior Services Fund</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>		
<b>Expenditure Statement</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>ADOPTED</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>	<b>\$ Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Wages	\$ 289,094	\$ 310,768	\$ 317,591	\$ 6,823	2.20%
Benefits	122,300	131,476	151,887	20,411	15.52%
Services	92,957	104,976	108,415	3,439	3.28%
Commodities	14,589	20,096	20,479	383	1.91%
Capital Outlay	113,702	140,490	143,106	2,616	1.86%
<b>TOTAL Senior Services Fund</b>	<b>\$ 632,642</b>	<b>\$ 707,806</b>	<b>\$ 741,478</b>	<b>\$ 33,672</b>	<b>4.76%</b>

**REGULAR SESSION**

**APRIL 27, 2026**

Senior Services Fund Revenue Statement	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ADOPTED	2027 PROPOSED	\$ Change	% Change
Licenses & Permits	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ -	0.00%
Operating Transfer In	534,721	517,894	523,221	5,327	1.03%
Senior Center program	10,025	9,300	11,000	1,700	18.28%
Usage Fees	87,821	82,085	68,731	(13,354)	-16.27%
Revenue from Investments	27,341	3,000	3,000	-	0.00%
Miscellaneous Revenue	1,008	3,500	3,500	-	0.00%
Fund Balance Applied	-	10,000	50,000	40,000	400.00%
Miscellaneous Grants	83,101	82,026	82,026	-	0.00%
<b>TOTAL Senior Services Fund</b>	<b>\$ 744,018</b>	<b>\$ 707,806</b>	<b>\$ 741,479</b>	<b>\$ 33,673</b>	<b>4.76%</b>

Neighborhood Guild Fund Expenditure Statement	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ADOPTED	2027 PROPOSED	\$ Change	% Change
Wages	\$ 287,581	\$ 332,841	\$ 354,933	\$ 22,092	6.64%
Benefits	92,789	104,870	116,019	11,149	10.63%
Services	350,985	376,564	418,262	41,698	11.07%
Commodities	7,793	16,210	16,302	92	0.57%
Capital Outlay	201,770	209,321	211,834	2,513	1.20%
<b>TOTAL Neighborhood Guild Fund</b>	<b>\$ 940,918</b>	<b>\$ 1,039,806</b>	<b>\$ 1,117,350</b>	<b>\$ 77,544</b>	<b>7.46%</b>

Neighborhood Guild Fund Revenue Statement	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ADOPTED	2027 PROPOSED	\$ Change	% Change
Guild Revenues	\$ 875,525	\$ 920,086	\$ 1,002,406	\$ 82,320	8.95%
Revenue from Investments	102,742	98,520	94,945	(3,575)	-3.63%
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ -	\$ 1,200	\$ -	\$ (1,200)	-100.00%
Fund Balance Applied	20,000	20,000	20,000	-	0.00%
<b>TOTAL Neighborhood Guild Fund</b>	<b>\$ 998,267</b>	<b>\$ 1,039,806</b>	<b>\$ 1,117,351</b>	<b>\$ 77,545</b>	<b>7.46%</b>

Community Recreation Center Expenditure Statement	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ADOPTED	2027 PROPOSED	\$ Change	% Change
Wages	\$ 222,104	\$ 251,555	\$ 245,228	\$ (6,327)	-2.52%
Benefits	73,774	82,078	86,190	4,112	5.01%
Services	300,224	257,887	310,476	52,589	20.39%
Commodities	11,676	13,449	14,196	747	5.55%
Capital Outlay	215,362	259,545	234,556	(24,989)	-9.63%
<b>TOTAL Community Rec Center</b>	<b>\$ 823,140</b>	<b>\$ 864,514</b>	<b>\$ 890,646</b>	<b>\$ 26,132</b>	<b>3.02%</b>

Community Recreation Center Revenue Statement	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ADOPTED	2027 PROPOSED	\$ Change	% Change
Licenses & Permits	\$ 66,948	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -	0.00%
Operating Transfer In	410,621	438,893	492,005	53,112	12.10%
Rec Center Revenues	285,101	261,620	287,642	26,022	9.95%
Revenue from Investments	14,788	7,000	6,000	(1,000)	-14.29%
Miscellaneous Revenue	-	7,000	-	(7,000)	-100.00%
Fund Balance Applied	55,000	100,000	55,000	(45,000)	-45.00%
<b>TOTAL Community Rec Center</b>	<b>\$ 832,458</b>	<b>\$ 864,513</b>	<b>\$ 890,647</b>	<b>\$ 26,134</b>	<b>3.02%</b>

**REGULAR SESSION**

**APRIL 27, 2026**

Debt Service Fund Expenditure Statement	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ADOPTED	2027 PROPOSED	\$ Change	% Change
Services	\$ 1,795,064	\$ 3,467,446	\$ 4,406,517	\$ 939,071	27.08%
<b>TOTAL Debt Service Fund</b>	<b>\$ 1,795,064</b>	<b>\$ 3,467,446</b>	<b>\$ 4,406,517</b>	<b>\$ 939,071</b>	<b>27.08%</b>

Debt Service Fund Revenue Statement	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ADOPTED	2027 PROPOSED	\$ Change	% Change
Operating Transfer In	\$ 1,742,772	\$ 2,609,711	\$ 3,401,517	\$ 791,806	30.34%
Fund Balance Applied	-	682,735	850,000	167,265	24.50%
State / Federal Aid	162,570	175,000	155,000	(20,000)	-11.43%
<b>TOTAL Debt Service Fund</b>	<b>\$ 1,905,342</b>	<b>\$ 3,467,446</b>	<b>\$ 4,406,517</b>	<b>\$ 939,071</b>	<b>27.08%</b>

Water Enterprise Fund Expenditure Statement	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ADOPTED	2027 PROPOSED	\$ Change	% Change
Wages	\$ 309,399	\$ 334,302	\$ 354,447	\$ 20,145	6.03%
Benefits	135,665	146,749	155,484	8,735	5.95%
Services	372,381	446,033	657,884	211,851	47.50%
Commodities	14,492	25,550	25,550	-	0.00%
Capital Outlay	186,047	474,392	605,392	131,000	27.61%
<b>TOTAL Water Enterprise Fund</b>	<b>\$ 1,017,984</b>	<b>\$ 1,427,026</b>	<b>\$ 1,798,757</b>	<b>\$ 371,731</b>	<b>26.05%</b>

Water Enterprise Fund Revenue Statement	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ADOPTED	2027 PROPOSED	\$ Change	% Change
Licenses & Permits	\$ 265,498	\$ 187,646	\$ 190,268	\$ 2,622	1.40%
Usage Fees	975,751	974,853	1,254,222	279,369	28.66%
Revenues from Investments	267,899	65,000	80,000	15,000	23.08%
Miscellaneous Revenue	975	4,200	33,034	28,834	686.52%
Fund Balance Applied	146,389	190,327	236,233	45,906	24.12%
Water Fund Revenues	3,956	5,000	5,000	-	0.00%
<b>TOTAL Water Enterprise Fund</b>	<b>\$ 1,660,468</b>	<b>\$ 1,427,026</b>	<b>\$ 1,798,757</b>	<b>\$ 371,731</b>	<b>26.05%</b>

Wastewater Enterprise Fund Expenditure Statement	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ADOPTED	2027 PROPOSED	\$ Change	% Change
Wages	\$ 1,262,241	\$ 1,545,296	\$ 1,544,121	\$ (1,175)	-0.08%
Benefits	595,063	741,467	718,780	(22,687)	-3.06%
Services	1,395,759	1,377,267	1,528,986	151,719	11.02%
Commodities	517,003	680,852	699,783	18,931	2.78%
Capital Outlay	3,108,488	1,219,186	1,302,269	83,083	6.81%
<b>TOTAL Wastewater Enterprise</b>	<b>\$ 6,878,554</b>	<b>\$ 5,564,068</b>	<b>\$ 5,793,939</b>	<b>\$ 229,871</b>	<b>4.13%</b>

Wastewater Enterprise Fund Revenue Statement	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ADOPTED	2027 PROPOSED	\$ Change	% Change
Wastewater Fund Revenues	\$ 424,076	\$ 418,000	\$ 436,000	\$ 18,000	4.31%
Operating Transfer In	4,000	4,000	-	(4,000)	-100.00%
Usage Fees	4,833,237	5,021,279	5,213,129	191,850	3.82%
Revenue from Investments	673,681	70,632	123,810	53,178	75.29%
Miscellaneous Revenue	27,155	21,000	21,000	-	0.00%
Fund Balance Applied	329,524	29,157	-	(29,157)	-100.00%
<b>TOTAL Wastewater Enterprise</b>	<b>\$ 6,291,673</b>	<b>\$ 5,564,068</b>	<b>\$ 5,793,939</b>	<b>\$ 229,871</b>	<b>4.13%</b>

**REGULAR SESSION**

**APRIL 27, 2026**

Solid Waste Enterprise Fund Expenditure Statement	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ADOPTED	2027 PROPOSED	\$ Change	% Change
Wages	\$ 86,684	\$ 153,891	\$ 101,423	\$ (52,468)	-34.09%
Benefits	41,744	55,159	42,846	(12,313)	-22.32%
Services	853,856	859,978	875,560	15,582	1.81%
Commodities	77	1,775	9,900	8,125	457.75%
Capital Outlay	42,088	44,344	44,000	(344)	-0.78%
<b>TOTAL Solid Waste Enterprise</b>	<b>\$ 1,024,449</b>	<b>\$ 1,115,147</b>	<b>\$ 1,073,729</b>	<b>\$ (41,418)</b>	<b>-3.71%</b>

Solid Waste Enterprise Fund Revenue Statement	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ADOPTED	2027 PROPOSED	\$ Change	% Change
Solid Waste Fund Revenue	\$ 909,576	\$ 939,550	\$ 942,300	\$ 2,750	0.29%
Usage Fees	34,324	45,139	40,195	(4,944)	-10.95%
Revenue from Investments	4,288	5,000	2,000	(3,000)	-60.00%
Miscellaneous Revenue	6,083	62,360	20,000	(42,360)	-67.93%
Fund Balance Applied	51,572	63,097	69,234	6,137	9.73%
<b>TOTAL Solid Waste Enterprise</b>	<b>\$ 1,005,843</b>	<b>\$ 1,115,146</b>	<b>\$ 1,073,729</b>	<b>\$ (41,417)</b>	<b>-3.71%</b>

FY 2026-2027 Budget Program All Funds	2025 ADOPTED	2026 ADOPTED	2027 PROPOSED	\$ Change	% Change
General Fund	\$ 32,745,120	\$ 34,023,636	\$ 35,754,674	\$ 1,731,038	5.09%
School Fund	62,458,664	63,262,304	64,313,034	1,050,730	1.66%
Peace Dale Office Building Fund	107,959	110,649	115,093	4,444	4.02%
Senior Services Fund	707,841	707,805	741,479	33,674	4.76%
Neighborhood Guild Fund	960,722	1,039,806	1,117,351	77,545	7.46%
Community Recreation Center Fund	784,718	864,513	890,647	26,134	3.02%
Debt Service Fund	1,797,772	3,467,446	4,406,517	939,071	27.08%
Water Fund	1,329,151	1,427,026	1,798,757	371,731	26.05%
Wastewater Fund	5,344,942	5,564,068	5,793,939	229,871	4.13%
Solid Waste Fund	1,036,305	1,115,146	1,073,729	(41,417)	-3.71%
<b>Total Municipal Program</b>	<b>\$ 107,273,194</b>	<b>\$ 111,582,399</b>	<b>\$ 116,005,220</b>	<b>\$4,422,821</b>	<b>3.96%</b>

The Town Manager introduces the Public Hearing.

Brian Silvia, Finance Director reviews amendments to the Preliminary Adopted Budget as discussed during the Public Hearings on April 14 and April 15, 2026.

Discussion ensues relative to the differences between budgeted health costs as recommended by the Rhode Island Trust and actual costs, expanding the number of Work Sessions with the School Committee to discuss the budget during next year's budget cycle, legislative advocacy, and amending the Town Charter to include a schedule of additional budget meetings.

The Town Manager notes that meeting redundancy could be eliminated by confining the Public Hearings to one date and the decision to level fund the budget due to a lack of information from the School Department relative to their needs.

Discussion ensues relative to amendments to the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) contribution.

**REGULAR SESSION**

**APRIL 27, 2026**

The Town Manager responds. The Town Council may vote to include \$580,000 of Town OPEB contributions but can only make a strong recommendation to the School Committee to contribute their \$760,000 in OPEB funds.

Council President McEntee invites residents to come forward with comments.

There being no public comments, it is

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to close the Public Hearing.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to adopt the Town Council’s Final FY 2026-2027 Budget, as amended, with amendments as follows:

<b>Proposed Amendment #1 - Re-Allocation of Retiree Health &amp; Dental Funds to the School Operating Fund</b>						
<b>Department</b>	<b>Account Type</b>	<b>Account #</b>	<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Prelim. Adopted</b>	<b>Proposed Amendment</b>	<b>Final Budget</b>
<b>General Fund (101)</b>				<b>\$35,754,674</b>		
Town Manager	E	522820	Medical Insur-Retirees	6,000	(6,000)	0
Town Clerk	E	522820	Medical Insur-Retirees	6,000	(6,000)	0
I.T.	E	522820	Medical Insur-Retirees	3,500	(3,500)	0
SKPD	E	522820	Medical Insur-Retirees	525,000	(525,000)	0
SKPD	E	522824	Dental Insur-Retirees	4,629	(4,629)	0
Dispatchers	E	522820	Medical Insur-Retirees	10,500	(10,500)	0
Streets & Highway	E	522820	Medical Insur-Retirees	22,000	(22,000)	0
Library	E	522820	Medical Insur-Retirees	1,000	(1,000)	0
Operating Transfer Out	R	498110	School Operating Fund	(56,994,773)	(578,629)	(57,573,402)
<b>General Fund (101)</b>						<b>\$35,176,045</b>
<b>Department</b>	<b>Account Type</b>	<b>Account #</b>	<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Prelim. Adopted</b>	<b>Proposed Amendment</b>	<b>Final Budget</b>
<b>School Operating Fund (110)</b>				<b>\$64,313,032</b>		
School Department	R	41210	Local Appropriation - Education	56,994,773	578,629	57,573,402
School Department	E	55111	Student Transportation Contractors	5,822,210	578,629	6,400,839
<b>School Operating Fund (110)</b>						<b>\$64,891,661</b>

**REGULAR SESSION**

**APRIL 27, 2026**

**Proposed Amendment #2 - Removal of Narragansett Cost Share - Senior Services Center**

Account #	Account Type	Revenue Source	Account Description	Prelim. Adopted	Proposed Amendment	Final Budget
<b>Senior Services Fund (304)</b>				<b>\$741,479</b>		
30442040-490510	R	Sr Services Center	Oliver Watson Fund	10,000	15,000	25,000
30442040-440295	R	Sr Services Center	Senior Classes	3,000	1,000	4,000
30442040-440300	R	Sr Services Center	Membership Fees	8,000	500	8,500
30442040-490101	R	Sr Services Center	General Fund	255,073	52,231	307,304
30442040-418013	R	Sr Services Center	Narragansett Cost Share	68,731	(68,731)	0
<b>Senior Services Fund (304)</b>						<b>\$741,479</b>

Account #	Account Type	Revenue Source	Account Description	Prelim. Adopted	Proposed Amendment	Final Budget
<b>General Fund (101)</b>				<b>\$35,176,045</b>		
10100000-411020	R	General Property Taxes	Prior Years Property Taxes	451,500	52,231	503,731
10100000-498304	R	Operating Transfer Out	Senior Services Fund	(513,221)	(52,231)	(565,452)
<b>General Fund (101)</b>						<b>\$35,176,045</b>

**Proposed Amendment #3 - Updated Interest Projections on Year-2 Bond Anticipation Notes (HS Project)**

Account #	Account Type	Account Description	Prelim. Adopted	Proposed Amendment	Final Budget
<b>Debt Service Fund (400)</b>			<b>\$4,406,517</b>		
40090001-589012	E	Education Debt Service - Interest	3,166,981	(201,500)	2,965,481
<b>Debt Service Fund (400)</b>					<b>\$4,205,017</b>

Account #	Account Type	Account Description	Prelim. Adopted	Proposed Amendment	Final Budget
<b>Debt Service Fund (400)</b>			<b>\$4,406,517</b>		
40000000-499060	R	Use of Designated Fund Balance	850,000	(201,500)	648,500
<b>Debt Service Fund (400)</b>					<b>\$4,205,017</b>

**REGULAR SESSION**

**APRIL 27, 2026**

Department	Account Type	Account #	Account Description	Prelim. Adopted	Proposed Amendment	Final Budget
<b>General Government</b>						
Town Manager	E	522818	Medical Insurance - Active Employees	23,509	625	24,134
Town Manager	E	522822	Dental Insurance - Active Employees	856	87	943
Personnel Admin.	E	522818	Medical Insurance - Active Employees	22,999	625	23,624
Personnel Admin.	E	522822	Dental Insurance - Active Employees	856	87	943
Town Clerk	E	522818	Medical Insurance - Active Employees	76,481	2,392	78,873
Town Clerk	E	522822	Dental Insurance - Active Employees	3,138	356	3,494
Canvassing	E	522822	Dental Insurance - Active Employees	996	103	1,099
Municipal Court	E	522818	Medical Insurance - Active Employees	10,438	28	10,466
Finance	E	522818	Medical Insurance - Active Employees	76,269	2,069	78,338
Finance	E	522822	Dental Insurance - Active Employees	2,892	297	3,189
I.T.	E	522818	Medical Insurance - Active Employees	37,553	1,032	38,585
I.T.	E	522822	Dental Insurance - Active Employees	1,328	136	1,464
Town Assessor	E	522818	Medical Insurance - Active Employees	64,476	1,783	66,259
Town Assessor	E	522822	Dental Insurance - Active Employees	3,037	312	3,349
Planning	E	522818	Medical Insurance - Active Employees	89,682	2,509	92,191
Planning	E	522822	Dental Insurance - Active Employees	3,704	380	4,084
GIS	E	522818	Medical Insurance - Active Employees	22,443	627	23,070
GIS	E	522822	Dental Insurance - Active Employees	996	103	1,099
Building / Zoning	E	522818	Medical Insurance - Active Employees	74,903	2,049	76,952
Building / Zoning	E	522822	Dental Insurance - Active Employees	2,825	290	3,115
Facilities	E	522818	Medical Insurance - Active Employees	142,806	3,932	146,738
Facilities	E	522822	Dental Insurance - Active Employees	6,018	619	6,637
<b>General Government</b>				<b>\$668,205</b>	<b>\$20,441</b>	<b>\$688,646</b>

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

**A.** The Town Manager reviews a request to continue a Work Session relative to the proposed development and implementation of a Homestead Exemption Program

Discussion ensues relative to continuing the Work Session to the May 11 or May 26, 2026 meeting.

The Finance Director notes that the tax levy will be addressed during the June 8, 2026 Town Council meeting.

The Town Council reaches consensus to continue a Work Session relative to the proposed development and implementation of a Homestead Exemption Program to May 11, 2026 from 7:00 to 7:30 PM.

**B.** Council President McEntee introduces discussion, continued from March 23, 2026, relative to the installation of a speed camera and sidewalks on Kersey Road.

## REGULAR SESSION

APRIL 27, 2026

Communications 14B and 14C are brought forward.

Matthew Moynihan, Chief of Police, reviews a speed study performed in the Kersey Road area from October 30 to November 3, 2025.

Discussion ensues relative to historical data on traffic accidents or pedestrian injuries resulting from traffic on Kersey Road, providing advance warning to drivers of the installation of cameras, and speed camera usage in other municipalities.

The Chief of Police notes that speed cameras are only one traffic calming measure available.

Discussion ensues relative to making Kersey Road a one-way street, promoting education, administrative costs of speed camera ticketing, and additional traffic calming measures.

The Chief notes difficulties performing traffic stops in the school zone.

Discussion ensues relative to speed camera operation schedules and traffic studies in other areas of Town.

The Town Council reaches consensus to continue to research other traffic calming measures on Kersey Road.

**C.** Mike Stach, Harbormaster/NRO, reviews a request for improvements to storm water management and buffer zone enhancements in accordance with the CRMC Assent requirements.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to authorize an award of contract to D'Ambra Construction, 80 Centre of New England Blvd., Coventry, RI for Lake Avenue Right-of-Way improvements to include storm water management and buffer zone enhancements in accordance with the CRMC Assent requirements in an amount not to exceed \$32,000, funded through American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Funding, as further described in a memorandum from the Harbormaster / NRO dated April 14, 2026, entitled, "Award of Contract - Lake Avenue Right-of-Way Site Improvements."

**D.** Brian Silvia, Finance Director, reviews a request authorizing the Town of South Kingstown to issue General Obligation Bonds to finance various School projects.

Discussion ensues relative to an explanation of Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs) used for the High School Project.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to authorize the Town of South Kingstown to issue not to exceed \$45,000,000 General Obligation Bonds (Bond Anticipation Notes) to finance the acquisition, construction, improvement, renovation, furnishing and equipping of a new high school, athletic facility, and other school facilities in the Town and all expenses incident thereto, including, but not limited to, costs of design, demolition, athletic fields, landscaping and parking and all attendant expenses, including engineering, architectural and other project-related consulting costs. Funding has been detailed by the Finance Director to be expensed against the Debt Service Fund account# 589012 (Education Debt Interest). Funding is being made available via a combination of the Debt Service fund balance and a tax transfer from the General Fund.

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**E.** Mark Russo, Director of Facilities, reviews a request for a change order to the Kingston Free Library Contract due to mold discovered during renovation.

Discussion ensues relative to the history of the Kingston Free Library and the use of the building as a Colonial State House and Town Hall.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to authorize the Town Manager to execute change orders to the Painting and Exterior Rehabilitation of the Kingston Free Library Contract (original contract amount using ARPA Funding \$167,613.00) with Martone Service Company, Inc., 22 Sextant Lane, Narragansett, RI 02882 for the unforeseen deteriorated conditions to the decorative trim and substrate at the Kingston Free Library in the amount of \$49,723.39, funded through the ARPA Interoffice Contingency and 41285009-570004 Library Capital Reserve and as further detailed in a memorandum from the Director of Facilities to the Town Manager dated April 20, 2026, entitled, "Authorization to execute change orders associated with the Painting and Exterior Rehabilitation of the Kingston Free Library Project."

**F.** The Chief of Police reviews proposed amendments to the Town Code of Ordinances relative to consumption of alcoholic beverages by underage persons and the intention to make violations civil rather than criminal in order to be heard in Municipal Court.

Discussion ensues relative to similar ordinances in other municipalities, detection of underage alcohol consumption by the Police Department, differences between the Social Host Law and this ordinance, and body worn camera usage.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to authorize the Town Clerk to advertise for Order of Notice a Public Hearing relative to amendments to the Town Code of Ordinances Chapter 12 Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, Article I. In General, Section 12-14. Unlawful consumption of alcoholic beverages by underage persons, as follows:

**AMENDMENT TO THE SOUTH KINGSTOWN TOWN CODE**

**CHAPTER 12 - OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

\* \* \*

**ARTICLE I. – IN GENERAL**

\* \* \*

**Sec. 12-14. – Unlawful consumption of alcoholic beverages by underage persons.**

(a) Except as provided herein, it shall be unlawful for any person under the age of twenty-one (21) years to consume any alcoholic beverages within the Town.

(b) No person who exercises control over private real property may permit any person under the age of twenty-one (21) years, who is not the person’s child or minor ward, to consume alcoholic beverages on such property, or to remain on the property while consuming alcoholic beverages. The prohibitions of this subsection shall apply only to a person who is present and in control of the location at the time the consumption occurs. The prohibitions of this subsection shall not apply to the owner

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of rental property, or the agent of such owner, unless the consumption occurs in the individual unit in which the owner or agent resides or unless the consumption occurs while the owner or agent is present on the property.

(c) The odor or presence of alcoholic beverages upon the breath of any person under the age of twenty-one (21) years shall be prima facie evidence of consumption for purposes of this section. If a law enforcement officer has reasonable grounds to believe that a person under the age of twenty-one (21) years has consumed any alcoholic beverage, the officer may require such person to submit to a field sobriety test.

(d) Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to prohibit a parent or legal guardian of a person under the age of twenty-one (21) years from permitting such person to consume alcoholic beverages within the home of the parent or legal guardian, or at other private places not in public view, where the parent or legal guardian is present.

(e) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be subject to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500.00), and may, in addition or in the alternative, be required to perform not more than twenty (20) hours of community restitution, as determined by the Municipal Court.

\* \* \*

*This ordinance shall take effect upon passage.*

**G.** UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to authorize the Town Clerk to advertise for Order of Notice a Public Hearing relative to proposed amendments to Section 4414.4 of the Town Charter, Police Department Rules and Regulations, governing the adoption of police department standing orders, as follows:

**ARTICLE IV. ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENTS AND PROCEDURES  
4414. POLICE OFFICERS**

\*\*\*\*\*

Sec. 4414.4 – Rules and regulations.

It shall be the duty of the chief of police to prepare rules and regulations for the conduct of all members of the department including appropriate penalties for their violation which, ~~when approved by the town council by ordinance,~~ shall have the force of law and shall be the basis for removals and other disciplinary action as provided therein except as otherwise provided by any statute governing police officer's rights. Changes in such rules and regulations shall be made from time to time in the same manner.

**H.** James Rabbitt, Planning Director, reviews proposed amendments to the Town's Zoning Ordinance to permit restaurants (without Alcohol sales) in the Town's Industrial-I District(s).

Discussion ensues relative to restaurants in Industrial zones.

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UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to authorize the Town Clerk to advertise for Order of Notice a Public Hearing relative to proposed amendments to the Town’s Zoning Ordinance to permit restaurants (without Alcohol sales) in the Town’s Industrial – I District(s), as follows:

**Appendix A – Zoning Ordinance**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Article 3. Use Regulations.  
Sec. 300. Schedule of use regulations.**

*Amend as follows:*

[Not shown: portion of table setting forth regulations for residential & commercial zoning districts – no changes proposed]

USE CODE	USE	IND-1	IND-2	IND-3	GI	GI-1	OS	COD-CMT MOD-CMT	COD MT MOD-MT	NOTES
56	Restaurant, without alcohol	<u>N S</u>	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	See section <u>504.21</u>

\* \* \*

**Article 5. Supplementary Regulations.**

\* \* \*

**Sec. 501. – Special use permits.**

*Amend as follows:*

504.21. Special Standards for Restaurant, without alcohol (use code 56) in Ind-1 District Only. In reviewing an application for a special use permit for a restaurant, without alcohol, in the Ind-1 District, the Zoning Board or Planning Board (if under Unified Development) shall require that the following criteria be met:

- A. Only one (1) restaurant, without the service of alcohol, shall be permitted on any given tax lot in the Ind-1 District.
- B. The service area of the restaurant shall not exceed 2,500 SF. All outdoor service areas (if any) shall be adequately screened from any abutting property that is zoned residential or used for residential purposes. Moreover, outdoor service areas (if any) shall not be located within fifty feet (50’) of any property line abutting property that is zoned residential or used for residential purposes.
- C. Dumpsters and/or other waste storage shall be screened from view on all sides and shall not be located within twenty feet (20’) of any lot line abutting property that is zoned residential or used for residential purposes.

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D. Parking shall be adequate to meet the zoning requirement for restaurant use as set forth in Article 7 of the Zoning Code, unless the applicant is granted a variance from the same.

E. A detailed floor plan prepared by a licensed architect, and a parking plan, shall be submitted into the record to verify items B – D above.

\* \* \*

This ordinance shall take effect upon passage.

**12. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT**

The Town Manager reviews the Good Energy Electricity Aggregation Program and pricing increases scheduled for May that will raise rates above the last resort price of RI Energy, and opportunities for residents to opt out of the program.

**B.** The Town Manager reviews the 2026 Property Tax Sale scheduled for June 4, 2026.

**13. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Lorraine Horton comments on the earlier discussion of speed cameras on Kersey Road.

Council President McEntee notes that by not taking a vote the item may be brought back at a later date.

Ms. Horton continues.

Council President McEntee directs Ms. Horton to contact the Public Services Director.

**14. COMMUNICATIONS**

**A.** UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: that an email dated April 14, 2026, from Dorothy Hill, Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee Chair, requesting that the Town Council support House Bill H8298 relative to a 2026 Bond Referendum relating to the Capital Development Program for \$25,000,000 for the Bicycle Mobility Plan is received, placed on file, and the Town Council further directs that a resolution of support be sent.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to adjourn at 10:18 PM.

Emily R. Houle  
Town Clerk