

WORK SESSION

JUNE 22, 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 22nd day of June 2026 at 7:07 PM.

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

Also present: James Manni, Town Manager; Amy Goins, Assistant Town Solicitor, Brian Silvia, Finance Director

1. A. Work Session

Karen Grande, Troutman Pepper Locke, Bond Council, introduces a Work Session to sign Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs) for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 for the South Kingstown High School Building Project and reviews the documents to be signed by the Council President, Finance Director, and Town Clerk. Bond Council states that the BANs are one-year notes, and that the bonds may be permanently financed after that time.

Discussion ensues relative to the bond premium and interest rate, potential for savings, the public accessibility of BANs through Electronic Municipal Market Access (EMMA), and when funds will become available. It is noted that due to the Town's high credit rating, an additional credit point was awarded last year to apply to the Debt Service balance.

Convened to Regular Session.

Emily R. Houle
Town Clerk

REGULAR SESSION

JUNE 22, 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 22nd day of June 2026 at 7:32 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

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 Session held on June 8, 2026, are accepted, approved, and placed on file.

B. Regular Session – UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: that the minutes of the Regular Session held on June 8, 2026, are accepted, approved, and placed on file.

5. Interviews

A. The Town Council interviews Connor Duckworth relative to his interest in being reappointed to the Waterfront Advisory Commission.

B. The Town Council interviews Thomas Gilchrist relative to his interest in being reappointed to the Building Code Board of Appeals and Minimum Housing Code Board of Appeals.

C. The Town Council interviews John Hanson relative to his interest in being reappointed to the Recreation Commission.

D. Olwyn McCabe is not present to be interviewed.

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6. Appointments

A. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to reappoint Connor Duckworth to the Waterfront Advisory Commission for a term to expire June 2029.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to reappoint Thomas Gilchrist to the Building Code Board of Appeals and Minimum Housing Code Board of Appeals for a term to expire June 2031.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to reappoint John Hanson to the Recreation Commission for a term to expire June 2029.

7. Consent Agenda

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to approve the Consent Agenda as indicated by (CA) on same.

(CA) A. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: that a claim filed by Michael Eric Nelson relative to an incident that occurred on or about February 1, 2026, be referred to the Town Solicitor and the Town's insurance carrier.

(CA) B. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: that a claim filed by Lisa S. Holley, Esq. on behalf of their client Lt. James Krajewski relative to a series of incidents that began on or about June 2022, be referred to the Town's Solicitor and Town's insurance carrier.

(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

Transfer of a Class B Victualler Liquor License from Kabuki Kingstown Corporation d/b/a Kabuki Restaurant, 91 Old Tower Hill Road, Wakefield, RI 02879 by Yunqing Liu, President, to SK Kabuki Corporation d/b/a Kabuki Restaurant by Wenxin Zheng, President, for the first floor lounge and dining areas; and as further defined in a site plan on file in the Town Clerk's office.

8. Licenses

A. Ryan Schoen, Agent, Shepherd's Run, is present and after testimony and discussion it is

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to grant Victualling and Dance Licenses, and Tourist Accommodations for 26 spaces, 56 persons to Shepherd's Run, LLC d/b/a Shepherds Run, 4780 Tower Hill Road, Wakefield, RI 02879. Application by Ryan Schoen, Agent. New; License No. 88271.

B. Theresa Murphy, Director of Leisure Services, introduces Russ DiNoto, SK USA 250th Anniversary Committee, and after testimony and discussion it is

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to grant a Special Events Permit to the SK USA 250th Committee to hold the SK USA 250th Beach Party at the South Kingstown Town Beach picnic area pavilion on Saturday, September 26, 2026, from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Subject to RI Department of Transportation approval. Application by Theresa L. Murphy. New; License No. 93854.

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9. Public Comments – 30 Minutes

Council President McEntee invites residents to come forward with comments.

Bob Trager comments on the state of the world.

10. Public Hearing

A. Notice having been duly given, a Public Hearing is held relative to an application for a license to keep and sell alcoholic beverages in South Kingstown in accordance with the General Laws of 1956, as amended, as follows:

CLASS B TAVERN LIQUOR LICENSE

Application for a Class B Tavern Liquor License by Shepherd's Run FB LLC d/b/a Shepherd's Run, 4780 Tower Hill Road, Wakefield, RI 02879 by Ryan Schoen, Agent, for the interior and exterior sitting areas and event spaces; and as further defined in a site plan on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Council President McEntee invites residents to come forward with comments.

There being no comments, it is

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to close the Public Hearing.

New Business 11A is brought forward.

11A. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to amend the Town's Liquor License Rules and Regulations, Section I. The current number of licenses for each class shall be authorized as indicated below, unless changed by a majority vote of the Town Council:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Number</u>
A – Retail	4 maximum
B – Victualler	33
B – Tavern	4 2
B – Limited	7
B – Hotel	1
B – M	0
C	0
D – Club Full Privilege	1
D – Limited	0
F	Five per year per organization
F – 1	Five per year per organization
J – Limited	2
T – Legitimate Theater	2

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Public Hearing 10A is brought back.

10A. Amy Goins, Assistant Town Solicitor, reviews the Farmer-Winery License previously held by Shepherd's Run, awarded by the State of Rhode Island.

Discussion ensues, and it is

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to grant an application for a license to keep and sell alcoholic beverages in South Kingstown in accordance with the General Laws of 1956, as amended, as follows:

CLASS B TAVERN LIQUOR LICENSE

Application for a Class B Tavern Liquor License by Shepherd's Run FB LLC d/b/a Shepherd's Run, 4780 Tower Hill Road, Wakefield, RI 02879 by Ryan Schoen, Agent, for the interior and exterior sitting areas and event spaces; and as further defined in a site plan on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Said license is contingent upon the issuance of a Certificate of Good Standing from the RI Division of Taxation, a Certificate of Insurance evidencing required liability coverage, compliance with all Town ordinances and regulations, the payment of any municipal taxes and user fees in arrears to the Town, and the correction of any fire code violations.

B. Notice having been duly given, a Public Hearing is held to consider proposed amendments to the Town Code, Chapter 17 Taxation, Article III. Property Tax Exemptions for Elderly Persons, Section 17-43. Applications for tax exemption to contain evidence of eligibility, and Section 17-44. Amount of exemption; filing of applications, to amend applicants' total gross household income threshold for eligibility in accordance with current Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) values, as follows:

CHAPTER 17 – TAXATION

* * *

ARTICLE III. – PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR ELDERLY PERSONS

* * *

Sec. 17-43. - Applications for tax exemption to contain evidence of eligibility.

Applicants for the income based tax program shall submit the following information:

(1) *Proof of age.* Proof of age may be established by driver's license, birth certificate, baptismal certificate, certificate of citizenship or any other means normally accepted by the Social Security Administration. If no such proof is available, the applicant may submit an affidavit.

(2) *Proof of ownership.* Proof of ownership of the property for which the exemption is claimed may be established by confirmation of the tax assessor that the property tax on such property has been levied on the applicant continuously for the required period of time.

(3) *Proof of income.* ~~The applicant's affidavit before a notary public stating his income, all other income of the household and that no other income is brought into the household except as stated shall be deemed conclusive proof of such facts.~~ The applicant shall submit a copy of their federal

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income tax return. The applicant's gross income shall be as defined in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and shall include the gross income of an eligible person's spouse if the eligible person is married when the application is filed. Gross income shall also include, and the applicant shall submit a sworn affidavit disclosing receipt of, the following:

(a) any interest or dividends not otherwise included in gross income;

(b) the taxable proceeds of any life insurance;

(c) any pension, annuity, disability, or retirement benefits not otherwise included in gross income; and

(d) the untaxed portion of any social security benefits.

(4) *Proof of residency.* Residency for the purpose of this article shall mean one (1) legally domiciled within the town for the last five (5) years. To determine residency the town may inquire if the applicant is registered to vote in the town and has their motor vehicles registered in the town. Additional documentation may be requested to verify an applicant's primary home address such as utility bills or copies of an applicant's federal tax return. Seasonal or temporary residence shall not be sufficient.

Sec. 17-44. - Amount of exemption; filing of applications.

(a) For the 2026 tax year (assessment as of December 31, 2025), if the applicant's total gross household income does not exceed forty-five~~nine~~ thousand one~~seven~~ hundred ninety-seven~~seventeen~~ dollars (\$45,197~~49,717~~.00), the tax on the property shall be equal to four (4) percent of that gross income, provided that the maximum tax savings to the applicant shall not exceed the following:

2023 Total Gross Household Income <u>as of 12/31/2025</u>	2023 2026 Tax Credit
0 — \$23,758 <u>0-\$26,134</u>	\$2,472
\$23,759 — \$28,625 <u>\$26,135 — \$31,488</u>	\$2,005
\$28,626 — \$31,870 <u>\$31,489 — \$35,057</u>	\$1,887
\$31,871 — \$36,506 <u>\$35,058 — \$40,157</u>	\$1,770
\$36,507 — \$38,939 <u>\$40,158 — \$42,833</u>	\$1,533
\$38,940 — \$40,214 <u>\$42,834 — \$44,235</u>	\$1,416
\$40,215 — \$41,373 <u>\$44,236 — \$45,510</u>	\$1,124

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2023 Total Gross Household Income <u>as of 12/31/2025</u>	2023 <u>2026</u> Tax Credit
\$41,374 — \$42,647 <u>\$45,511 – \$46,912</u>	\$826
\$42,648 — \$45,197 <u>\$46,913 – \$49,717</u>	\$534

For the 2027 tax year (assessment as of 12/31/2026) and subsequent tax years, the gross household income amounts and corresponding maximum tax credits set forth above shall be adjusted by the Assessor to align with the annual cost-of-living adjustment to Social Security benefits.

(b) All exemptions will be on a fiscal year basis in accordance with the current financial management procedures of the town.

(c) All applications will be filed with the tax assessor by May 15 of each year for which the tax credit is claimed and shall be made in the form approved by the town council. All applications filed after the May 15 deadline, if approved, will receive a tax credit in the form of an abatement.

(d) An additional provision to this section will allow continuance of the exemption when a transfer of ownership of a property occurs between family members who have been residing in the property for the previous five (5) years and if the applicant's income limits adhere to the guidelines of the section.

* * *

This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage.

James Manni, Town Manager, introduces the Public Hearing and thanks staff in both the Assessor's and Finance offices for their work.

The Town Manager outlines the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) income thresholds, current Elderly Exemption applicants, and additional funds budgeted in the upcoming year to cover exemptions. He asks the Town Council to provide direction to staff to raise either the household income brackets or tax credit brackets.

Wendy Duarte, Town Assessor, shows a presentation concerning proposed amendments to Town Code of Ordinances Sections 17-43 and 17-44. She reviews the tax roll certification process and upcoming tax bill printing, and outlines proof of age and income requirements in Section 17-43. Amendments to Section 17-44 include a one-time adjustment of 10% to household income to align with increases since 2023, and automatic annual adjustments to both income and credit to align with Social Security. Benefits including a baseline starting point, residual benefits such as referrals to senior assistance programs, consistent cost-of-living adjustments, and expansion of program participation are reviewed.

Discussion ensues relative to eligibility requirements and the current eligibility honor system.

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The Town Assessor notes that for those residents in the lowest income bracket backup documentation such as Social Security statement will be accepted in lieu of a federal income tax return.

The Town Manager underscores the need for fair exemptions to ensure the integrity and credibility of the system.

The Town Assessor notes that office staff have discretion to approve an application based on long-standing participation in the program.

The Town Solicitor verifies that authorization for staff discretion exists under State law.

Discussion ensues relative to current and potential new applicants, the use of eligibility affidavits for properties with multiple owners, application deadlines, notification of eligibility changes to residents, and projected revenue loss as a result of increased exemptions.

The Town Solicitor clarifies that if demographic trends show that adjustments need to be made, the ordinance may be brought back before the Town Council for further amendments.

Discussion ensues relative to whether to increase household income brackets or credit brackets and the timeline of previous adjustments.

The Town Solicitor suggests amendments to the proposed ordinance to apply the increases to income brackets only and not the credit.

Discussion ensues relative to late filing procedures and instituting a cutoff date for application for the existing tax year.

The Town Solicitor notes that late filers are treated as abatements, which need to be approved by Town Council so they can maintain some control over applicants.

Discussion ensues relative to abatements approvals, notification to residents, IRS Proof of Non-Filing, and applications received to date.

Council President McEntee invites residents to come forward with comments.

Bob Trager comments relative to expanding exemptions to include additional demographic groups.

There being no further comments, it is

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to close the Public Hearing.

Council Vice President Marran motions to approve the ordinance amendments as proposed with respect to the indexing of income for eligibility only and is seconded by Council Member Bergner.

The Town Solicitor confirms that the motion is consistent with the amendments she proposed earlier in the Public Hearing.

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The Town Council makes closing remarks.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to approve proposed amendments to the Town Code, Chapter 17 Taxation, Article III. Property Tax Exemptions for Elderly Persons, Section 17-43. Applications for tax exemption to contain evidence of eligibility, and Section 17-44. Amount of exemption; filing of applications, to amend applicants' total gross household income threshold for eligibility in accordance with current Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) values, as amended, as follows:

CHAPTER 17 – TAXATION

* * *

ARTICLE III. – PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR ELDERLY PERSONS

* * *

Sec. 17-43. - Applications for tax exemption to contain evidence of eligibility.

Applicants for the income based tax program shall submit the following information:

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(2) *Proof of ownership.* Proof of ownership of the property for which the exemption is claimed may be established by confirmation of the tax assessor that the property tax on such property has been levied on the applicant continuously for the required period of time.

(3) *Proof of income.* ~~The applicant's affidavit before a notary public stating his income, all other income of the household and that no other income is brought into the household except as stated shall be deemed conclusive proof of such facts.~~ The applicant shall submit a copy of their federal income tax return. The applicant's gross income shall be as defined in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and shall include the gross income of an eligible person's spouse if the eligible person is married when the application is filed. Gross income shall also include, and the applicant shall submit a sworn affidavit disclosing receipt of, the following:

(a) any interest or dividends not otherwise included in gross income;

(b) the taxable proceeds of any life insurance;

(c) any pension, annuity, disability, or retirement benefits not otherwise included in gross income; and

(d) the untaxed portion of any social security benefits.

(4) *Proof of residency.* Residency for the purpose of this article shall mean one (1) legally domiciled within the town for the last five (5) years. To determine residency the town may inquire if the applicant is registered to vote in the town and has their motor vehicles registered in the town. Additional documentation may be requested to verify an applicant's primary home address such as utility bills or copies of an applicant's federal tax return. Seasonal or temporary residence shall not be sufficient.

Sec. 17-44. - Amount of exemption; filing of applications.

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(a) For the 2026 tax year (assessment as of December 31, 2025), if the applicant's total gross household income does not exceed forty-five~~nine~~ thousand one~~seven~~ hundred ninety-seven~~seventeen~~ dollars (\$45,197~~49,717~~.00), the tax on the property shall be equal to four (4) percent of that gross income, provided that the maximum tax savings to the applicant shall not exceed the following:

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\$41,374 – \$42,647 <u>\$45,511 – \$46,912</u>	\$826
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For the 2027 tax year (assessment as of 12/31/2026) and subsequent tax years, the gross household income amounts set forth above shall be adjusted by the Assessor to align with the annual cost-of-living adjustment to Social Security benefits.

(b) All exemptions will be on a fiscal year basis in accordance with the current financial management procedures of the town.

(c) All applications will be filed with the tax assessor by May 15 of each year for which the tax credit is claimed and shall be made in the form approved by the town council. All applications filed after the May 15 deadline, if approved, will receive a tax credit in the form of an abatement.

(d) An additional provision to this section will allow continuance of the exemption when a transfer of ownership of a property occurs between family members who have been residing in the property for the previous five (5) years and if the applicant's income limits adhere to the guidelines of the section.

* * *

This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage.

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New Business is brought forward.

11. New Business

J. Chris Spiegel, LeftField, introduces a request for Change Orders for the South Kingstown High School (SKHS) project.

Dr. Chip McGair, SKHS Principal, reviews Change Orders 1.1 and 1.3 regarding changes to furniture and electrical outlet layouts in the Administrative Assistant Office, 1.4 regarding changes to the Athletic Director's office, 2 to add vending machines to the cafeteria, 4 to install wall mounted guitar racks in the Choral Room, 5.1 and 5.2 to install lockers and a tackboard in the Building Support room, 6.3 to install a whiteboard in the Custodial Office, 7.2 and 7.3 regarding changes to the Media Center, 8 to add a wall in the Art Storage room, 9 to provide cord reels to the Allied Health room, 10 regarding changes to the Mock Pharmacy, 11 regarding mobile lab tables for the Physics Lab, and 12 for the installation of an anatomage table in the Biomedical Lab.

Chris Spiegel confirms that the anatomage table listed in Change Order 12 was funded through the Champlin Grant.

Discussion ensues relative to the Change Orders and potential future needs of SKHS.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to authorize the Town Manager to execute change orders to the AIA A133-2019 Contract with Gilbane Building Company, 7 Jackson Walkway, Suite 2, Providence, Rhode Island 02903, in connection with Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Agreement #2 for the South Kingstown High School Replacement Project, specifically those items identified in the May 26, 2026 Authorization to Proceed (ATP) Package in the amount of \$98,698.83, as further detailed in a memorandum from the Deputy Town Manager to the Town Manager dated June 16, 2026 entitled "A Resolution Authorizing the Town Manager to Execute Change Orders Associated with the South Kingstown High School Replacement Project," and as recommended by the School Building Change Order Task Force and School Building Committee.

K. Chris Spiegel reviews a request for the purchase of solar photovoltaic power optimizers for the SKHS Project.

Phil Conte, Studio JAED, recommends safe harbor costs as presented at the June 8, 2026 Town Council meeting.

Discussion ensues relative to the project budget surplus and the goal to offset rising electricity costs.

Phil Conte confirms that payback on installation costs is estimated in 8 to 10 years if incentives are utilized, 15 years without, and that the system life is estimated at 20 to 25 years.

Further discussion ensues, and it is

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to authorize a purchase award to Newport Renewables, 316 Columbia Street, South Kingstown, Rhode Island 02879, for the purchase of solar photovoltaic power optimizers in an amount not to exceed eighty one thousand dollars (\$81,000), including contingency,

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as further described in a memorandum from the Deputy Town Manager/DOAS to the Town Manager dated June 16, 2026, entitled "Authorization for Award of Purchase of Solar Photovoltaic Power Optimizers."

B. Council President McEntee reads the proclamation into the record and it is

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to adopt a proclamation recognizing June 27, 2026 as South Kingstown Revolutionary Patriots Recognition Day, as follows:

HONORING SOUTH KINGSTOWN AND NARRAGANSETT REVOLUTIONARY WAR ERA PATRIOTS

WHEREAS, the Town of South Kingstown joins communities throughout Rhode Island and the nation in commemorating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution and the enduring principles upon which the United States was founded; and

WHEREAS, individuals connected to South Kingstown and Narragansett served the cause of American independence during the Revolutionary War era in many capacities, including military service, local defense, labor, support, sacrifice, and other acts dedicated to the cause of liberty; and

WHEREAS, ongoing historical research continues to bring forward the stories and contributions of previously overlooked patriots, including formerly enslaved and Indigenous individuals whose service and sacrifices deserve remembrance, recognition, and historical acknowledgment; and

WHEREAS, the Town of South Kingstown recognizes the importance of preserving, sharing, interpreting, and teaching the full and evolving history of our community for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, community members, historians, descendants, educators, preservation advocates, students, veterans, and volunteers have joined together in planning a Semiquincentennial observance dedicated to honoring these Revolutionary War era patriots and their contributions to the founding of our nation; and

WHEREAS, this observance further reflects the community's continuing commitment to the development of a companion monument and public educational space dedicated to encouraging reflection, remembrance, learning, historical understanding, and public engagement for generations to come;

NOW, THEREFORE, WE THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN, do hereby recognize June 27, 2026 as "**South Kingstown Revolutionary Patriots Recognition Day**" and encourage all residents to reflect upon the courage, sacrifice, and service of those connected to our community who contributed to the cause of American independence during the Revolutionary War era, and to support the continued preservation, interpretation, and public sharing of this important history through

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remembrance, education, public commemoration, and the future companion monument and educational space envisioned as part of this Semiquincentennial observance.

Sharon Henderson, SK USA 250th Anniversary Committee, reviews the upcoming event celebrating the South Kingstown Revolutionary Patriots Recognition Day on June 27, 2026 at the Hazard School.

Public Hearings is brought back.

10. Public Hearings

C. Notice having been duly given, a Public Hearing relative to adoption of the 2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan is held.

James Rabbitt, Planning Director, introduces discussion of the 2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) and reviews the purpose of the HMP.

Due to non-functional display screens, Council Member Wegimont motions to continue the HMP Public Hearing to a later date and is seconded by Council Member Bergner.

Discussion ensues relative to whether to continue the presentation without visual aids.

The Planning Director explains the HMP approval process by the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and unforeseen delays, noting that the Town HMP approval is behind schedule.

Further discussion ensues.

The Town Solicitor recommends proceeding with the presentation and notes that it may be continued to a later date at the end of the verbal presentation if the Council feels it necessary.

Discussion ensues relative to the potential impact of not approving the HMP.

A Roll Call vote is taken on whether to continue the Public Hearing to a later date and the motion fails by a vote of 4 to 1.

Bergner – Nay Marran – Nay McEntee – Nay Alley – Nay Wegimont – Aye

The visual display is corrected.

The Planning Director reviews the Plan contents, the definition of Hazard Mitigation, benefits of the HMP, the plan update process including community outreach, public meetings, and approvals by RIEMA and FEMA, the Emergency Management Cycle of preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation, the mitigation planning process, and components of an HMP including risk assessment, climate change and resiliency, and identifying mitigation actions.

Discussion ensues relative to the function of the HMP, potential drawbacks to approval, and reimbursements from RIEMA and FEMA during a state of emergency.

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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 2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan as follows:

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN 2026 HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN (HMP)

WHEREAS the South Kingstown Town Council recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property within our community; and

WHEREAS pro/active mitigation of known hazards before a disaster event can reduce or eliminate long/ term risk to people and property; and

WHEREAS the Town of South Kingstown has prepared a multi/natural hazards mitigation plan in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106/390) requirements for pre/ and post/disaster hazard mitigation programs; and

WHEREAS the 2026 HMP identifies mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long/term risk to people and property in South Kingstown from impacts of future hazards and disasters; and

WHEREAS adoption by the Town Council demonstrates their commitment to achieving the hazard mitigation and flood management goals outlined in the 2026 HMP.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN RHODE ISLAND,

THAT The Town Council:

1. Adopts in its entirety, the Town of South Kingstown 2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan and resolves to support the execution of actions identified in the Plan.
2. Will use the HMP to guide pre/ and post/disaster mitigation of the hazards identified.
3. Will coordinate the strategies identified in the HMP with other planning programs and mechanisms under its jurisdictional authority.
4. Will incorporate hazard mitigation planning as an integral component of government and partner operations.
5. Will at a minimum, provide an annual review of the Plan and update of the Plan every five years.

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11. New Business

C. Mark Russo reviews requests for the Indian Run Brook Restoration & Stormwater Retrofit Project and site improvements at the Peace Dale Library Hazard Memorial Garden.

Discussion ensues, and it is

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to authorize an award of bid to Key Corporation, 170 Fiore Industrial Drive, Wakefield, RI 02879 for the Indian Run Brook Restoration & Stormwater Retrofit Project, in an amount not to exceed \$387,640.00 including a contingency. Funding related to this contract award is available in Fund-359 (RIDEM), from account 35940094-570007 (Misc. Construction) & the Guild Renovation Fund (Fund-421) from account 42140001-570007-26020, with additional information on funding within the "Funding Source" section and as further described in a purchasing recommendation from the Director of Facilities to the Town Manager dated June 4, 2026, regarding Indian Run Brook Restoration & Stormwater Retrofit Project.

D. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to authorize an amendment to an award of bid originally granted on April 13, 2026 (\$229,950.00) for a site work/parking lot reconstruction contract to True North Civil, 805 Nooseneck Hill Road, West Greenwich, RI 02817 to include the Peace Dale Library Garden Site Improvements (Hazard Memorial Garden), (\$93,008.49) in an amount not to exceed \$322,958.49 including a contingency, all funded by account 0412-41285009-570000-24019 The Peace Dale Library Community Learning Center Services Expansion Grant Project.as further described in a purchasing recommendation from the Director of Facilities to the Town Manager dated June 5, 2026, regarding Peace Dale Library Garden Site Improvements (Hazard Memorial Garden).

E. Richard Bourbonnais, Director of Public Services, reviews amendments to the water user rate schedule.

Discussion ensues relative to a comparison of the proposed water rate schedule to that of Veolia, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Public Hearing, and concerns about making this ordinance retroactive.

The Town Solicitor confirms that no issue exists if changes are publicized as retroactive.

Further discussion ensues, and it is

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to establish a water user rate schedule, effective July 1, 2026, as provided in the Town Schedule of Fees, as further described in a memorandum from the Public Services Director to the Town Manager dated June 5, 2026, and entitled "FY 2026-27 Water User Fee Adjustment," as follows:

Meter Size	Quarterly Base Charge
5/8"	\$80.00

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1"	\$109.00
1 1/4"	\$167.00
1 1/2"	\$167.00
2"	\$232.00
3"	\$375.00
4"	\$583.00
6"	\$1,166.00
8"	\$1,166.00

Quarterly minimum charge for unmetered customers is double the annual minimum assessment.

Commodity Rates per 100 cu. Ft.

First 1,250 cu. ft.	Included in Minimum Charge
Over 1,251 cu. ft. up to 2,500 cu. ft.	\$5.00 per 100 cu. ft.
Over 2,500 cu. ft.	\$7.00 per 100 cu. ft.

For existing special rate customers supplied through one (1) meter to more than one (1) dwelling or unit on the same platted lot, the rates shall be as follows:

	Rate	Allowance
First Unit (5/8" meter)	\$80.00	1,250 cu. ft.
Each Additional Unit	\$40.00	500 cu. ft.

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Excess water use over the allowance at commodity rates.

Water furnished by the Utility outside of the Town through one (1) meter shall be charged the minimum meter charge if the meter is furnished by the Utility, and a municipal wholesale rate in accordance with the Commodity Rate Structure. The advance payment shall be estimated from the previous year's consumption.

Public and Private Fire Protection (billed in advance) (per year).

Public Fire Hydrants	\$395.00
Private Fire Hydrants	\$395.00

Connection Size	Charge
4"	\$165.00
6"	\$395.00
8"	\$705.00
10"	\$1,090.00
12"	\$1,575.00

F. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to approve an award to Allegiance Truck, 17 O'Keefe Lane, Warwick, RI 02888 for 2027 International HV515 dump truck with Viking stainless steel dump body and Viking snowplow with pre-wet system, in an amount not to exceed \$293,000, as further described in a purchasing recommendation from the Director of Public Services to the Town Manager dated June 5, 2026, entitled, "Purchase Recommendation – 6 Wheel Dump Truck with Snowplow and Pre-Wet System."

G. Brian Silvia, Finance Director, presents FY 2025-26 Year-End Results and Property Transfers.

The Finance Director reviews a projected FY 2025-26 General Fund revenue summary, projected FY 2025-26 General Fund expenditure summary with major drivers for each of the categories, FY 2025-26 proposed transfers as a result of surplus from operations costs, Unassigned Fund Balance as a percentage of operating revenues, and a summary of the interest due from the 2025 Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs).

The Finance Director recommends a \$1.5M transfer from School Capital Fund to Debt Service Fund toward bond interest due.

Discussion ensues relative to the Village Infrastructure Fund.

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Lucas Murray, Deputy Town Manager/DOAS, responds and reviews maintenance performed on Main Street and planned expansion into the Peace Dale area and other Town villages.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to authorize fund transfers, as follows, and as further described in a memorandum from the Finance Director to the Town Manager dated June 15, 2026 and entitled "Projected FY 2025-26 Year-End Results and Property Transfers."

Reserve Fund Transfers

BE IT RESOLVED that projected program surpluses were identified in this memo for fiscal year 2025-2026. Fiscal year appropriations for General Fund (101) and budgeted transfers shall be transferred to various Reserve Funds, in an amount not to exceed \$900,000. Additionally, Town Council approval is sought on a transfer between the High School Construction Fund (Fund 435) and the Debt Service Fund (Fund 400) for an amount not to exceed \$1,586,250.

FY2025-26 Other Transfers - Seeking Town Council Approval			
Object Code	Outgoing Funds	Transfer Total	Reserve Fund
460010	High School Construction Fund (435)	\$1,586,250	Debt Service Fund (400)
Total Other Transfers		\$1,586,250	

FY2025-26 Proposed Transfers - Surplus from Operations			
Object Code	Revenue Description	Transfer Total	Reserve Fund
498999	Misc. Tax Transfer	\$20,000	I.T. Capital Equipment Reserve (Fund 408)
498999	Misc. Tax Transfer	30,000	DPS Capital Equipment Reserve (Fund 408)
498999	Misc. Tax Transfer	50,000	Village Infrastructure Fund (430)
498999	Misc. Tax Transfer	75,000	Planning Department Reserve Fund (336)
498999	Misc. Tax Transfer	225,000	Grant Match Fund (Fund 403)
10111001-10118001	General Government Transfer	350,000	Town Capital Equipment Reserve (408)
10120001-10122001	Public Safety Transfer	75,000	Town Capital Equipment Reserve (408)
10140001-10140090	Leisure Services Transfer	75,000	Town Capital Equipment Reserve (408)
Total Transfer		\$900,000	
Total G.F. Transfers - Surplus from Operations		\$900,000	

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Town Finance Director, with the advice and consent of the Town Council, is hereby permitted to invest the funds at any time in said savings accounts or certificates of deposit of commercial or savings banks, or trust companies, or in obligations of the United States or its agencies, or in any other short-term investment as would be made by prudent persons of discretion and intelligence.

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Town Council is hereby authorized to use the total funds, or such part thereof of said Reserve Funds, for capital expenditures as may be voted by the Town Council.

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H. Council Member Wegimont motions to approve New Business H and I together and is seconded by Council Vice President Marran.

Council Member Bergner voices concerns with the use of ClearGov software.

The Finance Director recommends a minimum one year extension of the ClearGov contract for continuity purposes.

Discussion ensues relative to comparable softwares.

VOTED: to authorize the Town Manager to execute a one-year contract extension (July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027) with ClearGov of 2 Mill & Main; Suite 630; Maynard, MA 01754 for the Town's continued digital budgeting software needs for an amount not to exceed \$34,085.23. Funding for this contract is available within the Finance Department's Computer / Software Maintenance account (10114001-534012), which has an adopted budget for FY2026-27 of \$63,040. This extension is being authorized via a Buyboard Purchasing Cooperative and provides continuity of operations and services for the upcoming fiscal year, at a reduced rate.

Council Member Bergner votes no.

I. VOTED: to authorize the Town Manager to execute an agricultural lease agreement with David Carpenter d/b/a Carpenter's Farm, 520 Matunuck Beach Road, South Kingstown, Rhode Island 02879, for the lease and agricultural use of approximately twenty-one (21) acres of Town-owned property located adjacent to the Town Beach and identified as a portion of Assessor's Plat 92-2, Lot 39, for an initial term of three (3) years with an option to extend the lease for up to two (2) additional one-year periods, with lease payments of \$0 per acre in Year 1, \$20 per acre in Year 2, \$40 per acre in Year 3, and \$60 per acre in Years 4 and 5 if extended, in accordance with Request for Proposals SK0018TM and the proposal submitted by Carpenter's Farm, as further detailed in a memorandum from the Deputy Town Manager/Director of Administrative Services to the Town Manager dated June 16, 2026, entitled "Recommendation for Award of Lease – Town Beach Agricultural Property."

Council Member Bergner votes no.

12. Town Manager's Report

A. The Finance Director reviews FY2026-27 School Department housing aid reimbursements.

Discussion ensues relative to applying reimbursements from the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) toward the Debt Service Fund or a School Capital Fund controlled by the Town.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to continue the meeting past 11:00 pm.

Further discussion ensues.

The Town Council reaches consensus to apply RIDE reimbursements to the School Capital Fund until such time as the Council directs further action.

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B. The Town Solicitor reviews Town Charter provisions relating to filling a School Committee vacancy.

Discussion ensues relative to past practice, how term lengths will be decided, and whether to make an interim appointment due to the resignation of Bradley Shear.

The Town Council reaches consensus to allow the vacancy to remain until the election of a new School Committee member at the November 3, 2026 General Election.

D. Theresa Murphy, Director of Leisure Services, reviews the planned 4th of July Celebration and fireworks at Old Mountain Field.

C. Richard Bourbonnais, Director of Public Services, reviews the addition of an Irrigation District address search link on the Town's website.

Discussion ensues relative to reporting ordinance violators, warning notices sent to residents, and how the Town is coordinating with Veolia.

The Town Solicitor notes that discretion may be exercised by staff in issuing violations.

Discussion ensues relative to exemptions to the ordinance.

14. Communications

E. Kenneth Reese reviews traffic issues on Mautucket Road and a petition to stop speeding on the street from residents with 65 signatures collected. He requests that two stop signs be installed on the street to slow drivers.

Matthew Moynihan, Chief of Police, explains that the Police Department has begun collecting traffic data as a result of the email sent to the Town Council.

Discussion ensues relative to the data to be collected.

Richard Bourbonnais, Director of Public Services, explains the process for installing stop signs and the criteria required for stop sign installation.

Discussion ensues.

A. Council Member Bergner motions to approve Communications A, B, and D regarding Board resignations and is seconded by Council Member Wegimont.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: that a letter dated June 9, 2026, from Derek Cook tendering his resignation from the South Kingstown Housing Authority effective immediately, is received, placed on file, and the Town Council further directs that a letter of thanks be sent.

B. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: that a letter dated June 8, 2026, from Brad Shear tendering his resignation from the South Kingstown School Committee, effective immediately, is received, placed on file, and the Town Council further directs that a letter of thanks be sent.

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D. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: that letter dated June 14, 2026, from Kristine Bishop Chapman, Canvassing Authority Chair, tendering her resignation from the South Kingstown Canvassing Authority effective August 1, 2026, is received, placed on file, and the Town Council further directs that a letter of thanks be sent.

C. Discussion ensues relative to an email regarding the closure of the Joyful Learning Child Academy and what action, if any, the Town Council should take. It is noted that the email was sent to State legislators as well.

The Town Council reaches consensus to support any actions initiated by State legislators.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to adjourn at 11:34 PM.

Emily R. Houle
Town Clerk