

At the Regular Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of North Kingstown, County of Washington, and State of Rhode Island, held in and for said Town, County, and State this 28th day of January, 2019 at the Beechwood Senior Center, 44 Beach Street, at 6:35 p.m.

PRESENT WERE: Gregory A. Mancini, President  
Mary Brimer  
Stacey Elliott  
Kerry P. McKay  
Richard A. Welch

ALSO PRESENT: A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager  
Jeannette Alyward, Town Clerk  
Susan A. Murray, Deputy Town Clerk  
Matthew F. Callaghan, Jr., Town Solicitor

An audio recording and video recording of this meeting was made to supplement the written record.

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of North Kingstown held on January 28, 2019 was called to order by President Mancini.

2. Notice of Meeting being posted

Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-6(c), notice of this meeting has been posted on the Secretary of State’s Website.

3. Executive Session

Motion by Councilor McKay, seconded by Councilor Welch and unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn into Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4 and 42-46-5, Subsection (2) – Litigation (M.L. Hawk Realty, LLC, Mark L. Hawkins, Joshua L. Hawkins, and JAMM Golf) – and Subsection (2) – Litigation (50 South County Trail, LLC vs. Town of North Kingstown) – by the following Roll Call Vote:

Mary Brimer	-	Aye
Stacey Elliott	-	Aye
Kerry P. McKay	-	Aye
Richard A. Welch	-	Aye
Gregory A. Mancini	-	Aye

MEETING RECONVENED AT 7:06 P.M.

VOTED: To close the minutes of the Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-4 and 42-46-5.

4. Salute to Flag

Councilor Elliott led those in attendance in saluting the flag.

5. Public Comment

Bill Thomas, 19 Updike Street, stated that the memorial park across the street from the old town hall should remain as a memorial and not be used for a parking lot for the new town hall. He is a veteran and would like it to remain the way it is. He also stated that if the Town needs parking, then why not use the land where the old post box is located.

Tom Sgouros, 15 Boston Neck Road, stated that with regard to the new Town Hall, it has been a long time since the Town has something that we can be proud of and asked where the Town’s sense of pride is. He also asked that the Town develop something that the Town can be proud of at that location, and he believes we can accomplish this without spending a lot of money all at once. Maybe we can phase things in a little at a time.

Pam Medeiros, 93 Brown Street, stated that she is a business owner in Town. She feels that the cost of the sewers is way too high for business owners to afford.

Patricia Carlson, 93 Brown Street, stated that as a business owner in Town she didn’t have a voice in the sewer system because she is an out of town resident.

Sunny Albanese, PO Box 147, asked if anyone can help the business owners in Town with the price of the sewer system. She stated the old Council made a mistake and is looking for help from the new Council. She further stated that she is looking forward to meeting with President Mancini, Councilor Brimer, and Councilor Elliott in trying to find help with her boating issues. She feels that the old Harbormaster looked the other way on certain issues and the new Harbormaster is doing the same thing.

Bill Mudge, 710 Old Baptist Road, stated that the Town should trade the Wickford Elementary School with the Alex and Ani building on Brown Street. He also stated that at the last meeting, he brought up the issue with the Jamestown tuition and hasn’t heard from anyone on the Council. He also handed in a package on all the bond issues in Town from 1996 to the present for the Council’s information.

**I. CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Councilor Brimer, seconded by Councilor McKay and unanimously

VOTED: To approve Consent Agenda Item Numbers 6 through 14 as presented with the exception of Agenda Item Numbers 8 and 9.

6. Approval of Minutes

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 14, 2019 as submitted by the Office of the Town Clerk.

7. Receipt of Donations

VOTED: To accept with gratitude the following donations in the amount of \$4,110.00:

For: Beechwood Senior Center	
To be used for Instructors	
From: North Kingstown Senior Association	\$4,000.00
For: Scholarships for Recreation Programs	
In Memory of Margaret Robinson	
From: Tony and Susan DeSimone	\$ 50.00
Maureen McCarthy	50.00
Lawrence and Marylee Egan	10.00

8. Letter of Resignation

Motion by Councilor Welch, seconded by Councilor McKay and unanimously

VOTED: To accept the letter of resignation from Theodore Walls, resigning from the Asset Management Commission, and that the Town Council send a letter of appreciation to him for the dedicated service he gave to the Town of North Kingstown.

9. Award of Purchase

Motion by Councilor Welch, seconded by Councilor McKay and unanimously

VOTED: To award the purchase of Windows Server 2019 Licensing for the Town of North Kingstown, Department of Information Technology to Infused Innovations, 1130 Ten Rod Road, Suite F-204, North Kingstown, RI 02852, in the amount of \$10,820.00.

Funding for this purchase will be charged to Data Processing/Office Equipment Maintenance Account 00105050-531004.

Councilor Welch asked Michael Forlingieri, MIS Director to speak with the School Department to see if they would like to also go in on this purchase and report back to the Council.

10. Detective License (renewal)

VOTED: To approve to December 1, 2019 the application for renewal of a Detective License by Richard Nagele, 66 Walnut Road, subject to taxes and water paid to date.

11. Refuse Collector – Commercial For Hire License Renewals

VOTED: To approve the following list of Refuse Collector – Commercial For Hire License Renewals, subject to taxes, water, and any other assessments paid to date; receipt of a bond; inspection approval from the Transfer Station; and receipt of a Certificate of Insurance if needed:

REFUSE COLLECTORS LICENSE - CFH  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
1/28/2019

Lic #	NAME	DBA	ADDRESS	TOWN	STATE	ZIP	Reg #	INS	BOND
52	Edward Briggs Disposal, Inc.		PO Box 655	Exeter	RI	02822	RI7260	Y	Y
53	Edward Briggs Disposal, Inc.		PO Box 655	Exeter	RI	02822	RI 128814	Y	Y
8	Republic Services	dba Allied Waste Services	1080 Airport Road	Fall River	MA	02720		Y	Y
9	Republic Services	dba Allied Waste Services	1080 Airport Road	Fall River	MA	02720		Y	Y
10	Republic Services	dba Allied Waste Services	1080 Airport Road	Fall River	MA	02720	MA 89536	Y	Y
12	Republic Services	dba Allied Waste Services	1080 Airport Road	Fall River	MA	02720	MA 89624	Y	Y
17	Republic Services	dba Allied Waste Services	1080 Airport Road	Fall River	MA	02720		Y	Y

ALL TAXES/WATER ASSESSMENTS HAVE BEEN PAID TO DATE  COLLECTION DEPT

12. Victualling License (renewal)

VOTED: To approve to December 1, 2019 the application for renewal of a Victualling License by Boston Neck Pizza, LLC, 1814 Boston Neck Road, Saunderstown 02874, subject to taxes and water paid to date.

13. Victualling License (transfer) (renewal)

VOTED: To approve the application for transfer of a Victualling License from A-1 Petroleum LLC, dba Dania Food Mart, 7000 Post Road, to Dania Food Mart LLC LTD, 7000 Post Road, subject to taxes and water paid to date; receipt of a certificate from the RI Department of Health; and compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Marshall, the Planning Department, and the Building Official; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: To approve to December 1, 2019 the application for renewal of a Victualling License from Dania Food Mart LLC LTD, 7000 Post Road, subject to taxes and water to date; receipt of a certificate from the RI Department of Health; and compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Marshall, the Planning Department, and the Building Official.

14. Capital Improvement Program for FY2020 - FY2025

VOTED: That the Town Council of the Town of North Kingstown does hereby receive and file the Final Report Recommendations for the Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2020 – Fiscal Year 2025 as submitted by the Asset Management Commission.

**II. PUBLIC HEARING**

15. Class B-Limited Alcoholic Beverage, Victualling, and Entertainment Licenses (transfer)

Motion by Councilor McKay, seconded by Councilor Welch and

VOTED: To open the Public Hearing.

There was no public comment.

Motion by Councilor McKay, seconded by Councilor Elliott and

VOTED: To close the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilor Elliott, seconded by Councilor McKay and

VOTED: To approve the applications for transfer of Class B-Limited Alcoholic Beverage, Victualling, and Entertainment Licenses, expiring on December 1, 2019, from Michael Gabriel, dba The Provisioner NY Deli and Cafe, 7669 Post Road, to JJQ Corp., dba The Provisioner NY Deli and Cafe, 7669 Post Road, subject to taxes and water paid to date; receipt of a RI Retail Sales Tax Permit; receipt of a certificate from the Rhode Island Department of Health; receipt of a copy of their Alcohol Server Training Certifications; receipt of a Certificate of Good Standing within (90) ninety days; and compliance with the recommendations of the Police Department, the Fire Marshall, the Planning Department, and the Building Official.

President Mancini recused himself as he represents one of the Liquor Distributors.

**III. REPORTS**

16. Report to Town Council by Town Manager

Town Manager Mollis gave the following report:

- As you know, we are working diligently on the FY2020 budget in preparation for my presenting the budget at your March 11<sup>th</sup> regularly scheduled meeting. We have tentatively scheduled times for you to meet with Department Heads the evening of Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> and all-day Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Jeannette will be sending out meeting notices shortly. That will be followed by adoption of the preliminary budget on Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, a Public Hearing on April 8<sup>th</sup> and adoption of the final budget on or before May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- I want to let the Council know that the State EMA was in touch with us in regards to assistance and all of us working together to address the National Grid situation on Aquidneck Island. While, fortunately, EMA was able to secure readily available and closer shelter options, the North Kingstown Fire Department did assist by sending a representative to staff the command post overnight to oversee emergency communications and we loaned 4 portable water pumps to be used for flooding in the area. My, and our, thanks to Chief Kettle and the North Kingstown Fire Department.
- At the last Town Council Meeting, the North Kingstown Legislative Delegation requested that we provide them with a list of our 3 - 5 highest legislative priorities. Based on the discussion that took place that evening, my conversations with staff and my professional opinion, I plan on sending them the following and would welcome any comments or suggested revisions from the Council:

- Restoration of RICAP funds for previously approved and important projects to the Town of North Kingstown. While I won't repeat what I stated at the last meeting, RIDOT was cut \$20 million in RICAP funds which addressed various projects throughout the State, including curbing and sidewalks along Post Road and West Main Street and hopeful reimbursement of the portion of Post Road that we, the Town, paved.
- A review of and change to our Affordable Housing Laws. I will work with Planning and send over specific proposals for them to review.
- Support to make the TIF Laws (or new legislation if necessary) allow TIFs to be beneficial to North Kingstown for projects such as Post Road North Sewers and relocation of the National Grid easement on Post Road.
- Support of the School Committee's resolution requesting to allow districts not in the statewide transportation system to receive reimbursement for excess costs associated with transporting students to out of district non-public schools.
- Support of the School Committee's resolution requesting stabilization of state education aid for Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021.

This doesn't mean we won't continue fighting for the many other issues we brought up last meeting. In an effort to provide the delegation with a reasonable list of requests, these appear to be the five priorities we should narrow it down to.

In answer to Councilor McKay's question regarding where we are at with the Audit, Mr. Mollis stated that before the meeting he was notified that we are going to have to request another extension from the Auditor General. He will keep the Council apprised once he speaks with the Auditor General. However, with that said, we are still months ahead of where we have been over the past few years, and he anticipates having the report sometime in February.

President Mancini thanked Mr. Mollis for his report.

#### 17. Economic Development Administrator's Second Quarterly Report (October – December)

Motion by Councilor McKay, seconded by Councilor Elliott and

VOTED: To continue the Economic Development Administrator's Second Quarterly Report to a Council meeting in February.

Councilor Welch voted in the negative.

#### 18. Economic Development Advisory Board Report 2017-2018

Palmer Beebe stated that on behalf of Bjorn Wellenius, Chair of the Economic Development Advisory Board who was unable to attend tonight, the North Kingstown Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB) is pleased to submit to you a report summarizing its activities and results from January 2017 to December 2018. The report includes the Wickford Economic Development Advisory Board (WEDAB), a permanent organ of the EDAB. A report on 2015 and 2016 was sent to the Town Council in January 2017.

During 2017 and 2018 the EDAB continued to work on the Post Road corridor, exploring how growth in Quonset employment could be harnessed to revitalize the area as a thriving, living community. An initiative to engage Post Road businesses and residents, successfully launched in January 2018, is ongoing.

The EDAB identified opportunities among the Town's 179 real estate holdings to facilitate economic development. The final report was presented to the Town Council in September 2017. Sale of some of the identified properties was approved by the voters in April 2018.

The WEDAB supported and provided a forum for public information and discussion on the proposal to sell and develop 55 Brown Street. The voters approved the sale in April 2018. The WEDAB also made recommendations on building guidelines and an ordinance to enable Brown Street businesses to respond to changing trends in the economy while conserving the character of the street, an issue first raised by the WEDAB for public discussion in January 2016. The Town Council approved the guidelines and ordinance in November 2018.

The EDAB is well advanced in the design of metrics for the Town to monitor progress of economic development and provide valuable information for policy formulation and budgeting. Initial findings and recommendations are being discussed with Town management and staff.

Other EDAB and WEDAB activities included supporting the Town's initiative to reduce use of plastic bags, exploring how the EDAB could realistically add value to the debate on solar electricity generation, and initiating joint work of the WEDAB and the Wickford Plan Committee to develop consensus on residential parking in Wickford.

The attached report gives further details.

Clerk's note: A copy of the report is filed with the back-up materials for this agenda item.

The Council thanked the EDAB for their hard work and their report.

In answer to President Mancini's question regarding the Post Road Community and what the practical role of the EDAB is in trying to help revitalize business in the Post Road Community, Mr. Beebe stated that a year ago we started an outreach of Post Road businesses and residents. We formed some working groups and we have been trying to band them together to do something similar to what we have in Wickford.

President Mancini stated that the Governor's budget allows municipalities to opt in to accelerated permitting processes for development purposes. If the budget passes, the Post Road Corridor would be perfect to take advantage of this program and would welcome any thoughts the EDAB would have in designing a program to assist these businesses to take advantage of this process. Mr. Beebe stated that he is familiar with the Quonset model. President Mancini stated that is what the proposal is based on but some of the details still need to be vetted. Mr. Beebe stated that he will look into it; however, the EDAB's role is to advise the Council and advocate for such a program.

Councilor McKay stated that one of the conversations that we have had is what are the obstacles businesses are experiencing and what do we need to do to overcome those obstacles. QDC's permitting program has been instrumental in their success. What they are trying to do is duplicate that program throughout the state with the help of the QDC. One of the things that will come out of this process is that obstacles specific to North Kingstown will be identified.

President Mancini stated that he would like this to be a targeted focus.

Mr. Beebe stated that our biggest obstacle is the National Grid easement. He suggested that the Council review their report Harnessing Quonset and the need for housing for the workers at Quonset. The housing development currently happening on Post Road will improve opportunity for these businesses on Post Road.

#### 19. Report by Council Members who serve on various Committees

Councilor Elliott reported that the Harbor Management Commission is working on getting their Master Plan approved and they are making good progress. They talked about the opening of the Seal Tours in Wickford.

Councilor McKay stated that the Leisure Services Advisory Committee has been able to get a sign for the golf course on Route 403. Maria Balboni has created an App and is planning an event. There is a lot going on at QDC. There is 3,212 acres with 203 companies doing business and over 11,000 jobs, with over \$3 billion in revenue. Electric Boat is expanding. We lost two companies, but with Electric Boat's commitment, we will be adding more than 1,500 jobs over the next few years. Infinity Meat Solutions will be adding 700 jobs. Mr. King has done a wonderful job at QDC and as mentioned earlier, the State is looking to piggy back on his expedited permitting process.

President Mancini stated that this is the first time that QDC has had three Council Members on their board.

Councilor Brimer stated that she attended the EDAB meeting and they are busy putting together a plan/vision for economic development throughout the Town. There is a comprehensive survey that touches deeply on various points and they are compiling that data. She has encouraged them to seek input from residents as well as business owners.

Councilor Welch stated that the Port at Quonset had another record year of product moving in and out of the port which is a positive thing to the State as well as North Kingstown. The School Facilities Subcommittee has not met in several months. He further stated that he spoke with Jeff Broadhead at the Washington County Regional Planning Council and hopes that there will be a meeting scheduled in the near future.

President Mancini stated that the Veterans Day and Memorial Day Parades Committee has not met and he was unable to attend the Groundwater Committee Meeting.

#### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

20. Request that the North Kingstown Legislative Delegation submit Legislation

Town Clerk Alyward stated that staff is requesting that this item be tabled at this time.

Motion by Councilor McKay, seconded by Councilor Welch and unanimously

VOTED: To table the request that the North Kingstown Legislative Delegation submit legislation and seek passage of an Amendment to RIGL 45-2-55 (c).

#### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

21. Discussion/Possible Action – 80 Boston Neck Road – Town Hall

Town Manager Mollis stated his goal tonight is to not monopolize this discussion. While the agenda item says possible action, which would be optimum, his primary goal is to start a discussion on what the next steps are for not only 80 Boston Neck Road but ultimately for this Council to determine where our next government center is going to be.

Mr. Mollis stated that to Mr. Thomas's comments earlier, at no time was there any proposal to remove Memorial Park.

This process began in January 2018 by interviewing architectural firms. We had a presentation last year outlining different options. The long-term goal was to find a permanent home for Town Government. As the Lean Study recommended and as he supported as Manager, it was to have as many town offices if not all under one roof.

The three options that were presented were:

Option 1 – A complete renovation, restoration and expansion of 80 Boston Neck Road to allow for the return of all Town offices and a Council Chambers, approximately 22,000 square feet, at a cost of \$12.5 million of which \$5 million is from the November Bond approval.

Option 2 – Renovation, restoration and expansion of 80 Boston Neck Road to allow the return of most offices, with some offices located off site, and a Council Chambers at a cost of approximately \$8 million, again it includes soft cost and design, of which \$5 million is from the November Bond approval.

Option 3 - Renovation and restoration to allow for a Council Chamber, community use and maybe a few offices or possibly be utilized for some private use. This would require an alternative site for land and building for a Government Center. The cost for this option would be under \$5 million and would be from the November Bond approval.

Mr. Mollis stated that when this was first presented a year ago, he felt that Option 1 would be optimal as we would be making good use of 80 Boston Neck Road and to a place, we could all be proud of. We are fine where we are on 100 Fairway Drive, but it is not a Town Hall. However, after reflecting on this for the last year or so, he shares a lot of the concerns some of the Council Members had, as well as the public, having a good portion of the parking across the street, concerned him.

President Mancini asked if we were to go with Option 3, could we in the future go to Option 2 and/or 1, Mr. Mollis stated that he did speak with the architect with that same question. If we were to restore 80 Boston Neck Road, bring it back to life, put in a Council Chambers and maybe some community space, would we be closing the door to making it a Town Hall someday. He indicated that under the proposal he gave, the answer is yes. However, in the long run the answer would be no. He would have to alter what he presented. We would have to get rid of the addition, add a smaller addition to accommodate the ADA issues, but because of the mechanical issues and flood proofing the basement, we would have to relocate them at ground level. Under the old plan it would be under the \$5 million, if you want to leave the option open to make it a town hall some day you would have to add approximately \$500,000. Again, please remember that we wouldn't have firm costs until we went out to bid.

President Mancini suggested that the Council weigh in to see if they have an appetite to do something more immediately, such as tonight, or preserving other options down the road. Mr. Mollis stated that there are positives to that as well. President Mancini stated that the longer we wait the more expensive it becomes. He would like to gage the appetite of the Council to consider the money allocated by the bond to get that moving tonight and consider other options that we may or may not decide on down the road. He further stated that he would like to hear from the Council Members and then maybe discuss Option 2 or Option 3 conceptually. Mr. Mollis stated that Option 3 has additional pros to it. By moving the Court/Meeting Room and Council Chambers to 80 Boston Neck Road we would then open some space up at 100 Fairway Drive to allow us to handle some significant growing pains. We don't have an office for HR, the Recreation Department is outgrowing its space, and we need to make some changes. That would give us some space but some financial resources for potential expansion. Once we know we are at 100 Fairway Drive for the next five years we would then be able to do more improvements to make it more visitor friendly.

President Mancini stated that again his biggest concern is that the longer we wait the more it will cost. We should have a decent town hall and meeting space.

Councilor Brimer thanked members of the public that have taken the time to put together a lot data related to this particular topic. She distributed/presented an Option 4 as follows:

#### Option for consideration regarding the \$5 million bond for Town Hall

- The taxpayers approved a \$27 million bond and they will receive NO new building or services for this bond.
- We have a unique opportunity to improve the existing assets within the \$5 million approval for the "Town Hall" AND add services needed by the community.
- Bond language was written liberally to allow funds to be used for renovation/repurpose of 80 Boston Neck Road as well as 100 Fairway Drive and The Old Meeting House.
- We can look to our neighbors in South Kingstown as well as Jamestown for inspiration.

80 Boston Neck Road – Utilize this asset for community meeting space. We can borrow from South Kingstown their Neighborhood Guild. Local artists and instructors can utilize space as classrooms or meeting space and profit share registration fees with the Town. The Town can utilize meeting space as needed for boards and commissions as well as other business. Nonprofits can use the space for their monthly meetings, etc.

- Bring the building up to code in its existing condition
- Install an ADA compliant stairwell, elevator and bathrooms
- In 2016 Phil Bergeron's estimated cost for the above suggestion is \$867,000 to \$1.491 million

**\$1.5 million**



100 Fairway Drive – Square off the building with an addition of 5,157 square feet of meeting space/Court Room/Council Chambers. At \$200 square foot, we could add the addition to 100 Fairway Drive for approximately \$1 million. We can look to our neighbors in Jamestown. They added a similar addition to their town hall and built a façade on the building to make it more interesting and aesthetically pleasing.

- Addition - \$1 million
- HVAC \$300,000 - \$500,000
- Exterior Façade - \$300,000

**\$1.8 million**

Old Meeting House – We can finish the restoration on the interior and exterior of the building for up to \$500,000. Again, I believe the depth of the project should be based in part on what becomes of Wickford Elementary.

**\$500,000**

By utilizing this approach to improving our assets, we are becoming fiscally conservative. We will likely be significantly below the \$5 million and improve 3 historic buildings while adding services. I believe the RFP for Wickford Elementary plays an integral role in its long-term purpose in our community. The improvements to all 3 buildings as suggested will not be wasted should we later decide to use Wickford Elementary as the future Town Hall. The Municipal Office Building at 100 Fairway Drive as well as The Old Town Hall, 80 Boston Neck Road will certainly continue to serve the community for programs, meeting space and to conduct municipal business in.

Clerk's note: A full copy and supporting documents are filed with the back-up materials for this agenda item.

President Mancini thanked Councilor Brimer for her work on this. This is the first we are seeing this tonight and thinks that we should have some time to review what Councilor Brimer has presented and distributed. He further stated that he believes there is some urgency to move forward.

Councilor Elliott stated that it has been brought to our attention as a Council the option of Wickford El being used as a Town Hall and she doesn't know if that has been explored and how much it would cost to do so. President Mancini stated that it was explored a number of years ago but could be revisited. All options are on the table.

Councilor McKay stated that he would like to hear what the public has to say about this. Eventually at the end of the day we are all going to vote our pocketbooks. Are we going to vote \$450 square foot to rehab a building that will not house all our staff? There is a company that works with QDC that does Flex space which is new construction for \$150 - \$200 square foot. Are we doing what's best for our taxpayers considering \$450 a square foot for a building that is lacking parking and not big enough for all of our offices. However, if we can come up with a game plan to put the wheels in motion, he is in favor of, but he does want to hear what the public has to say.

Councilor Welch stated that this is a town building that must remain a town building and be taken care of. It was built in 1888, we learned a while back that it was built by the veterans of the civil war and it is a building that is attractive. It is not something that we could or would build today as it would be too expensive. He further stated that he is in disagreement with removing the additions that were put on years ago as he has never viewed them as being out of place on that building. Being a general contractor himself for over 40 years, he doesn't see some of the issues that have been presented. You will never accommodate in that space the people that work for the Town in every department as you don't have the parking and will never be able to generate enough parking. He doesn't feel that everyone needs to be under the same roof. He thinks that the numbers that have been touted are unrealistic but remains to be seen until a final purpose and use is established for the building. He thinks we the Council have to decide what that building is going to be, government use in some fashion or another use still maintained and owned by the Town. Until we make that determination, he doesn't see how we can move

forward. We did do a rather extensive survey of the Wickford El when we put it before the voters and it was turned down.

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Wickford El could still be considered for use as a Town Hall and would require a lot of money but not what we are talking about in the Town Hall. He believes that we need to take care of the historic structure that we once called Town Hall whether used for government or not.

President Mancini stated that everyone feels that we need to take care of our Town assets.

President Mancini opened the floor for public comment.

David Wrenn, 21 Loop Drive, stated that he sent the Council an e-mail earlier today; however, he would like to comment on the issue of the \$5 million. He is unsure what Councilor Brimer was referring to regarding additional funds. Based on what he has been observing since late spring 2018, the discussion of the Town Hall, 80 Boston Neck Road and the presentation on July 9th presented by the architectural firm, there were three options. One was the major build out getting everyone under one roof, and the RIHPHC was totally in favor of that option. As a voter, he relied upon the information he had at hand when he voted his ballot and the FAQ supplied by the Town that the \$5 million was designated specifically for the restoration and rehabilitation of the Town Hall building. If that \$5 million were to be used for other purposes, such as Fairway Drive or Wickford El as far as he is concerned you would be disenfranchising the votes of those that voted for that bond. He further stated that he is glad to hear that there is a way to phase in the build out over time and we should move forward without delay.

George Brennan, 70 Boone Street, stated that he is in favor of spending \$12 million for Option 1. As a resident, he can't understand why we can't do something great for the Town as we deserve better. He further stated that he is disappointed with the "small thinking".

Amy Sonder, 30 Elam Street, stated that she agrees with Mr. Wrenn and Mr. Brennan and now is the time to look at the big pictures.

Sunny Albanese stated that she likes Councilor Brimer's proposal and thinks that 100 Fairway Drive works fine.

Paul Plotkin, 31 Jasmine Circle, stated that the Council needs to figure out what they are going to do with Town Hall as well as Wickford El.

Carol Gibson, 9 Spink Street, stated that the idea of having a community Guild is fabulous but the Peace Dale Guild is privately funded. Right now, unless we have that type of endowment, we are comparing apples and oranges. We brag a lot about historic North Kingstown and it is time we put our money where our mouth is. We are either a historic Town and take care of historic properties or we are not, we can't have it both ways.

Councilor McKay stated this is a complicated discussion. To accuse someone of being small minded on this Council after what we have been through over the last few years is a mistake. We are going to have some very complicated discussions as we go forward. We made a commitment that \$5 million would be spent on Town Hall and he doesn't think that we can do anything less than that.

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to postpone any decision and further discussion to the next meeting to give the Council time to review Councilor Brimer's proposal.

22. Support of School Committee Resolution – State Categorical Aid Funding –  
Transportation

Motion by Councilor Welch, seconded by Councilor McKay and unanimously

VOTED: To support the North Kingstown School Committee's Resolution requesting that the Rhode Island General Assembly amend RIGL 16-7.26(e) to allow districts not in the statewide transportation system to receive reimbursement for excess costs associated with transporting students to out of district non-public schools; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: To forward this vote of support to Governor Raimondo, Senate President, Speaker of the House, and the North Kingstown Legislative Delegation.

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23. Support of School Committee Resolution – State Education Funding Formula

Motion by Councilor McKay, seconded by Councilor Welch and unanimously

VOTED: To support the North Kingstown School Committee's Resolution requesting that the RI General Assembly stabilize the level of state educational aid for Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021 at an amount no less than the highest level of state educational aid funding between either Fiscal Year 2018 or Fiscal Year 2019 funding except for adjustments based on enrollment changes; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: To forward this vote of support to Governor Raimondo, Senate President, Speaker of the House, and the North Kingstown Legislative Delegation.

24. Discussion/Possible Action – Legalization of Recreational Marijuana

Councilor Welch stated that Governor Raimondo has come out and said that she would support legislation to make recreational marijuana legal in Rhode Island and he disagrees with it on many levels. As a State, we have an obligation to protect our children and remain moral in the things we do. The State is taking the position on many items that we consider not lawful but is lawful for the State such as lottery, casino gambling, and sports gambling. Everything that we are not supposed to do the State has decided to do in the name of raising money. He feels that we need to send a resolution to the governor and general assembly not in support of legalizing marijuana. Beyond the reason he just mentioned, it is a problem for employers such as EB who is a defense contractor to not have people test positive for drugs. It is also a problem for municipalities that hire police, fire, school bus drivers, and teachers. They are going to be able to legally use the drug. Do I want my children or grandchildren in the school where we have teachers, custodians, and bus drivers that come to work legally high on drugs? It creates a chance for unsafe working conditions and is difficult for any employer. He has distributed a copy of a resolution that he would like the Council to consider.

President Mancini asked if Councilor Welch is looking for a motion and discussion. Councilor Welch stated that if you want to have discussion tonight and move the resolution to the next agenda, he is fine with that, but feels this is something that the Council should attend to. We have had enough social changes in our state and country, and this is one that he thinks that we shouldn't tolerate. We need to start putting up a wall and say enough is enough.

President Mancini stated that he thinks that this resolution is short enough to vote on but he will not be voting for this.

Ms. Alyward asked if it would be helpful if she read the proposed resolution for the public.

President Mancini stated that would be helpful.

Ms. Alyward read the proposed resolution as follows:

A Resolution in opposition of the legalization of recreational marijuana in the State of Rhode Island

WHEREAS, the sale and use of marijuana is not allowed under federal law; and

WHEREAS, it would not allow employers to refuse employment to an applicant who uses marijuana; and

WHEREAS, it would not be grounds for the dismissal of an employee; and

WHEREAS, it would increase the opportunity for an unsafe workplace environment; and

WHEREAS, it would allow public safety employees, bus drivers, and teachers to use marijuana; and

WHEREAS, it would create an unsafe and inappropriate situation for our school children; and

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WHEREAS, it would cause a hiring problem for Rhode Island's defense industry like Electric Boat.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Town Council of North Kingstown opposes any effort to legalize the sale of marijuana for recreational purposes in the State of Rhode Island and the Town of North Kingstown; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Raimondo, Senate President, Speaker of the House, and the North Kingstown Legislative Delegation.

Councilor Elliott stated that if we vote on this resolution tonight, she will not vote for it.

President Mancini stated that if someone comes to work high, they can get fired which can easily be a condition of employment. If they are unable to do their job or are an endanger to other workers, they can be fired just like if they come to work drunk. He thinks some of the information in the resolution is inaccurate. The governor did put this in her budget reluctantly and the rationale was that it is legal in Massachusetts and Connecticut and will be in Rhode Island whether we like it or not. Councilor Welch raised a good point relative to Electric Boat; however, Quonset is aware and will not allow recreational use on Quonset grounds as it is against federal law. President Mancini stated that he will not vote for this as there are many inaccuracies; however, he feels that marijuana is here to stay.

Councilor Welch stated that he would like the Council to think about this and put it on the next agenda. He just wants to be sure that the Council's concerns are heard, some of the items in his resolutions may not be accurate, and he is not concerned with that. He doesn't find it a valid reason to support the state's budget.

President Mancini stated that he appreciates Councilor Welch's comments, but doesn't think he will change his mind regarding this.

Councilor McKay stated that he thinks that as a taxpayer he doesn't want to see any more of his tax dollars spent on fighting something that we have been fighting for over 60 years with no success. The reality today is that they are finding out medical benefits to marijuana. People have using it for years and we have tried everything to stop people without success. The bottom line is that parents should take an active role with their children and promote not doing drugs.

After a brief discussion, Councilor Welch made a motion to pass his resolution.

There was no second.

Motion failed.

25. Discharge of the Wickford Design Guidelines Steering Committee

Motion by Councilor McKay, seconded by Councilor Elliott and unanimously

VOTED: To discharge the Wickford Design Guidelines Steering Committee; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: That the Town Council send letters of appreciation to the following Members in recognition of their dedicated service to the Town of North Kingstown:

Jeffrey Shapiro  
Natalie Colletta  
Palmer Beebe  
Linda Piedra  
Gail Hallock Cyr  
Peter Galster  
Janelle Feigly

## 26. Correspondence

- An e-mail from Bill Mudge following up on his comments at the last Council Meeting.
- An e-mail from Jim Berson expressing his concerns about the Town's lack of rules and regulations of the pending legalization of recreational marijuana and zoning ordinances.
- An e-mail from Albert Dahlberg from Brown University about the renewable energy project on Dry Bridge Road.
- An e-mail from David Fogg expressing concern for a consolidation of the Wickford Economic Development Advisory Board (WEDAB) and the Wickford Plan Committee (WPC), citing the importance of both commercial and resident representation. He also expressed concerns for parking in Wickford and urged the Town to conduct a professional study and sent a draft of a parking ordinance.
- An e-mail from Joan Ehrhardt (co-chair of the WPC) clarifying that the WPC and WEDAB are working together to come up with a draft to recommend to the Town Council, per our request. They have already had a couple of successful meetings and are continuing to work on it.
- An invitation from Hamilton Elementary School to read to the students during reading week (last week of February).
- Invitations from the North Kingstown Chamber of Commerce for ribbon cutting ceremonies at Radiance Yoga Studio on West Main Street and Fish n' Tales Adventures, who are running seal tours on weekends and school breaks from the Wickford dock behind Rite Aid through April.
- An e-mail from David Wrenn expressing his support of the full build out option presented by DBVW for the Town Hall.
- An e-mail from David Andrews inquiring about the Dry Bridge Road solar project.
- An e-mail from Tim Wasco regarding his support of the full build out option presented by DBVW of the Town Hall. He also included some creative solutions to the crosswalk concerns.
- An e-mail from Linda Piedra suggesting the Town have a number of professional studies done before any decisions are made regarding the Town Hall.
- An e-mail from Amy Sonder urging the Town to look into using the Wickford Elementary School as a potential spot for a new Town Hall.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Jeannette Alyward  
Town Clerk