

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 22nd day of January, 2018 at the Beechwood Senior Center, 44 Beach Street, at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT WERE: Richard A. Welch, President
 Doreen M. Costa
 Kevin V. Maloney
 Kerry P. McKay
 Ellen S. Waxman (arrived at 6:30 p.m.)

ALSO PRESENT: A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager
 Jeannette Alyward, Town Clerk
 Susan A. Murray, Deputy Town Clerk
 Matthew J. Callaghan, Town Solicitor
 James Callaghan, Assistant Town Solicitor

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of North Kingstown held on January 22, 2018 was called to order by President Welch.

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 Maloney and unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn into Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4 and 42-46-5, Subsection (1) – Personnel (Town Solicitors’ Review), Subsection (2) – Litigation (M.L. Hawk Realty, LLC, Mark L. Hawkins, Joshua L. Hawkins, and JAMM Golf, LLC vs Town of North Kingstown and North Kingstown Town Council), Subsection (2) – Potential Litigation (Employment Related Claim), and Subsection (2) – Negotiations (Fire Department – FLSA) – by the following Roll Call Vote:

Doreen M. Costa	-	Aye
Kevin V. Maloney	-	Aye
Kerry P. McKay	-	Aye
Richard A. Welch	-	Aye

MEETING RECONVENED AT 7:18 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

President Welch led those in attendance in saluting the flag.

5. Public Comment

Rachael Mello, 92 Mockingbird Drive, handed out pictures showing the intersection of Fairway Drive and Boston Neck Road. She stated that there are no crosswalks for the walkers, runners, and North Kingstown High School athletes to use while training and that the vegetation and shrubs are in the line of site making it difficult to see when trying to cross the street. She asked the Town Council to add more sidewalks on Annaquatucket Road and Fairway Drive. She believes more signage would also be helpful.

Jennifer Moody, 89 Red Maple Terrace, stated that she is here to speak on the Pet Refuge and the tax exemption status that is being reconsidered by the Town Council this evening. She further stated that the Pet Refuge helps the North Kingstown Animal Shelter because they can take in animals to help reduce the load. Because the Pet Refuge relies on donations and volunteers, this exemption would truly benefit the organization by helping them to continue their work. She truly believes if they lose this exemption, the Town could lose a great organization which would place more of a work load on the North Kingstown Animal Shelter. She asked that the Town Council please keep the tax exemption that has already been approved.

Laurence Ehrhardt, 49 Main Street, read the following two (2) letters into the record:

RE: Brown Street Annex Building

“Historic Wickford Inc. (HistWick) is a nonprofit organization established to preserve, protect and celebrate the cultural and historic features of Wickford and its environs. HistWick strives to enhance the beauty of our village, preserve its architectural integrity, protect its harbor and the surrounding bay and improve the quality of life for all who live in or visit the village. Membership is open to all and currently is comprised of about 75 households.

HistWick’s Board of Directors has reviewed the proposal from Chef Eve Clulow, LLC and the newspaper coverage of your January 8 Council Meeting. We make particular note of the applicant’s statement “The plan would be to keep the integrity of the original building, both on the exterior and interior,...”; and of Council President Welch’s statement that the Council “will make certain that the property is protected ad infinitum”.

Based on those representations, the Board wishes to endorse the proposal as keeping within the style and tone, and potentially enhancing the vitality of our historic village.

Recognizing that the ballot question may be for a blanket authorization to sell the property, we feel it is important to clarify and deal with the following issues before going to the polls:

1. How will the preservation protections described above be documented and ensured?
2. The building is presently part of a 1.35 acre parcel. Exactly how much land is to be conveyed as part of the transaction? What will be the impact on Library Park?
3. Construction of an outdoor deck raises the likelihood of exterior noise and lighting. Noise and music can carry over long distances from an elevated waterfront location. An ordinance must be crafted to limit such intrusion on the surrounding area.

Submitted on behalf of the HistWick Board of Directors”

And

RE: Wickford Design Guidelines

“Last November the Planning Department held a pair of well-advertised public workshops to obtain community input regarding the creation of guidelines for Brown and Phillips Streets. Straw polls conducted at the end of each session showed strong support for creating such guidelines and placing Brown Street under HDC protection to preserve the historic character of our village while allowing for economic growth.

At its meeting of December 4, the Wickford Design Guidelines Steering Committee, appointed by the Town, voted by a margin of 6 to 1 to instruct the project consultant to develop a set of guidelines to be administered within the structure of the existing Historic District Commission.

The Board of HistWick supports that decision for the following reasons:

1. All of Wickford’s commercial properties on Main and West Main Streets are already subject to HDC jurisdiction – this would put everyone on an equal footing.
2. Many properties along Brown and Phillips Streets are located within 200 feet of a coastal feature and thus are already subject to CRMC jurisdiction. Since they are also located in a National Register Historic District, the CRMC will refer applications concerning those properties to the RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission. Oversight by the local HDC could be far more expeditious.

- 3. Nine of our eleven directors are property owners within the Wickford Historic District. As such, we are experienced with the HDC process and find it to be workable and worthwhile. (In fact, many of the stories about difficulties with the HDC emanate from people who have unfortunately sought to disregard that process.)

Due to all the pending activity in Wickford, we urge the Town to proceed expeditiously with development and implementation of the design guidelines.

On behalf of the HistWick Board of Directors”.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Councilor McKay, seconded by Councilor Costa and unanimously

VOTED: To approve Consent Agenda Item Numbers 6 through 19 as presented with the exception of Agenda Item Numbers 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 17, and 19.

- 6. Approval of Minutes

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 11, 2017 as submitted by the Office of the Town Clerk.

- 7. Tax Abatement List #813

VOTED: To approve Tax Abatement List #813 submitted by Linda Cwiek, Tax Assessor, in the amount of \$3,161.91; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: That overpayments, if any, resulting from these abatements are hereby approved for refund by the Tax Collector.

- 8. Receipt of Donations

Motion by President Welch, seconded by Councilor Maloney and unanimously

VOTED: To accept with gratitude the following donations in the amount of \$4,025.00:

For: Beechwood Senior Center	
To be used for the General Escrow	
From: Gilda Schroeder	\$ 25.00
For: Beechwood Senior Center	
To be used for Instructors	
From: North Kingstown Senior Association	\$4,000.00

- 9. Letter of Resignation

VOTED: To accept the letter of resignation from Michelle Girasole, resigning from the Economic Development Advisory Board, and that the Town Council send a letter of appreciation to her for her dedicated service she gave to the Town of North Kingstown.

- 10. Award of Bid

Motion by President Welch, seconded by Councilor Waxman and unanimously

VOTED: To award the bid for Microsoft 365 System Integration and Implementation Services to Atrion, A Carousel Company, 125 Metro Center Boulevard, Warwick, RI 02886, in the amount of \$25,250.00.

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

President Welch asked the Town Manager to speak with the School Department and investigate the possibility of consolidating the Information Technology Departments.

11. Award of Bid

Motion by President Welch, seconded by Councilor Waxman and unanimously

VOTED: To award the bid for Data Center Virtualization Equipment Refresh (Option 2) to Atrion, A Carousel Company, 125 Metro Center Boulevard, Warwick, RI 02886, in the amount of \$47,890.73.

Funding for this purchase is from Data Processing, Office Equipment Maintenance Account 00105050-531004.

12. Award of Bid

Motion by President Welch, seconded by Councilor Waxman and unanimously

VOTED: To award the purchase of Microsoft Office 365 (Plan E3) to CDW Government, 75 Remittance Drive, Suite 1515, Chicago, IL 60675-1515, in the amount of \$41,442.75.

This purchase is budgeted from Account Number 00105050-531004.

13. Bingo License (new)

VOTED: To approve the application for a Bingo License by North Kingstown Lions Club, 77 Bayview Avenue, to hold a Bingo on Saturday, February 17, 2018, at the Cold Spring Community Center, 30 Beach Street, from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., subject to taxes and water paid to date.

14. Holiday Sales License (new)

Councilor Maloney stated that the Ordinance is not consistent as it states Sunday Sales and Holidays. Town Clerk Alyward stated that State Law changed several years ago eliminating the requirement to have a "Sunday Sales" License. She further stated that she will prepare an amendment to the Ordinance for a First Reading at the Council's next meeting.

Motion by Councilor Maloney, seconded by Councilor Costa and unanimously

VOTED: To approve to July 1, 2018 the application for a Holiday Sales License by Weight Watchers North America, Inc., 1051 Ten Rod Road, Building 2, Unit 1, subject to taxes and water paid to date and approval from the Building Official and the Fire Marshall.

15. Peddler License Renewals

VOTED: To approve to February 1, 2019 the attached list, as submitted, of Peddler License Renewals, subject to taxes and water paid to date and receipt of the following:

1. RI Retail Sales Tax Permit
2. Rhode Island Department of Health Certificate (if necessary)
3. Litter Tax Permit (if necessary)
4. Letter of consent from the property owner where vending (if stationary)
5. Motor Vehicle Registration (if necessary)

NK#	Cat.	Business Name	DBA	Mailing Address	Location	Phone	Reg #	Email	Perm. Driver	Town	State	Zip	SPARES
32	1	David J Constant	dba DJC Catering /Topshef Catering	58 Howard Hill Road	Catering	578-8379	RI 62828		David Constant	Foster	RI	02825	NONE
30	1	William Ricci	Ricci's Catering	40 Nottingham Dr	Catering	487-1717	RI137658	WRICCI6215@COX.NE I	William Ricci	Hope	RI	02831	NONE
94	1	Greg Evron	dba Kettle Korn Express	298 Shippeetown Rd	Various	401-263-4800	RI33162	ge6262@aol.com	Greg Evron	East Greenwich	RI	02818	NONE
86	1	Rhode Island Kona, LLC	Kona Ice of Warwick/EG	4 Cider Lane	Mobile	949-5073	RI 21700	bbouchard@kona-ice.com	Joyce Bouchard	Greenville	RI	02878	ROBERT BOUCHARD
40	1	John J. McCullough, Jr.	dba John's Catering	120 Roth Road	Catering	263-1661	CT L16311		John J. McCullough, Jr.	Dayville	CT	06241	NONE

ALL TAXES/WATER ASSESSMENTS HAVE BEEN PAID FOR THE ABOVE APPLICANTS *Bar Puer* COLL DEPT
 DATE 1/17/18

16. Victualling License (renewal)

VOTED: To approve to December 1, 2018 the application for renewal of a Victualling License by the North Kingstown Soccer Association, PO Box 96, subject to taxes and water paid to date.

17. First Reading – Amendment to Chapter 2, Division 11 by amending Section 2-389

Councilor McKay stated that the Council received an e-mail from Bjorn Wellenius stating that the Economic Development Advisory Board does not feel it is necessary to increase the membership of their Committee from 7 members to 9 members.

Motion by Councilor McKay, seconded by Councilor Costa and

VOTED: To withdraw the First Reading of an Ordinance in Amendment of Chapter 2, Division 11 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of North Kingstown, entitled, “North Kingstown Economic Development Advisory Board” by amending Section 2-389, entitled, “Created; appointment; composition”.

Councilor Maloney, Councilor Waxman, and President Welch voted in the negative.

Motion failed.

Motion by Councilor Waxman, seconded by Councilor Maloney and

VOTED: That this shall constitute the First Reading of an Ordinance in Amendment of Chapter 2, Division 11 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of North Kingstown, entitled, “North Kingstown Economic Development Advisory Board” by amending Section 2-389, entitled, “Created; appointment; composition”, and that this be advertised and referred to the Regular Town Council Meeting of March 5, 2018 for Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption.

Councilor Costa and Councilor McKay voted in the negative.

Councilor Maloney stated that the members of the Economic Development Advisory Board can come to the Public Hearing and present their case as to why they are not in favor of this.

18. First Reading – Amendment to Section 3-6 and Section 3-8

Motion by Councilor McKay, seconded by Councilor Costa and unanimously

VOTED: That this shall constitute the First Reading of an Ordinance in Amendment of Section 3-6 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of North Kingstown, entitled, “Redemption of impounded animals; adoption” and Section 3-8, entitled, “Confinement of certain dogs and other animals; emergency destruction”, and that this be advertised and referred to the Regular Town Council Meeting of March 5, 2018 for Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption.

19. First Reading - Amendment to Chapter 19

Councilor Maloney stated that he would like to propose an amendment to section (b) by adding:

(b) In accordance with Section 44-5-3(c) of the Rhode Island General Laws, the Town of North Kingstown hereby authorizes its assessor to levy a tax on renewable energy tangible property of commercial energy systems, as defined in 39-26-5 in accordance with the rules and regulations executed by the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources with the following exception.

Councilor Maloney also suggested that the Clerk review the formatting of the sub letters and the outline format.

Motion by Councilor Maloney, seconded by Councilor McKay and unanimously

VOTED: That this shall constitute the First Reading of an Ordinance in Amendment of Chapter 19 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of North Kingstown, entitled, "Taxation", by adding Section 19-41, entitled, "Taxation of Renewable Energy Systems", as amended, and that this be advertised and referred to the Regular Town Council Meeting of March 5, 2018 for Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption.

The Town Council took Agenda Item Number 31 next.

31. Refund of a Water Service Fee

Motion by Councilor Costa, seconded by Councilor McKay and unanimously

VOTED: To approve the request for a refund of a water service fee, in the amount of \$1,383.53, paid by William Zelazny, for property located at 1474 Ten Rod Road.

The Town Council took Agenda Item Number 20 next.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

20. Naming of the Municipal Offices Court/Meeting Room

Town Manager Mollis stated that this request came from the Groundwater Committee. In accordance with the adopted policy, the Council is required to hold a public hearing within 90 days.

Motion by Councilor Maloney, seconded by Councilor McKay and unanimously

VOTED: To open the Public Hearing.

There was no public comment.

Motion by Councilor Costa, seconded by Councilor McKay and unanimously

VOTED: To close the Public Hearing.

Councilor Maloney stated that his only concern is if we move into a larger building and we have a separate Town Council meeting room or other large meeting rooms, it's not clear which rooms would be named. Ms. Alyward stated that we are suggesting that in the event the municipal offices move, this honor would be transferred to a specific room to be determined.

Councilor Waxman stated that when she thinks about Councilor Hueston and what she stood for, and what a fitting legacy would be, naming a court room after her doesn't seem to feel right. She was a school teacher, a School Committee Member, and a Town Council Member. She remembers Councilor Hueston being connected to preserving the groundwater, and she stood for so much more. She further stated that to her it doesn't seem that naming a court room after her is the right thing, especially coming from the Groundwater Committee.

She is surprised they didn't come up with something that was conservation related such as a public garden with bees and butterflies. She feels that it's not the right fit and would like to honor her legacy but naming a court room after her doesn't seem right to her.

Motion by Councilor McKay, seconded by Councilor Costa and unanimously

VOTED: To grant the request by the Groundwater Committee to name the Municipal Offices Court/Meeting Room in honor of Carol H. Hueston; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: If the Municipal Offices relocate, this honor would be transferred to a specific Meeting/Court Room in that location.

IV. REPORTS

21. Report to Town Council by Town Manager

Town Manager Mollis gave the following report:

- I participated in a conference call on Wednesday with the Governor, members of her staff and other Managers and Mayors throughout Rhode Island as an introduction and briefing to her budget that she rolled out later that afternoon. Obviously municipal leaders have been concerned about the impact of this upcoming budget due to the significant deficit the State has to cover.

Fortunately the shared aid, state PILOT, car tax phase out and other municipal programs are all fully funded in the upcoming budget. North Kingstown will experience a slight increase in meals, beverage and hotel revenue while experiencing a slight decrease in library aid.

Of course, as we know, FY2019 is year 8 of the education aid funding formula and the North Kingstown School Department, under this formula, will receive \$551,000 less than last year while the state is actually providing \$6 million more than last year to the school districts statewide. The budget will also introduce the School Construction Program where the state will accept, in some cases, a larger responsibility of the funding depending on the nature of the projects.

This is a very brief summary of the call and the budget. I will cover this much more in detail when I present my budget in the coming months.

- Jim Lathrop and I attended the Asset Management Commission Meeting last week. In answering their questions, I brought them up to date on the many projects you and we have in process and advised them our position and plans on many capital matters. I thought the meeting went well. I thanked them for their service and they are finishing up and I believe are on track for presenting their CIP on February 5th.
- As you know, we were successful in our RI Energy Challenge. The Town was responsible for 365 requests for energy audits. As a result, we have qualified for the \$10,000 grant for us on an energy efficiency project. I have been in contact with Melinda Howard and will be in contact with Matthew Ray of National Grid to begin coordinating the grant and also an announcement for this spring.
- We have finished our interviews as a result of the RFQ we put forward for Town Hall. We will be meeting with a potential Architect who the committee seemed to feel would be a good fit to determine the scope, plans and possible cost. I expect to review this with you at the February 5th Meeting and for time purposes, hope to have your approval to move forward with the Architect and the project on the 5th.
- A quick update on Wickford El – as you know, Andy Kinnecom's most recent communication with me advised that he would be getting back to us by January 19th. He notified me on Friday that he has been out of town and his attorney has been tied up and advised that he expects to respond to the Town by the end of the month. He will update me by the end of this week.

- Since the 1990's, the Town of North Kingstown has participated in the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System, or CRS. It is a voluntary program for recognizing and encouraging community floodplain management activities exceeding minimum standards. Any community in full compliance with the minimum floodplain management requirements may apply to join the CRS.

It is a lengthy and detailed process that helps us have our flood insurance discount to policyholders. We are submitting our annual recertification, due February 1st, and next year we will have our full recertification – something that is done every five years.

One of the annual requirements is an annual update on our Hazard Mitigation Plan and a progress report. Our Hazard Mitigation Plan Progress Report is included in your backup material. We are working with the RI Emergency Management Agency to have our plan fully adopted by their agency. As you can see from the report, there are several goals and plans within the report ranging from reducing risks during natural hazards, ensuring safety of children and vulnerable population, having our emergency services operational and much more.

Part of this requirement is that we share this report, and our progress, with you, the local governing body. I want to share this with you and thank the various departments and staff involved in updating this for their efforts on this important matter and on a matter which also financially benefits many of our residents.

- As you know, we are part of a multi-community consortium where East Greenwich is the host community for the administration of the CDBG Program. Late last year, East Greenwich has ceased being the host community and administrator for the consortium. As a result, Geoff Marchant will be retiring on January 31st.

Because compliance is complex and the administrative responsibility can be time consuming, Geoff has been working on a replacement entity for communities like ours. The Washington County Community Development Corporation has agreed to assume this role. An RFP was advertised and the Community Development Corporation was the only respondent. West Greenwich, Exeter, Richmond, Hopkinton have all agreed to participate. South Kingstown and Charlestown will be participating. And, Narragansett is currently reviewing the proposal. The projected expense is approximately the same as it is currently. I wanted to let the Town Council know that I will be electing to continue participation as well. Geoff is here on another matter so if you had any questions, he or I would be glad to respond.

In answer to Councilor Costa's question as to the status of the car tax reductions, Mr. Mollis stated they have been told that the reimbursement to cities and towns will be fully funded this year.

In answer to President Welch's question what the status is of PRISM, Mr. Mollis stated that he joined Narragansett and South Kingstown in an RFP to finish Phase 2. PRISM will be bidding on the project.

In answer to President Welch's question what the status is of the Golf Course restaurant and golf carts, Mr. Mollis stated that he will have both items on the February 5th agenda.

22. Report by the Finance Director

President Welch stated that he heard that Mr. Lathrop and Mr. Mollis put on an excellent presentation at the Asset Management Commission Meeting.

Finance Director Lathrop stated that at the last meeting, we spoke about the December finances, and basically the revenues shortfall and expenditures are on the positive side and projecting about a \$100,000 deficit, which is statistically a break even. We have had good collections in part because of the tax code change. He further stated that we are in a much better place than we thought we would be in the past months. Right now we are concentrating on the budget and we will hopefully have some good news when the Town Manager presents his budget to the Council.

In answer to Councilor McKay's question on how we went from a big deficit to a minimal deficit and what did we cut, Mr. Lathrop stated that he is ultra conservative. We are projecting a 98.5% collection rate, plus we haven't had a lot of overtime, are doing better collecting police detail billing, are doing better on how we record stuff, and how we get reimbursed. It has been a team effort.

In answer to Councilor McKay's question if you have a delinquency on a tax bill how quickly is that reported out and what is the grace period, Mr. Lathrop stated that we don't report it that quickly but on an annual basis. For example, if it is a motor vehicle tax delinquency, we report to the DMV and we also use a collection agency for delinquent taxes. We have also started a conversation with the State regarding an income tax offset program where if you owe taxes to the Town of North Kingstown, the State would send what is owed to the Town from that taxpayers refund. Councilor McKay stated that he is efficient paying his taxes on a timely basis. However, he received a notice regarding interest owed as his payment was processed several days after the check was written, and he received several notices regarding a \$20.00 interest penalty that was due. Mr. Lathrop stated that we do charge interest at the end of the month, but is not aware how we send out those notices. In answer to Councilor McKay's question who is this reported to, Mr. Lathrop stated that whoever makes the payment. Ms. Alyward stated that the Town does not report to any credit agencies.

Mr. Mollis stated that one of the reasons why we were able to reduce that deficit is that we have been very aggressive in reducing our expenditures.

Councilor Maloney stated that every month this deficit has been reduced significantly. He further stated that one of the goals was selling off town surplus items and asked if there are any items that could be sold, perhaps at some type of yard sale event. Mr. Lathrop stated that not to be disrespectful, but to sell a chair will not help supplement a \$100 million budget. However, we have started using Munibid, where we sold several of our police cars. Munibid could be used as a tool to sell some of these surplus items. Councilor Maloney stated this could be an effective way to do a spring cleaning to get rid of these items that we no longer need or use.

Councilor Waxman stated that she concurs that it is a drop in the bucket compared to our budget. She doesn't think it's a bad idea and would support holding some type of yard sale. She suggested that we expand on that idea and have a community yard sale and have residents donate items, and those funds could be used to fund a Keep North Kingstown Beautiful Program.

The Council thanked Mr. Lathrop for his update.

23. Report by Council Members who serve on various committees.

Councilor McKay reported that the QDC is doing very well. Ship Count is up and revenues are holding.

Councilor Costa stated that she was unable to attend the Information Technology Advisory Committee Meeting, but everything is moving along and the website will be rolled out soon. They are doing a great job.

Councilor Waxman stated that the Arts Council Meeting was cancelled this month.

Councilor Maloney reported that the Economic Development Advisory Board held the Post Road discussion which was well attended by Council Members, the Town Manager, Senator Sheehan, 30 businesses and residents. There was a good round table discussion and a video is posted on our Web page. The Wickford Economic Development Advisory Board discussed the annex and Wickford Design Guideline updates. The Wickford Plan Committee had a more in depth discussion of the Annex Project and the Wickford Design Guidelines as well as the Solar Ordinances. Though supportive, they raised concerns about the Historic Preservation of the Annex and which body will be overseeing the project and the public having the opportunity to voice concerns before the final contract is signed. There were also strong concerns expressed over the Wickford Design Guidelines vote regarding the Historic District vote.

President Welch stated that the School Facilities Subcommittee met and reviewed the RIDE's Architect's report on the schools construction and rehabilitation projects. The School has put together a Phase 1 and Phase 2 report for the next five years and asked that the Town Clerk secure a copy of the spreadsheets for the Council which will be forthcoming. He feels it's important that the Council sees what they are asking for approval for state aid funding. This report is required and the State has control over any expenditure over \$500,000. In essence, they are protecting the local taxpayers by making sure that the local school committees are not doing work on buildings that maybe closed in the next five years, making sure they are going about it the right way, and we receive a return on the investment. The facilities voted to send this extensive report to the School Committee prior to the submittal to RIDE.

The Town Council recessed the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

The Council reconvened the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

V. OLD BUSINESS

24. Increase capacity for making progress towards Economic Development Priorities – Discussion and possible vote (requested by Councilor Waxman)

Councilor Waxman stated that she has proposed this item for discussion as she is interested in improving Economic vitality in accelerating progress in Town especially Post Road. She thought about why there has been a decline on Post Road, such contributing factors as the close of the military base, construction of highways, economic downturn, lack of sewers, and change of shopping trends and more. We understand why there has been a decline but she wants to understand why there has been no improvement. She believes that it is because the Town has not strategically and aggressively responded to these changes. A few days ago someone remarked on social media that parts of Post Road looked like a war zone. She took a drive yesterday and she thought the same. New housing, sewers, zoning changes, and streamlining the regulatory process is progress, but for her it is not enough progress. We have waited long enough for the property owners to do something with their vacant buildings and empty lots. Post Road has been subject to inconsistent development patterns. What is needed is an overall vision, a strategic plan, and a coordinated approach by someone who will give us an advantage for success. The Post Road Corridor Plan is a 70 page document that offers a lot of direction. It provides vision and key actions that can improve the overall quality and value of the area. Even though it is 12 years old, she believes it still makes sense. She proposes that we dust it off and do something with it. Our current staff does a great job, but she doesn't feel that we have the staff capacity to drive the effort to make the progress we are looking for. If it did in the 12 years that the plan was created, we would have seen more progress. We need a seasoned economic development professional who has the experience and qualifications to lead the transformation we are looking for. Tonight she is looking for Council support to fund this position. While we are in office, don't we want to shape the future of Post Road? She personally would like to be a part of that. She would like to make a motion to fund adding a position for Economic Development.

President Welch asked if there is a second.

Councilor Costa asked what the position would pay. Councilor Waxman stated that we had an Economic Development Manager a few years ago and expects that it would start at that salary or more. It could be a staff position or a 2-3 year contract which wouldn't necessarily have the benefits that a full-time employee would have. She further stated that she would leave that to the Manager and Finance Director to advise on. Councilor Costa stated that she likes the idea and would second the motion if she had more information on the funding of this position. She can't second this motion yet until she knows what it will cost the taxpayers. Councilor Waxman stated that she believes the last Economic Development Manager was paid \$75,000 per year; she also has a document that he brought in \$2 million in grants which well pays for this position. He also secured an additional \$400,000 subject to final approval. It is the responsibility of someone of that nature to focus on maximizing revenue to the Town, tax and non tax revenue so we can become less dependent on taxpayer dollars. There are 70 pages of recommendations in the Post Road Corridor Plan and she feels that we shouldn't have a piece meal approach. We need to take the bull by the horns. The Post Road Corridor Plan talked about creating two village areas, which would require reconfiguring some of the properties. This is an important step to take before we implement the façade improvement program.

The plan talks about public/private partnerships and there are some broad conceptual decisions that we could be making if we had someone that had that sort of experience. She fully believes that a position like this would not only pay for itself, but would also revitalize the Town, generate more revenue, and would be a win/win for all.

President Welch asked if there was second.

Councilor Maloney seconded the motion to keep the conversation going.

Councilor Maloney stated that he agrees with certain aspects of this and feels we need changes to the Post Road Corridor Plan. When we made modifications a few years ago, the Planning Department agreed it needed to be revisited. We did address some of the hurdles, but there was a realization that it was out of date and needed to be looked at. He hopes this will come back to the Council this coming year. As far as the position goes, he gets a little nervous as we are a small town, and he doesn't know we can handle a department per say. He would like to know what other communities do. To him one of the functions he would like to see more of is the outreach and marketing part of the position. It is one thing to have people available to direct prospective businesses, but reaching out to various corporations and companies to "chat" us up to market North Kingstown is important as well. At the time, we discussed this marketing part be provided by a third party and he doesn't necessarily agree with that due to the cost. If that function was something we focused on, he could see something happening. He would like to see this department/position be under the Town Manager and not the Planning Department, which is a different discussion. Again, the Marketing component is key.

Councilor McKay stated that he is confused. We are talking about Economic Development yet we vote against a project that would have funded this position as it would have provided \$600,000 in tax revenue. The Manager has stated that we need an HR Director more than any other position. Post Road is going to get the benefit it needs down the road; the EDAB is focusing on Post Road and getting people in involved. What is needed now is that we promote community involvement. The demographics are not fantastic for businesses to move in. Sewers are vital to this area. He can't vote in favor of creating a position because we have other needs and priorities that need to be looked at.

In answer to President Welch's question if the Town Manager can speak to what other cities and towns have economic development departments, Mr. Mollis stated that he can do some research on the methodology aspect. He did poll some cities/towns as to what they have for Economic Development. For the most part, for communities within the south county area economic development departments are pretty much nonexistent.

President Welch stated that he believes that our priority is an HR position. He does agree that we need to make consistent efforts in Economic Development. The demographics show that it does not support the retail we have in Town. Every company looks at demographics. Part of North Kingstown is Narragansett Bay and no one lives in Narragansett Bay. To continue growth of single/multi-family homes will change the demographics and will cause people to pay attention to the change in the demographics, earning power. We have a lot of people that work at Quonset that don't live here. Giving them a place to live here will create the required demographic to draw commercial/retail investment. He believes that at this point in time, we are chasing a market that doesn't exist right now. Again, his first priority over an Economic Development Manager is an HR position.

Councilor Waxman stated that she agrees with everything President Welch has said, but she would like to point out some of the recommendations in the Post Road Corridor Plan. We need to rethink things and the Post Road Corridor Plan talks about making two village centers, Quonset Development Center and Reynolds Farm. They talk about creating pedestrian and bicycle connections between these villages, and ask that we consider applying for state designation of two growth centers so we could benefit from state funding. Again, there are 70 pages of actions that suggest mixed use concepts that will support the creation of village scale densities, multi-family residential with retail components, etc. This would be a complete redesign of Post Road. This is broad thinking and we are not going to see any measurable changes if we wait for the property owners to fill their vacant properties and do something with the vacant lots. It is not going to happen. This plan is 12 years old, and if we don't take action and follow these strategic recommendations, we won't see any revitalization because of the reasons stated tonight.

She thinks we need the strategic leadership and allocate the funding unless we are content to keep Post Road the way it is. We have a \$100 million budget and we can fund HR and do this too.

Councilor McKay stated that on the agenda tonight we are committing \$100,000 - \$200,000 by creating the Post Road Façade Improvement Program. Councilor Waxman stated that we are not creating a village center. Councilor McKay stated that we are committing to investing in Post Road. Post Road is a State road. How is the Planning Director or this position going to bring the state to spend that kind of money? Councilor Waxman stated that this is a 70 page document with recommendations. Councilor McKay stated he understands what the document is, but if you don't have investors that are not willing to participate, we don't have the money for this. What Councilor Waxman is saying is that we are not doing anything. Councilor Waxman stated that is not what she is saying, we are doing a lot but there is more that can be done and she wants to see more measurable progress. She really thinks that we need a coordinated approach. Councilor Maloney stated that the Plan was done in 2006, everything tanked in 2008, and the Plan needs to be looked at because nothing fits any more. Councilor McKay stated that the EDAB is looking at these issues. Councilor Maloney stated that he would support the marketing component, and thinks we should come back when we have documentation of what this is going to cost and what it will generate in revenues. We have been facing difficult budgets and we really need to see what the numbers are before he can approve any position. We can continue the conversation.

Maura Harrington of the Planning Department stated that there is a lot of talk about the Post Road Corridor Plan. The Plan is 12 years old, predated the Gateway, construction of Route 403 and the approval of sewers. There are a lot of plans moving forward, we have the Post Road zoning, design guidelines, and the Comprehensive Plan rewrite. A lot of what worked in the Post Road Corridor Plan will continue to move forward in those areas. The elements we have that we feel will work based on the infrastructure changes will remain.

President Welch called for a vote on the motion.

Councilor Maloney asked if this item should be tabled. Councilor Waxman stated that unless she gets a sense that the Council will support this, she would table this. Ms. Alyward suggested that the motion be withdrawn.

President Welch stated that he asked Councilor Waxman to discuss this with the Manager to ensure there was funding for what she is proposing and it doesn't appear the Manager is confident that we have the money to fund this. Councilor Waxman stated that with a \$100 million budget it's a matter if we are sold on the concept. President Welch suggested we come back to this another time. If we don't have the money, then we need to find another way to accomplish this. Councilor Waxman stated that this position would generate non tax dollar revenue.

Councilor Waxman withdrew her motion.

25. Reconsideration of the January 8, 2018 Vote - Tax Exemption for North Kingstown-Exeter Animal Protection League, Inc., dba The Pet Refuge

Councilor McKay stated that he asked that this item be put on the agenda as he felt he didn't have enough information at the January 8, 2018 meeting. He further stated that in 2008 the Pet Refuge went before the Council requesting this exemption and the Council at that time did not vote for it but asked for more information. He further stated that this will set a precedence for any 501(c)(3) organization to request the same exempt status.

Motion by Councilor McKay, seconded by Councilor Costa and

VOTED: To reconsider the vote of January 8, 2018 requesting the Legislative Delegation to submit an Act authorizing the Town Council of North Kingstown to exempt from taxation the North Kingstown-Exeter Animal Protection League, Inc., dba The Pet Refuge, 500 Stony Lane.

Councilor Costa, Councilor Maloney, and Councilor Waxman voted in the negative.

Motion failed.

26. First Reading – Amendment to Chapter 2

Councilor Maloney stated that he had concerns at the last couple of meetings, and Councilor McKay suggested that he sit with staff to discuss those concerns. He met with staff and feels that we have language that works. The ordinance is fine; his concerns were with the criteria and application process.

Maura Harrington of the Planning Department stated that we met last week and went through and incorporated comments from the last meeting. The ordinance has not changed, but the criteria and application process have been amended. Basically we made some changes to ensure that the appropriate language was under the appropriate heading; the Background language modifications that were made were that one grant application per parcel was added; any changes would be visible and front Post Road. Under the Program Administration Section, there was a lot of discussion at the last meeting regarding consideration of applications for north/south Post Road. As we don't know what to expect, we are recommending that we allocate \$100,000 for Post Road North and \$100,000 for Post Road South with the dividing line at Newcomb Road. This \$200,000 would only be for the first year of the program. This would give us a feel on how the program will be received and can be reviewed next year. We also included language that priority would be given to applications for adjoining parcels. In terms of the funding, we looked at the amount and based on the discussion, it should not exceed up to \$5,000. We also thought that language should be included that any outstanding taxes or NOV's would not be considered, or any other tax incentives would not be eligible. In regards to the eligible uses and reimbursement, we did strike some of the language that was suggested. We also made some minor changes to the application.

Councilor Maloney stated that when he was reading through this last night, he felt there should be language included that this is only a one time submittal. Ms. Alyward stated that we did include that one grant application would be accepted per parcel. Councilor Maloney stated that it should be clear that it would only be one time.

President Welch stated that he doesn't agree that someone who has a NOV would not be eligible to apply as this could help them to come into compliance. Ms. Harrington stated that we can remove that language. President Welch stated that we are looking for results and if the NOV is not related to the façade improvement, then it wouldn't be considered.

Councilor Waxman stated that she doesn't think this should be a law but a program available town wide. Maybe we could start by focusing on an area, and she thinks that we should be following some of the strategic plans and encourage redevelopment concepts that congregate new buildings around a village green. We need to do a broader brush impact. She cannot support this for so many reasons.

Mr. Mollis stated that this is an ordinance that has been drafted based on the Council's input and he wants you to feel free to give input on the policies and procedures. Ms. Alyward stated that we want a good version of this policy so the Council can adopt this policy when the ordinance is adopted.

President Welch asked when the start would be. Ms. Alyward stated that the ordinance is effective upon passage, the application process begins on April 1, and the funding is July 1, 2018. President Welch is concerned about retroactive applications. Ms. Alyward stated that we talked about that. Mr. Mollis stated that the ordinance states that it is subject to funding.

After a brief discussion, a motion by Councilor McKay, seconded by Councilor Maloney and

VOTED: That this shall constitute the First Reading of an Ordinance in Amendment of Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of North Kingstown, entitled, "Administration" by adding Article IX, entitled, "North Kingstown Post Road Façade Improvement Program", and that this be advertised and referred to the Regular Town Council Meeting of March 5, 2018 for Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption

Councilor Waxman voted in the negative.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

27. Community Development Block Grant

Motion by Councilor Maloney, seconded by Councilor Waxman and

VOTED: To authorize the Town Manager to file the application for the Set Aside Fund of the Community Development Block Grant for Program Year (PY) 2017 for funding for the creation or preservation of affordable housing units with the State of Rhode Island, Commerce Secretary, Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD).

Councilor Costa voted in the negative.

28. Economic Development Advisory Board – Appointment

Motion by Councilor Maloney, seconded by Councilor Waxman and

VOTED: To appoint Thomas E. Miozzi, 66 Steamboat Avenue, Second Alternate, to the Economic Development Advisory Board to December 1, 2020.

President Welch and Councilor Costa recused themselves from the vote as they both have a work relationship with Thomas Miozzi.

29. Quonset Development Corporation Board of Directors – Appointment

Motion by Councilor McKay, seconded by Councilor Costa to appoint Council President Welch.

Councilor Waxman stated that she has been sitting on the Board since last December and would like to continue.

After a brief discussion, it was

VOTED: To appoint Town Council President Richard A. Welch, 8 Arrow Lane, to the Quonset Development Corporation Board of Directors to December 31, 2020 or to run concurrent with his term of office.

Councilor Waxman and Councilor Maloney voted in the negative.

30. Appointment of Council Members to be a liaison for Collective Bargaining Negotiations

Motion by Councilor Costa, seconded by Councilor Waxman and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint President Welch and Councilor McKay as Town Council liaisons for Collective Bargaining negotiations for Local 1033, RI Laborers' International Union of North America, AFL-CIO and for International Brotherhood of Police Officers Local 473.

The Town Council took Agenda Item Number 32 next.

32. Discussion/Possible Action – Post Road Zoning as it relates to properties adjacent to QDC properties that are Heavy Industrial

President Welch stated that he requested this item be on the agenda; however, he is withdrawing his request at this time.

Motion by Councilor McKay seconded by Councilor Costa and unanimously

VOTED: To remove this item from the agenda.

33. Discussion/Possible Action – Road Diet/Traffic Light at the Intersection of Post Road, Camp Avenue, and Morningside Drive

Councilor McKay requested that this item be continued to the March 5, 2018 Town Council Meeting.

Motion by Councilor McKay, seconded by Councilor Costa and

VOTED: To continue to the Regular Town Council Meeting of March 5, 2018 the discussion/possible Action regarding the Road Diet/Traffic Light at the intersection of Post Road, Camp Avenue, and Morningside Drive.

President Welch voted in the negative.

34. Charge to the Charter Review Commission

Councilor Maloney is requesting that the Charter Review Commission review and clarify the language in Section 314 regarding purchases.

Motion by Councilor Costa, seconded by Councilor Maloney and unanimously

VOTED: That the Charter Review Commission be charged to review Section 314 of the Home Rule Charter.

35. Correspondence

- An e-mail from Angela Azzilina asking who she could speak to with concerns of school start times and busing schedules.
- An e-mail from Bjorn Wellenius, Economic Development Advisory Board Chair suggesting that increasing the EDAB membership is not necessary.
- An e-mail from Cox (e-mail name) asking for no more housing on Camp Avenue since North Kingstown growth has been static, environmental concerns with Mill Creek, and empty lots and rundown residences on Ten Rod Road, Post Road, and South County Trail.
- An e-mail from Beth Gagnon-Glasberg from the Planning Department sharing a Statewide Planning Program, The Bicycle Mobility Plan is soliciting input at a public workshop on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at the Neighborhood Guild, 325 Columbia Street, Peace Dale.
- An e-mail from Donna Hutchinson requesting the Town of North Kingstown become a member of Tree City USA and the Arbor Day Foundation with 12 other RI towns and share grant applications. Also, in a separate e-mail she continued to push for a change in the ordinance to eliminate the inheritance of public moorings and to publish the list of those people currently on public moorings with boat names and registrations.
- An e-mail from Paula Krueger unhappy that her part of the street was not pre-treated with the rest of the street.
- An e-mail from Ann Marie Marshall requesting the Town Hall Annex sales agreement provisions include protecting the historic exterior through binding legal means like Historic Zoning or preservation easements and to include a Right of First Refusal for the Town to purchase the property if it becomes available again.
- An e-mail from Kim Filburn, Pet Refuge board member, Karen Ann Kolling, Cindy Lillibridge, Jamie Smith, and Cassie Barna requesting the Council not reconsider and grant the Pet Refuge the tax exemption.
- Ray Matthews, Lead Strategic Business Analyst for National Grid announced North Kingstown has secured the \$10,000 grant from the Energywise Challenge to be used for energy efficiency improvements or education and will be holding an event this spring.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Jeannette Alyward
Town Clerk