

OFFICIAL STATEMENT
of the
TOWN OF NORTH KINGSTOWN, RHODE ISLAND
Relating to
\$3,845,000 General Obligation Bonds

This Official Statement provides certain information concerning the Town of North Kingstown, Rhode Island (the "Town" or "North Kingstown") in connection with the issuance by the Town of its \$3,845,000 General Obligation Bonds (the "Bonds") dated June 15, 2001.

THE BONDS

Description of the Bonds

The Bonds will be dated June 15, 2001. Principal of the Bonds will be payable on June 15, as shown below. Interest on the Bonds will be payable on December 15, 2001 and semiannually thereafter on June 15 and December 15 of each year. **Interest on the Bonds is computed on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months.**

<u>Maturity</u> <u>June 15,</u>	<u>Principal</u> <u>Amount</u>	<u>CUSIP</u> <u>Number</u>	<u>Maturity</u> <u>June 15,</u>	<u>Principal</u> <u>Amount</u>	<u>CUSIP</u> <u>Number</u>
2002	\$275,000	660325RP8	2010	\$250,000	660325RX1
2003	275,000	660325RQ6	2011	250,000	660325RY9
2004	275,000	660325RR4	2012	250,000	660325RZ6
2005	275,000	660325RS2	2013	250,000	660325SA0
2006	250,000	660325RT0	2014	250,000	660325SB8
2007	250,000	660325RU7	2015	250,000	660325SC8
2008	250,000	660325RV5	2016	250,000	660325SD8
2009	250,000	660325RW3			

The Bonds are issuable only as fully registered Bonds without coupons, and, when issued, will be registered in the name of Cede & Co., as Bondowner and nominee for The Depository Trust Company ("DTC"), New York, New York. DTC will act as securities depository for the Bonds. Purchases of the Bonds will be made in book-entry form, in the denomination of \$5,000 or any integral multiple thereof. Purchasers will not receive certificates representing their interest in Bonds purchased. So long as Cede & Co. is the Bondowner, as nominee of DTC, references herein to the Bondowners or registered owners shall mean Cede & Co., as aforesaid, and shall not mean the Beneficial Owners (as defined herein) of the Bonds. (See "THE BONDS - Book-Entry Only System" herein.)

Principal of and interest on the Bonds will be paid at the offices of State Street Bank and Trust Company, Corporate Trust Department, Boston, Massachusetts, as Paying Agent to DTC. So long as DTC or its nominee, Cede & Co., is the Bondowner, such payments will be made directly to such Bondowner. Disbursement of such payments to the DTC Participants is the responsibility of DTC and disbursement of such payments to the Beneficial Owners is the responsibility of the DTC Participants and the Indirect Participants, as more fully described herein.

For every transfer and exchange of the Bonds, whether in certified form or otherwise, the Beneficial Owner may be charged a sum sufficient to cover any tax, fee or other governmental charge that may be imposed in relation thereto. Adequate indemnification may be required to replace any lost, stolen or destroyed Bonds, whether in certificated form or otherwise.

Record Date

The Record Date for each payment of interest for the Bonds is the last day of the month preceding the interest payment date or, if such day is not a business day of the Paying Agent, the next preceding day which is a regular business day of the Paying Agent.

Authorization and Purpose of the Bonds

\$400,000 of the Bonds are being issued pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Public Laws of 1998, a vote of the electors of the Town, and resolutions of the Town Council to finance the purchase and/or acquisition of farmland, undeveloped land and/or open spaces.

\$1,160,000 of the Bonds are being issued pursuant to Chapters 129 and 229 of the Public Laws of 2000, a vote of the electors of the Town, and resolutions of the Town Council to finance the purchase and/or acquisition of farmland, undeveloped land and/or open spaces.

\$1,900,000 of the Bonds are being issued pursuant to Chapter 165 of the Public Laws of 1992, a vote of the electors of the Town, and resolutions of the Town Council to finance the construction of a new Public Works Facility.

\$385,000 of the Bonds are being issued pursuant to Chapter 166 of the Public Laws of 1992, a vote of the electors of the Town, and resolutions of the Town Council to finance the construction of a new Public Works Facility.

Redemption Prior to Maturity

The Bonds maturing on or prior to June 15, 2011 are not subject to redemption prior to their stated dates of maturity. The Bonds maturing June 15, 2012 and thereafter shall be subject to redemption prior to their stated dates of maturity, at the option of the Town, on or after June 15, 2011, on any interest payment date, at the respective redemption prices (expressed as percentages of the principal amount of Bonds to be redeemed) set forth in the following table, together with interest accrued and unpaid to the redemption date:

<u>Redemption Period</u>	<u>Redemption Price</u>
June 15, 2011 through June 14, 2012	101.0%
June 15, 2012 through June 14, 2013	100.5%
June 15, 2013 thereafter	100.0%

Notice of any redemption of Bonds, specifying the numbers and other designations of Bonds to be redeemed, shall be given not more than 60 days nor less than 30 days prior to the date set for redemption by mailing a copy of such notice to DTC or its nominees and by publishing a copy of said notice at least 15 days prior to the date of redemption in a daily newspaper of general circulation in the State of Rhode Island, and in a nationally distributed financial newspaper devoted primarily to financial or investment information.

The Town, so long as a book-entry system is used for determining beneficial ownership of the Bonds, shall send any notice of redemption to DTC, or its nominee, as registered owner of the Bonds. Transfer of such notice to the DTC Participants is the responsibility of DTC. Transfer of such notice to Beneficial Owners by DTC Participants is the responsibility of the DTC Participants and other nominees of Beneficial Owners of the Bonds. Any failure of DTC to mail such notice to any DTC Participant, or any failure by any DTC Participant to notify any Beneficial Owner, will not affect the validity of the redemption of the Bonds. The Town can make no assurances that DTC, the DTC Participants or other nominees of the Beneficial Owners of the Bonds will distribute such redemption notices to the Beneficial Owners of the Bonds, or that they will do so on a timely basis, or that DTC will act as described in this Official Statement.

Security for the Bonds

In the opinion of Bond Counsel, the Bonds will be valid general obligations of the Town, for the payment of which the full faith and credit of the Town are pledged (See Appendix C—“Proposed Form of Legal Opinion for the Bonds”). The Rhode Island General Laws provide that the Town shall annually appropriate a sum sufficient to pay the principal and interest coming due within the year on all its general obligation bonds to the extent that monies therefor are not otherwise provided, and that if such sum is not appropriated, it shall nevertheless be added to the annual tax levy. In order to provide such amount, all taxable property in the Town is subject to ad valorem taxation without limitation as to rate or amount.

Claims for Payment Due

Rhode Island General Laws Section 45-15-5 permits any person who shall have any claim for money due from any town to present a demand for such claim to the town council and, if satisfaction of such claim is not made within 40

days, to commence an action against the town treasurer for recovery of the claim. If judgment is obtained for such debt due and if the monies available in the town treasury are insufficient to pay the judgment, Rhode Island General Laws Section 45-15-6 authorizes the town treasurer to apply to any justice of the peace for an order requiring the town to hold a town meeting "for the speedy ordering and making a tax" to be collected for such purpose. If the town meeting shall fail voluntarily to assess a tax sufficient to satisfy judgment on a town debt, the Superior Court is authorized to order the assessors of the town "to assess upon the ratable property thereof, and the collector to collect, a tax sufficient for the payment of such judgment, with all incidental costs and charges, and the expense of assessing and collecting such tax."

The rights of the holders of the Bonds and the enforceability thereof may be subject to bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium and other similar laws affecting creditors' rights heretofore or hereafter enacted to the extent constitutionally applicable and that their enforcement may also be subject to the exercise of judicial discretion in appropriate cases.

Bond Insurance

Concurrently with the issuance of the Bonds, Financial Security Assurance Inc. (the "Insurer") will issue its Municipal Bond Insurance Policy for the Bonds (the "policy"). The Policy guarantees the scheduled payment of principal of and interest on the Bonds when due as set forth in the form of the Policy included as an exhibit to this Official Statement. See APPENDIX D herein concerning information on the Insurer and the Policy.

The Policy is not covered by any insurance security or guaranty fund established under New York, California, Connecticut or Florida insurance law.

Bond Insurer

Financial Security is a New York domiciled insurance company and a wholly owned subsidiary of Financial Security Assurance Holdings Ltd. ("Holdings"). Holdings is an indirect subsidiary of Dexia, S.A., a publicly held Belgian corporation. Dexia, S.A. through its bank subsidiaries, is primarily engaged in the business of public finance in France, Belgium and other European countries. No shareholder of Holdings or Financial Security is liable for the obligations of Financial Security.

At March 31, 2001, Financial Security's total policyholders' surplus and contingency reserves were approximately \$1,430,595,000 and its total unearned premium reserve was approximately \$730,490,000 in accordance with statutory accounting principles. At March 31, 2001, Financial Security's total shareholder's equity was approximately \$1,547,252,000 and its total net unearned premium reserve was approximately \$600,774,000 in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

The financial statements included as exhibits to the annual and quarterly reports filed by Holdings with the Securities and Exchange Commission are hereby incorporated herein by reference. Also incorporated herein by reference are any such financial statements so filed from the date of this Official Statement until the termination of the offering of the Bonds. Copies of materials incorporated by reference will be provided upon request to Financial Security Assurance Inc.: 350 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10022, Attention: Communications Department (telephone (212) 826-0100).

The Policy does not protect investors against changes in market value of the Bonds, which market value may be impaired as a result of changes in prevailing interest rates, changes in applicable ratings or other causes. Financial Security makes no representation regarding the Bonds or the advisability of investing in the Bonds. Financial Security makes no representation regarding the Official Statement, nor has it participated in the preparation thereof, except that Financial Security has provided to the Issuer the information presented under this caption for inclusion in the Official Statement.

TOWN OF NORTH KINGSTOWN

General

North Kingstown, settled in 1641 and incorporated as a Town in 1674, covers an area of 54 square miles and is a residential suburb approximately 22 miles south of Providence. North Kingstown, with a population of 23,786 as of the 1990 U.S. Census, has a current full value of real and tangible personal property in excess of \$2.0 billion with a budget in excess of \$65,000,000 (i.e. all budgeted funds) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001.

Theodore Francis Green Airport, a stop for six major airlines, is located 12 miles north in the City of Warwick via Interstate Route 95.

Government

The Town operates under a home rule charter adopted in 1954, and subsequently amended, providing for a council/town manager form of government with a five-member Town Council headed by a Council President. All legislative powers of the Town are vested in the Town Council by the Charter including the adoption of the Town budget, the ordering of any tax, making appropriations and transacting any other business pertaining to the financial affairs of the Town.

The Town Manager is appointed by a majority vote of the Town Council for an indefinite term solely on the basis of his or her executive and administrative qualifications. The Town Manager is the chief executive officer and head of the administrative branch of government. The Charter grants to the Town Manager the authority to appoint or remove all officers or employees of the Town except the Town Solicitor and School Department employees, to prepare and submit to the Town Council the annual budget and annual report of the Town, to recommend to the Town Council pay schedules for Town employees and to recommend to the Town Council the adoption of such measures as he or she may deem necessary for the health, safety or welfare of the Town.

Members of the Town Council are elected on a partisan basis at large for a term of two years. The Charter grants to the Town Council all powers to enact, amend, or repeal ordinances relating to the Town's property, affairs and government including the power to create offices, departments or agencies of the Town, to preserve the public peace, health and safety, to establish personnel policies, to authorize the issuance of Bonds (with the approval of the voters) and to provide for an annual audit of the Town's accounts.

Public Education

The general administration of the Town's school system is directed by a seven-member School Committee elected on a partisan basis from the Town at large to staggered four-year terms. The School Committee determines and controls all policies affecting the administration, maintenance and operations of the public schools in the Town, appoints a Superintendent of Schools as its chief administrative agent and appoints and removes all school employees upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, except as may be provided otherwise by the laws of the State.

The Town has an early childhood center, six elementary schools, two middle schools and one senior high school.

The School Department has 380 professional staff members comprised of 360 teachers and 20 administrators. The average enrollment is 4,572 students in the 1999—2000 school year. There are approximately 13 students per teacher in the system. Historically, more than 75% of the graduating students have attended college.

The total cost of operating the public school system for the 1999—00 school year was \$36,920,024 of which \$9,692,558 came from the State of Rhode Island, \$25,675,732 from the Town's 2000 appropriation, \$1,479,137 from nonresident tuition, and \$72,597 from other sources.

Set forth below are actual and projected enrollment data for the years indicated.

	<u>Actual</u>					<u>Projected</u>				
	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Kindergarten.....	341	332	342	313	327	322	318	313	309	305
Grade 1 & PRE 1.....	388	358	352	395	343	322	317	313	308	304
Grade 2.....	337	369	351	343	380	349	327	323	318	314
Grade 3.....	350	348	365	355	342	380	348	327	322	318
Grade 4.....	345	339	349	356	342	340	377	346	325	320
Grade 5.....	359	348	356	350	357	346	344	382	350	329
Grade 6.....	337	350	338	342	352	362	351	348	387	355
Grade 7.....	334	344	348	340	334	348	357	346	344	382
Grade 8.....	350	323	324	353	331	334	348	358	347	345
Grade 9.....	356	388	343	328	337	324	328	341	350	340
Grade 10.....	360	370	363	345	328	334	321	325	338	347
Grade 11.....	250	282	316	338	335	347	353	340	344	358
Grade 12.....	293	287	311	291	326	344	356	363	349	353
Special Education.....	<u>74</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>737</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>70</u>
Totals.....	4,474	4,525	4,542	4,522	4,501	4,519	4,515	4,494	4,462	4,439

In addition to its schools the Town provides major public services, certain of which are described below:

Government Services

Police and Fire Protection

As of July 1, 2000, the North Kingstown Police Department consisted of 65 employees comprised of 49 law enforcement personnel and 16 civilians. The Town expended \$3,799,564 in fiscal 2000, and the Town's budget for fiscal 2001 is \$3,968,315.

As of July 1, 2000, the Fire Department had a force of 71 employees including 1 civilian worker and 70 fire and rescue personnel. The Town expended \$4,659,879 in fiscal 2000, and the Town's budget for fiscal 2001 is \$4,768,069.

Highway & Public Works

The Town has approximately 152 miles of paved streets maintained by the Public Works Department. In addition to other services, the department maintains Town property and provides snow removal services. The Town operates a trash transfer station, composting facility and recycling program. Refuse collection for the Town is provided by private collectors. The Public Works Department expended \$3,395,859 in fiscal 1999, and the Town's budgets for fiscal 2000 and fiscal 2001 are \$4,176,629 and \$3,896,986, respectively.

Recreation Department

The Recreation Department provides various activities for the Town's youth including field trips that attracted approximately 9,000 youngsters this summer and another 2,000 throughout the school year. There are four major parks in town that provide restrooms, in-ground water, concession stands and multiple playing areas including playgrounds for the younger children. The playgrounds are Ryan Park, Wilson Park, Signal Rock Park and McGinn Park. The North Kingstown Arts Council sponsors numerous activities throughout the Town such as an adult and children's weekly concert series during the summer months theatre productions, plays, dance classes, acting classes, and a tuba fest. The Town and the Wickford Art Association work collectively to hold an Annual Art Festival in Historic Wickford each July. The festival this year was voted by the artists as one of the finest nationally.

The North Kingstown Municipal golf Course recently completed another season generating fees in excess of \$1.3 million dollars and once again averaging over 40,000 rounds making this golf course the busiest golf course in the state. Along with the golf course, the recreation department owns and operates a marina located in Allen Harbor. The marina presently consists of approximately 120 slips and moorings. The entire Allen Harbor/Calf Pasture Point complex consists of approximately 250 acres, many still in pristine condition along Narragansett Bay.

Libraries

The North Kingstown Free Library is governed by the Library Board of Trustees which is made up of seven (7) members appointed by the Town Council for a three-year term. The North Kingstown Free Library continues to be the fifth busiest public library in Rhode Island. Over 337,253 items were borrowed in 1999-2000 by 17,246 CLAN (Cooperating Libraries Automated Network) cardholders. More than 183,694 visits were made to the library, over 8,557 people attend free library sponsored programs, 40,853 reference questions were answered and 40 volunteers gave over 1,500 hours of service to the library. There are more than 107,513 books, magazines, videos, CDs and talking books in the collection plus 69 electronic reference sources. Public internet access is also available. There are two other libraries in North Kingstown: the Willet Free Library in Saunderstown and the Davisville Free Library.

Water

The Town of North Kingstown draws groundwater from three aquifers using nine gravel packed wells. Together these wells pump, on average, three million gallons per day (MDG), or one billion gallons per year. Maximum daily production for all wells is 7.8 MGD. Revenue is collected on approximately 91% of total well production. The Town is presently seeking to expand its pumping capacity 4 MGD by the reactivation of Well 10 and the drilling of a new well. This additional capacity should be on-line by 2003.

North Kingstown meters all active service connections. Inactive accounts are charged a quarterly flat fee. Private fire protection services are charged a quarterly fee depending on size. All Town owned buildings and sales to the Town of Narragansett are metered and charged in accordance with the rate schedule. There is no discount for large volume users. All requests for additional services, such as turn on/off and inspections, are charged a service fee of \$25.00. Accounts that fall into arrears are served shut-off notices. The total budget for the Water Department for fiscal year 2001 is \$2,133,497. Ninety-five percent of revenues are from the sale of water (\$2,036,497). Non-operating revenues such as; service fees, lateral charges, penalties, interest and investments equals \$97,000, and makeup the remaining five percent of the needed revenue. In 1996, the Town adopted its current rate schedule. This schedule provides for annual increases for usage, fire protection and flat fees through 2002. A new rate schedule will be in place the following year. The Town does not submit its rates to the Public Utilities Commission for approval. The Town Council as part of their legislative authority sets rates.

Employee Relations

As of July 1, 2000 the Town had 236 full-time employees exclusive of the School Department. The School Department employs 380 professional employees. In addition, there are 200 substitute teachers and 224 full-time non-professional employees. Set forth below is the current status of union contracts for municipal employees.

Teachers—3 year contract expires August 31, 2003
Firemen—3 year contract expires June 30, 2003
Policemen—3 year contract expires June 30, 2004
School Service Personnel—3 year contract expires June 30, 2002
Public Works/Clerical—3 year contract expires June 30, 2004
School Paraprofessionals—3 year contract expires June 30, 2002

Employee Retirement Plans

See Note 13 to Financial Statements, Appendix B.

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Population

North Kingstown ranks thirteenth among the cities and towns in Rhode Island in population, with 26,326 residents according to the 2000 U.S. Census. North Kingstown is the largest of nine communities in Washington County, having approximately 25% of the total county population.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>
1980	21,938
1982	22,664
1984	22,999
1986	24,080
1990	23,786
1994	24,065
2000	26,326

Source: 2000; U.S. Bureau of the Census. The 1982, 1984 and 1986 population are estimates obtained from the Local Population Estimate Reports, prepared by the U.S. Department of Commerce; 1994 population estimate was obtained from the Population Estimates Branch, U.S. Bureau of the Census, January, 1995 Report.

Unemployment

The most recent labor market information summary indicates that annualized unemployment for the years indicated and for the months in 2001 was as shown in the following tables:

	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>
Town of North Kingstown.....	6.9%	5.6%	5.0%	3.6%	3.8%	3.5%	3.2%	3.2%
State of Rhode Island.....	7.7	7.2	6.6	5.1	5.1	4.9	4.1	4.1
United States.....	6.8	6.1	5.6	5.4	4.9	4.5	4.2	4.0

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>
Town of North Kingstown	3.4%	3.5%	3.0%	2.8%
State of Rhode Island	4.6	4.7	4.3	3.9
United States	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.2

Source: Department of Labor and Training

Employment

In 1999, the Town of North Kingstown had 853 private business and industrial firms subject to employment security taxes with yearly payrolls which totaled \$304,636,030 and the average number of persons employed was 9,807 according to the most recent statistics. The following is a listing of the various types of industry in the Town covered by the Department of Employment Security for the calendar year ended December 31, 1999.

	<u>Average No. of Units</u>	<u>Annual Payroll</u>	<u>Average Employment</u>	<u>% Total Covered Employees</u>
Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries	36	\$ 3,800,430	143	1.46%
Construction	93	12,484,882	316	3.22%
Manufacturing	59	155,433,351	3,729	38.02%
Transportation and Public Utilities	36	15,004,120	397	4.05%
Wholesale Trade	102	18,674,010	314	3.20%
Retail Trade	179	49,476,352	3,016	30.76%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	59	6,760,766	211	2.15%
Services	<u>290</u>	<u>43,002,119</u>	<u>1,682</u>	<u>17.15%</u>
Totals	853	\$ 304,636,030	9,807	100.00%

Source: Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation.

Largest Employers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type of Business</u>	<u>Number of Employees</u>
<i>Private Employers</i>		
Electric Boat Corporation	Mfr/Submarine	1,500
Toray Plastics	Mfr/Plastic Products	800
Perspectives, Corp.	Program for Disabled Adults	600
Browne & Sharpe	Mfr/Measuring Products	400
The Stop & Shop Co., Inc.	Retail	225
Ocean State Jobbers	Retail Warehouse	200
Wal-Mart	Retail	200
Custom Design	Jewelry Displays	150
Grinnell Corporation	Automatic Sprinkler & Alarm Detection	150
Greggs	Restaurant	150
South County Nursing Center	Nursing Home	150
Sacalabrini Villa	Nursing Home	120
Ames Department Store	Retail	100
Maro Display Inc.	Display Manufacturer	100
North Atlantic Dist.	Storage & Prep of Imported Cars	100
John J. Orr & Sons Inc.	Stevedores, Marine Terminal	100
<i>Public Employers</i>		
Town of North Kingstown		800
R.I. Air National Guard		303
Army Aviation Support Facility		58

Source: Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation—March, 2000.

Income Levels

According to the 1990 U.S. Census, median family income for the Town of North Kingstown was \$46,736 compared with \$39,172 for the State as a whole; 1990 per capita income was \$18,218 compared with \$14,981 for the State. The Town ranked 7th and 8th, respectively, for these income levels among the 39 cities and towns in the State.

Housing and Building Permits

The U.S. Census reported a total of 8,813 housing units in the Town in 1980 and 9,348 housing units in 1990; this represents an increase of 535 new units, or a 6.1 percent increase.

Building permits issued by the Town's Building Inspector for the fiscal years indicated and the declared value of construction are as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Permits Issued</u>	<u>Value</u>
1990	619	\$23,538,280
1991	609	16,525,840
1992	616	23,487,612
1993	746	20,286,584
1994	989	26,798,787
1995	1,159	20,650,639
1996	1,210	42,966,083
1997	849	34,235,915
1998	1,009	43,046,625
1999	924	24,026,817
2000	995	44,668,975

Source: Town Building Inspector

Economic Development and Outlook

Planning

The North Kingstown Planning Commission was established in 1948. A full-time Planning Department assists this and other boards in the growth management of the Town. The Town of North Kingstown adopted a Comprehensive Plan in 1992 that was prepared by a citizens advisory committee under the review of the Planning Commission; the Commission provides recommendations to the Town Council for its implementation. The 1992 Comprehensive Plan is under review by the Planning Commission pursuant to the preparation of an updated Comprehensive Plan. A consultant is under contract to assist the Town with the process completion.

Zoning and Subdivision Regulation

In May 1998, the town completed the zoning that implements the comprehensive community plan. The ordinance expanded the number of zones in North Kingstown and now includes a five-acre residential zone intended to direct growth into Town villages. The zoning ordinance also provides for business, industrial, public and open space zones. Certain types of uses within these districts are restricted by soils limitations and groundwater protection overlay regulation. Subdivision regulations first adopted by North Kingstown in 1946 have been amended a number of times more recently to implement the comprehensive plan and respond to new State Enabling legislation. The Town also amended its groundwater overlay district ordinances in 1998.

Growth Management

In support of the North Kingstown Comprehensive Plan, the North Kingstown Town Council adopted in 1999 a Growth Management Program for 1999-2001 and an Action Plan for the Fiscal Year 1999-2000. The intent of the program is to schedule and prioritize growth management activities for the next several years. The action will be reviewed as part of the Comprehensive Plan and incorporated as an implementation tool.

The Town Council recognized that following the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan many of the growth management objectives had been achieved. These activities included the adoption of zoning ordinance amendments; subdivision amendments; the acquisition of farmland development rights; the preparation of cost of community services reports and the adoption of wastewater management and revised groundwater protection ordinances. The Town Council also adopted a Water Service Area, which helps recognize the limits of growth in the community.

One component of the Growth Management Program and the Action Plan is the acquisition of farmland development rights. The Town's electorate expressed their support for this activity in a June, 1998 referendum where \$4.0 million was approved for continued acquisitions. The proceeds of the bond authorization, along with federal and state grants and in-kind charitable donations, has allowed for the permanent open space preservation of over 1,100 acres of land during the past three years.

Industrial Development

About thirty-one percent of North Kingstown employment is associated with manufacturing and industry. The majority of new manufacturing employment in the Town has been the result of migration of firms into North Kingstown. Seven major employers account for most of the manufacturing employment: Electric Boat Corporation; Toray Plastics of America; Brown and Sharpe Manufacturing Company; Seafreeze, Limited; Custom Design, Inc.; Grinnell Corporation; Illumination Concepts and Engineering, Inc. and New England Stone, LLC.

Other major employers include: 143rd Air Wing, Rhode Island Air National Guard; Ocean State Jobbers, Inc.; Wal-Mart; Scalabrini Villa; NORAD; John J. Orr & Sons, Inc. and Ames Department Store.

Quonset Point/Davisville Industrial Park

The heart of industrial development in North Kingstown is the Quonset Point/Davisville Port and Commerce Park, which is operated by the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation. The industrial and commerce park complex contains 3000 acres of land; approximately 650 acres remain available for development. The park is actually composed of a number of smaller parks that are distinguished by their services and types of industry. The overall industrial park area is served by an airport, rail, and deep water piers and is thus suitable for a wide diversity of manufacturing and port activities. One hundred sixteen tenants employing more than 6,000 employees currently occupy the industrial park. The complex includes an 18-hole golf course and marina owned and operated by the Town of North Kingstown. A 189 acre parcel was recently conveyed to the Town by the U.S. Department of Interior for recreation and conservation purposes; the parcel adjoins an additional 75 acres for which a master plan was recently completed.

The industrial complex was once the home of the Davisville Naval Construction Battalion Center and the Quonset Naval Air Station. The Naval Air Station closed in 1972 and the Naval Construction Battalion Center, 900 acres in size, was closed in 1994. The Town and the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation prepared a base reuse plans for the 1994 closure site and expect the majority of the site to be converted to industrial and associated purposes. Most of the 900 acres has now been conveyed to the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation or is a part of an interim master lease for the site.

The Town participated in the development of a vision plan for Quonset Point/Davisville in anticipation of the transfer of the Navy property to the State Economic Development Corporation and the Town. The vision for the 3,000 acres focuses on the development of a port and commerce park of nearly 2,500 acres. A bond referendum passed by Rhode Island voters has secured \$72.0 million to enhance the existing freight rail system and make infrastructure improvements to Quonset Point/Davisville.

Several major facilities are proposed, have recently expanded or are under construction at Quonset Point/Davisville. Toray Plastics of America constructed a 14,000 square foot health and fitness center and educational facility and an addition of 24,000 square feet for manufacturing. Other activities include a 15,000 square foot wholesale food warehouse by All American Meats and Seafood; a 20,000 square foot addition (3 acre expansion) by Specialty Diving services; a 0.7 acre expansion by Rhode Island Mooring Services; a 45,000 square foot spec building; a 65,000 square foot office/manufacturing facility by Arch Chemicals; the rehabilitation of 200,000 square feet by Moro Display for warehouse purposes; and a 216,000 square foot addition by Ocean State Jobbers, Inc. to increase their facility to 390,000 square feet. More recently, Supfina Machine Company constructed a 5,400 square foot addition; Arch Chemicals added office space; and B, B, & S and Trussco acquired additional acreage in anticipation of expanded operations. The Town funded a feasibility study through a community development grant to assess locating a business and manufacturing incubator center at the industrial park. Currently under construction is a 15,000 square foot facility for Meister Grinding and a new building for Electric Boat. Concept Warehouse is relocating within the Park and constructing a 120,000 square foot facility. Anticipated in the near future is a facility for Cal-Greg electronics.

Other Industrial Development

Industrial activity is located in other parts of the community, particularly in the mill village of Lafayette and adjacent to the rail lines that cross through North Kingstown. These areas include Dry Bridge Road and Old Baptist Road.

The Town and six other neighboring communities have formed a regional economic development corporation focused on enhancing manufacturing activities in the region. The Corporation has a targeted manufacturer outreach program designed to assess business needs for management and workforce support and training and to assist the business community with meeting those needs. The success of the regional corporation is reflected in the recent addition of two new member communities and by a \$350,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration. The regional economic development corporation has also received a \$200,000 Brownfields grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Commercial Development

Post Road (Route 1) and to a lesser degree, Boston Neck Road and Route 2 are the primary locations for commercial and shopping plaza uses. Many of the commercial establishments now located on Post Road were developed in response to the Navy base and growth during the 1960's. Post Road development suffered following the closure of the Navy base during the 1970's and early 1980's. Since then, growth has continued with the addition of Wickford Commons and Hunt River Commons. More recently, several business locations have been the subject of redevelopment or expansion efforts.

Prime examples of redevelopment or expansion along Post Road are the U.S. Post Office rehabilitation of a former supermarket; the construction of a Washington Trust Bank; Brooks Drugs demolishing a former car dealer facility to make way for a modern drug and convenience store; Bess Eaton Donuts rehabilitating a former bank; and Kingstown Plaza, first constructed in 1961, has invested \$500,000 in a clock tower, new signage and façade improvements. Three auto rental agencies are considering or have already located on Post Road. Gerry Petroleum is demolishing a former service station and fleet reserve club to allow construction of a gas station/convenience store; Koch Eye Associates is renovating a former restaurant into medical office space; a new Dunkin Donuts will soon be added to the Kingstown Square plaza.

The importance of Post Road to the economic base of the Town is best reflected by the inclusion of a separate element within the Town Comprehensive Plan for Post Road. This element addresses issues such as improving traffic conditions, updating design features of the commercial area, and the introduction of landscaping, pedestrian and bicycle enhancements. As development or redevelopment is occurring, the Planning Commission and Planning Department work to achieve these goals. The Town is also working with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation to insure that their projects work toward Town objectives.

In addition to the commercial development along Post Road, there is considerable activity in each of the Town's seven villages. Most notable is the seaport of Wickford, a popular tourist attraction with many well-preserved historic buildings from the eighteenth and nineteenth century. All seven villages are recognized for their historic prominence in the National Register of Historic Places.

Wickford Village is such an integral component of the Town's economic vitality and cultural center, that the Town prepared a Wickford Village Plan (1998). A committee has been established by the Town Council to assist in the implementation of the Plan. The Town has been awarded \$575,000 in transportation enhancement monies for sidewalk and streetscape improvements and \$125,000 to design a bicycle connection between the village of Wickford and the Quonset Davisville Port and Commerce Park. A consultant is working with the Town to prepare a zoning amendment to help implement the Plan.

Richard Smith's Castle located near Wickford village is a recognized historic dwelling in Rhode Island. Through local, state, and federal assistance, the property was recently refurbished over a three-year period and has received historic preservation awards from the State of Rhode Island and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Smith's Castle is one component of the tourism attractions in North Kingstown.

The town expects that the commercial sector will continue to grow, particularly in response to development at Quonset Point/Davisville. A new commercial project, of nearly 300,000 square feet, known as Wickford Junction, including a new commuter rail station and medical office building near the village of Lafayette is under construction. Approval for a 120,000 square foot structure has been received for a site in the same vicinity. The site will house a Home Depot improvement warehouse. Dave's Marketplace has opened his second North Kingstown market in the former

supermarket building in Wickford. On Route 2, the Quaker Lane Business Center has received approval for a master plan and first construction phase for a four-building commercial development. Two other businesses on Quaker Lane, Ocean State Materials (landscaping materials) and Allies Tack Shop, are proposing site improvements.

Office Development

The development of office facilities over the last few years may represent the emergence of a new market and tax base. The Meadows, an office park located at the intersection of Routes 2, 4, and 102, is a 27-acre office park that opened in 1988. The Wickford Professional Building on Phillips Street, a 40,000 square foot office complex, opened in 1989.

More recently a portion of the Lafayette Mill has been converted to a satellite office for the State Department of Children, Youth, and Families. The state office uses will comprise more than 13,000 square feet. Approval has recently been granted and site work commenced for a two building office complex at the intersection of Scrabbletown Road and Ten Rod Road. The site lies across from the Meadow Office Park and between the Wickford Junction commercial complex and the site of the new Home Depot. This complex represents the type of sustainable development that complements the Town's character and is called for in the Comprehensive Plan.

Business Tax Exemptions And Economic Development Tax Incentive

The Town Council adopted an ordinance in April of 1997 which will phase out the retail inventory tax over a five-year period. Beginning with the 1997 tax roll, the retail inventory will be phased out at 20% each year.

The Town Council adopted an ordinance in April of 1997 which will phase in over a period of six years the assessment on property located at the Quonset Point Industrial Park. The phase-in applies to any new buildings, new structures, or new additions to existing buildings used essentially for offices, manufacturing or commercial enterprises. The phase-in is intended to help any commercial concern that is willing to locate at the Quonset Point Industrial Park as a new business to Rhode Island or for any existing business who is expanding their facilities at Quonset Point Industrial Park.

PROPERTY TAXES

General

In North Kingstown, the fiscal year begins July 1 with taxes based on the prior December 31 assessment payable in full July 31 or quarterly thereafter.

Rhode Island municipalities, including the Town, are restricted from levying general taxes except *ad valorem* taxes upon real and personal property and excise tax on motor vehicles.

Tax Limitations

Section 44-5-2 of Rhode Island General Laws provides that a city or town may not levy a tax in any year in an amount more than five and one-half percent (5.5%) in excess of the amount levied for the prior year unless it qualifies for certain exceptions relating to loss of non-property tax revenue, emergencies and payment of debt service. Any levy in excess of five and one-half percent (5.5%) must be approved by a majority vote of the governing body of the city or town or, in the case of a city or town having a financial town meeting, the majority of electors present and voting at the financial town meeting.

Section 44-5-2 makes it clear that nothing contained in that Section constrains the payment of obligations as described by Section 45-12-1 of the Rhode Island General Laws, which provides that the outstanding notes, Bonds and contracts of cities and towns shall be paid and be fulfilled and that the power and obligation of each city and town to pay its general obligation bonds and notes shall be unlimited and each city and town shall levy *ad valorem* taxes upon all taxable property within the city or town for the payment of such bonds and notes and interest thereon, without limitation as to rate or amount.

Furthermore, Section 44-5-2 expands the cap definition to include the tax rate as a basis for calculating the five and one-half percent (5.5%) increase. In this manner, property assessment growth is captured with the base prior to application of the five and one-half percent (5.5%) limitation.

Motor Vehicle Phaseout Program

The General Assembly passed legislation during the 1998 Legislative Session that will eliminate municipal authority to levy an excise tax on motor vehicles and trailers after Fiscal Year 2004. Taxes shall be phased out beginning with tax bills generated for the 1999-2000 Fiscal Year by eliminating the lowest value vehicles from the tax roll first, while providing for lowering of taxes on all vehicles. This legislative directive requires all cities and towns to exempt the first \$3,500 (based on NADA valuation) in value on all motor vehicles subject to taxation in Fiscal Year 2000-2001. Thereafter, the value of the exemption will increase each year until a full phase-out is reached in Fiscal Year 2005. The adopted Motor Vehicle Tax Phase-Out also freezes the Town's 1998 Tax Rate for motor vehicles for all future assessment periods. Therefore, the taxable value of that portion of the Fiscal Year 2000 Tax Roll, which is generated by motor vehicle assessments, will have to be further reduced to reflect any upward movement in the Fiscal Year 2000 –2001 Tax Rate over the 1997-1998 Tax Rate.

While the above noted change in municipal taxing authorization will have a major impact on the projected growth of the Town's Taxable Property Roll for Fiscal Year 2000-2001, the General Assembly has increased State Aid to Cities and Towns in an amount equal to the projected loss in property tax revenue.

Assessed Valuations

The following table indicates assessed valuations of taxable real and personal property as of December 31 for the years 1995—1999.

	<u>12/31/95</u>	<u>12/31/96</u>	<u>12/31/97</u>	<u>12/31/98</u>	<u>12/31/99</u>
Real Estate.....	\$ 1,401,248,700	\$ 1,433,174,000	\$ 1,470,037,800	\$ 1,500,902,170	\$ 1,536,301,370
Personal Property	<u>200,492,952</u>	<u>211,230,520</u>	<u>230,918,953</u>	<u>230,541,395</u>	<u>233,104,048</u>
Total	1,601,741,652	1,644,404,526	1,700,956,753	1,731,443,565	1,759,405,418
Less Exemptions ⁽¹⁾	<u>(23,686,948)</u>	<u>(22,303,343)</u>	<u>(22,176,983)</u>	<u>(21,685,430)</u>	<u>(30,711,114)</u>
Net Total.....	\$ 1,578,054,704	\$ 1,622,101,177	\$ 1,678,779,770	\$ 1,709,758,135	\$ 1,728,694,304
Full Value Ratio of Assessment.....	93.5%	95.0%	92.0%	92.0%	87.0%

(1) Tax exemptions are applied for on an accrual basis and are allowed as provided under State law. The Town offers exemptions to assessed value to qualified applicants who are Certified Blind Residents, \$13,200; Gold Star Parents, \$4,805; 100% Disabled Veteran, \$6,410; Prisoner of War, \$24,025; Disabled Veteran in Special Housing, \$16,015; Veterans and Widows, \$4,805; Poverty/Infirmary, based on need; Totally Disabled under age 65 with a maximum income of \$25,000, from \$16,015 to \$40,040; and Elderly Exemption for persons over age 65 with income for single person of less than \$14,832 to \$18,128 and married couple of less than \$19,908 to \$24,332, from \$46,100 to \$76,800 with an additional ten percent for persons age 75 and older, and \$10,000 exemption based on years of ownership for elderly.

Analysis of Property

The following table shows an analysis of assessed value in the Town by class for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1999 compared to state average.

<u>Class</u>	<u>Percent of Real and Tangible Property</u>	<u>State Average</u>
Residential	72.90%	70.54
Commercial.....	9.67%	16.21
Industrial	1.77%	3.15
Utilities & Railroads	0.35%	1.97
Motor Vehicles	10.55%	7.62
Other	<u>4.76%</u>	<u>.51</u>
	100.00%	100.00%

Source: State of Rhode Island Department of Administration. 1997 Report on Local Government Finances.

Principal Taxpayers

The following table sets forth the principal taxpayers in the Town and the assessed valuation of the property held by such taxpayers as of December 31, 1999.

<u>Taxpayer</u>	<u>Type of Business</u>	<u>Total Valuation</u>	<u>% of Total Assessed Valuation</u>
Narragansett Electric Co.	Utility	\$31,615,160	1.74%
Browne & Sharpe Manufacturing. Co.	Metrology products	17,479,510	0.96
Hunt River Shopping Center	Retail plaza	8,607,000	0.47
Wal-Mart Stores Inc.	Retail	6,977,090	0.38
Providence Gas Company	Utility	6,765,370	0.37
Toray Plastics America	Plastics Manufacturing	6,508,100	0.36
Heritage Village Associates	Real Estate	6,273,520	0.35
Quidnessett Country Club	Golf course	3,961,100	0.22
Zakapone Real Estate Associates, Inc.	Real estate	3,823,800	0.21
South County Nursing & Rehab	Nursing Home	3,804,500	0.21
Essex Village Company	Apartments	3,750,300	0.21
Millcreek Limited	Apartments	3,731,100	0.21
Kingstown Plaza Limited Partnership	Apartments	3,730,400	0.21
Kings Grant Co.	Real estate	3,541,400	0.20
Wickford Village Associates	Real estate	3,308,100	0.18
Coxcom Inc.	Cable/Communications	3,268,840	0.18
Albemarle Frenchtown LLC	Retail plaza	2,813,400	0.16
OCG Microelectronic Materials	Microelectronic Material Mfr.	2,412,700	0.13
ASQAH Co-operative, Inc.	Apartments	2,287,100	0.13
Stone, Don W.	Real estate	2,168,000	0.12
SLS Associated Ltd Partnership	Lighting Fixture Mfr.	2,130,800	0.12
Meadows Professional	Real Estate	2,120,100	0.12
Wickford Junction Assoc. LLC	Retail	2,086,500	0.12
NESI Realty LLC	Real estate	1,976,100	0.11
Wickford Shipyard Inc.	Shipyard	<u>1,921,600</u>	<u>0.11</u>
	Total	\$137,061,59	5.81%

Tax Rate, Levy and Collection Records

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Actual Tax Rate</u>	<u>Levy</u>	<u>Net Abatements or Additions</u>	<u>Net Levv</u>	<u>Current Year Levy</u>			
					<u>Uncollected at Fiscal Year End</u>	<u>% Uncollected at Fiscal Year End</u>	<u>Uncollected at 6/30/00</u>	<u>Uncollected at 6/30/00</u>
1991—92	29.08	27,048,095	43,012	27,091,107	1,989,719	7.34	176,223	.65
1992—93	30.64	28,052,238	3,054	28,055,292	1,807,999	6.44	148,213	.53
1993—94	30.83	28,876,687	(13,211)	28,863,476	1,630,788	5.65	159,039	.55
1994—95	19.26	29,127,597	(286,7340)	28,840,863	1,261,335	4.37	95,380	.33
1995—96	20.24	31,217,622	(180,296)	31,037,326	1,225,089	3.95	99,726	.32
1996—97	20.76	32,760,419	(102,849)	32,657,570	1,377,498	4.22	93,400	.29
1997—98	22.04	35,751,114	7,377	35,758,491	1,408,635	3.94	107,455	.30
1998—99	22.79	38,259,389	(75,247)	38,184,142	1,344,729	3.51	121,633	.32
1999—00	23.68	40,225,835	70,603	40,296,438	1,309,909	3.25	1,309,909	3.25
2000—01	24.65	42,225,274	75,000	42,300,274	1,266,000	3.00	<i>In progress</i>	

The Town of North Kingstown has an annual tax sale for prior year delinquent real property taxes. Delinquent automobile excise taxes are collected in cooperation with the Rhode Island Registry of Motor Vehicles. If automobile taxes have not been paid, registration renewals are not mailed to the taxpayer and information is supplied to the Registry of

Motor Vehicles and the taxpayer. Motor vehicles may not be re-registered until taxes are paid in full. Other delinquent personal property taxes are collected through delinquency notices and use of collection with legal action by the Town Solicitor. The Town assesses interest charge of 12% per annum on delinquent accounts.

TOWN DEBT

Debt Limit

Except as provided below, under Rhode Island law the Town may not, without special statutory authorization, incur any debt which would increase its aggregate indebtedness, not otherwise excepted by law, to an amount greater than 3% of the taxable property of the Town. Deducted from the computation of aggregate indebtedness is the amount of any borrowing in anticipation of taxes authorized by law and the amount of any sinking funds maintained by the Town. As of June 30, 2000 the Town had \$757,841 of debt outstanding subject to the 3% debt limit. The current 3% debt limit of the Town is \$51,860,829 the net assessed valuation as of December 31, 1999 of \$1,728,694,304.

The State Legislature may by special legislation permit the Town to incur indebtedness outside the limitations imposed by the 3% debt limit. Special legislation adopted by the legislature authorizing the Town to incur debt is subject to referendum by the electors of the Town. On June 30, 1999 the total outstanding debt of the Town issued pursuant to special legislation outside the 3% debt limit was \$18,360,000.

In addition to debt authorized within the 3% debt limit and debt authorized by special legislation of the legislature, Rhode Island General Laws 45-12-11 authorizes the Rhode Island State Director of Administration, upon petition by a municipality, to authorize such municipality to incur indebtedness in excess of the 3% debt limit whenever the Director shall determine that the sums appropriated by the municipality or its funds available are insufficient to pay the necessary expenses of the municipality. The Town has never petitioned the State Director of Administration to authorize indebtedness of the Town under Section 45-12-11.

Current Outstanding Debt

The outstanding general obligation debt of the Town for the fiscal years ended June 30, 1995 through 2000 was as follows:

	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>
General Obligation Bonds						
School	\$ 2,377,502	\$ 6,661,500	\$ 6,453,800	\$ 5,936,857	\$ 10,031,512	\$ 42,303,234
Public Facilities	—0—	560,000	560,000	522,353	484,708	3,557,997
Open Space	3,165,800	3,703,500	3,451,200	3,140,790	6,228,780	2,614,672
Recreation	—0—	—0—	—0—	—0—	615,000	584,192
Library	—0—	—0—	—0—	—0—	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>949,905</u>
Total G.O. Bonds	5,543,302	10,925,000	10,465,000	9,600,000	18,360,000	50,010,000
Enterprise Fund Bond	<u>101,698</u>	<u>—0—</u>	<u>900,000</u>	<u>830,907</u>	<u>757,841</u>	<u>680,574</u>
Total Bonds	<u>\$ 5,645,000</u>	<u>\$ 10,925,000</u>	<u>\$ 11,365,000</u>	<u>\$ 10,430,907</u>	<u>\$ 19,117,841</u>	<u>\$ 50,690,574</u>
Bond anticipation notes.....	\$ —0—	\$ —0—	\$ 3,075,000	\$ 5,800,000	\$ 1,300,000	\$ —0—

Actual Bonded Debt Service Requirements

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Existing</u>		<u>Current Issue</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	
2001	\$2,695,000	\$2,605,615			
2002	2,690,000	2,497,406	\$275,000		
2003	2,680,000	2,361,349	275,000		
2004	2,670,000	2,531,091	275,000		
2005	2,670,000	2,103,907	275,000		
2006	2,660,000	1,975,914	250,000		
2007	2,335,000	1,842,264	250,000		
2008	2,255,000	1,728,321	250,000		
2009	2,180,000	1,615,403	250,000		
2010	2,185,000	1,505,810	250,000		
2011	2,190,000	1,393,735	250,000		
2012	2,190,000	1,279,277	250,000		
2013	1,800,000	1,174,231	250,000		
2014	1,805,000	1,078,204	250,000		
2015	1,810,000	982,458	250,000		
2016	1,815,000	886,332	245,000		
2017	1,815,000	788,962			
2018	1,820,000	691,088			
2019	1,825,000	592,140			
2020	1,320,000	501,270			
2021	1,320,000	425,040			
2022	1,320,000	348,480			
2023	1,320,000	271,425			
2024	1,320,000	193,875			
2025	1,320,000	116,325			
2026	— 0 —	38,775			
Totals	\$50,010,000	\$31,528,697	\$3,845,000		

Debt Ratios and Debt Per Capita

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Population⁽¹⁾</u>	<u>Assessed Value⁽²⁾</u>	<u>Gross Bonded Debt and Bond Anticipation Notes</u>	<u>Debt Payable From Enterprise Revenue</u>	<u>Net Bonded Debt</u>	<u>Ratio of Net Bonded Debt to Assessed Value</u>	<u>Net Bonded Debt Per Capita</u>
1990.....	23,786	858,520,823	2,275,000	1,022,767	1,252,233	0.15	52.65
1991.....	23,786	906,251,900	6,825,000	820,849	6,004,151	0.66	252.42
1992.....	23,786	930,126,467	7,825,000	627,138	7,197,862	0.77	302.61
1993.....	23,786	915,628,830	7,250,000	438,270	6,811,731	0.74	286.38
1994.....	24,065 ⁽³⁾	936,642,267	6,450,000	271,195	6,178,805	0.66	256.75
1995.....	24,065 ⁽³⁾	1,512,225,068	5,645,000	101,698	5,543,302	0.37	230.32
1996.....	24,065 ⁽³⁾	1,542,372,324	10,925,000	—0—	10,925,000	0.71	453.97
1997.....	24,065 ⁽³⁾	1,578,054,704	13,540,000	—0—	13,540,000	0.86	562.64
1998.....	24,065 ⁽³⁾	1,622,101,177	16,230,907	830,907	15,400,000	0.95	639.93
1999.....	24,065 ⁽³⁾	1,678,779,770	20,417,841	757,841	18,360,000	1.10	762.93
2000.....	24,065	1,709,592,473	50,690,574	680,574	50,010,000	2.93	2,078.12

(1) U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census 1980 and 1990.

(2) Net taxable assessed value.

(3) Obtained from Population Estimates Branch of the U.S. Bureau of the Census, January, 1995 Report.

Overlapping and Underlying Debt

The Town of North Kingstown has no overlapping or underlying governmental units and accordingly has no overlapping or underlying debt.

Outstanding Bond Authorizations

The following schedule sets forth the status of the various bond authorizations including this issue of Bonds.

<u>Authorization Chapter</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Original Total Authority</u>	<u>Bonds Issued</u>	<u>Bond Anticipation Notes Outstanding</u>	<u>Unissued Authority</u>
165	1992	Public Facilities	6,000,000	4,710,000	—0—	1,290,000
166	1992	Asset Protection	1,000,000	615,000	—0—	385,000
409	1994	School Additions	6,500,000	4,600,000	—0—	1,900,000
13	1997	Library	1,350,000	1,000,000	—0—	350,000
20	1998	Open Space/Farmland	4,000,000	4,000,000	—0—	—0—
129 & 229	2000	Open Space/Farmland	4,000,000	1,160,000	—0—	2,840,000
			\$22,850,000	\$ 16,085,000	\$—0—	\$6,765,000

TOWN FINANCES

Basis of Accounting

See note 1 to Financial Statements, Appendix B.

Annual Audit

The Town Charter provides that within three months after the beginning of each fiscal year the Town Council, by resolution, shall arrange for an annual independent audit of the Town's financial records as of the close of the preceding fiscal year. The audit may be conducted by any independent certified public accountant and the audit shall conform to generally accepted auditing standards.

The comparative financial statements set forth in Appendix A have been prepared by the Town Treasurer from audited financial statements for the fiscal years 1995—2000. Set forth in Appendix B are audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2000.

Budgetary Procedures

The Town Charter requires the following process for adoption of the Town's annual budget. The preliminary preparation for the 2000—2001 budget actually began in September when capital budgets were submitted to the manager by the department heads. In November, the department heads begin work on their proposed operating budgets which are due to be submitted to the manager in January. During the months of January and February, the department heads meet with the manager to discuss their requests. The Library Board of Trustees and the School Committee are required by the charter to submit their budget requests to the manager not later than February 28, 2001.

STEP	DATE	CHARTER CONSTRAINTS
Proposed Budget	March 12, 2001	The Manager shall submit to the Council not later than the fiftieth day preceding the first Wednesday in May a proposed budget of anticipated revenues and proposes expenditures after a review of estimated requirements from department heads.
Preliminary Approval of the Budget	March 26, 2001	The Council has two weeks to give preliminary approval to the manager's budget which the Council may revise.
Public Hearing	April 17, 2001	Approximately three weeks after preliminary approval by the council, two public hearings are held (one for school portion and one for all other budgets).
Petitions to Council	April 23, 2001	After preliminary approval of the budget, any qualified elector may circulate a petition requesting that the Council increase or decrease the budget. At least 50 signatures, validated by the Board of Canvassers, are required. The Council is required to consider and vote on each valid petition.
Final approval of the budget	May 2, 2001	On or before the first Wednesday in May, the Council is required to make any final changes to the budget by a majority vote and consider any petitions. Following final approval, the budget is published and copies are available for the public.
Referendum petitions	May 22, 2001	Following final approval by the Council, any qualified elector may circulate a petition requesting a referendum for either an increase or decrease to the total appropriations for a specific fund. Petition forms approved by the Town Clerk must be returned before the twentieth day following the first Wednesday in May.
Budget Referendum	June 9, 2001	Each valid petition with no less than 300 signatures along with the Council's final adopted budget is presented to the voters for a referendum vote on the second Saturday in June. The polls are open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Comparative Budgets (General Fund)

<u>Current Revenue</u>	<u>Adopted Budget 1998/99</u>	<u>Adopted Budget 1999/00</u>	<u>Adopted Budget 2000/01</u>	<u>Adopted Budget 2001/02</u>
General Property Tax ⁽¹⁾	\$ 9,776,719	\$ 9,981,237	\$ 9,724,445	\$ 9,173,739
Prior Year's Taxes	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,225,000
State Aid Revenues	490,444	1,183,957	1,764,058	2,558,294
Licenses & Permits.....	72,305	74,770	77,180	77,190
Departmental Revenue	1,523,563	1,997,265	1,568,040	1,579,195
Prop Rental & Investment & Interest Earnings.....	753,300	712,800	1,012,900	978,950
Miscellaneous.....	320,000	295,000	312,000	312,000
Payment in Lieu of Taxes.....	2,099,988	2,132,000	2,117,628	2,117,628
Transfer from Q/D Recreation Fund.....	<u>342,224</u>	<u>369,705</u>	<u>411,163</u>	<u>436,797</u>
Total Current Revenue.....	\$ 16,378,543	\$ 17,746,734	\$ 17,987,414	\$ 18,458,792
Prior Year Revenue	<u>—0—</u>	<u>—0—</u>	<u>—0—</u>	<u>650,000</u>
Total Estimated Available for Appropriation	\$ 16,378,543	\$ 17,746,734	\$ 17,987,414	\$ 19,108,792
 <u>Estimated Requirements</u>				
Ordinary Recurring Expenses Personal Services	\$ 11,533,972	\$ 12,074,388	\$ 12,716,626	\$ 13,470,699
Non-personal Services	<u>3,836,945</u>	<u>4,903,955</u>	<u>4,517,387</u>	<u>4,875,474</u>
Total Ordinary Recurring Expenses.....	\$ 15,370,917	\$ 16,978,343	\$ 17,234,013	\$ 18,346,173
Major Capital Outlay.....	868,028	625,193	614,294	592,842
Contributions to Other Agencies.....	<u>139,598</u>	<u>143,198</u>	<u>139,107</u>	<u>169,777</u>
Total Estimated Requirements	\$ 16,378,543	\$ 17,746,734	\$ 17,987,414	\$ 19,108,792

(1) Amount to be raised by tax levy.

Tax Anticipation Notes

Under Rhode Island Law the Town may borrow in each fiscal year in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds of the property tax due in such fiscal year, an amount which shall not exceed the total tax levy of the then current fiscal year. Tax anticipation notes must be payable no later than one year from their date, but notes issued for less than one year may be renewed provided such renewal notes are payable within one year of the date of the original notes. The Town has not borrowed in anticipation of taxes since 1983 and does not expect to do so in the future.

State Aid

State School Operations Aid

Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Sections 16-7-15 to 16-7-34, as amended, the State provides operations assistance to each municipality and school district in the State. The statute provides for a guaranteed minimum per pupil expenditure set by each municipality under a formula prescribed by the statute and equalized with other municipalities on the basis of assessed valuations and other factors as determined by the Rhode Island General Assembly. The legislation guarantees a minimum program for every pupil, and, if the municipality fails to provide adequate funds for such program, the State transfers other State Aid due to the municipality to the school account. The Town's School Department received \$8,765,098 in State School Operations Aid during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2000 and expects to receive \$9,035,896 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001.

State School Construction Aid

Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 16-7-35 to 16-7-47, as amended, the State provides construction aid to Rhode Island municipalities for the cost of building or renovating public schools. All buildings constructed or renovated since July 1, 1949 are eligible for assistance of a minimum of 30% of the full cost of such buildings. Such assistance level may be further increased by a formula which takes into account the equalized assessed valuation and debt service burden of the particular municipality. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2000 the Town received \$442,776 in school construction aid and expects to receive \$447,953 in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001. The legislation authorizing

State School Construction Aid is subject to future change and all State aid is subject to annual appropriation by the Rhode Island General Assembly.

Commencing with fiscal year 1990—91, school housing project costs include the cost of interest on any bond issued after July 1, 1988.

State aid reimbursement for school construction projects is based on the share ratio established for that year by the Rhode Island Department of Education. For the current year the Town's share ratio is approximately 30.0%. This ratio can vary from year to year.

Other State Aid

In addition to school operations assistance, municipalities in Rhode Island receive additional aid through the State General Revenue Sharing program. The program, with the distribution formula similar to the Federal Revenue Sharing program, replaced various state grant and aid programs as of July 1, 1987. However, the General Revenue Sharing program has been sharply reduced in recent years. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2000, the Town received \$370,562 in funding from the General Revenue Sharing program and expects to receive \$494,343 in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001.

In addition, the Town receives aid from the State for Public Service Corporations Tax (Telephone Tax), partial reimbursement for school and library debt service costs and a hotel tax from North Kingstown hotels equal to 1% of gross receipts.

Summary of State Aid Revenues

Shown below is a summary of various State Aid revenues credited to the Town's General Fund (excluding School Operations Aid and School Construction Aid, which are accounted for in the Special Revenue Fund).

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>
General Revenue Sharing.....	\$ 189,683	\$ 191,845	\$ 180,518	\$ 262,195	\$ 370,562
Telephone Tax.....	194,407	199,376	239,296	266,764	303,148
State PILOT (Non-Profits).....	3,065	3,171	3,736	3,966	4,101
Hotel Tax.....	<u>5,200</u>	<u>8,479</u>	<u>12,037</u>	<u>14,041</u>	<u>16,024</u>
Total State Aid.....	<u>\$ 392,355</u>	<u>\$ 402,871</u>	<u>\$ 435,587</u>	<u>\$ 546,966</u>	<u>\$ 693,385</u>

LITIGATION

The Town has several lawsuits pending. In the opinion of the Town Solicitor and Town Officials, there is no litigation pending against the Town which, either individually or in the aggregate, would result in judgments that would have a materially adverse effect on the Town's financial position or its ability to meet its debt service obligations.

TAX EXEMPTION

In the opinion of Taft & McSally LLP, Bond Counsel, under existing law, interest on the Bonds will be exempt from Rhode Island income taxes although the Bonds and the income therefrom may be included in the measure of Rhode Island estate taxes and certain Rhode Island corporate and business taxes, and interest on the Bonds will be excludable from the gross income of recipients thereof for federal income tax purposes and will not be treated as an item of preference in calculating the alternative minimum tax imposed on individuals and corporations, although interest on the Bonds will be taken into account in computing certain federal taxes imposed on corporations. See Appendix C herein for "Proposed Form of Legal Opinion for the Bonds".

The opinion of Bond Counsel is subject to the condition that the Town comply with all requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") that must be satisfied subsequent to the issuance of the Bonds in order that interest thereon be, or continue to be, excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes. Failure to comply with certain of such requirements could cause the interest on the Bonds to be so included in gross income retroactive to the date of issuance of the Bonds. The Town has covenanted to comply with all such requirements. Bond Counsel expresses no opinion regarding other federal tax consequences arising with respect to the Bonds.

It should also be noted that Section 265 of the Code denies a deduction for interest on indebtedness incurred or continued to purchase or carry the Bonds, except with respect to certain financial institutions (within the meaning of Section 265(b)(5) of the Code) as noted below, and that for insurance companies subject to the tax imposed by Section 831 of the Code, the deduction for loss reserves is reduced by 15 percent of the sum of certain items, including interest on the Bonds. In addition, interest on the Bonds earned by certain corporations could be subject to the environmental tax or the foreign branch profits tax imposed by the Code, and may be included in passive investment income subject to federal income taxation under provisions of the Code applicable to certain Subchapter S corporations. The Code also requires recipients of certain social security and certain railroad retirement benefits to take into account receipts or accruals of interest on the Bonds in determining the portion of such benefits that are included in gross income. Prospective purchasers of the Bonds should consult their tax advisors as to the applicability of any such collateral consequences.

The Bonds will be designated as "qualified tax-exempt obligations" pursuant to Section 265(b)(3) of the Code.

CONTINUING DISCLOSURE

The Securities and Exchange Commission has promulgated amendments to Rule 15c2-12 (the "Rule") under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which requires that issuers of municipal securities undertake to provide continuing disclosure with respect to their securities, subject to certain exemptions. The Rule is effective for municipal securities for which an underwriter enters into a contractual commitment on or after July 3, 1995 to purchase such securities and, therefor, applies to the Bonds. The Town will covenant, at the time of the delivery of the Bonds, to provide continuing disclosure consistent with the terms of the Rule, as provided in a Continuing Disclosure Certificate to be dated as of the date of the Bonds.

Pursuant to the Continuing Disclosure Certificate, the Town will undertake to provide the following continuing disclosure with respect to the Bonds:

- (I.) The Town will provide to each Nationally Recognized Municipal Securities Information Repository ("National Repository") and the appropriate State Information Depository for the State ("State Repository"), if any: (a) not later than nine (9) months after the close of the Town's fiscal year, which is June 30, commencing June 30, 1999, certain financial information and operating data relating to the Town updating the financial information and operating data presented in the Official Statement prepared in connection with the Bonds to the extent required to comply with the Rule; and (b) as soon as available the audited financial statements of the Town for the most recently ended fiscal year, prepared on a modified accrual basis, reflecting assets, liabilities and financial activities not recorded in separate fund groups. The Town reserves the right to provide the information required in the above clauses (a) and (b) separately and to modify from time to time the specific types of information provided under clause (a) above or the format of the presentation of such information, to the extent necessary or appropriate, provided that any such modification will be done in a manner consistent with the Rule.
- (II.) The Town will provide in a timely manner to each National Repository or the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board, and the State Repository, if any, notice of the occurrence of any of the following events with respect to the Bonds, if material:
 - 1. Principal and interest payment delinquencies.
 - 2. Non-payment related defaults.
 - 3. Unscheduled draws on debt service reserves reflecting financial difficulties.
 - 4. Unscheduled draws on credit enhancements reflecting financial difficulties.
 - 5. Substitution of credit or liquidity providers, or their failure to perform.
 - 6. Adverse tax opinions or events affecting the tax-exempt status of the Bonds.
 - 7. Modifications to rights of beneficial owners and the holders of the Bonds.
 - 8. Bond calls.
 - 9. Defeasances.
 - 10. Release, substitution, or sale of property securing repayment of the Bonds.
 - 11. Rating changes.

(a) Whenever the Town obtains knowledge of the occurrence of a listed event, the Town shall as soon as possible determine if such event would constitute material information for the beneficial owners

and holders of the Bonds, provided, that any event under subsection (II.) (1), (4), (5) or (6) will always be deemed to be material.

(b) If the Town determines that knowledge of the occurrence of a listed event would be material, the Town, or, if appointed, any Dissemination Agent (as defined in the Continuing Disclosure Certificates) shall promptly file a notice of such occurrence with the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board or the National Repository and each State Repository. Notwithstanding the foregoing, notice of listed events described in subsections (II.) (8) and (9) need not be given any earlier than the notice (if any) of the underlying event is given to beneficial owners or holders of affected Bonds pursuant to the Bonds or the Legislation (as defined in the Continuing Disclosure Certificates).

The Town from time to time may choose to provide notice of the occurrence of certain other events, in addition to those listed above, if, in the judgment of the Town, such other event is material with respect to the Bonds, but the Town does not undertake to commit to provide any such notice of the occurrence of any material event except those listed above.

(III.) The Town will provide, in a timely manner, to each National Repository or to the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board and to the State Repository, if any, notice of a failure to satisfy the requirements of paragraph (I) above.

The intent of the Town's undertaking in the Continuing Disclosure Certificates is to provide on a continuing basis the information described in the Rule. Accordingly, the Town reserves the right to modify the disclosure thereunder or format thereof so long as any such modification is made in a manner consistent with the Rule. Furthermore, to the extent that the Rule no longer requires the issuers of municipal securities to provide all or any portion of the information the Town has agreed to provide pursuant to the Continuing Disclosure Certificates, the obligation of the Town to provide such information also shall cease immediately.

The purpose of the Town's undertaking is to conform to the requirements of the Rule and not to create new contractual or other rights for the original purchasers of the Bonds, any registered owner or beneficial owner of the Bonds, any municipal securities broker or dealer, any potential purchaser of the Bonds, the Securities and Exchange Commission or any other person. The sole remedy in the event of any actual or alleged failure by the Town to comply with any covenant of the Continuing Disclosure Certificates shall be an action for the specific performance of the Town's obligations thereunder and not for money damages in any amount. Any failure by the Town to comply with any provision of such undertaking shall not constitute an event of default with respect to the Bonds.

The Town Treasurer, or such official's designee from time to time, shall be the contact person on behalf of the Town from whom the foregoing information, data and notices may be obtained. The name, address and telephone number of the initial contact person is Cynthia J. Olobri, Town Treasurer, Town of North Kingstown, 80 Boston Neck Road, North Kingstown, Rhode Island 02852, Telephone (401-249-3331).

The Town is in compliance with its continuing disclosure obligations.

CONDITIONS PRECEDENT TO DELIVERY

The following, among other things, are conditions precedent to the delivery of the Bonds to the original purchasers thereof:

No Litigation Certificate

Upon delivery of the Bonds the Town shall deliver or cause to be delivered a certificate of the Town Manager, the Town Treasurer and the Town Clerk, dated the date of delivery, to the effect that there is no litigation pending or, to the knowledge of such officers, threatened affecting the validity of the Bonds or the power of the Town to levy and collect taxes to pay them, and that neither the corporate existence nor boundaries of the Town, nor the title of any said officers to their respective offices, is being contested.

Approval of Legality

The legality of the Bonds will be approved by Taft & McSally LLP, Bond Counsel. The unqualified approving opinion of such counsel with respect to the Bonds will be delivered at the time of original delivery of the Bonds and a copy of the opinion (except for the omitted date) will be printed on each of the Bonds. The opinion will be in substantially the

form attached hereto as Appendix C. The scope of engagement of Bond Counsel does not extend to passing upon or assuming responsibility for the accuracy or adequacy of the statements made in this Official Statement (other than matters expressly set forth as their opinion) and they make no representations that they have independently verified the same.

Certification of the Bonds

The Bonds shall be certified as to their genuineness by State Street Bank and Trust Company, Corporate Trust Department, Boston, Massachusetts, which certificate will appear on the Bonds.

Compliance with Legal Requirements

The services of First Southwest Company have included limited advice as to the scheduling, maturities and other details of the issue. The rendering of this advice may cause First Southwest Company to have a financial advisory relationship with the Town under Rule G-23 of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board. The Town consents to the participation of either First Southwest Company or an entity affiliated with First Southwest Company in the public bidding for the Bonds in accordance with Rule G-23.

RATINGS

The Bonds will be rated “AAA” by Standard & Poor’s Ratings Service, (S&P) and “Aaa” by Moody’s Investor’s Service, (“Moody’s”) with the understanding that upon delivery of the Bonds a policy insuring the payment when due of the principal and interest on the Bonds will be issued by Financial Security Assurance Inc. (the “Insurer”).

No application has been made to any other rating agency in order to obtain additional ratings on the Bonds. The rating reflects the respective rating agency’s current assessment of the the creditworthiness of the Insurer and its ability to pay claims on its policies of insurance. Any further explanation as to the significance of the above rating may be obtained from the applicable rating agency.

Certificate With Respect to Official Statement

At the time of the original delivery of and payment for the Bonds, the Town will deliver a certificate of the Town Treasurer certifying that, to the best of her knowledge and belief, both as of its date and as of the date of delivery of the Bonds, this Official Statement does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact and does not omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made herein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

All quotations from and summaries and explanations of laws herein do not purport to be complete, and reference is made to said laws for full and complete statements of their provisions.

This Official Statement is submitted only in connection with the sale of the Bonds by the Town and may not be reproduced or used in whole or in part for any other purpose.

TOWN OF NORTH KINGSTOWN, RHODE ISLAND

By: CYNTHIA J. OLOBRI
Town Treasurer

Dated: June 19, 2001