

## NORTH KINGSTOWN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OVERVIEW



**Meeting Date:** Monday, March 10, 2025

**Meeting Recording:** [https://northkingstown.granicus.com/player/clip/1463?view\\_id=3&redirect=true](https://northkingstown.granicus.com/player/clip/1463?view_id=3&redirect=true)

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The March 10<sup>th</sup> North Kingstown Town Council meeting began following a moment of silence for the recently deceased Capt. John Douglas Andrews, a North Kingstown resident, mariner, and business owner.

The March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council was highlighted by the Town Council's receipt of the Town Manager's Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026). The comprehensive budget book is online: <https://bit.ly/NKFY26BUDGET> Budget Presentation made by the Town Manager is also online: <https://bit.ly/TMFY26BUDGETPRESENTATION>.

The FY26 Budget was highlighted by a proposed residential tax rate reduced by an estimated \$3.29 (due to the state-mandated revaluation that took place) to \$11.05 and a commercial tax rate reduction to an estimated \$14.79. When the Homestead Exemption is taken into consideration, the adjusted estimated residential tax rate is \$10.50. The Proposed FY26 Budget, while fiscally conservative, funds multiple initiatives, asset protection, a 3.4% increase in the town's appropriation to the School Department, as well as the beginning stages of funding for the new Middle School, improvements to elementary schools, and a new Police/Fire Complex. The Town Council will meet with the Administration all day on March 18<sup>th</sup> to go through the budget, followed by a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on April 21<sup>st</sup> at Town Hall (80 Boston Neck Rd).

In Other Business, the Town Council approved a request on behalf of the Veterans and Memorial Day Parades Committee to name a portion of the waterfront property adjacent to the Municipal Parking Lot as "Anchor Park."

Within the Consent Agenda, the Town Council authorized the approval of temporary easements along Post Road and West Main Street to allow for the upcoming and long-anticipated sidewalk projects which will encompass West Main Street and Post Road from the Wickford intersection through Camp Ave. They also amended the 2025 Town Council meeting schedule and approved an exhibition license for a Pride Parade being held on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

In New Business, the Council approved a request and recommendation from the Town Manager to utilize surplus/fund balance funds to contribute to the North Kingstown Food Pantry's Capital Campaign. This Capital Campaign will result in an expansion of the town-owned Schoolhouse building and allow for efficient and expanded services to a growing population of clients. The Town Council also adopted a Resolution to oppose some of the changes being proposed by the Rhode Island Office of Library Services which could jeopardize the future of Willett and Davisville Libraries, while negatively impacting the North Kingstown Free Library. New Business concluded with appointments of volunteers to various Boards and Commissions.

The Town Manager also presented his Manager's Report, a regular feature at each Council meeting to summarize the status of various projects and initiatives underway or planned in town and to note recent accomplishments of staff. The Manger's Report presentation can also be found online: <https://bit.ly/managersreports>.

The next meeting of the North Kingstown Town Council will be on Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> for an all-day review of individual budgets with the Town Manager and administrative staff in the Municipal Court Room at 100 Fairway Drive. This will be followed by their regularly scheduled meeting at Town Hall on March 24<sup>th</sup> and the Budget Public Hearing on April 21<sup>st</sup>. The Council's [full meeting schedule](#) can be found on the Town's website.