

February 24, 2025

Manager's Report

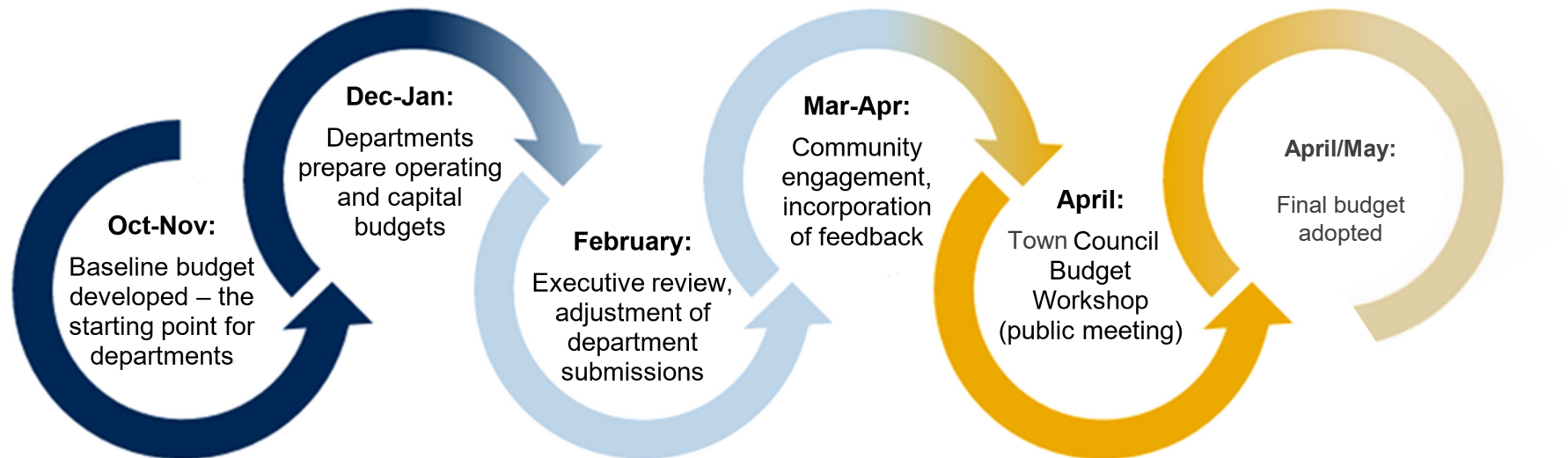
A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager



Reminder

FY 2026 Budget Schedule

- **A reminder for the general public:** I will be presenting the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 to the Town Council at the next Council Meeting, Monday, 3/10
- This will be followed by a Council Meeting with Administration and Department Heads all day on March 18th, and a **Public Hearing on April 21st**.



School Department Capital Projects



Update

- We had a School Department Building Subcommittee Meeting on February 12th (it is available on the School Department's YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAwENm_Ln5I)
 - We reviewed an update on the Stage II Application to RIDE with some necessary changes to maximize the state reimbursement
 - Changes were made to class sizes to maximize enrollment and reimbursement as well as to streamlining and revisions of CIP projects, per RIDE comments and feedback from teachers.
- My understanding is that a revised Stage II Application is being reviewed by RIDE and our next meeting of the Subcommittee is scheduled for March 12th at 4:30 PM.
 - These meetings are open to the public and take place at the School Administration building at 100 Romano Vineyard Way.



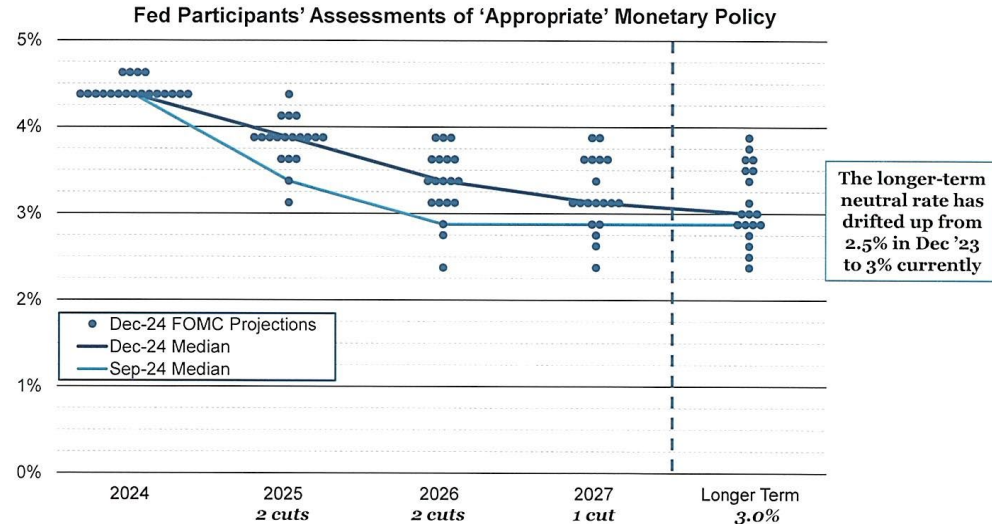
Public Safety Complex Project

Update

- The Town Council authorized me to retain DBVW Architects for the architectural and engineering services for the proposed project.
- The very preliminary timeline is for 9 – 12 months of final schematic design before public bidding in early 2026, and construction on the Public Safety Complex beginning summer of 2026, followed by construction of Wickford Fire Station in late winter of 2026.
- We have a meeting of our Public Safety Complex Committee this week where we will discuss this timeline, a plan to move forward, as well as the necessary steps to retain the land within Quonset Business Park for the new Public Safety Complex.
 - This land will require Town Council approval, and I hope to have it on an Agenda in March.
 - I look forward to providing further updates at the next Council Meeting.

The Latest Fed “Dot Plot”

Fed Chair Powell: “You see a slower path ... meaningful progress to get inflation down to [2.5%] ... we have the labor market forecast as being in good shape, we are also mindful that it is ... very gradually cooling”



Source: Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell Press Conference as of December 18, 2024; Federal Reserve; Bloomberg Finance L.P.. Individual dots represent each Fed members' judgement of the midpoint of the appropriate target range for the federal funds rate at each year-end. As of December 2024.

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Projects/Initiatives

Update

- I – and we – are working on a **Financing Schedule** for both the School Department Capital Project and the Public Safety Complex Project.
 - We have outlined the draw down schedule for funding the needs for both projects and are working to line options up with the upcoming Debt cliff, RIDE Reimbursement, and interest rate projections to minimize taxpayer impact.
 - I will have more to say on this important topic during the upcoming budget deliberations.

Reminder

- We're excited that our new email newsletter, **North Kingstown Notes**, has begun and currently reaches a few hundred recipients.
 - It sends approximately 2x/month and contains official town news, information, events and connections to our municipal resources.
- Opting-out is easy, you can unsubscribe at any time at the bottom of each email. To opt-in, you must sign up either on our website, or <https://bit.ly/NKNOTES>
- This is to supplement our official Social Media pages and accounts and our website which aim to keep residents and our community up to date.



Projects/Initiatives



Revolution Wind Offshore Wind Farm


- We had our bi-weekly meeting with Revolution Wind last week regarding their **Offshore Wind Farm** Project.
 - Construction continues on their Onshore Substation and will require the delivery of some large-scale components. This will be coordinated with all stakeholders and we will be kept up to date.
 - Additional activities such as cable pulling and interconnection work continues to take place within Quonset Business Park.
- As always, anyone with questions and /or concerns is encouraged to contact Revolution Wind directly, at (401) 255-2207 or info@revolution-wind.com – we receive weekly reports on these matters.

Projects/Initiatives

LEARN365RI Initiative Update



- Along with several other cities in towns in Rhode Island, we were recently awarded a subsequent **FY2025 LEARN365RI** grant.
 - We will use the at least \$55,000 in funds for approved programming related to the advancement of the Math Matters RI campaign and will support out-of-school time learning programs with an explicit focus on math for K-8th grade students.
 - This funding will be managed in the same way we currently oversee and spend other LEARN365RI funds to benefit our youth, through a great working relationship between our Department of Recreation and Quidnessett Elementary School's Office of Family Learning.
- To read more from Governor McKee's Press Release, see: <https://governor.ri.gov/press-releases/governor-mckee-commissioner-infante-green-launch-math-matters-ri-campaign-award-285>



P/T & F/T Lifeguard(s)
RECREATION DEPARTMENT
TOWN OF NORTH KINGSTOWN, RI

RESPONSIBILITIES: Full and part-time summer positions for lifeguards at Town Beach are required to have and maintain all current RI certifications as required by the State of RI, including Non-Surf Beach Credential, First Aid, CPR and AED certifications. Will be required to work weekends and holidays from Memorial Day through Labor Day and be aware of schedule conflicts in advance of commitment to summer season.


Complete details are online: <https://bit.ly/northkingstownnowhiring>

NOTE: Beach is open weekends-only in June, then 7 days/wk until Labor Day. Operating hours: 9 AM - 5 PM. Must be at least 17 years of age.

SALARY: \$18.00 - \$24/hr; retention bonus and certification reimbursements possible.

TO APPLY: Submit online application or email cdumas@northkingstownri.gov

APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL POSITIONS ARE FILLED.




Projects/Initiatives

Recreation Department Update

- Highlights that may not have been on recent Council agendas, include:
 - We are hiring** Lifeguards, Gate Guards, and seasonal help for our Golf Course.
 - Annual Easter Egg Hunt** at Wilson Park: April 12th (rain date: 4/13); see flyer for complete details.
 - Summer Camp registration** will take place starting online (through the Rec. Dept. Catalog – link is below) at 9:00 AM on April 2nd.
 - This is typically very competitive! We encourage you not to wait to register your child(ren).
 - We will have four camps this year (at McGinn & Wilson Parks as well as Stoney Lane & Forest Park Schools) that will be for children ages 6-11. Xtreme Camp will be for youth ages 11-13, and we have Counselor opportunities for youth at least 15 years old.
- Programming is also available for the School's **April vacation week**; registration is through the Recreation Catalog online: <https://bit.ly/nkreccatalog>




EASTER EGG HUNT
SATURDAY APRIL 12TH
WILSON PARK



THREE FIELDS SET UP FOR THREE AGE GROUPS AT STAGGERED TIMES
BRING YOUR OWN BAG
CONCESSION & PHOTO OP WITH THE BUNNY
NO REGISTRATION NECESSARY

RAINDATE: 4/13 SAME TIMES, SAME LOCATION
WILL BE ANNOUNCED DAY BEFORE OR CALL 268-1543 FOR UPDATE

DAVID GARRITY 11-11:45
BUNNY ARRIVAL BY FIRE TRUCK 11:45

AGES 4 & UNDER 12PM
AGES 5-8 12:10PM
AGES 9-12 12:15PM



Projects/Initiatives

Planning Department Update

- Planning Director Nicole LaFontaine and I had a very lengthy and productive meeting with representatives from the RI Dept. of Transportation regarding the many projects we have forthcoming, as well as some of our remaining priorities.

In summary:

- We've asked RIDOT to provide us with a written report and response on the feedback we gave to them on their proposal to address the congestion at the **Route 4 traffic signals**. We are expecting this shortly and will follow up.
- They've asked us for feedback and information on the request for a **sidewalk** connecting Wickford Junction and the Home Depot plaza.
- We've requested that they move the **paving of Phillips St.** up on their priority list. We hope to get it moved to late this year or early next.
- We will be working with RIDOT on a proposed **Ten Rod Road Bike Lane** from Tower Hill Rd to Wickford Junction. We will be working with them on a study, followed by public input, followed by funding.
- RIDOT will be working on safety improvements and a new traffic pattern along **Hunt River Bridge** at the intersection of North Kingstown and East Greenwich. We will be working with them on this being a potential new gateway into North Kingstown with appropriate signage, etc.
- Following-up from a meeting we had a few months ago, RIDOT will provide a revised plan for the **Devils Foot Railroad Bridge** to address some of the concerns provided by North Kingstown Public Safety and East Greenwich Public Safety departments.
- RIDOT will be addressing our concerns regarding improved signage along **Route 1** to improve safety along the Gooseneck Vineyards entrance, and at our request on behalf of the North Kingstown Chamber of Commerce, to paint the electrical boxes along Post Road.
- We discussed the upcoming **Post Road Sidewalk Project** and hope to coordinate it with Water Line Replacement that will also be taking place along this route.
- Finally, they presented us some concerns regarding rehabbing or replacing the **Brown Street Bridge** and addressing resiliency concerns – sometime in 2028 – as well as minor rehab with no disruption to the **Hussey Bridge**. We will discuss this further and I will keep you up to date.

Staff Updates

CONGRATULATIONS!



- To **Tim McDavitt**, our Purchasing Agent in the Finance Department, who has been chosen to serve on a panel at one of the sessions for the upcoming RI League of Cities and Towns' Annual Conference.



- To **Sergeant Daly** of the North Kingstown Police Department, as is he being presented with a rarely-awarded and distinct honor from the 100 Club: a 100 Club Hero's Medal.
 - This has been given out less than 20 times in the last 53 years and involves actions pertaining to the saving of a life.
 - And to **Officers Andrew Pluta and Nick Fortin**, also of the North Kingstown Police Department, on receiving 100 Club Meritorious Service Commendation for their actions.

Thank You



February 24, 2025

A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager

