



NK voters, here's the details on Bostich building, sewer questions

To the Editor:

The North Kingstown Town Council wishes to have the voters support two very important ballot questions which we believe are in the best interest of the taxpayers. There will be explanatory language on the ballot regarding the questions; however, we felt it best to get this message out to the voters so they can talk the questions out with their neighbors and friends in a more simplified format.

We want the voters to know that these questions received unanimous support from the entire town council.

1. Ballot Question 8, \$1.4 million dollar bond to purchase 545 Callahan Road.

This building is the old Bostich building next to the municipal golf course at Quonset. The town currently leases the building with the option to purchase, pursuant to a 10-year agreement signed three years ago. The contracted lease or purchase price value being \$1.2 million. The bond value includes additional required building improvements.

Purchasing makes fiscal sense and will allow the town to save approximately \$100,000 over the original lease terms, and the town will own the building outright. We believe this is in the best interest of the taxpayers.

This building will be used for maintenance of Fire Department vehicles, records storage for the town, and housing the golf carts from the municipal golf course in the off season. The building has 33,000 square feet and a wide span roof approximately 30 feet high. The total cost for the building after improvements is approximately \$57 a square foot.

We could not build this type of structure for less than \$ 125 a square foot, which does not include land cost.

By charter, the town is required to get voter approval before any property purchase. The town is already obligated to this expense whether purchased or leased. If not purchased, the lease will need to be re-negotiated and payments will be ongoing for years to come.

This property represents a great value to the Town at a very reasonable price. Please support this bond!

2. Ballot Question 9, Community Septic System Loan Program to borrow up to \$2 million.

The original \$2 million borrowed in 2006 is nearly exhausted, having lent this money to over 173 homeowners so they could upgrade their septic systems.

As we all know, the expense of upgrading and repairing our septic system can be very costly. This account allows a homeowner to borrow funds for necessary repairs, which are repaid over five to 10 years. With this program, homeowners will not have to pay all their expense upfront. It is also important because it supports all of our efforts to keep our drinking water safe and clean!

We have attempted here to simplify these ballot questions and hope that our message is clear. These are important questions that need ALL of our support! They are supported by a unanimous 5-0 vote by your town council.

Please contact the town manager or a town council member with any further questions.

President Kerry P. McKay

Councilor Carol H. Hueston

Councilor Kevin V. Maloney

Councilor Jason A. Albuquerque

Councilor Ellen S. Waxman