



NORTH KINGSTOWN TOWN COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE May 2, 2016 ITEM NUMBER 42

ITEM: STATE AID TO LIBRARIES FUNDING RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, for many people, public libraries are their only means of access to computer services and all forms of media essential for fulfilling and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the importance of libraries in our society, the State of Rhode Island passed legislation setting the level of state aid for library services at a minimum of 25% of the amount spent from local tax funds and the library's private endowment; and

WHEREAS, due to level funding the past several years, the actual funding percentage of library aid has been reduced to between 21 and 22%. For FY 2016, the Town of North Kingstown will receive \$261,330 (22%), which is \$33,143 less than the Town of North Kingstown would have received if funding was at 25%; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the North Kingstown Free Library have voted to support 25% state aid for libraries and have sought the support of the North Kingstown Town Council in realizing this objective; and

WHEREAS, the Town of North Kingstown supports fully funding state aid to libraries at the 25% level in FY 2017.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the North Kingstown Town Council does hereby support legislation which would restore funding for state aid to libraries to the full 25% required in Rhode Island General Law 29-6-2(a) and urges the North Kingstown Delegation to have the General Assembly work diligently for its passage.

Prepared by: _____