

TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN

PRESS RELEASE



TOWN COUNCIL

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ROBERT ZARNETSKA APPOINTED AS SOUTH KINGSTOWN TOWN MANAGER

South Kingstown, RI—At a regular session held December 18th, 2017, the South Kingstown Town Council appointed Robert C. Zarnetske III as South Kingstown's new Town Manager. Mr. Zarnetske will assume his new responsibilities effective January 16th, 2018.

"On behalf of our Town Council, I congratulate Mr. Zarnetske on his appointment after a rigorous search process," said Council President Margaret Healy. "We considered many well qualified candidates and deliberated carefully, and we thank everyone who applied. Rob Zarnetske impressed us as a dynamic, resourceful and experienced public manager who will work hand in hand with our Council, citizens and Town employees to help make our community an even better place to live and work."

"I am very pleased and humbled that the Council chose me to serve as South Kingstown's next Town Manager," said Zarnetske. "In the weeks and months ahead, I will work hard to earn the trust and confidence of the Town's residents, employees and Council members. I look forward to continuing the standards of excellence established and exhibited by my predecessor. My wife Shirley and I look forward to becoming proud members of the South Kingstown community."

Zarnetske served as the New England regional administrator and national lead executive for state and local outreach for the U.S. General Services Administration from 2010 to early 2017. Since then he has worked as a consultant and visiting lecturer in the graduate public management program at the University of Massachusetts in Boston. Previously he worked for the U.S. Department of Transportation in Washington, DC; served as a fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington; served as a legislative assistant in the Capitol Hill office of former U.S. Senator Chris Dodd of CT; served the City of Norwich, CT as assistant city manager and then city manager, and later as a city council member; taught as an adjunct faculty member at the University of New Haven College of Business; and practiced law. He is licensed to practice law in Connecticut and the District of Columbia.

Zarnetske earned a bachelor's degree in government from Eastern Connecticut State University, a master of arts degree in political science from the University of Connecticut, a master of education degree in administration and policy from Harvard University, and a law degree from the University of Oregon Law School.

The Town Council received 42 applications and considered a number of finalists, after a national search conducted with the assistance of a public sector executive search and consulting firm. Healy said that the Council greatly appreciated the valuable input of citizens and Town staff about the qualifications, experience and characteristics that the Council should be looking for in the next manager. "Our consultant produced an attractive and informative recruitment brochure that included those criteria, and we used those as a guide in making our decisions," Healy said.

"We thank Steve Alfred for his dedicated service to our citizens and his many remarkable achievements," said Healy. "He has led our Town staff with great professionalism for forty-two years, and he is highly respected throughout Rhode Island. We wish him the very best on his retirement and know that our new Town Manager will find that Steve is leaving the administration and finances in very sound condition."