

Source	Type	Date	Text Highlight
Town Council	Minutes	7/18/2014	• Edmund Alves, Town Solicitor, explains that this change is also Town practice under the Charter for the Municipal Court Judge. • The Town Council members do not to accept this revision.
		3/19/2015	• Town Manager Finlay states that there are two (2) items that will need clarification by the Town Council members. Town Manager Finlay states that there has been some discussion regarding the organization of a Smithfield Traffic Tribunal. Town Manager Finlay further states that the current Municipal Court Ordinance would need to be changed to include a Traffic Tribunal. Town Manager Finlay further explains that the proposed budget includes a part-time employee. Town Manager Finlay further explains that on the Capital Improvement side he has included \$20,000 for mandated Municipal Court software that is required. Town Manager Finlay is asking the Town Council their thoughts on this matter for further discussion. • Council member Cavanagh, asks if the Town does not establish a Traffic Tribunal, then the Municipal Court software would not be necessary. Town Manager replies that the software would not be necessary if the Traffic Tribunal is not implemented.
		4/21/2015	• M. Consider, discuss, and act upon the Traffic Tribunal. • Council member Tocco explains that currently all summonses issued by the Smithfield Police Department are handled by the Cranston Traffic Tribunal for adjudication. Council member Tocco further explains that Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena has offered the Town the use of the Johnston Municipal Court at no cost to the taxpayers. Council member Tocco states that the only cost to the Town would be \$20,000 in technology fees; however, that amount is included in this year’s budget. Council member Tocco further states that also included in this year’s budget is a “floating clerk”. Council member Tocco feels that establishing a Traffic Tribunal would not only be a convenience to the residents but also an asset to the Town. • Council member LaGreca asks about the “floating clerk”. Town Manager Finlay explains this clerk would be used to fill in in various departments in case of sickness and also for the Traffic Tribunal. • Council member LaGreca asks if there have been any financial studies completed to see if the Traffic Tribunal will break even. Council member LaGreca suggests that rather than supplying the Council members with just a Motion, background information is needed. • Council member Tocco states that his research has shown that approximately \$10,000 annually goes into the State coffers from tickets that Smithfield Police write.

Source	Type	Date	Text Highlight
			• Police Chief St. Sauveur states that as of this time, he is opposed to establishing a Traffic Tribunal. Chief St. Sauveur further states that his biggest concern is the reputation of the Police Department. Chief St. Sauveur is concerned that accusations will be made about the Police Department raising funds for the Town. Chief St. Sauveur feels that the Police Department has a good reputation because those tickets flow through the Traffic Tribunal and the hearings are conducted by Traffic Tribunal Judge or magistrate. Those cases are not being heard by our Municipal Court Judge that is on our payroll. Chief St. Sauveur suggests forming a Committee to research if this proposal would be in the best interest of the Town and its residents. • Council President Hawkins is in agreement with Chief St. Sauveur. Council President Hawkins states that the Town currently receives approximately half of the ticket amount which goes into the Police Equipment Fund. Council President Hawkins furthers states that the Town needs to know the amount of funds going into the Police Equipment Fund on a quarterly or annual basis. • Council Vice-President Alba states that although Mayor Polisena has offered the Town the use of the Johnston Municipal Court in an informal capacity, more information needs to be obtained from the Mayor along with a written proposal. Council Vice President Alba also suggests that an employee from Johnston serve on the Committee. • Chief St. Sauveur explains that the payment of tickets cannot be paid at the Smithfield Police Department when it is the Smithfield Police Department that wrote the ticket. Chief St. Sauveur further explains that the amount of money going into the Police Equipment Fund fluctuates depending on conditions. • Council member LaGreca agrees that is not all about dollars and cents; it is about reputation. • Motion is made by Council member Tocco, seconded by Council member Cavanagh, to forward a proposal for a future Traffic Tribunal to the Financial Review Commission to study the feasibility and report back to the Town Council. Motion is approved by a unanimous 5/0 vote.
		11/4/2015	• Joseph Passaretti, CPA, Vice-Chairman, reviews the Municipal Court Analysis and Recommendation. • Mr. Passaretti reviews the following topics of the presentation: • 1. Facts – (based upon information obtained by the RI Traffic Tribunal Chief Magistrate William Guglietta and Steven Sao Bento, Court Administrator. The period covered by the information is January 2012 to December 2014). • 2. Accounting and Controls • 3. Security matters

Source	Type	Date	Text Highlight
			• 4. Interpreter • 5. Various other matters • 6. Summary • 7. FRC recommendation • *See attached supporting documentation for review.
		2/11/2025	• Vice President Bovis explains that no one enforces the passes, and she suggests these tickets could be handed via municipal court who handles limited tickets (not traffic tickets) • Member Toppi states she would like to see to the BFRB take care of that at this point.
		5/20/2025	• Schedule a public hearing on June 17, 2025 to consider, discuss, and act upon amendments to Chapter 60 of the Code of Ordinances entitled “Municipal Court” to add section D to Section 7 entitled “Jurisdiction” sponsored by Council Vice President Angelica L. Bovis. • Member Iannotti thinks that this should be referred to the BFRB at the appropriate time. Member Iannotti explains that the predecessor board to the current board did a study as to whether or not it would be economical for the Town to collect its own traffic fines. Member Iannotti further explains that they determined it was either very close or it would not be to the advantage of the Town. Member Iannotti would like to see what the numbers look like today before the council makes their decision. • Vice President Bovis explains the following: Creating a municipal court to cover the traffic tribunal cases/violations is two-fold. We need legislation allowing the Town to do this and to study this in order to make a determination of if it is advantageous to the Town. She spoke with colleagues at the traffic tribunal in Cranston and municipal officials throughout the state. They have done training on the program and have data regarding Smithfield specifically. Many of those people told her that having legislation in place allowing the Town to do this would be the first step. Talking about this in the hypothetical seems backwards if we do not have the power to create it. • Motion is made by Member Winfield, seconded by Vice President Bovis, that the Smithfield Town Council schedules a public hearing on July 15, 2025. Motion is approved by a unanimous 5/0 vote.
			•

Notes: Some instances of the term were not added to this compilation. These situations were noted as referencing the municipal court without any specific reference to the issue of traffic citations (e.g. zoning, appointments, etc.). Also, there could be mistakes or a specific meeting missing when compiling of these minutes. Please notify the blog owner of any inconsistencies.