

**MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
SIXTH TAXING DISTRICT, City of Norwalk
January 14, 2015**

**8:00 p.m.
Rowayton Community Center**

The January 14, 2015 meeting of the Sixth Taxing District Commissioners was called to order by Commission Chair Tammy Langalis at 8:05 p.m. Mrs. Langalis welcomed all those in attendance and introduced the Commission.

On a motion by Commissioner John Igneri, the Minutes of the December 10, 2014 meeting were approved as corrected.

OLD BUSINESS

Commission Chair Tammy Langalis explained that there is a regulation for the Ambler Parking Lot that there not be any loitering or overnight parking. Lately, there have been repeated violations of this regulation, especially the provision for no overnight parking. This lot is to be used for parking for businesses and events in the area. Commissioner Barbis said that we had received a letter from counsel that confirms the Commission's right to enforce these regulations. Most people have been cooperative. For those who choose to ignore the regulation, the Commissioners are on record as intending to enforce this regulation, which is their right.

NEW BUSINESS

Rowayton Civic Association President Carlyn Paynter presented a calendar of RCA events for 2015. She said that there is still some uncertainty about a raindate for the Fourth of July fireworks. The fireworks company has committed to Norwalk to have a raindate of July 5, which would normally be our raindate. Further information about this will be forthcoming. The Nativity Pageant will be on December 12, 2015 and will be staged in Pinkney Park. Mrs. Langalis noted that Rowayton Avenue going by Pinkney Park is a state road. She said that any closure of the road would have to be requested from the state. The Labor Day swim races have been scheduled for the following weekend in September because of the timing of the high tides on the race day. The RCA has scheduled a House Tour next fall. They will probably use Roton Point and shouldn't need Bayley Beach for parking. That would be a back up in case of unforeseen problems. Commissioners John Igneri made a motion to approve the RCA dates. Commissioner Mike Barbis seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

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Sarah Johnson, the new President of the Rowayton Tennis Association, passed out photo and grant request packets illustrating the need for some tree work at the tennis courts at Bayley Beach. She asked the Commissioners if there was any way for the district to do this work before the start of the tennis season. Property Manager Ed Carlson will consult with them and would get some estimates. The Commissioners asked the District Treasurer if there might be any funds left over in the Fiscal Year's budget to pay for this work. They said that they would look at the budget and get back to Sarah as to whether or not this could be done in this Fiscal Year.

REPORTS

Commissioner Mike Barbis mentioned that there is a hearing scheduled for tomorrow evening at 6 p.m. at City Hall with the DEEP which will address the issue of a proposed deep water dock to be built off Bell Island. He also said that the Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a meeting next Wednesday at City Hall to consider a proposal that would result in the early notification of neighbors about any permit that might be issued in their neighborhood.

Mr. Barbis said we would apply for another state preservation grant for the Community Center which would help offset the expenditures for the changes of Phase 3 of renovation of the Rowayton Community Center. The Long Term Planning Committee for the Community Center wishes to finish the inside of the building. They would remediate all the environmental issues and clean up the courtyard. They anticipate a design competition for the courtyard which would begin later this winter or early spring. They've got a plan of how to finance this work. So, they will proceed with the engineering and design work over the course of this month. The LTPCCC is expanding with more representation of the various groups that use the Community Center. They're going to have a meeting with groups who use the kitchen in order to get their input regarding planned changes.

There will be further investigation of the leak in the library. They wish to determine the source of the leak once and for all which would facilitate the repair to eliminate it.

The offices of the Sixth Taxing District are now completely moved into the offices across the courtyard and over the library. We have a new phone system with the number of 203-854-6666. The web site needs a bit more tweaking.

Mr. Barbis noted that all the kayaks are gone from Bayley Beach. He also noted the receipt of a Happy New Year card from the Rowayton Arts Center and thank you notes from Mr. Carlson and Mrs. Woodworth.

Commission Chair Tammy Langalis said that the construction associated with the lowering of Rowayton Avenue near the RR Station is now complete. The construction trailer should be out before the end of the month. That will mean four more parking spaces. She said that the parking lot has sometimes been full during the last few weeks. People are parking in the center of the Westbound side. She reiterated the information that is always prominently displayed on RR

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Permit Renewal Day that a permit does not guarantee a place to park. It is a rare occurrence that the parking lot is full, but it does happen occasionally.

District Treasurer John Verel said that the clearance measurement sign has not been updated on the bridge at the train station. He also mentioned that the light at the bottom of the stairs on the westbound side is poor. Mrs. Langalis said that she would look into that, thinking that the lighting may be the responsibility of MetroNorth. She also mentioned that the person doing the snow plowing at the station will also be clearing the sidewalk. She wanted to reiterate the information that shoveling of sidewalks is the responsibility of homeowners who have the sidewalks in front of their residence. If a homeowner lives on a corner, it is also their responsibility to shovel the corners of the sidewalk.

Mr. Verel also reported that the wall at the north end of Belmont Street is too high and drivers might have a hard time seeing oncoming traffic. Mrs. Langalis agrees that it could be a hazard. She wants to encourage the police to enforce the speed limit, especially in that area.

Commissioner John Igeri said that they're going to stripe the side of the road and hoped that would slow people down. Mrs. Langalis also said that one of the speed bumps is already starting to show wear and that people seem to be going too fast.

Commissioner Mike Barbis also said that the LTPCCC is working on plans for the driveway exit from the Community Center property. The work will go out to bid in the next couple of weeks. This is all dependent on when the asphalt plants open. They are hoping to do the work in March. This wouldn't be an issue for the Gardeners' Plant Sale at the Potting Shed and its environs on May 2.

District Treasurer John Verel said that we're just halfway through the Fiscal Year and that we're about 50% of budget on both revenues and expenses. A Budget Meeting is scheduled for January 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the new district offices. There will be another meeting on January 28 at a time yet to be determined. The Annual Meeting of the 6th Taxing District and the Annual Budget Meeting of the 6th Taxing District will be held in the Community Center Moose Room at 7:30 p.m. on March 4, 2015. There will probably be the regular March meeting of the 6th Taxing District following these meetings.

The following motion was made by Commissioner John Igeri and seconded by Commissioner Mike Barbis: "Be it resolved that the commissioners designate John P. Verel, District Treasurer, as the District's official charged with executing certain documents required to establish and manage the District's simple IRA plan". **The motion passed.**

The following narrative report was submitted by District Treasurer John Verel:

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**Sixth Taxing District Treasurer’s Narrative Report
To
Commissioners’ Meeting, January 14, 2015**

Handouts to Commissioners*:

- Budget v Actual report as of December 31, 2014 for FY 14-15
- Treasurer’s Report of Bank Balances as of December 31, 2014
- Capital Funds Project Balances report
- Report of Bills Paid in December 2014

Comments on Reports:

- **On the District Budget v Actual Report**
Our expenses are at 53% of the budgeted expenses for, and our income is at 49% of, the budgeted income for FY 14-15. We are expecting a fairly substantial tax deposit from the City later this month or early February

Events:

- We have completed the physical move of the office to the new space and we are now working on un-packing all of the boxes. We do have a few items to work on in the new space like better lighting and drafty doors.
- The 2015-2016 budget work continues to progress. We are waiting on grant letters and finishing some additional calculations that were discussed last week.
- We are also reviewing the overs and unders on the 2014-2015 Operating and Capital budgets.

*Please note, these are preliminary drafts and not final audited reports.
(Statistical reports will be attached at the end of the Minutes).

Report of the District Fire Marshal	December 2014	Ed Carlson
<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>#</u>	<u># Man Hours</u>
Blasting Permits	***	***
Blasting Site Inspections	***	***
Building Inspections	3	3
Clerical (office) work		19
Fire Marshal Conferences	***	***
Career Development Training	2	10
Investigation(s)	1	1
Meetings: District monthly	1	1
FCNHFMA	1	2
(Other) Temp. structure inspection	1	1
(Other) Oil Tank removal inspection	1	1
	Total Man Hrs:	38

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Property Manager Report

January 2015

Ed Carlson

Community Center:

1. The J-D Gator is up for sale if anyone knows someone interested.
2. The bathroom sink faucet was replaced in the Library
3. F&G starting date for sewer connection pending.

Bayley Beach:

1. All kayaks have been removed for the winter. The remaining one was relocated to the root cellar.

Pinkney Park:

1. The props for the Pageant are now being stored in the barn and on the concrete pad next to the barn.
2. The problem with overheating in the house has been solved and a new thermostat wire was installed.

R. R. Parking Lot:

1. The leaves were removed by District employees over the Christmas holiday.

(New lights have been installed in the office today. They should cost about \$2/year to operate. There is a new Rowayton sign on Rowayton Avenue and the one on Wilson was replaced).

Report of the District Clerk

January 14, 2015

Andrea Woodworth

1. There is a Dutch group that held a Dutch camp at Pinkney Park last summer. They would like to do that again. This year's dates are June 29 – July 24. They provided insurance but I don't think they were charged a fee. Would you give the permission for this summer? I think they're only there in the morning and then go across the street to Five Mile River Nursery School. Should a fee be charged? **(The Commissioners are generally in favor of this but will rule later after the gathering of some more information).**

2. A Westport resident, Mitch Longley, has asked about the possibility of holding a vintage photograph art show at the Community Center on a Saturday in May. Mitch grew up around here and suffered a spinal cord injury which has left him in a wheelchair. He has become an actor as well as a photographer and is especially interested in these old photos. He said he wouldn't mount any photos on the wall but would use some sort of wire system to suspend the photos. This event would not really fit into any of our categories on the fee schedule so am wondering how I should proceed. **(Melissa Yurechko explained further about this possible program saying Mitch Longley really wanted to share these photos with the public. She said that the Library would be glad to co-sponsor this event. The Commissioners approved it on this basis).**

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3. A permit parker at the RR Station has contacted me to let us know that he has not been able to find a parking spot at the RR station recently. I asked if center parking was used then and he said that it was but that one day that was also full. This gentleman does take a later train at 9:47 so that would account for the scant parking, I'm sure.

RR guard and former Community Policing Officer Joe Jensen was in attendance. Mrs. Langalis thanked him for dealing with some people who were blocked in by cars of commuters who hadn't returned yet. She said that the district is fortunate to have nice guards but is very glad that things like that don't happen often.

Commissioner John Igeneri made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Commissioner Mike Barbis. The January 14, 2015 meeting of the Sixth Taxing District Commissioners was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea J. Woodworth
Clerk, 6th Taxing District