

**MINUTES  
COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
SIXTH TAXING DISTRICT, City of Norwalk, CT  
January 15, 2020**

**7:00 p.m.  
Rowayton Community Center**

PRESENT: Commissioners Tammy Langalis, Mike Barbis, John Igneri, District Treasurer Gil Kernan, District Fire Marshal and District Property Manager Ed Carlson, District Asst. Property Manager Jason O'Donnell, District Clerk Andrea Woodworth.

Commission Chair Tammy Langalis called the January 15, 2020 meeting of the Sixth Taxing District Commissioners to order at 7:05 p.m. Mrs. Langalis welcomed those in attendance and introduced the Commission.

On a motion by Commissioner John Igneri, the Minutes of the December 18, 2019 Commissioners' Meeting were approved as submitted.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Commissioner Mike Barbis** addressed the issue of promotion banners that are often hung across the street in front of Pinkney Park to advertise upcoming events. Mr. Barbis stated that there are city ordinances banning advertising signs placed on public property. These would also include the push-in the ground lawn signs. Various groups have, in the past, had the across the street banners hung for a very long time in advance of an event. Some organizations would like to have the signs as well but don't know how to address the availability of the space, et cetera. The Sixth Taxing District along with the RCA are proposing having some sort of clearing house to keep a schedule of what organizations want to have signs and when they might go up. They would also like local non-profit groups to submit advertisements about upcoming events to the 6TD, which could be sent out with the regular newsletters. The distribution list for the 6TD email list is about 5000 addressees. Wilson Avenue resident Betsy Bain asked about how alternatives to lawn signs would work. Commissioner Barbis said that other options would be

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voluntary and they are not trying to ban lawn signs but allowed that they shouldn't be posted on District property, at least not for long lead-in times. Some residents are opposed to any signs at all. The District and the RCA would like to be informed when any group decides to use one of the banners across the street. If we know in advance who will put up banners, a schedule can be posted for when the sign goes up and when it should come down and when it should come down. Resident Burt Schatz mentioned that one of the objections people have to the lawn signs is that they often aren't taken away when the event is over. The 6TD email blast could include not just a notice of the coming event but any art work and poster mock up that would be provided to the 6TD. The newsletter now goes out once a month before the monthly meeting. It is thought that it might be on a twice a month schedule in the near future.

### OLD BUSINESS

As an update of the **Bayley Beach Sidewalk Project**, Commissioner Barbis announced that the old chain link fence has been taken down and a new fence was installed in the woods. He said that they are still talking with Roton Point to try to resolve the issues and concerns that everyone might have. Our engineer is redoing the drawings so that they are a bit easier to understand. The whole purpose of the project, Mr. Barbis said, is to make the area safer for pedestrians. We had money in this year's budget to cover a previously approved project. Now they find that some stone work is not going to be as expensive as previously thought and the whole project will cost less money than expected. We may have to get legal counsel advice on both sides of this issue.

Commissioner Mike Barbis also addressed a letter the Commissioners had received from two Roton Middle School students. They were working on a project in a class and they proposed putting a number of additional garbage cans around the district where they thought they should now be. They suggested that additional garbage cans could be placed at Bayley Beach, the Bell Island bridge and the Covewood pass-through foot path. It was discussed that we have already installed a trash can at Sammis Street Bridge which Al Kery empties. There is also one at the Ambler Lot and one by the Hart property. Commission Chair Tammy Langalis mentioned that some state parks are removing trash cans in hopes that people will remove their trash and not leave it to overflow containers. Mr. Barbis is in favor of placing a few new trash cans at the suggested spots saying that we also could move them if they were not helpful. He thinks that the District can find the funds to make this happen.

### REPORTS

**Commissioner Mike Barbis** stated that the District has posted Bayley Beach permit applications and lifeguard applications on the District web site, [www.rowayton6td.com](http://www.rowayton6td.com). We're hoping to have more information posted on the web site so that people are going to be using the site for that information. We are going to order lifeguard uniforms. We also hope to seriously address the drainage problems, especially at the Little League field at Bayley Beach in 2020 and 2021.

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We have new sound absorption panels installed in the Moose Room and Grace Room. The long-standing leaks have finally been figured out.

**Commissioner Tammy Langalis** said that she has been in touch with a state Department of Transportation official who was asking the 6<sup>th</sup> TD to submit some plans for additional parking spaces at the Rowayton Railroad Station. We have been asking the state to consider this for some time now. We're hoping that this time will yield a project to ensure that project, as we have a fairly large Wait List now and would like to be able to clear some commuters from that list. There is space at the far end of the Westbound parking lot that could yield about 46 additional parking spaces. The Wait List now is about 1½ to 2 years.

**District Treasurer Gil Kernan** said that our income is at 51% of the budgeted income for FY 19-20 and our expenses are currently at 56% of the budgeted expenses. He also reported that including reserves, the capital account has a balance of \$329,019.82. Mr. Kernan submitted the following report

**Sixth Taxing District  
Treasurer's Narrative Report  
Commissioners' Meeting  
January 15, 2020**

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#### **Handouts to Commissioners\*:**

- Budget v Actual report as of December 31, 2019 for FY 19-20
- Treasurer's Report of Bank Balances as of December 31, 2019
- Capital Funds Project Balances report
- Community Center Spending Summary Capital Projects report
- Report of Bills Paid in December 2019
- Grants List: FY 19-20 & FY 20-21

#### **Comments on Reports:**

- **Budget v Actual Report for FY 19-20**
  - Our income is at 51% of the budgeted income for FY 19-20.
  - Our expenses are currently at 56% of the budgeted expenses.
- **Capital Budget**
  - Including reserves, the capital account has a balance of \$329,019.82.

#### **Events:**

- The FY 18-19 Audit has been completed. We are waiting for the Final Draft from the Auditors.
- The FY 20-21 Budget has been completed & is being reviewed by the Treasurer and the Commissioners.

\*Please note, these are preliminary drafts and not final audited reports. Statistical reports will appear at the end of the Minutes.



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#### R. R. Parking Lot:

1. According to Barnacle Company, Fedor has obtained the necessary insurance but I have not seen any paperwork as yet.
2. Metro North repaired the pathway lights on the eastbound side.

Mr. Carlson also said that the custodian at Rowayton School noticed water gushing out from behind the wall at the Community Center lower lot, as seen from the school. There might be a break in the water drain there.

Mr. Carlson also said that he had to store just two paddle boards after the summer season. We don't know who might own these boards.

#### District Clerk

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Andrea Woodworth

1. We received a Thank You note from Bob Essenyi for the edible gift we sent him after his hospital stay.
2. I've had a request from the Rowayton Historical Society to hold a fundraiser at the Community Center on March 21 – A St. Patrick's Day party. Will you comp the rental fee as we usually do for local non-profits? **YES. They will pay a clean up fee.**
3. I sent an email to the SurfRider's rep, Rachel, thanking her organization for the great service that her group provided in cleaning up Bayley Beach.
4. Priscilla Feral has formed a group that will promote a pesticide free Rowayton. She has asked to schedule the front lawn on the first Saturday in April to have a sort of "fair" with many educational opportunities to present to the public as well as a few contractors who will work without pesticides. There would also be information for and entertaining of kids during the event which she envisions to be under a tent. Should I ask for the usual rental fee, etc? This event would not be a Gardeners' event. **The Commissioners will make a final decision after more information is gathered.**

Rowayton Avenue resident Joe Jensen asked if any action has been taken against scofflaws at the RR station. We're still waiting for Fedor to submit a Certificate of Liability Insurance. Unpaid tickets at the RR station could be acted upon if overdue for more than 30 days.

The issue of No Thru Trucks was again discussed. We need to spend some more time coordinating with Darien to have their support.

The next meeting of the Sixth Taxing District Commissioners will be on February 19, 2020.

Commissioner John Ignieri made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Mike Barbis. The January 15, 2020 meeting of the Sixth Taxing District Commissioners was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrea Woodworth, Clerk, 6<sup>th</sup> Taxing District

