

**MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
SIXTH TAXING DISTRICT, City of Norwalk, CT
November 18, 2020**

**Meeting via Zoom
7:00 p.m.**

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 (some via Zoom).

Commission Chair Tammy Langalis called the November 18, 2020 Commissioners' meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

The Minutes of the October 21, 2020 meeting were approved as submitted.

OLD BUSINESS

Commission Chair Tammy Langalis gave an update on the Rowayton Railroad Station House. Our concessionaire is no longer there. We're only seeing about 52 commuters a day. In January, we will see if anyone might wish to take over the concession there or use it for another reason. We have sold about $\frac{3}{4}$ the annual permits. In order to get the rest offered, we need to try to work out some glitches with ParkMobile, the vendor we use to process parking revenues. Commissioner Mike Barbis said that if we don't get things resolved, we will go with another vendor.

Commissioner Mike Barbis gave an update on the Bayley Beach drainage project. Unfortunately, our engineer has been in the hospital with the coronavirus and things have been at a standstill. We hope that he continues to improve and will be up to working soon. So, we're a little behind schedule.

We are also working with an engineer to look into the possibility of adding parking spaces in the

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Ambler Parking Lot. We would not interfere in the wetlands but add spaces in the buffer zone of the wetlands. We have an easement with Kevin Conroy and he's amenable to doing something. The city's Conservation Commission officer, Alexis Cherichetti, will need to work with us on any plans.

NEW BUSINESS

We will have a vote on December 2 about proposals to either stay with the same rules or go with a proposal that would change the rules about what can be displayed on the Old School Field Fence and for how long. The vote will be held in the Courtyard of the Community Center. For those not wishing or unable to vote in person should contact the District Clerk, Andrea Woodworth, at awoodworth@rowayton6td.com or 203-854-6666 x1 to receive materials to be able to vote remotely.

Rowayton Resident Rob Pratt, Farm Creek Road, said that he has a group of people collaborating with himself and others and they've come up with a proposal about the fence and the signs there. The Commissioners just received this a few minutes prior to the meeting so they will study the document and find a way to condense it into a proposal.

Another Rowayton Resident said that he thinks we should honor the guidelines, leave any sign up for 2 weeks and that should be enough. This will just go on forever otherwise.

Daniel Holman wanted to thank Rob Pratt for his work. He asked whether or not the Commissioners would endorse one proposal over the other. Commissioner Mike Barbis said that the Commissioners are meant to be impartial in any matters such as this.

Another resident asked what the point is to have a vote. She wants the process to be speeded up.

Commission Chair Tammy Langalis said that the Commissioners had received some proposals and we have the rules for the fence. We want to give the residents a chance to choose which proposal they would like to see go into effect.

Another resident asked why it is so hard to take a stand. She wonders why this issue has come up against such push back. She wants us to stand behind "Black Lives Matter". She feels that we are closing our town to people of color. She asked why it was more important to risk lives voting instead of just doing it.

Mrs. Langalis said that the issue is not whether it's "Black Lives Matter". The Commissioners support that notion. The fence belongs to the City of Norwalk and we are tasked with managing the property. We're trying to decide what types of signage can be allowed on our public property. We do have rules about what can go on the fence and for how long.

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Mr. Barbis once again said that anyone who doesn't want to vote in person should contact the District Clerk, Andrea Woodworth, at awoodworth@rowayton6td.com or 203-854-6666 x1.

Lauren Henry of Bryan Road asked why owners of property, but not residents, could not vote. Mr. Barbis said that that rule is in our original charter. Only residents of the 6th Taxing District may vote in District wide elections.

Rob Pratt of Farm Creek Road reiterated that the process is meant to be a mutually expressed proposal. Mrs. Langalis said that the Commissioners would review his proposal and get back to him with questions and of ways to condense the material. There's a feeling of collaboration here and we should be taking advantage of that. The world is full of more good people than not.

Commission Chair Tammy Langalis thanked everyone who spoke for their input.

From District Treasurer Gil Kernan:

**Sixth Taxing District
Treasurer's Narrative Report
Commissioner's Meeting
November 18, 2020**

Handouts to Commissioners*:

- New Report: Pending Open Items as of November 15, 2020
- Budget vs. Actual report as of October 31, 2020 for FY 20-21
- Capital Funds Project Balances report as of October 31, 2020
- Report of Bills Paid for the following months:
 - October 2020

Comments on Reports:

- **Budget vs. Actual Report for FY 20-21**
 - Our income is at 46% of the budgeted income
 - Our expenses are currently at 45% of the budgeted expenses
- **Capital Budget**
 - Including reserves, the Capital account has a balance of \$461,528

Events:

- We are working with the Auditors on the Annual Audit for FY 19-20
- A second email will be sent to Department Supervisors requesting projected budget items for preparation of the FY 21-22 Budget Draft.

No responses as of November 15, 2020

*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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Report of the District Fire Marshal October 2020 Ed Carlson

<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>#</u>	<u># Man Hours</u>
Blasting Permits	***	***
Blasting Site Inspections	***	***
Building Inspections	2	3
Clerical (office) work		17
Fire Marshal Conferences	2	2
Career Development Training	1	3
Investigation(s)	2	2
Meetings: District Monthly	1	1
FNHCFMA	1	1
ESO zoom	1	1
Hoarding Workshop	1	2
		Total Man Hrs. 32
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Expenses: NFPA 921: \$60.00		
NFPA 58: \$75.00		

Remarks: Storm of 11/16: Four trees on Houses in the District. No injuries.

Report of the Property Manager November 2020 Ed Carlson

Community Center:

1. The dog park has been fertilized and over seeded.
2. The description sign for the ship model is being redone by Norwalk Signs.
3. An estimate to replace the case for the ship model received from Select Plastic. Additional estimates are being sought.

Bayley Beach:

1. Water is off, bathrooms are closed and water pipes have been winterized.
2. The gate was damaged by a vehicle and repaired by District personnel.
3. Minor damage to some chairs following 11/15 storm.

Pinkney Park:

1. The lamp on the barn was repaired and is now working.
2. The lawn was fertilized and over seeded.
3. Farmers' Market ends on 11/20.

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Cannon Monument:

1. The base was covered for Halloween by workers from All Seasons Marine. A Thank You note should be sent to them. (The Clerk will send this Thank You note to All Seasons Marine).

Report of the District Clerk

November 18, 2020

Andrea Woodworth

1. I don't believe that any of the regular users of the Community Center have started having events there except for the monthly Goodwives' Rug Hookers. They will have had the first meeting after the closing for Covid today.
2. The yoga class previously scheduled for Monday and Friday mornings has been canceled until further notice.
3. The Chamber Orchestra practice is scheduled for each Wednesday through December 2.
4. The Commissioners have scheduled an election concerning the hanging of a sign at the Old School Field fence. The Orchestra practice for that evening will be canceled.
5. Two letters – one to Wayne Dupree and one to Peter Havens – confirming the dismissal of these R. R. Guards due to the economic stresses of the COVID - 19 pandemic have been mailed.
6. Dick Packer has asked for permission to run his soccer camps on June 21-25 and June 28– July 2 at the Community Center under the usual conditions. Is this OK with you? **YES**
7. I have contacted one of the Registrars of Voters, Stuart Wells, to ask for a list of electors for the Sixth Taxing District as well as a ballot box, if available. These items are for the Old School Field fence sign election. This issue has been a topic around town for some time. The election about this topic will be held on December 2, 2020.

The next meeting of the 6TD Commissioners will be held on December 16, 2020

Commissioner Mike Barbis made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the November 18 meeting of the Sixth Taxing District Commissioners was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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