

**MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
SIXTH TAXING DISTRICT, City of Norwalk, CT
December 16, 2020**

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

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 and District Clerk Andrea Woodworth (some via Zoom).

Commission Chair Tammy Langalis called the December 16, 2020 Sixth Taxing District Commissioners' Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. She welcomed all those in attendance via Zoom and introduced the Commission.

The Minutes of the November 18, 2020 meeting were approved as submitted on a motion by **Commissioner John Igneri**.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Mike Barbis said that with the retirement of Don Wilson, the District Beach Director, after the 2020 season, the Commissioners are attempting to define a job description for a replacement. Don did a great job. But, it's become hard to imagine one person doing it all as there are now many more aspects to the job than there used to be. The Commissioners want to get input from the community on how they see the job. We'll be having a zoom meeting call so that people might give us their input. This is a seasonal position and not necessarily just a summer position. There is a staffing side of hiring people and delegating jobs. There is an operation side of maintaining the beach, the sand, landscaping, watering, etc. And there is an activities side of it with sometimes multiple events going on at one time. We are going to restructure what is expected. Watch for notice of this Zoom meeting.

MINUTES – December 16, 2020

Page Two

Mr. Barbis also talked about the Dog Park saying that John Kiska has become our contact person to the people that use the Dog Park. They have a web site and a board. We don't want to be managing the Dog Park on a day to day basis so we welcome the input of Mr. Kiska. We want to have an ongoing communication with the board as there have been some issues lately that are concerning. Foremost among those is that an 11 year old girl was run into by two dogs. She was taken by ambulance to the hospital with multiple bone fractures. This is very troubling and there needs to be a discussion of how to avoid such accidents. The Dog Park has certainly been used by more people because of the pandemic. The Dog Park people have brought in bales of straw to keep mud from being an issue. We should look at the surface of the Dog Park. It can be tough to grow grass there. Maybe there needs to be a sprinkler system. We might want to consider having the park closed one day a week for maintenance.

Commission Chair Tammy Langalis spoke to the issues of trash and recycling pick up. The District will post on the District website the days for trash collection, recycling collection and tree pick up. AFK Karting will pick up lawn refuse as long as the Smith Street Station remains open. We continue to have a problem with people putting the wrong things in the recycle bin. You may not put anything in a plastic bag in the recycling bin. Plastic bags are banned from them. If they see plastic bags, none of the recyclables from that collection will be accepted. The City of Norwalk has guidelines to let us know what's recyclable and what's not.

District Treasurer Gil Kernan initiated a discussion of times for two budget meetings to be held in the weeks ahead. The two meetings were scheduled for January 11, 2021 at 3 p.m. and January 25 at 3 p.m. as well. The public is welcome to those meetings.

Commissioner John Igeri said that our insurance carrier, Segur, which we've used for many years and with which we've been very pleased, has been acquired by another carrier. We're hoping to be able to stay with Segur but some things have changed. We'll have to monitor that. It a long process to work out the kinks.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Barbis spoke about a possible expansion at the Ambler Parking Lot off Wilson Avenue in town. We currently have 42 spaces but there is always a great need for parking spaces. We've hired an engineering firm and they've come up with a plan that would give us an additional 19 spaces. We would not enter into the wetlands with this expansion but it would go into the buffer zone of the wetlands. We need to determine how we would pay for an expansion.

The Bayley Beach drainage project will be a two part project. The engineers were here last week, **Mr. Barbis** said. There's not a sufficient pitch to drain enough of the water.

MINUTES – December 16, 2020

Page Three

Commissioner John Igeneri said that we had closed Pinkney Park earlier in the year because of COVID. It's been open now but we are continuing to have no vehicles park there except in designated spots. We want to reduce the compacting of the soil. We have put some evergreens along the property line with All Seasons Marine. We are trying to make the park more inviting.

The vote on proposals for guidelines for the fence at the Old School Field will be on January 13. We originally had scheduled this vote for December 2, but the group that had sent in a proposal has requested more time to consider their proposal so the December 2 date was postponed.

Priscilla Feral, who said she was speaking for Jillian Shutsharawan who was frustrated that the issue had been boiled down to only two options. She was hoping a third option would be available. She thinks we need to define what constitutes a "political" sign. She said that she wouldn't be able to find 100 people to sign a petition to put up a sign, so that proposal would be too cumbersome.

Another Rowayton resident complimented the Commissioners for having done a good job. He is very sad when he drives by the fence saying he used to love to see the personal messages left there. He said that this has all gone too far.

Another Rowayton resident said that Rowayton residents are not understanding what this is about and they need to take another look. The guidelines say that no signs should be political and that signs should only be up for two weeks. She said that the Lighthouse Fund sign was up for three years. Also, residents shouldn't have to go out to vote during a pandemic. Mrs. Langalis said that this is really about the policy on the fence and we are trying to resolve this issue. She said that if people feel that there should be another proposal or want to amend the first proposal, they should be in touch with the Commissioners with the proposal.

Resident Michael Diamond said we need to have a definition of what is "political". He agrees that it is unnecessary to have 100 people sign a petition. He would consider removing that language.

Mrs. Langalis thanked all those speaking for their opinions. She said that we had originally developed the guidelines for the fence in conversation with non-profit organizations in town. The other proposal was suggested by the residents who worked on it. If anyone has ideas for another option, the Commissioners would be happy to hear from them so that proposal could be put on the ballot for January 13. She reiterated that public property is not private property. The Commissioners welcome the input of the community.

Rob Pratt, Farm Creek Road, thanked the Commissioners for letting us speak to this ad nauseam.

**Sixth Taxing District
Treasurer's Narrative Report
Commissioner's Meeting
December 16, 2020**

Handouts to Commissioners*:

- New Report: Pending Open Items as of December 12, 2020
- Budget vs. Actual report as of November 30, 2020 for FY 20-21
- Capital Funds project Balances report as of November 30, 2020
- Report of Bills Paid for the following month:
 - November 2020

Comments on Reports:

- **Budget vs. Actual Report for FY20-21**
 - Our income is at 49% of the budgeted income
 - Our expenses are currently at 51% of the budgeted expenses.

- **Capital Budget**
 - Including reserves, the Capital account has a balance of \$451,728

Events:

- We are wrapping up work with the Auditors on the Annual Audit for FY 19-20.
- The FY 21-22 Budget Draft has been created and is being worked on.

*Please note, these are preliminary drafts and not final audited reports.

\$Statistical reports will appear at the end of the Minutes.

District Treasurer Gil Kernan said that he had given the Commissioners the handouts mentioned in his report narrative. The audit is coming up quickly. He would like the Commissioners to review the report of bills paid. He noted that the parking at the RR station has gone down considerably due to the coronavirus and its affect on commuters. It should be noted that the RR has a separate budget and is a stand alone entity, financially.

Mr. Kernan also said that things are pretty much in line.

MINUTES – December 16, 2020

Page Five

Report of the District Fire Marshal	November 2020	Ed Carlson
<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>#</u>	<u># Man Hours</u>
Blasting Permits	***	***
Blasting Site Inspections	***	***
Building Inspections	3	4
Clerical (office) work		16
Fire Marshal Conferences	1	6
Career Development Training	1	3
Investigation(s)	2	2
Meetings: District monthly	1	1
FNHCFMA	1	1
Plan Review	1	2
		<hr/> Total Man Hrs. 35

Expenses: Photo CD from prior fire investigations \$3.95

Remarks: FM Budget for 2021-22 submitted to Candy.

Mr. Carlson said that he and Glenn had been reviewing plans at 111 Rowayton where 5 condos will be going up. There will be 4 condos built at 143 Rowayton Avenue.

Report of the District Property Manager December 2020 Ed Carlson

Community Center:

1. The string orchestra has been meeting on Wednesday evenings. Cleaning/sanitizing takes place Thursday a.m.
2. The fall cleanup has been completed.
3. An estimate to replace the case for the ship model was received from Select Plastic. Additional estimates are being sought. It is very likely that G. Sartor will cover the cost.
4. Sander repaired and ready for use
5. RCA committee chairs will be auditing items in the Ice House and removing what is not needed.

Bayley Beach:

1. All kayaks and SUP's have been removed from the racks.
2. Ty Haynes has saved some cedar from the Pinkney Park Gazebo deck to repair chairs when necessary.

MINUTES – December 16, 2020

Page Six

Pinkney Park:

1. Gardner Gray is in the process of replacing the wood deck on the gazebo with composite material.
2. Storage space in the Barn is getting tight and groups/individuals that have items stored will be contacted to have them clean out what is not needed.

Report of the District Clerk

December 16, 2020

Andrea Woodworth

1. I've had quite a number of residents asking for Absentee Ballots so that they might vote remotely in the Old School Field fence election.
2. A Thank You note was sent to All Seasons Marine for, once again, their wrapping of the cannon pedestal before Halloween.
3. All of the regular users of the Community Center have elected to do Zoom meetings or otherwise meeting not in the Community Center. Most have said that will be until the end of the year, but I expect the trend to continue since this fall/winter surge in Covid cases continues.
4. I've received inquiries from two different parties inquiring about having parts or all of wedding celebrations either at the Community Center or Pinkney Park around September 2021.

On a motion by Commissioner John Igneri, the December 16, 2020 meeting of the Sixth Taxing District Commissioners was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Woodworth
Clerk, 6th Taxing District