

**MINUTES  
COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
SIXTH TAXING DISTRICT, City of Norwalk  
June 17, 2015**

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

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Tammy Langalis at 8:15 p.m. The Minutes of the March 5, 2015 meeting were approved as submitted on a motion by Tammy Langalis, seconded by Mike Barbis.

There was no April meeting but the Minutes of the May 13, 2015 meeting will be up for approval at the July 8, 2015 meeting.

The Treasurer's Report for the April meeting was accepted as submitted.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Langalis spoke to the new RR budget. She said that the Commissioners have made a few changes in an effort to tighten the program. Their plan is to eliminate the eastbound side, middle of the day shift which runs from 12:15 – 5:15 p.m. Their goal in doing this is to have more of a financial reserve for maintenance repairs at the station and, perhaps, for a slight increase in the hourly compensation for the RR guards. This change will be effective July 1, 2015. She asked if the attendees had any questions. Mike Barbis explained that the change saves the district approximately \$13,000 a year. He said that two persons who man that shift will be affected. The savings is not an exact number and would depend on whether or not unemployment insurance would be filed for. He also noted that the lots were full on a Monday a couple of weeks' ago. He mentioned that parking during construction was more of a problem especially since the guards were not able to park cars down the middle of the westbound lot due to the construction equipment which was stored at the far end of the lot. Traditionally, the first couple of weeks in September as well as rainy and snowy days are the tightest at the lot. Rainy Mondays are the worst. Mr. Barbis also said that parking in the middle of the westbound lot was problematic because of brush that has now been trimmed making more room for cars to head in further. The maximum number of cars that may be parked in the middle is 12.

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There are several budget amendments to be proposed. Tammy told those in attendance basically what they were. Mr. Barbis explained that the reason we're doing this is that there has been money left in accounts for projects that are long ago accomplished. We're going to clean up those accounts and others so that we don't have so many overages and underages to be voted on at the Annual Meeting next year. We're moving money that's not being used into accounts where it can be used.

The first modification for the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 concerns a capital project fund for Pinkney Park. We would like to re-appropriate available funds of \$45,000 in the Capital Projects Fund, Pinkney Park Power Box, account #3635, to the following Capital Projects:

- Pinkney Park Seawall, account #3630
- Pinkney Park Driveway Project
- Pinkney Park Barn Project

#### **Motion:**

"I, Chairwoman Langalis, move to re-appropriate available funds of \$45,000 to the following Capital Projects":

- Pinkney Park Seawall, account #3630
- Pinkney Park Driveway Project
- Pinkney Park Barn Project

The next modification concerns a capital project fund: Pinkney Park

- To fund and close the completed Pinkney Park Seawall, account #3630
- To fund the new Pinkney Park Driveway Project
- To fund the new Pinkney Park Barn Project

#### **Motion:**

"I, Chairwoman Langalis, move to fund and close the completed Pinkney Park Seawall Project, account #3630 and to fund the new Pinkney Park Driveway and Pinkney Park Barn Projects".

Commissioner Barbis asked that that motion not be voted on because the projects can't be done now, especially the driveway project, because of Shakespeare on the Sound and the Farmers' Market.

The next motion concerns re-appropriation of Operating Funds.

This is to re-appropriate available funds of \$15,495 from the following Operating accounts:

\$11,000 from Fire Department #6310

\$ 4,495 from Administrative – Accounting Services #6020

#### **Motion:**

"I, Chairwoman Langalis, move to re-appropriate available funds of \$15,495, from Fire Department and Admin – Accounting Services to the District Payroll account #6800."

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This motion has to do with Operating – District Payroll #6800

It is “to transfer \$11,000 from the Fire Department #6310 and \$4,495 from the Admin-Account Services #6020 to the District Payroll account #6800, total amount \$15,495.

#### **Motion:**

“I, Chairwoman Langalis, move to transfer \$15,495 from the Fire Department and Admin – Account Services to the District Payroll account #6800”.

Mr. Barbis said this was because Luis’ hours had been increased, and Candy Atwell had come under the regular payroll.

The next motion has to do with the Decrease of the Operating Budget.

It is to decrease the 2014/2015 District Operating Budget by \$65,000. The decrease of appropriations will match the Property Tax Revenue deficit.

#### **Motion:**

“I, Chairwoman Langalis, move to decrease the District budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 to match the Property Tax Revenue deficit of \$65,000.

The next motion is to Decrease the Operating Budget.

It is to decrease the following expense categories to equal the Property Tax Revenue deficit of \$65,000.

- Ambler Lot #6331 decrease of \$10,000
- Community Center #6333 decrease of \$4,000
- Pinkney Park #6337 decrease of \$20,000
- Bond Issuance #6220 decrease of \$2,800
- Disposal #6260 decrease of \$5,000
- Fire Department #6310 decrease of \$16,200
- Insurance #6400 decrease of \$3,500
- Legal #6500 decrease of \$3,500

#### **Motion:**

“I, Chairwoman Langalis, move to decrease the expense categories for Ambler Lot, Community Center, Pinkney Park, Bond Issuance, Disposal, Fire Department, Insurance and Legal, to equal the Property Tax Revenue deficit of \$65,000.

The next motion is to Increase the Operating Budget

This is to increase the 2014/2015 District Operating Budget by \$29,643. The increase of appropriations will be funded by the Operating Fund and moved to the Transfer Out to Capital budget line for \$29,643.

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Motion:

“I, Chairwoman Langalis, move to increase the District budget for Fiscal Year 2014/2015 by increasing the Operating Budget by \$29,643 to the Transfer Out to Capital account.

The next motion concerns Re-Appropriating of Funds in the Operating Account #6000. This is to re-appropriate available funds of \$7,500 from Administrative #6000.

Motion:

“I, Chairwoman Langalis, move to re-appropriate available funds of \$7,500 from Administrative #6000.

The next motion concerns the Operating – Bayley Beach #6100 account. It is to transfer \$7,500 from the Administrative #6000 to the Bayley Beach account #6100.

Motion:

“I, Chairwoman Langalis, move to transfer \$7,500 from Administrative #6000 to the Bayley Beach account #6100.

Mr. Barbis noted that there wasn't enough money budgeted in this account for work done in the spring which included painting of the Pavilion and the purchase of new picnic tables and benches.

Mr. Barbis made a motion to approve all the aforementioned motions in one vote. Mr. Igeneri seconded the motion which passed unanimously with no discussion.

It was announced that Mr. Verel will be meeting with the City Treasurer Mr. Hamilton tomorrow about the shortfall in tax revenue coming to the Sixth Taxing District.

One of those in attendance asked about the seawall repair in the area that borders Roton Point. Mr. Barbis said that we've talked with Roton Point about combining the repairs and they've been very uncooperative. We replaced the rip rap there. Roton Point doesn't seem to think that the wall had any problem. We have money budgeted for that project starting in July. The engineer wants us to put a concrete cap on it and a railing. We're going to do our part of it.

## **REPORTS**

**Commissioner Mike Barbis** said that they're starting the driveway project at the Community Center and it is pretty much going as planned. However, when they started digging out the driveway, they realized that there's a much bigger change in the topography, the grade, than they expected and they couldn't understand how the engineer and contractor had missed that. The good news is that we won't need parking stops at the end of each lane of parking. They have had to move some plants and the sprinkler system. The engineer doesn't want to take the responsibility for the mistake. It's a sore topic, but it won't cost us much. We won't have to do

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any retaining wall. They've cut out for the driveway already. We're going to use pavers which grass will grow through for the parking lot. They took out an electrical line that was buried. It should be buried further. That should have been 3 feet deep. It was not on the contractor's plan. Ed Carlson said that they had shut power off to the paddle courts as a precaution. The cost of the repairs is not going to be as much as the engineer thought. The sewer went under that. Mike said that we would need to have a granite crosswalk which will cost about \$10,000. This will help as a traffic calming measure for vehicles leaving the Community Center grounds.

Mr. Barbis went on to report that they are finishing up the flood damage project to repair the damage done in the Library. The insurance checks have been sent to us. It's been confusing since the Library has been committing to the spending. There was a \$5,000 deductible which the library has agreed to split with us. They lost a specialized copier and money was lost on the replacement of that since the insurance company depreciated it. Mike thinks that maybe we should pay it all.

When the new offices were occupied upstairs, it has necessitated the Library to have an extension to their Wi-Fi network. They have a person who is going to fund this whole thing. We're going to be getting a Wi-Fi system quote for extending our Wi-Fi to the Underground. We might have to pay for it to be wired. We are also having some problems getting to our calendar right now. That is in the process of being corrected.

**Commissioner Tammy Langalis** said that Scott Whiteman's camp at the beach has been going well. He recently spoke with Tammy and indicated that he would like to take a leave in July during the only time that he has not been able to find someone to care for his mother. He has two women running the program at the beach and he trusts them completely. Tammy asked if it was OK with everyone to allow him to go back to Texas for two weeks. **APPROVED.**

**Commissioner John Igneri** reported that our insurance premium is likely to go up about 5% this year. He recommends staying with the current provider. This company puts the various policies out to bid and gives us the best deal. They're representing us and not the insurance companies.

In Pinkney Park, he was interested in doing the driveway project there. However, grass would not grow there at this time and the Farmers' Market would still be in progress. So, he recommends moving the driveway project to September or October. It certainly should be moved until after Labor Day. By then, hopefully, we will have the missing tax revenue restored by the city. John is of the opinion that the City's Treasurer Tom Hamilton does not have the entire story.

Joe Warren, 14 McKinley Street, said that their community Lobster Bake would be held at Bayley Beach on July 2 if the Commissioners approved. Captain John caters the event and everyone in attendance pays for their own dinners. 92% of the people attending will be Rowayton residents. They will clean up and keep everything in control. Property Manager and Fire Marshal Ed Carlson asked that the caterer provide a Health Certificate and Liability

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Insurance Certificate to the District before the event. Mr. Warren addressed the possibility of getting a professional gathering permit and said he would argue against that since it really is like many individual parties and not one big gathering. The RCA doesn't want to do the Lobster Bake that they used to sponsor. Captain John cleans up all the garbage and they don't bother the neighbors. This event is also not on the weekend but on a Thursday evening. **APPROVED**

**District Treasurer**

Commission Chair Tammy Langalis said that the Treasurer's report would be accepted as submitted.

**District Fire Marshal**

**May 2015**

**Ed Carlson**

<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>#</u>	<u># Man Hours</u>
Blasting Permits	***	***
Blasting Site Inspections	***	***
Building Inspections	1	2
Clerical (office) work		20
Fire Marshal Conferences	***	***
Career Development Training	3	13
Investigation(s)	4	5
Meetings: District Monthly	1	2
School Carnival	1	2
(Other)		
Temporary structure inspection	1	1
(Other)		
Carnival Ride inspection w/SFM	1	2
(Other)		
Propane tank inspection	1	1
		Total Man Hours: _____
		47

Remarks: There have been fire incidents of a port-a-pottie and a tent fire. These are under investigation by NPD detectives and myself.

Mr. Carlson mentioned that there was a fire set in a garbage can and a recycle bin on Crest Road. That is being investigated and the police have a person of interest. It is not someone from Rowayton. Our engine went to Roton Middle School on the last day of school in order to fill the dunk tank for their end of year party.

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**District Property Manager**

**June 2015**

**Ed Carlson**

**Community Center:**

1. The new driveway exit project has been started. It is estimated to take two months to complete.

**Bayley Beach:**

1. The parking lot lines will be partially redone before July 4<sup>th</sup>
2. A paddle board rack was completed by Jason and is now available as rental spaces to residents.
3. Painting of the Pavilion has been completed.

**Pinkney Park:**

1. The Maritime Museum building is in the process of being painted.
2. The bathroom renovation was completed by Memorial Day.

**R. R. Station:**

1. The vandalism of the wall under the bridge was removed by District personnel.

It was decided to rent the Paddle Board rack at the kayak rack rate of \$200 per space. There are 14 spaces available.

Ed also reported that Joe Jensen sent a message that everything is fine concerning his summer patrols. He is aware of some problems. He recently put an end to a late night bash at Bayley Beach. Joe's been touring around the Ambler lot a bit more and has reported some interesting paraphernalia there.

**District Clerk**

**June 2015**

**Andrea Woodworth**

1. There is a woman who has asked to bring a group, probably about 15, women to Pinkney Park on September 16 during the day to paint for a few hours. She is not a resident of the District, but there is nothing else scheduled at that time and it is a public park. Do you agree with this. **APPROVED**
2. I have had a request from a Westport Temple to have a service/concert in Pinkney Park on September 5, a Saturday evening, from 8 – 10:30 p.m. I've asked a lot of questions and told them that you usually allowed music only until 10:00 p.m. I think they can work with that. They would expect about 200 people. I did tell her that the neighbors' reception of the event might be an issue and she said they would, of course, respect the neighbors' concerns. She didn't know where exactly they would want to set up as she's never seen the park. I told her that there is essentially no parking in the park and told her about the Ambler Lot. But, when I heard about the #s, I don't think that would be

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sufficient. Would we charge them a fee? How much? Would you approve this or not, based on what we know now? What other information would you want if you were to entertain the idea? **NOT APPROVED**

3. I have had a request from Dave Epprecht to have a picnic at Bayley Beach for his networking group that meets in the library on Thursday mornings. There would be about 25 people and many of them are not District residents. He was wondering if the gate fee might be waived. This would happen either on June 25 or July 2, both Thursdays. **GATE FEE NOT WAIVED** (The Clerk will inform Mr. Epprecht that July 2 is scheduled for a big party at the beach.)
4. The yoga at Pinkney Park on Saturday mornings has started and has been successful so far.
5. We renewed the parking permits for the RR this last Saturday. I will be processing the Wait List permits this Saturday, of which there are many so far.
6. I'm still receiving Bayley Beach Permit applications. I had one complaint about the Late Fee on the phone but haven't done the most recent set of applications yet so have not found any other complaints.
7. The Clerk asked what concert dates would trigger the \$40 gate fee. The answer was that ALL the concert dates would trigger the \$40 gate fee at Bayley Beach.

It was brought up that the SOS tech people have been parking all over the park. There haven't been any problems with SOS and the Farmer's Market sharing the park on Fridays. There has only been one food truck at the performances. Brendan has an ice cream concession there.

Food trucks at Bayley Beach were discussed with the clerk stating that many people who rent the Pavilion are now using the food trucks instead of regular caterers. The Commissioners agreed that they can be allowed in the same way as a caterer as long as the trucks do not serve to anyone but party goers.

Kevin Tepas, 7 Barnfield, asked on behalf of the Library whether or not there has been any progress on the library bathroom. Mr. Carlson said that the sewer pipe had apparently collapsed and that the problem was being rectified.

Mr. Barbis mentioned that the District had planned to apply for another state preservation matching grant. But, apparently, the funds set aside for that have been appropriated by the governor. So, at the present time, there is no money in the fund for which to apply. They may be looking at applying for other grants. We have \$10,000 to attend to the gates. They want to make certain improvements in the courtyard, clean up the Underground and upstairs. This all might be resuscitated next spring. We probably won't be able to do some things that we had planned to do. He also mentioned that the state of Connecticut has proposed putting a new tax on cell phones. Legislation passed recently that will allow them to put stop signs at McKinley to make that a three way stop.

RR Guard supervisor Tom Robinson asked if the Community dock was still in the District.

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He was answered with the information that the District never owned it – the City did. The RCA was designated as having the responsibility of it.

Mrs. Langalis mentioned that, in the past, the District has allowed the RCA to auction off prime parking spots at the RR station to commuters who already had permits. It has caused a lot of complaints from commuters and the District has decided not to do that again.

Mrs. Langalis also noted that the parking lines at the RR Station will be repainted during August.

Commissioner John Igneri made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Commissioner Mike Barbis. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

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