

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

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

Commissioner Mike Barbis opened saying that 15 residents had asked for the link for the meeting and there are now 12 people who have joined.

Commission Chair Tammy Langalis called the July 15, 2020 meeting of the Sixth Taxing District Commissioners to order.

The Minutes of the June 17, 2020 meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner John Igeri.

Commissioner Mike Barbis gave an update on Bayley Beach and current procedures there. Mr. Barbis said that they have limited the numbers of persons at any one time so that social distancing can be maintained. They recently had to close the beach for a short period of time of one hour so that that standard could be maintained. We are not allowing non-residents entry this year unless they are guests of residents and arrive in permitted cars. Our playground remains closed as are all playgrounds in Norwalk. The Little League just came back this last week. We are going to stay with the current hours and standards.

Commissioner John Igeri said that we are continuing to keep Pinkney Park closed to cars with an exception being during the hours of business at Seaside Delights. Handicapped parking is still allowed. Mr. Igeri said that Rowayton has been inundated with out of state cars. One nice benefit is that the park is staying cleaner and the lawns are nicer. We have planted an evergreen near Four Seasons Marine in order to block the view of the fence. We hope to have a nice summer in the park.

Commission Chair Tammy Langalis gave an update of the Old School Fence regarding the Black Lives Matter sign. Residents think it is political and we don't want to put ourselves in the middle of political issues. The sign has been up for quite a while now and the

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Commissioners would like to suggest that signs in people's yards are not restricted after the sign on the fence is taken down.

Comments from some residents stated that it is worth noting that the sign being hung on the fence happened spontaneously. Any fund raising monies will be donated to the Carver Foundation. The Commissioners were thanked for what they've done to bring this sign and its message to the fore. They also want to thank the community for the funds raised in support of this issue. One comment was made that they had received a ton of support from the community and he feels that the majority would like to see the sign stay up. Jane Seymour said that the message sent by the sign is a positive one. Mrs. Langalis said that they've all had a number of comments and that people had asked the Commissioners to remove the sign. Tammy mentioned that the sign had been up for a month when the limit is ordinarily 2 weeks for signs. We're going to take it down for now. She thanked the residents that have commented on this issue.. The District Property Manager keeps tabs on how long things have been hung on the fence.

The next topic on the Agenda is an update on the Bell Island Bridge and the jumping there. Mrs. Langalis said that we talked about this at the last meeting and crowds have diminished quite a bit since then. It is concerning that some people are jumping at low tide. The Commission will have some sign put up there stating that no one should jump from the bridge. Some sort of indication of when it's safe to jump (as people will undoubtedly do it anyway) should be there. Something on the order of "If you can see this line, it's too shallow to jump" might be appropriate. We do have insurance, of course. But, no one wants to have an accident there on our consciences if we didn't do enough to protect jumpers.

One resident says that she walks every day past the Bell Island Bridge and she sees trash everywhere since Covid, including take out wrappers, etc. Trash seems to be more of a problem now. It was noted that there is a trash can at the Bell Island Gate House Park. It is surmised that people are not picking up trash that they see because of a fear of Covid germs that might be on the trash. Mrs. Langalis thanked the resident caller for their input. Mrs. Langalis noted that the bridge is City property and the roadway is the concern of the City of Norwalk. We will try to devise a way that the trash might be removed safely.

Under **NEW BUSINESS**, Commissioner Barbis said that Drew Brees had posted on Next Door Rowayton about the condition of the Rowayton School Pond. We appreciate the input of all residents. We have investigated ways of reducing the algae problems. Dredging has been proposed but that is quite expensive. We feel that it was not helpful to cut down all the trees at the school pond. Water actually runs back into the pipe now. The water is so shallow, that we can't even install an aerator. We've talked about this problem ad nauseam. Waste from fish creates another problem. This pond is not a 6TD property but is owned by the City of Norwalk. We have to work with the Department of Recreation and Parks. The estimate for an aerator is \$1500. Even so, as previously noted, the pond is too shallow to use an aerator. When the dam was built there, the level of the pond was supposed to go higher. It hasn't really done that. Tia

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Sidey, a former resident, has since moved to California. Somehow her notes and research on the problem got lost. A lot of sediment comes off I-95 and somehow makes its way into the pond. This creates a need for dredging.

Commission Chair Tammy Langalis said that the best thing to get help immediately on different problems is to take residents' ideas to the right person at City Hall. So, residents, please send us any information and/or ideas you might have and we will work with the city on them. We have to play within the rules and regulations and guidelines. But if we can find funds to implement any ideas, we will look into doing that.

Mr. Barbis said that our Community Policing Officer Jeremy Salley had to leave but he said that there have been a rash of burglaries and car thefts. There were 15 cars stolen in June. All had key fobs in the car. Residents are asked to please keep their key fobs in the house. Keep cars locked as well. It's not just a problem here. The police have caught a few people. If any of these people are under 18 years old, they really don't have any consequences. Besides these burglaries, there have been parties behind Rowayton School and the party goers often migrate to the Community Center property. We are strongly discouraging such parties with little success.

In reply to resident Hannah Bildahl, Mr. Barbis said that they've dug test holes quite deeply at Bayley Beach. Residents did some work on the sand a few years ago. They donated a piece of equipment that we use everyday. All those shells on the beach came from winter storms. We're fighting Mother Nature. The manager at Wee Burn comes over and sifts through the sand and that makes it a little bit better. We shifted a lot of sand in May but it was just a drop in the bucket. Unfortunately, we have limited resources to dedicate to the beach sand. We do get a lot of help from community efforts. The RCA had the playground installed. They also have a Trash Bash every year and, I believe, they target Bayley as well as other spots around town. We have \$75,000 dedicated to improving the drainage at the Little League field. The sidewalk and intersection project got put on hold. That project will take place next year.

Another resident suggested that people know when the police change shifts and think they can get away with things when that happens. Door bell cameras are extremely effective and have caught would be criminals in the act. Mrs. Langalis said that she would ask our Community Security Officer to patrol that in addition to Officer Salley being here.

REPORTS

District Treasurer Gil Kernan submitted his report and said that we're in good shape financially.

**Sixth Taxing District
Treasurer’s Narrative Report
Commissioners’ Meeting
July 15, 2020**

Handouts to Commissioners*:

- Budget vs Actual report as of June 30, 2020 for FY 19-20
- Capital Funds Project Balances report as of June 30, 2020
- Report of Bills Paid for the following months:
 - June 2020

Comments on Reports:

- **Budget vs Actual Report for FY 19-20**
 - Our income is at 101% of the budgeted income due to the Federal PPP Loan
 - Our expenses are currently at 95% of the budgeted expenses. We are still waiting for a few more invoices for June that will increase this percentage.
- **Capital Budget**
 - Including reserves, the Capital account has a balance of \$280,529

Events:

- We are reviewing Fiscal Year End and setting up for the new Fiscal Year
- The Treasurer’s Office is starting review for the Annual Audit

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

Report of the Fire Marshal	July 2020	Ed Carlson
<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>#</u>	<u># Man Hours</u>
Blasting Permits	***	***
Blasting Site Inspections	***	***
Building Inspections	4	5
Clerical (office) work		18
Fire Marshal Conferences	1	1
Career Development Training	2	6
Investigation(s)	1	1
Meetings: District Monthly	1	1
FNHCFMA	1	1
Plan Review	1	1
		Total Man Hrs.: 34

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Fire Marshal Remarks:

Detectors installed at 42 Roton Avenue

Career Development has moved to a webinar format for the upcoming season starting in June.

All inspections are continuing according to schedule with proper precautions taken and PPE is used during the inspection.

Report of the District Property Manager

July 2020

Ed Carlson

Community Center:

1. Contractor doing the work at the Paddle Hut has sealed the gaps around the exhaust vents on the main building.
2. We have locked in a propane price of \$169.9 per gallon to 4/2021.
3. We have a lot of cut tree rounds for residents to take home and split.

Bayley Beach:

1. Some of the holes in the parking lot have been filled with temporary patch. Many more will be done when warm weather arrives and we get more millings.
2. A new router was installed and the cameras are in operation.
3. The grease trap machine has malfunctioned and will most likely need a new motor and switches.
4. The lock on the ladies' room door was replaced.

Pinkney Park:

1. The Arborvitae trees planted along the fence are being kept watered daily.
2. The public bathroom received a fresh coat of paint.
3. A new Crosswalk sign was purchased and is in use for the Farmers' Market and other Park events.

R. R. Parking Lot:

1. The westbound shed was painted inside and out by Peter Havens.
2. 14 permit holders have turned in their permits
3. There are a number of permits that have not been renewed to the annual payment system. We will be contacting them.

Mr. Carlson said that at some point, we want to be able to open the properties. We will provide a hand sanitizer station. If there is an event or meeting, we would have to clean the property after that. We have to pass the cost of this along to the consumer – a Covid fee.

Mr. Carlson also said that he thinks it's a good idea to go back to the annual permit renewal. There are now about 150 people on the Wait List. Tammy Langalis said that she will reach out to Ted Cook about some ideas for running the concession in the station house. If his ideas work out, we might need to do an RFP for running the concession.

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Mrs. Langalis said that the person who cleans the United Church of Rowayton might be a person to contact about doing the Covid cleaning, if we go with someone who is not a resident of Rowayton.

Mr. Barbis said that Sue is doing a good job at the beach and we're sure it will continue. He hopes that the gate guards are wearing their tee shirts.

Mr. Barbis also said the Officer Salley said they had identified the youth who is responsible for most of the thefts in Rowayton. He's been arrested 30 times in the last few months.

The next meeting of the Sixth Taxing District Commissioners will be on September 16, 2020. As is the usual practice, there is no meeting in August.

Commissioner John Ignneri made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

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