

DRAFT

**MINUTES
ANNUAL MEETING
SIXTH TAXING DISTRICT, City of Norwalk**

**Rowayton Community Center
March 4, 2015
7:30 p.m.**

The Annual Meeting of the Sixth Taxing District of the City of Norwalk was held at the Rowayton Community Center on March 4, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. Registered voters were checked in by L. W. Woodworth.

Commission Chair Tammy Langalis called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. She welcomed those in attendance and thanked them for coming to the meeting.

Mrs. Langalis announced that former Commissioner Bob Pettus had passed away last Sunday. She said that he had been a Commissioner from 1969 – 1983 and was then Clerk of the Works for several years thereafter. His wife, Flo Pettus, was Clerk for the district for many years. Ed Carlson took care of flying the flag at half staff in honor of him. Tammy asked everyone to take a moment of silence in remembrance of Mr. Pettus.

Since Mr. Igneri was not yet in attendance, approval of the minutes for the 2014 Annual Meeting was postponed until later.

Mrs. Langalis introduced Bob Eydt who they wished to appoint as moderator. Mike Barbis made the motion to nominate Bob as meeting moderator. Wendell Livingston seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Eydt then called on Mrs. Langalis to give the **Report of the Commissioners for the Fiscal Year 2013-2014**. Mrs. Langalis began by giving an overview of the properties owned by the Sixth Taxing District and described how they are used. She said that we own Pinkney Park, Bayley Beach, the Rowayton Community Center, and the Arts Center. We oversee the management of the Rowayton Train Station parking lot and have an interest in the Rowayton Volunteer Fire Department. The District contracts for its own garbage collection and regulated

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use of the fence at the Old School Field where messages are regularly left by residents and local organizations to advertise their offerings. The district is also responsible for street lighting in the district. District properties are used by the Rowayton Gardeners, Rowayton Paddle Tennis Association, Rowayton Library, the Rowayton Historical Society along with the shop Seaside Delights, The Rowayton Arts Center, the Rowayton Little League, Rowayton Tennis Association, The Rowayton Civic Association, the Rowayton Farmers' Market, Shakespeare on the Sound, the Rowayton Parents Exchange, Packer Soccer, Whiteman Sports, Boot Camps and Yoga, birthday parties, worship services in Pinkney Park, the Rowayton River Ramble, Clambakes and the Quilters and Rug Hookers. Various events are scheduled during the year, either at district properties or beginning or ending at them. Some of these are various Fun Runs, the Turkey Trot, Miles for Myles, the Yackery Walk/Run, Comedy Night, the Father/Daughter Ball, Concerts at Bayley Beach and in Pinkney Park, the Gardeners' Plant Sale and Christmas Market, Mayor's Night Out, Retirement Parties, and Nursery School camps. The District employs 3 full time people, 8 part time, and 21 part time beach and railroad employees. The District properties cover 20 acres with 8 buildings maintained by the 6th TD.

The Fiscal Year 2013-2014 began in July 2013. During that month, we hired a new employee, Jason O'Donnell. His title is Assistant Property Manager and supports our Property Manager, Ed Carlson. During that summer, SOS had 9,000 attendees to their performances in Pinkney Park. The Long Term Planning Committee for the Community Center made a number of recommendations for the use of the Community Center and property. One of these was to use the apartment over the library as its new offices thus freeing up space in the upstairs of the Community Center for more use by local organizations. A new preservation grant application was planned for submission to the state. Talk was afoot for restoration of the Greenhouse and Potting Shed by the Rowayton Gardeners. Summer concerts were enjoyed at Bayley Beach and in Pinkney Park.

In August 2013 there was no Commissioners' Meeting. In **September 2013**, Phases 1, 1 ½ and 2 had been completed at the Community Center. We had some improvements from outside organizations. A Boy Scout, Christopher Hard, proposed attaching hydrant markers on all the district hydrants. This was an Eagle Scout project. And, Geiger Landscaping offered to maintain some flower boxes at the RR station. There were reports of the peeping tom again and the 6th TD hosted a community meeting with representatives from the Norwalk Police Department. Assorted "Fun Run" and other benefits were planned for the Community Center.

During October, speeding and thru trucks continued to be a problem for the district. The District alerted all of its employees about the new Affordable Care Act and their benefits under it. The Sixth Taxing District hoped to facilitate a dialogue between the owner of 2 Nearwater and concerned residents over construction plans for the old trolley peninsula in Farm Creek. The auditors are close to finishing their audit. A new voucher system and processes were discussed. The beach was winterized and plans were made for tree work. The aerator had arrived and was ready for use in the Dog Park. There were numerous functions at Bayley in spite of Hurricane,

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or Super Storm, Sandy. The Pavilion received a lot of repair work prior to the season.

During November, the Long Term Planning Committee continued to refine the renovation goals for the Library and Community Center interior space. A representative from SWRPA came to the meeting with a presentation and asked for 6th TD support for a regional fire apparatus facility which would be very convenient for maintenance of fire equipment. Ultimately this did not pass at the state level.

In December, it was announced that the District insurance fees would be going up 7% in the new fiscal year and flood insurance would increase 25%. Two kayak owners left their crafts on the racks and Bayley Beach and the district removed them for sake keeping. After an exhaustive effort to collect FEMA funds to repair the seawall at Bayley Beach, it had been determined that FEMA would not cover the work so the district will have to find the needed resources.

January 2014 saw discussion of garbage collection. The District has renewed its contract with AFK Karting. It was determined to cut back the shoulder months of the usual twice a week pick up in the spring and fall months. Twice a week collection will still be made in June, July and August only, for a savings of a minimum of \$7,500 per year. This will be for a trial basis to see how the reduction is received. Many of our civic and recreation groups attended the January meeting to request funds for projects on district property. The Rowayton Tennis Association proposed upgrades to its tennis hut to eliminate flooding problems. The Library introduced its new director, Melissa Yurechko, and described some changes and needs. They are now open on many Monday holidays and are always grateful for the support they receive from the district. The Norwalk Land Trust requested support for the possible purchase of 2 Nearwater Road, a $\frac{3}{4}$ acre spit of land in the center of Farm Creek. The goal is to create a bird sanctuary that is open to the public. The Historical Society is undertaking restoration of the foyer in Pinkney House. The Gardeners are hard at work and are proposing a new fence at the border garden and work at the Potting Shed and the Greenhouse. The Paddle Tennis group proposed replacing the deck in front of the paddle hut. The Long Term Planning Committee submitted its proposal for Phase II of the renovation and restoration of the Community Center. Some of the less glamorous items included hooking up to the city sewer, work you can see in progress right now by the dog field. It was reported that there was only one kayak remaining at Bayley Beach.

In February, the project to lower Rowayton Avenue at the RR bridge was passed by the city, much to the dismay of the district Commissioners. A layout for the new district offices was well underway. Winter weather issues, such as plowing and shoveling, abound. Some things never change.

March's meeting followed the Annual Budget meeting when the budget for the next Fiscal Year was passed as presented.

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April's meeting heard a report about the bad state of the grass in the dog park. It was voted that we close the park for at least a month to allow for new grass to be established. The construction of Rowayton Avenue at the RR Station began as did the work to rebuild the bridge to Bell Island. Proposals were presented for the tennis association to refinish court 5 and have control over its use. The Little League is looking into the installation of sponsored foul poles on the Little League Field. The City enacted a blight ordinance and there are a few Rowayton properties on the list. At the RR, we released 25 new parking permits to be sold due to the constant underuse of the lot. New computers were installed in the Treasurer's office.

In May, while we were still dealing with the long term aftermath of Super Storm Sandy, the budget was modified by \$65,000 to take funds from the operating budget to cover the shortfall in FEMA reimbursements. The Dog Park was reopened. Mayor Rilling hosted a Mayor's Night Out forum at the Community Center. All of the city department heads attended along with quite a few Rowayton residents. The district launched a new website and email address which is "rowayton6td.com". Many residents were in attendance to discuss the Norwalk Land Trust's proposed purchase of 2 Nearwater, both pro and con. The Rowayton Village Planning Committee spoke about an effort to ease city parking requirements as national trends indicate that more people now walk to their business areas. Beach permits were issued in the month of May.

During the June meeting, it was noted that people are generating quite a lot less of trash to be picked up and are enthusiastically recycling so many things. This saves the district considerable money which would otherwise be spent for tipping fees. It was decided that that money would be invested in the new breathing apparatus (SCBA's) fund for the fire department. Pinkney House has a new coat of paint.

And so ends another exciting Fiscal Year of the Sixth Taxing District.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Woodworth
Secretary of the Annual Meeting