

**MINUTES
RESCHEDULED COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
SIXTH TAXING DISTRICT, City of Norwalk
November 16, 2011**

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

The November meeting of the Commissioners of the Sixth Taxing District of the City of Norwalk, CT was called to order at 8:05 p.m. by Commission Chair Tammy Langalis.

Approval of the Minutes of the October 12, 2011 meeting was postponed until later after all the Commissioners had a chance to finish reviewing the submitted draft minutes.

There was no OLD BUSINESS on the agenda.

Under NEW BUSINESS, the results of the citywide elections were announced. Commissioner Mike Barbis was congratulated on his reelection as Commissioner and election as District E representative to the Norwalk School Board. Commissioner John Igneri was congratulated on his election to the Norwalk Common Council. Mrs. Langalis thanked all the candidates who ran. She said that she expected that civility and bipartisanship would continue to dominate the political tone. It was noted that it was difficult to find a source for the actual count of the Sixth Taxing District Commissioner's race results. Those results were 637 votes for Mr. Barbis and 417 votes for Mrs. Pratt.

Commissioner John Igneri reminded everyone that the proposed donation of a fire truck to Panama had fallen through and that donation will not now be made. However, the Fire Department and the Commissioners have found a need for this old fire truck in a town in northwestern Argentina. The Commissioners reaffirmed that there was then, and still is, approval to donate the fire truck. The final destination for the truck has changed, but the Commissioners and the Fire Department will be proceeding with the details of the donation to the town in Argentina. Since Norwalk, CT has a sister city, inquiries were made about sending the truck there. However, the town has no tall buildings and little use for a ladder truck. Mr. Igneri noted that the Commissioners had already voted on and approved the donation of the truck and as such it will be

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removed from the books.

Commissioner Mike Barbis reported that he had been approached by the city to provide a summer job or jobs for youth. He met, in another venue, the person from the city who was encouraging this program. Mr. Barbis explained to her that we don't have a full time office and we don't own any businesses that could maybe absorb a summer worker and as such, we are not in a position to provide employment. He suggested that some of our local businesses would better be approached in this regard. Mike said that we are being asked to provide funding for one or more jobs at \$1270 per job. The Commissioners will look into this while they are in budget discussion for the next Fiscal Year.

Mr. Barbis also reported that we are periodically approached by people who are interested in doing community service. We have successfully used some of these people in the past. Mr. Barbis is hoping that we can, in the future, have the technical capability in the office of having someone scan some archived documents. Marty Roth has submitted a proposal to set up some proper computer equipment for this and estimates it to cost \$1,000. The information will be given to John Verel. This will, hopefully, be able to be included in the budget for the next Fiscal Year if not approved for current expenditure.

RR Guard Supervisor Dick Schock reported that Metro North has abandoned their side of the parking lot on the westbound side. There is an area that could accommodate extra cars, but it would need weedin.. Commissioner Barbis said that he would go to the train station tomorrow to survey the area and see what might be done. Some of this work might be done by someone seeking community service hours.

Mr. Schock also said that during the last month, advertising postcards had been put on every car in the parking lot. He instructed the guards to remove the cards and contacted the person disseminating the advertising to advise him of its illegality.

Mr. Schock reported that the parking lots are operating at near full capacity almost every day. Otherwise, things have been running pretty smoothly. The new striping of parking lines is almost complete and should be completed over the weekend.

Community Policing Officer Mike Silva was not in attendance. It was reported that Joe Jensen, who is usually in attendance, could not be here since he has taken his wife, Diane, to Boston for medical treatment.

Mr. Schock asked the Commissioners to consider offering the RR guards one personal day a year.

The Chair recognized Mr. Peter Gatt, 26 Thomes Street. Mr. Gatt was in attendance to inquire whether he might offer a proposal to assume the concession that Scott Whiteman

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has at Bayley Beach for his Sports Camp. Mrs. Langalis said that at an earlier meeting, the Commissioners had agreed to put out a Request for Proposal for a camp at Bayley beginning in 2013. It was felt that it was too late in the year to not allow Mr. Whiteman to return for 2012. He had quite a bit earlier requested a lease which he had never had before this time. The Commissioners have agreed to allow him to operate his Sports Camp for 2012. The Commissioners realized that Mr. Whiteman was not always in attendance but that Jason Diamandis did a fine job in his absence. Mrs. Langalis asked Mr. Gatt if he would be willing to work with Scott to make the program better. Mr. Gatt asked if the District would look at someone who has new ideas. He thinks that he could come up with a compelling curriculum. He would be a hands on manager of the program. Commissioner Barbis said that the District has no interest in running the camp or even determining what a camp should be. The District just wants a program that people would want to use. Commissioner Igneri said that although Scott's been here for a number of years, that Peter has a nice relationship with the kids. He asked Mr. Gatt if he would do this on a temporary basis. What would be his plan if his circumstances changed. Mr. Gatt indicated that he would be interested in a longer term program. He pointed out that he had done basketball in the past. There are different sports needs in the summer. Some kids are getting ready for fall sports. He would consider running something like a boot camp to get them ready for fall sports. He noted that he is used to running short term seasons. Mrs. Langalis pointed out that they only have the ball field, the basketball court and one tennis court available to the campers. During the Little League season, they may not have access to the ball field either. She noted that Scott lost campers when Mr. Liberatore had started the camp at Rowayton School. It was a lot less expensive and drew some of the potential campers away. She also noted that state regulations apply to certain programs. Scott has always run his camp so that he's not subject to as many of these regulations. Mr. Gatt said that he would propose some alternative curriculum than what is currently at Bayley Beach. Mr. Barbis noted that the Commissioners were approached a couple of years ago with a proposal for a sports training and conditioning program. Although that sounded very attractive, the program plans died. Mrs. Langalis asked that if Scott worked with the smaller kids, would Pete work with older ones with a different curriculum. Would he be willing to do something in tandem like that. Mr. Igneri asked to see a plan. Mrs. Langalis asked that Mr. Gatt go ahead and submit a proposal for the Commissioners to study. She thanked Mr. Gatt for sharing his thoughts with the Commission.

REPORTS

Commissioner Mike Barbis said that he has received many complaints that traffic on Wilson Avenue is out of control where it intersects Bryan Road and Crest Road. Ed Carlson, District Property Manager, said that he had noticed Officer Mike Silva there today issuing some tickets. Morning rush hour seems to be the worst time. There's a lot of truck traffic. Rob Frazier, 158 Highland Avenue, asking if painting a pedestrian crosswalk there would help the situation. Mr. Barbis said that he didn't think the DPW

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would be in favor of that. The problem is that there is a lot of pedestrian traffic, much of it being children walking to and from Rowayton School. The Clerk was asked to write a letter to the DPW and to the Chief of Police citing the concerns of the Commission. The letter should be copied to the Common Council. Mr. Frazier noted that a Council traffic report is about to come out and it would be beneficial to go on the record with our concerns about that area. The Clerk was asked to also write a letter to the Common Council asking that they immediately address the crosswalk in front of Roton Middle School, work on which was already funded in the current capital budget. Highland Avenue is currently being repaved. This would be an excellent time to get some work done there. Another letter will be sent for the Commission to go on record as being in favor of traffic calming measures throughout town. There is a hope that Hunt Street, site of a recent fatal accident, would be included in traffic calming efforts.

Commissioner Tammy Langalis reported that it seems as if the construction at the RR underpass has stopped. All the work is being done from 6 a.m - 9 a.m. This is the most disruptive time of the day for the traffic to be occasionally stopped. She said that she still can't understand why they can't come at other hours.

Mrs. Langalis said that Joe Jensen had cleaned up a number of transformer boxes and signs around town that had been sprayed with graffiti. He will submit a bill for this clean up and the paint used for the clean up. His graffiti paint remover didn't really work on the metal stop signs. If anyone sees any of these signs that are still defaced, Tammy asked that she be informed of that. Sometimes DPW will replace the signs.

Tammy said that Phyllis Padro from the Rowayton Gardeners had approached her with respect to the proposed placement of the new lamp post for the light to illuminate the lower parking lot. Phyllis was concerned that a large post base was to go in the carefully tended rose garden in the raised bed. Mrs. Langalis asked if the light base could not replace the light near the steps that is there now. Jack Robson recommended NOT putting it there. He maintains that the best place for the light is where it has been planned. Rob Frazier, 158 Highland Avenue, informed the Commission that the Long Range Planning Committee for the Community Center has a lighting consultant coming in about two weeks. He is going to be looking at the future lighting of the entire campus. Rob suggested that the placement of the base be postponed until we get the recommendation from this lighting expert. Mike Barbis suggested that the Commission survey the area in question after the meeting to make a decision on this. Mrs. Langalis suggested that we can surely put off the placement of the base for two weeks. The Gardeners do so much work in this garden and all the others at the Community Center and around town that we should respect their concerns. Ed Carlson, Property Manager, noted that the contractor has already been hired.

Also, Mrs. Langalis asked if Ed and his crew would be able to prune down the privet hedge down for the winter so that it all looks uniform. Mr. Carlson indicated that they

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could.

Tammy said that she had spoken with Wendy Ford of the RCA who informed her that the RCA has hired Bartlett Tree Service to hang the holiday lights in the downtown this year. Bartlett has asked if they might be given permission to put in a sign at Pinkney Park

with something like "Lights brought to you by Bartlett and the RCA". Mike Barbis suggested that approving this might help with the cost of the lighting for the RCA. The Commissioners approved the installation of the sign for up to a month, if it's a reasonable size similar to the smaller of the political lawn signs.

The Commissioners asked the clerk to send a note to Joe Jensen wishing he and Diane well and thanking Joe for his work with the removal of the graffiti.

Commissioner John Igneri said that he had been approached by the Rowayton Historical Society which would like to keep their shop near Pinkney House open further into the season. In order to do this, they would need to replace the door with a Dutch type door with glass on the top. They would pay for the door if the Commissioners would approve it. John Igneri made a motion to approve installation of a new door in that located which was seconded by Mike Barbis. The motion was **Approved**.

Mrs. Langalis asked that the clerk send a letter to Mr. Eugene Colonese of the DOT saying that the Sixth Taxing District is interested in added more parking spaces in the westbound lot at the Rowayton RR Station. We should inform him that the parking lot is operating at 99%+ capacity every day and is in high demand. We would ask that the DOT support us in this effort.

Mike Barbis suggested also sending letters to residents abutting the parking lot to assure them that no intrusive lighting would be employed. It was decided to wait until an answer was received from Mr. Colonese before writing these letters.

Mrs. Langalis said that she is going to work on a petition to the city asking that the city scale back the scope of the project at Rowayton Avenue near the RR station which would lower the grade and widen the road. She will be circulating this petition during the next month.

Tammy also said that the pin in the door at the Rowayton RR Station house is upside down. John Igneri said that the doors have slipped down and now crack open. We replaced them a number of years ago. However, Mr. Igneri thinks that they need to again be replaced. John Igneri asked Jack Robson to be in touch with the state DOT to see about replacing the door. They are already going to be there as they will be replacing the roof so that would be a good time to replace the doors as well.

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TREASURER’S REPORT (please see hand outs)

District Treasurer John Verel reported that we are over budget on District wide expenses because of repairs needed following Hurricane Irene.

We are now heading into the budget season. His office has sent out letters to various organizations asking that they submit any funding requests that they may have. If anyone knows of another organization that might be approached for a proposal, please let the Treasurer’s office know about it.

The audit is currently underway and should be ready by the December meeting.

Mr. Verel requested a brief Executive Session after the meeting to discuss a compensation issue.

The check from the State of Connecticut for the Restoration Grant (Phase I) was received. Mike Barbis asked about funds that could be spent now for Phase II. HVAC and electric work can be done before the beginning of the Phase II restoration and preservation work. The HVAC and electric work is not part of the scope of the grant application to the state. Mr. Verel asked that he receive a plan with pertinent financial details. It was noted that the City of Norwalk would provide a bridge facility if we needed the funds. We are able to access \$100,000 from the city in this manner. We can’t spend the Phase I money that we just received from the state as it is being held in reserve as required by the state. However, we want to get the HVAC work done between January and March or early April. Rob Frazier will get the numbers to John Verel.

District Fire Marshal

October 2011

<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>#</u>	<u># Man Hours</u>
Blasting Permits	***	***
Blasting Site Inspections	***	***
Building Inspections	2	3
Clerical(office) work		21
Fire Marshal Conferences	1	1
Career Development Training	1	3
Investigations(s)	***	***
Meetings: District monthly	1	2
		<hr/> Total Man Hrs. 30

Remarks to the Commissioners: The owner of 15 Witch Lane is required to install a fire hydrant upon completion of the house. This would provide coverage to the Crest, Witch and Bittersweet area. SNEW estimate is \$2986.25. Would the Commissioners consider paying half of the estimate?

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Mr. Barbis noted that it was clear to the builder that installing a fire hydrant was his cost of doing business. The District funded ½ the cost of a hydrant for Wharf Road because they felt it was needed even though it was not mandated. In this case, the mandate was clear from the beginning. He indicated that he didn't know why we would be subsidizing him. Ed noted that the owner of the property did know about the requirement for the hydrant but his builder did not. Mr. Igneri said that he agrees with Mr. Barbis. Mrs. Langalis said that she will concur even though she feels that the installation of the hydrant would be a huge benefit to the entire neighborhood and she wouldn't be against the District's paying half the cost.

District Property Manager

November 2011

Community Center:

1. The used JD Gator was repaired and is working very well. Cost of repairs was \$650.00.
2. Library toilet: I am looking into the feasibility of changing the toilet to a flushometer type. There have been recurring blockages due to the age and type of drain pipe. I will check with a plumber.

Bayley Beach:

1. There are four kayaks still on the racks as of November 14.
2. The Carry All vehicle was returned to the repair shop for additional problems as a result of TS Irene.
3. Sue B. will be in charge of the gate on weekends from Nov. to April.

Cannon:

1. White Bridge Marina applied shrink wrap to the base before Halloween. A letter of thanks should be sent.

Bridge Lights:

1. The bulbs have been replaced with the LED type. They should last for a longer period of time.

Mrs. Langalis proposed changing the Bayley Beach rules to allow dogs to be on Bayley Beach from November 1 to April 1. Ed Carlson said he was not really opposed. Mrs. Langalis made a motion to allow dogs on Bayley Beach from November 1 - April 1 provided that they are under the owner's control. The motion was seconded by John Igneri. **Approved.**

District Administrator

Jack Robson

Bayley Beach

There are (3) stumps behind the basketball court that should be removed before the

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frost sets in. This damage was caused by Hurricane Irene. Cost to remove: **\$2,100.00**
How would you like to proceed? **Approved.**

Other Hurricane Irene related damages at Bayley Beach have not been dealt with as yet. I have submitted costs through e-mails but have not received approval to proceed. Shall I hold on following up on these until I hear from the FEMA rep to see if our costs will be covered? **Mike Barbis suggested that we should fix the fence between Bayley and Roton Point just to be a good neighbor.**

A Tideflex Valve was recommended by DPW as a replacement for the existing Flapper Valve. This valve controls the flow of water from Bayley Beach into Farm Creek. DPW requires our engineer to draw up the spec for this installation. The engineer's fee is **\$400.00**. DPW will cover all other costs. Is this something the district wants to pursue at this time? **Approved.**

I had a meeting with Bob Hartog who runs B&G Marina and it was decided that he would lower his fee for fall and spring service to the (3) floats at Bayley Beach from **\$1,470.00 to \$1,200.00**. Prep and labor to the floats in the spring is an unknown, but should be considerably less as we just rebuilt one float. His charge for hauling the floats prior to Hurricane Irene will be **\$500.00**.

Community Center

Two sugar maple trees next to the district property line and 41 Highland Avenue have been cut down. Wood is being left for the public to take. Two other trees on the property were trimmed for safety. Cost in total: **\$3,600.00**. The fence behind these trees was damaged. Cost to repair is **\$1,380.00** **Approved (might be a FEMA issue)**

Two pine trees and one holly have been planted as a buffer in front of the two recently removed maple trees next to 41 Highland Avenue. Rob Frazier organized this project. The trees were a gift from Alice Morrison and David Radulski. (A thank you will be sent). 16 privet hedge plants were purchased from Home Depot at half the original list price and have been transplanted in the open spaces between 41 Highland Avenue and the CC entrance gate. Cost **\$160.00**.

The installation of (2) Rockford Pole Lights have finally been approved by the Building Department at City Hall. However, our existing lights do not meet the new standards for what is referred to as "cut off". The Norwalk Museum provided me with the proper documents that allowed the electrical inspector to waive this new requirement. The new ruling would have forced us to install different light heads at the cost of **\$4,000 to \$6,000**. The reasons being is that the CC is listed as a historical building even though it is not in the Historical District, and therefore clears us from this new ruling. As a reminder, the fee for light installation by Mars Electric at the CC will be **\$3,638.00**.

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Rob Frazier has requested that we hold up on the installation of these lights until the Planning Committee's lighting designer has had a chance to study the CC's needs and present a proposal to the Commissioners. This could take 3 weeks.

Phyllis Padro is not in favor of the location chosen for the Rockford light being installed in the garden between the upper drive and the lower stone wall. She is objecting to removing the plants and the sprinkler/soaker system. I don't see this as a problem. Both plants and sprinkler system can be easily removed and replaced. The location chosen is to allow equal light to be cast along the stone wall in the lower parking lot and the upper driveway at the end of the "T" leading down to the lower lot. This is a dark area and needs light. My yellow marker was removed today and placed next to the stairs. This is not the place for the light to do the most good. The existing light next to the stairs will remain. Plants are not the issue here, giving off light where it is needed is the issue.

Mars Electric wants to meet at the CC one more time to go over the location and the logistics of the project.

We are not sure if the bulbs for the Rockford lights are in the barn storage area. We will find this out once we start to remove the poles and uncover everything that was put away a number of years ago.

Four filing cabinets have been purchased for the new district office. They are to be used by Andrea Woodworth, Jack Robson and the Commissioners. Cost **\$1,621.00 delivered.**

Pinkney Park

There was a false alarm on Sunday at 6:00 a.m. I was called and responded. The location was Zone 12. There was motion in the front room. Officer Silva was there to meet me along with two other officers. Officer Silva thought that this might have been triggered by the heat coming on and disturbing curtains that in turn set off the motion sensors. The alarm was set off from the front room area. There was a similar incident in town at a bank where the alarm went off just prior to the Pinkney alarm. No problem at either location.

The damaged gutters and downspouts at Pinkney House have been repaired. A new gutter was installed along the east side of the building. The fascia along the east side under the old gutter was rotting. This has been replaced with a product called Azek.

The damaged shutters on the east side of the building have been removed and stored in the barn. New shutters have been recommended for next year.

The paint and the shingles on Pinkney House are showing wear. We may have to step up the repainting of the building and look at 2013 for this to be done. This will have given us 5 years since the last painting in 2008. The shingles on the west side facing the barn

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may need to be replaced at that time as well.

I noticed a fairly large limb half way up on the tree located just behind the wash house and the gazebo. It must have split during Hurricane Irene. It presents a danger and should be removed. Larry Brown was called on Tuesday to look at it and give us his cost to remove.

Ambler Parking Lot/Wetlands

John Scala, the manager for 140 Rowayton Avenue has sent a letter absolving the District of any responsibility for damage to the grounds between the Red Barn Condos and the silver maple tree that needs to be removed for the safety of the condo and its residents. 140 Rowayton Avenue will arrange with Larry Brown a date for the removal of this tree. Larry Brown Tree Specialist will invoice 140 Rowayton Avenue and the Sixth Taxing District separately. **\$1,475.00 each**. All wood will be taken to the CC and left on the outside grounds near the entrance for easy pick up by the public. Wood chips will be brought to the Community Center.

Other problem trees in the wetlands will be removed for safety reasons, around the end of November. Fallen tree cost **\$850.00**. A large tree behind Vincent Place property will cost **\$2,800.00**. All wood and chips will be taken to the Community Center.

District Clerk

Andrea Woodworth

1. On October 19, one of the Rug Hookers fell in the upper parking lot. She was taken to the hospital where it was confirmed that her hip was broken (probably the cause of her fall). Ed Carlson and the Library staff were very helpful to her and to the rest of the Rug Hookers, I was told.
2. The application for a state preservation grant was completed and sent to Hartford several days before the deadline.
3. I have added several people to the RR parking permit Wait List. There are now 49 people on that list.
4. I have had a request for permission to have a wedding at Bayley Beach on October 6, 2012. There would be between 200 - 250 people at this event. My contact is the groom to be and he assured me that he would be willing to hire extra people to help with the set up and clean up. They may also be flexible with the date. One possibility is September 22 but their first choice is October 6. (The Commissioners will discuss this further and make a decision at a later time).
5. I have mailed a thank you letter to All Seasons Marine for the shrink wrapping of the cannon base prior to Halloween.

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6. A note to the Commissioners from Peggy and Ed Carlson was read thanking the Commissioners for the opportunity to have Laura Carlson's wedding at Bayley Beach on September 17.

A motion was made by Tammy Langalis to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Mike Barbis. John Igneri abstained as he had not read the draft minutes. The motion carried. **Approved.**

Mrs. Langalis announced that she had just today received an e-mail from a resident living on Indian Spring telling of a home invasion at her home. She reminded everyone that sliding glass doors are the favored way of entry by would be burglars. Everyone should be aware of this potential danger.

Rob Frazier, 158 Highland Avenue, showed the Commissioners a plexiglass model of the display unit which will be used to display the original cupola clock works.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m. and went into Executive Session.

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