

MINUTES
SIXTH TAXING DISTRICT, City of Norwalk
RESCHEDULED COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
NOVEMBER 17, 2010

Rowayton Community Center
8:00 p.m.

The November 17, 2010 meeting of the Sixth Taxing District Commissioners was called to order at 8:05 p.m. by Commission Chair Tammy Langalis. She introduced the Commission and thanked those in attendance for coming out for the meeting. Mrs. Langalis noted that the Commissioners wanted to belatedly thank Andy Conroy, past Treasurer of the Sixth Taxing District, for his years of service to the district. Mrs. Langalis presented Mr. Conroy with a artist personalized pen and ink drawing of the Community Center noting that she had heard that he had collected pictures of the different places he had worked.

Mrs. Langalis noted that we would first hear the report of the Treasurer since Mr. Verel had a need to leave the meeting early.

Report of the Treasurer

John Verel

Mr. Verel noted that the financial requirement for the application for the state restoration grant was met with a debt stop agreement with the Bank of Darien and Rowayton. He also reported that he had submitted a request to the city for \$400,000 in financing. This is moving along the way that they said it would.

Mr. Verel distributed a P&L Budget vs. Actual to the Commission saying that we are essentially on target. Typically our revenues from tax receipts arrive in July and in January. We are about 1/3 of the way through the budget and the expenses are in line with where we are. John also announced that the district has offered direct deposits of payroll checks for its employees. It's purely a convenience factor for the employees as it costs the district the same either way the payroll is done.

All the field work for the audit is finished and the Commissioners will hear from the auditors at a meeting next week. The audit went as well as it did due in large part

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to the good work by Nancy Heubeck, who is an assistant to the Treasurer working on a contractual basis.

Letters from the Treasurer's office to different organizations or other entities within the district have been sent asking for submission of any budget requests for the annual budget process. Mr. Verel asked to be notified of any group which has not received an invitation to submit a request and should receive one.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2010 meeting as submitted was made by Commissioner John Igeneri and seconded by Commissioner Mike Barbis. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Report from the RR Guards

Dick Schock

Ms. Langalis offered to let Mr. Schock report next as he has a very early get up for his job at Rowayton RR Station. Mr. Schock said that the status of temporary lights, which are rigged but not operating, under the overpass is in limbo. Apparently, the lights are ready but CL&P has not come by to hook up the power.

The sheds have not been painted as of yet. Depending on the weather, the sheds will be painted soon.

Mr. Schock has worked out a new schedule for guard coverage for the train station which encompasses the same number of hours for the guards and therefore will not cost any additional funds. However, the change will allow the morning shift on the westbound side to arrive a bit earlier just before the arrival of most of the morning passengers. This change would also extend the guard's hours on the eastbound side to cover one of the last trains of the evening typically carrying commuters. Under the new schedule, the westbound side would start at 5:00 a.m. instead of 5:15 and the eastbound side would stay until 9:15.

There is a hole in the parking lot on the westbound side that Ed will fill in for the winter.

Mike Barbis addressed the issue of the lights under the overpass. He noted that it was connected to the platform power but shorted out as the service wasn't enough to support the additional lights. Mr. Barbis noted that he will again be in touch with Bob Duff with this complaint to ask him to put some pressure on CL&P to get the lights on. District Administrator Jack Robson has e-mailed Pat Proto on this issue as well.

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It was also reported that a resident at the end of Arnold Lane had been concerned that the RR construction workers were dumping debris into the wetlands that are adjacent to the station. Mr. Barbis advised them to contact the city Conservation official. It was noted that this is not an official "natural" wetland but, rather, is man made.

Mr. Schock reported that he had obtained a copy of the survey that the state had done of the parking lots. Commission Chair Tammy Langalis asked Mr. Schock to keep the Commissioners posted with additional developments and thanked Mr. Schock for his report.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner John Igneri reported on the filming of the movie "We the Peeples" which has been going on in Rowayton. There has been filming at the Market and at 101 so far as well as at a private residence and at a supposed "jitney stop" near McKinley and Rowayton. They filmed some in Pinkney Park this last Monday and will be returning Thursday and probably Friday. There will be a constant police presence during this time. The Commissioners have worked with the film company and especially the location managers. The neighbors have been alerted. So far, everything has been going quite smoothly. After the filming on Thursday, they will start breaking down their set and will be in Pinkney Park on Friday finishing with the clean up. The film company has already paid the District a considerable amount and will augment this amount with some additional funds to compensate for the break from the originally agreed upon schedule. They are also paying for landscape work. The lawns will probably be aerated and reseeded at an appropriate time. Some tree branches were trimmed with the approval of Ed Carlson. There has been a lot of activity in town and it's certainly brought additional business. The location managers kept us up to date at all times and were very nice to work with. Mr. Igneri noted that they certainly start very early in the mornings. Bard Jones, 176 Rowayton Avenue, complimented the Commissioners on their interface with the film company and with making this all happen in a way that was beneficial to Rowayton. He noted that he felt that the Commissioners had set the tone in the right way from the beginning of the negotiations and, because of that, the film makers were respectful of the town and the conditions put on them by the District. He congratulated the Commissioners on setting such a high standard and getting the compliance of the film company. He thanked the Commission. Tammy Langalis noted that she was glad that the residents were treated well and went on to say that the film people were very pleasant people to work with.

Rich Alexander, 22 Meridian Road, asked if the fees paid went to the 6th District or to Norwalk. The answer is that they went to the District. The initial fee was \$5,000 with an additional amount for the change in the schedule. The District didn't incur any costs in relation to the filming. The film company has offered \$1500 for the additional days but it is still in negotiation. The Commissioners

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plan to spend the money received on enhancements to Pinkney Park.

Woody Woodworth, 2 Crooked Trail, asked if it had been determined who keyed the vehicles in Pinkney one of the days of filming. The Commissioners were confident that it hadn't been anyone from Rowayton. It was felt that it was a disgruntled extra. The film company never blamed anyone from Rowayton for this vandalism.

In another Old Business item, Commission Chair Tammy Langalis addressed the issue of the signs that regularly appear on the Old School fence. She feels that we should have some guidelines as to how long a sign should remain displayed. However, the fence is not under the District domain. The field belongs to the city of Norwalk and there really are no rules about what might be hung up there. Members of the Commission have taken signs down if they are put up by commercial firms not in Rowayton. Mrs. Langalis feels that people are getting used to the fence and has heard a lot less complaint about it recently. The city recently planted 1000 bulbs there. As a side note, she mentioned that the Rowayton Gardeners and parents and students of Rowayton School have recently planted many bulbs in front of the school and around the pond. Rowayton should have a very pretty spring.

NEW BUSINESS

It was announced that there had been a meeting about the dog park at the Underground on last Sunday. Over 70 people were in attendance. Gail Jacques, a spokesperson for the frequenters of the dog park, said that they were all worried about recent incidents with aggressive dogs at the dog park. They were in agreement that the people who use the dog park should be responsible for their dogs and for any children that anyone brings with them. They do not want ill behaved dogs and/or people there anymore than do the Commissioners. It was reiterated to the dog park people that they should immediately call the police if there is any incident with which they are uncomfortable or that they feel creates a potential danger to people or dogs. The Commissioners are also concerned that some of the rules already in force are being ignored, specifically the one that limits dogs to two per person in the park. The dog park people will get back to the Commissioners with any suggestions that they might have.

The Commissioners have investigated the rules that are in effect in New Canaan. New rules for this dog park will be crafted and they will be circulated. There will be new signs posted listing the new rules. John Igneri mentioned an article he had read about aggressive dogs not having been socialized properly at an early age. Some children may be approaching dogs in a way that might seem threatening to the dog. Tammy Langalis stated that rules for places like this always come back to the use of common sense. The users of the dog park need

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to realize that access to such a dog park is a privilege and that the district staff are not here to pick up after the animals or to break up fights between dogs. Tammy did note that the dog park people are very grateful to the district for the dog park and they want to do everything they can to ensure that it will remain open.

REPORTS

Commissioners

Mike Barbis stated that there is still more work to do with ADT regarding the alarm system at Pinkney Park. Jack is working up a whole report on that issue.

Another old issue is one of properties that straddle the border of the Sixth District and the Fifth. They were taxed as being in the Sixth District until this last spring when the Tax Assessor redistricted them into the Fifth District. They are no longer paying taxes to the Sixth District but the city would still like us to give them beach stickers. The Commissioners are working on the issue.

On another issue, we did get our application in for the state grant. Mike thanked Rob Frazier and Andrea Woodworth for all the work they did in compiling the application. He stated that the Committee for Long Term Planning is still making progress on the plans for the Community Center.

Tammy Langalis said that they were still waiting for the state to contact us about entering into a new lease for the parking lots at the Rowayton RR station.

Our letter to the Norwalk Traffic Authority asking that the speed limit on Roton Avenue south of McKinley be changed to 15 mph was turned down. The Authority declined to forward our request to the state for consideration. Tammy expressed the Commissioners' disappointment. It was made known that they will only consider 25 mph or above to be posted. Officer Jensen noted that the speed limit signs which are white are enforceable. There are a number of signs indicating 15 mph limits around town. However, these are not enforceable. The Commission was interested in obtaining some signs indicating a 15 mph limit. Bard Jones, 176 Rowayton Avenue, asked if speed bumps could be installed. The answer is "NO" since Roton is an emergency access road. It was also noted that Officer Jensen has helped the situation by obtaining the speed trailer whenever he could. The presence of this speed trailer has had a good effect of slowing down the traffic.

Andy Conroy stated that he was due to have a meeting with Hal Alvord of the

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city DPW on Friday morning at 9:30. He is going to show Mr. Alvord a variety of areas around town that need attention. He invited any of the Commissioners who wished to join them for that meeting. Tammy indicated that she would be there.

Bunny Scott, 18 Drum Road, said that there are some areas where it is very dangerous to walk because of the lack of sidewalks and because of homeowners planting shrubs, etc. at the very edge of the road even though that is the road right of way. John Igneri asked about the Bell Island bridge and whether that was scheduled for replacement in 2011 or 2012. Andy answered that it is due for construction in 2012.

District Clerk

Andrea Woodworth

1. I received a call from a representative of the United Church Nursery School requesting permission to place one of their signs advertising their Holiday Trunk Sale fundraiser at the entrance to the Community Center. It would be an 11 x 17 green and white sign. **The Commissioner OK'd the placement of signs advertising the Trunk Sale and the Gardeners' Christmas Market to be placed in front of the Community Center beginning on the Monday after Thanksgiving.**
2. An answer was received from Hal Alvord, a representative of the Norwalk Traffic Authority in response to our request to change the speed limit on Roton Avenue south of McKinley from 25 m.p.h. to 15 m.p.h. for safety reasons. Our request was denied. The Commissioners each have a copy of that letter in their folders.
3. A letter was prepared and mailed to Chief of Police Harry Rilling noting the retirement of Officer Joe Jensen telling him how valuable an asset Joe has been as a Community Policing Officer. The letter asked for a replacement of a Community Policing Officer and recommended an officer familiar with our community.
4. A letter was prepared to the DOT noting our request for a new long term lease at the Rowayton Railroad parking lot. We are currently on a month by month lease.
5. I assisted Rob Frazier with the preparation of the state historic restoration grant application filed with the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism on October 29, 2010.

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Report of the Fire Marshal	Ed Carlson	October 2010
<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>#</u>	<u># Man Hours</u>
Blasting Permit(s)	***	***
Blasting Site Inspection(s)	***	***
Building Inspection(s)	3	4
Clerical (office) work		21
Fire Marshal Conferences	1	1
Career Development Training	2	9
Investigation(s)	***	***
Meetings: Construction	1	1
District	1	2
(Other)		
Tent Permit signing & Inspection	2	2
(Other)		
Plan Review	3	3
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Total Man Hrs:		43

Expenses:

Remarks to the Commissioners: Area towns are now charging for inspections, permits and plan reviews. These fees could supplement the Fire Marshal budget: something worth considering.

Ed stated that it has been quiet. He said that the new fire truck should be in service as of this Sunday. It has been registered and all problems have been corrected. They will be moving the hoses to the new engine on Sunday morning.

Report of the Property Manager **Ed Carlson** **November 2010**

- Community Center: 1. I would like to use a portion of the open area in the south field for composting leaves. Comments or suggestions?
- Bayley Beach: 1. The Carry-All vehicle is back in for repair with the idling problem.
 2. The water has been turned off and equipment stored for the winter.
- Cannon: 1. Request a Thank You letter to Ted O'Neill for protecting the cannon base prior to Halloween. **The clerk will send this.**
- Pinkney Park: 1. The goose fencing has been restrung and more flags placed to discourage the geese.

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Officer Jensen's Report

Joe said that Mike Silva, an officer we would like to see as a replacement for Joe, was intending to attend this meeting. Joe would like to have an opportunity to introduce Mike to the Commission. Joe said that Officer Silva is very competent and that his heart is leaning toward Rowayton. It is dependent on the police administration as to how much time they would allow him to be here. Joe was asked if there were any incidents reported over Halloween and he indicated that everything had been pretty quiet. He noted that the film company had lots of extra duty policemen on duty for security. **In consultation with the Commissioners, the Clerk will send another letter to Chief Rilling re: Community Policing and Joe's replacement.**

Report of the District Administrator

Jack Robson

Community Center

Regarding the panic lock for the single door in the meeting room, I have made a drawing of what the open and closed positions for the bar look like. I have made a drawing indicating how to open and close the bar lock. The one thing I noticed with this lock was that the Allen wrench needs to be pressed firmly into the opening and then given a ½ turn counter clockwise.

Pinkney Park

Larry Brown Tree Service has trimmed four trees on the property to help prevent future damage to trees and property. One tree on the property line behind the Museum Building has been cabled. The cable is very high up and hard to see.

The two possible areas that produced water leakage have been left as noted in the last report. The top window from the attic on the west side is still covered with plastic and seems to be holding out water from heavy rain. The Rig Vent has not been a problem since the last driving storm. A contractor was called but he was not responsive.

Rowayton RR Parking Lot

Problems with the construction of widening the RR bridge are ongoing. Stairs on the New Haven side were closed so the bridge contractor would not have problems with commuters' safety. These will be worked on once the bridge contractor completes his effort in widening the abutment under the bridge.

Temporary lights were installed under the bridge, only to have them short out the lights on the platform. DOT is attempting to remedy this situation. CL&P have not been overly cooperative in helping us with this issue.

Painting of the two RR Guard shacks was scheduled to start today. Weather has

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interrupted that effort. The painter, "Nice & Neat" will resume once weather permits.

John Igneri said that he had heard from some members of the Historical Society that there is a gentleman who parks in Pinkney Park every day for most of the day. He has NY plates on his vehicle. He is not causing any problems but has made some of the ladies uncomfortable. John asked Ed to keep his eye on him. John said that he may have lost his job and not told his family and is chasing down interviews. Joe suggested that if someone would call the police department and say that they are a little worried, the police will come over and check this out.

Tammy welcomed Dana Jensen, Joe's daughter, who has been at this meeting.

John Igneri made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mike Barbis. Mrs. Langalis adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

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