

MINUTES
MONTHLY MEETING & BUDGET MEETING
SIXTH TAXING DISTRICT, City of Norwalk
February 11, 2009

ATTENDEES: Commissioners Ed Kweskin, Mike Barbis, Tammy Langalis, Treasurer Andy Conroy, District Administrator Jack Robson, Property Manager Ed Carlson and District Clerk Andrea Woodworth

Commissioner Ed Kweskin called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m. Mr. Kweskin welcomed the residents in attendance and promised that the meeting would be brief, considering that an Executive Session was planned as well as the third Budget Meeting of the Sixth Taxing District

Communications and Report of the District Clerk – February 11, 2009

1. We recently received a Thank You note from Tom Myslinski, one of the RR guards. We had sent him a fruit basket while he was recovering from surgical complications.
2. There was a successful birthday party for a 13 year old in the UG on January 31. So the UG is officially a property that can be rented for events such as this.
3. I heard from a representative of the U. S. Census Bureau. She stated that she is looking for space to hold some informational sessions as well as to do testing for possible Census taking employees. She would be happy with any day, full day or part of one, but is looking for donated space. I told her that I would bring it up to the Commissioners at this meeting and get back to her. (Mr. Kweskin indicated that the Commissioners would allow use of the Community Center for this purpose).
4. Miles for Myles is scheduled for May 15. This is the yearly fundraising Fun Run/Walk” to raise money in memory of Myles Beringer. This fund contributes money to Yale/New Haven Hospital for pediatric heart research. They also fund a different local need each year and give five \$1000 scholarships to McMahan graduates exhibiting honesty, integrity and leadership and is based on need. They also donate funds to other worthy

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causes. They use the Community Center only as a venue from which to start the early morning race. (The Commissioners approved)

5. I had a request from a person who has grown up in Rowayton and whose fiancée grew up in Tokeneke to obtain permission to have a wedding reception (and possibly the ceremony, as well) in Pinkney Park on October 10. He estimates the number of people attending to be about 125. He recognizes the need to make sure the guests follow the rules regarding parking and would meet any other requirements that we would have. I think the groundwork was done in the past to have a wedding there, but I'm not sure of all the details. (The Commissioners approved this plan subject to compliance with all the conditions they would deem necessary).
6. I had a request from a resident to have a family reunion at the Community Center on the evening of March 21. I don't think he really needs permission of the Commissioners, but he wanted me to bring it up tonight. (Approved)
7. The Library has scheduled a Father/Daughter party on April 4. They are employing a policeman to direct traffic not related to the party away from the Community Center complex. They want to be sure no one uses the parking lot as there will be a "Cinderella" carriage to take the fathers and daughters for rides. I could send a letter to the Paddle Association to ask their members to use the Elementary School parking lot instead. (It was noted that the paddle season is pretty much over by that time).

REPORTS - Commissioners

Commissioner Mike Barbis reported that he had heard from Mary Osborne on behalf of Shakespeare on the Sound. They are exploring the possibility of repositioning the stage in Pinkney Park to back up to the wall adjacent Rowayton Avenue. If they were to pursue this option, they would want to put up some fencing. The consideration is that the fencing would block the water views of many people during the length of the Shakespeare rehearsals and performances. If this change were to occur, SOS would have to notify the neighbors. As it stands now, SOS is reconsidering the proposed change.

Mr. Barbis mentioned that the Commissioners planned to change the way we issue the beach stickers. The plan is to do it all "in house" this year. The beach rules and regulations are also in need of amendment. He proposed that there be a special meeting at the end of the April Commissioners' meeting to vote on the proposed changes.

Mr. Barbis also addressed the need for tree work to be done on the site of the Community Center. He is hoping that we can make use of the old survey that was done of the Community Center property. Mr. Robson has gotten some estimates. The Commissioners will have to determine what can be done in the next Fiscal Year.

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Commissioner Tammy Langalis said that she had received many complaints from residents that other residents were not clearing the sidewalks in front of their homes after snow storms. The Clerk was asked to put a reminder in Clamdigging and on the RCA web site that stated that residents were responsible for keeping the sidewalks in front of their property free of snow and ice.

Ms. Langalis also noted that there seems to be a little bit of trash and debris collecting in the Ambler Parking Lot. This site has seemed to become a hang out area for teens. Officer Joe Jensen will ask that a policeman on duty during the evening periodically patrol the area. Mr. Barbis mentioned that he would call a contact with the Norwalk Police Department with the same message.

Mr. Kweskin mentioned that the Commissioners would go into Executive Session after the meeting, either before or after the Budget Meeting, to discuss issues regarding the accident at Bayley Beach this summer and the ensuing claim by Mr. Alvarez. The Commissioners will also go over the proposed lease with the Rowayton Historical Society for the Pinkney House.

Property Manager Report – Ed Carlson

Community Center:

1. Snow plowing was done on January 18th, 19th and 28th.
2. The kitchen faucet in the apartment was replaced.
3. Electrical outlets were put into place in the basement (UG) where power had been attached to the circulation desk while the library was temporarily quartered there.
4. The Underground program for teens and pre-teens is up and running. So far, there have been no problems.

Bayley Beach

1. The entrance road and part of the lot were plowed on January 18 and January 28th.

Pinkney Park

1. The driveway was plowed on January 18th, 19th and 28th.
2. The domestic hot water and heat pipe broke in the cold weather. They were repaired by the plumber. The Water pipe needs to be removed when spring returns.

Fire Marshal – Ed Carlson

Mr. Carlson reported that the Rowayton Fire Department is still talking with the Norwalk Fire Department regarding the City department possibly doing the maintenance for the

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Rowayton Fire Department. The City department is consulting with their liability counsel to see if this would be a feasible arrangement.

Report of the Fire Marshal _____ January 2009

Type of Activity	#	# Man Hours
Blasting Permit(s)	***	***
Blasting Site Inspection(s)	***	***
Building Inspection(s)	4	5
Clerical (office) work		19
Fire Marshal Conferences	***	***
Career Development Training	1	6
Investigation(s)	1	1
Meetings: District Monthly	1	2
(Other)		
(Other)		
(Other)		
		Total Man Hrs. 33

Remarks to the Commissioners

Respectfully submitted,
Ed Carlson

Mr. Carlson reported that some hot water pipes at Pinkney Park had frozen and burst.

He also said that a decision has been made by the search committee of the Rowayton Fire Department regarding which fire truck that they would wish to purchase. This truck will be priced at \$505,000. If we were to pay up front for the truck, it would cost only about \$500,000.

Report of the District Administrator – Jack Robson

Pinkney Park:

Plumbing issues at the Pinkney House still exist. Pipes have frozen under the outside bathroom and burst. These pipes have been shut down till spring. We are inquiring as to the condition of all plumbing at the Pinkney House and asking for estimates to fix. We want to know if some are urgent and can't wait, and if some problems are in need of fixing, but can wait.

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Items in order of immediate importance for Pinkney Park:

1. Plumbing (condition being looked at and evaluated)
2. Lawn (partial area next to seawall that is incomplete) \$2,840.00
3. Seal Pinkney House roof and Barn roof: \$2,200.00
4. Spring and Fall maintenance of the grounds (66,000 sq. ft.) \$3,600.00
5. Grade and seed “Ramp” area at southeast corner: \$2,800.00.

Other lawn issues for Pinkney Park can wait.

Newly established lawn next to the seawall:

We need to finalize the seeding and grading of this new lawn from the east side of the seawall up to the gazebo and around to the museum building. The seed around the gazebo and museum building did not germinate late last fall due to weather conditions. This work is necessary to save and complete what we have already invested in.

Fill corner garden, seed all thin areas of new lawn.

Estimated cost:	Labor	\$1,500.00
	20 yds. screened topsoil	\$1,040.00
	Seed Mulch and Mulch Hay	\$ 300.00
	Total:	\$2,840.00

Water charges for Pinkney Park:

I have met with DPW at City Hall who put me in touch with a Junior Engineer. This engineer has presented a written report on his findings to Ralph Kolb at City Hall. Mr. Kolb will be either sending his reply in writing or giving me a call as to how he will be resolving this issue. The Junior Engineer gave me the sense that the result would be in our favor, but he can't answer for Mr. Kolb. I will inform the Commissioners and Treasurer of his answer as soon as I receive the reply. Hopefully this will settle our problem on water charges at Pinkney Park.

(Dick Shock has come up with a better plan to keep track of daily parking fees at the railroad lots. The guards will compile the reports and Andy will pick them up every two weeks. This seemed agreeable to everyone).

Community Center:

Proposed tree work for 2009 season:

Tree Removal from proposed plan:

8 Bradford pears

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1 Norway Maple

1 Dogwood

1 Crabapple

1 Scotch Pine

Note: leave one Butternut standing

Approximate removal cost: **\$6,000.00**

Pruning trees bordering Highland & McKinley **\$4,290.00**

12 Dogwoods along Highland Avenue \$4,800.00

2 Red Oak Trees \$5,400.00

Labor \$5,700.00

Total: **\$15,900.00**

Grand total for all phases: \$26,190.00

Alternate estimate for tree removal and pruning:

Ambler Parking Lot:

There is a dead pine tree on the Wilson Avenue side. I will call the original landscaper, L&L Evergreen, to see if they will replace it. We are well past our guarantee period so I don't think he will replace it without a cost. I will see if I can convince him otherwise. If not, it should be removed.

The parking bumps on the Parking Lot were pushed off their mounts during snow plowing. They have since been returned to their original spots, so as to protect the Bollard lights from car bumpers hitting them.

The parking lot is becoming a dumping ground for some who either have lunch in their cars or spend some time there in the evening. Beer cans, soda cans and liquor bottles are being cast at random on the outside grounds. The wetlands side behind the stone wall has turned into a place to discard these items, as well. Yesterday I discovered a printer was left on the edge of the wetlands grassy area.

I would suggest a few garbage cans be installed at either end of the wetlands side. I'm not sure this would correct the situation, given the nature of the types that are the offenders. A sign posting a fine for littering might work, but we hate signs on the property. Two garbage cans might help

Estimate for two garbage cans: \$100.00 to \$200.00

(It was decided to get a couple of garbage cans similar to the ones in the Sammis Street Bridge area.

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Bayley Beach Grills:

Mike Hazzard has worked up an alternate estimate from the previously presented one from The Gas Company. The proposal is to remove the grills from their present location, and place them between the picnic tables and the Wee Burn fence, just left of the play area.

The grills will be assembled in two lines, with 4 grills in each row. They will be set in concrete. They will have an enclosure around them. Either a four sided or three sided enclosure. The three sided version would allow access to the grills from the Wee Burn side. The four sided version would have a gate at either end for access to the grills.

Estimate to construct:

Remove existing grills and posts: \$675.00

Install cement posts and existing grills in new location (8 units) \$950.00

Enclosure/fence: depends on material used and size of enclosure: \$2,000 to \$4,500

Pour concrete slab: depends on size: \$1,000 to \$2,500.

(It was noted that concrete would absorb stains from anything dropped on it. It was the general consensus that we could do without the concrete slab, thereby saving some money, and keeping to the nature of the beach).

The Planning Committee, represented by Rob Frazier, has requested permission to do a little exploring within the Community Center building. They want to see if they can determine how the building was constructed. They want to remove small sections of flooring in the upstairs area outside of Andy Conroy's office. They thought if this was needed to be done, they would remove sections that would not be seen nor disturb areas that are being used. They would remove a section under a book shelf or under a piece of furniture. (Ed Carlson noted that the tile on the floor is asbestos tile; and, as such, can not be disturbed. He suggested going through the ceiling of the bathroom or the kitchen. The goal would be to go through areas where the floor would not have to be disturbed. It was mentioned that the old hay chute may provide a way to access the areas needed to be seen).

They will try to solve this in other ways if possible, such as attic space. But some answer may only come from floor removal.

Ms. Langalis made a motion that the minutes from the December meeting be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barbis and the minutes were approved. Ms. Langalis then made another motion that the minutes from the January meeting be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barbis and the minutes of the January meeting were approved as submitted.

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There was a discussion with the District Administrator, Mr. Robson, concerning the snow removal contractor's use of salt and sand on the Ambler Parking Lot instead of the specified Snow Melt. It was determined that Kevin Conroy had asked for salt and no sand and that's why our contractor continued on with salt on the Ambler Lot. There is no difference in cost between salt and Snow Melt.

It was revealed that a resident had called several people on the Commission trying to determine who was responsible for snow removal on the sidewalks in Bell Island and Pine Point. It was generally agreed that the snow removal is the responsibility of the associations in those areas.

Officer Joe Jensen said that mainly things have been quiet. There is some "hanging out" occurring in the Ambler Lot and at Rowayton School.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the regular meeting and move into the Budget Meeting. After the Budget Meeting, the Commission will go into Executive Session to discuss the items aforementioned.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Woodworth
Clerk, 6th Taxing District