MINUTES
Commissioners' Meeting
SIXTH TAXING DISTRICT, City of Norwalk
April 7, 2025
6:00pm, Community Center and via Zoom

Commissioner Langalis called the meeting to order at 6:05pm

Attendees – Commissioner Tammy Langalis, Commissioner Andy Meyerson, Commissioner Jody Sattler, Treasurer Gil Kernan, Assistant to the Treasurer Doug Hillman, and Fire Marshal and Parking Administrator Ed Carlson

Minutes from the March 3rd Meeting were approved by the 3 Commissioners.

Beach Sticker Process
- The online application process will continue, along with two in-person days at the community center on May 10th from 9am to 12pm.
- Sue has been mailing stickers, and 300 have already been mailed out.
- This is twice as many as last year at this point.
- Andy's E-Blast is a "big catalyst" for applications.

Bayley Beach Playground Update
- Ground was broken this past week.
- The old fence and slats have been removed.
- The project is planned to be completed by Memorial Day.
- Jody contacted people who had their names on the slats from the previous playground.
- Andy will add a reminder to pick up slats on the Facebook page.

Dog Park Management Update
- The park is closed for reseeding and new gate installation.
- New gates will have a code, effective in July, requiring registration.
- Registration details and pricing are still being determined.
- Registration will align with the license renewals in the city of Norwalk.
- The water area is being rebuilt to improve drainage.

Train Station Violation Update
- Re-engaging with a processor that handles the Barnacle device for unpaid tickets.
- Letters were sent to about 25 people with outstanding tickets from 2024.
- If the violations are not paid, the Barnacle will be attached to their windshield.
- Doug is coordinating with T2, the software company managing the violations.
- There are approximately 270 violations from January 1st, 2024 to the present.
- Doug aims to evaluate using the Barnacle within a month.

Train Station Violations
- People are paying violations in response to notices about using the Barnacle.
- One person paid eight tickets.
- Marty trained people on the reader and got the WI-FI ready.

Community Center Bathrooms
- Bathrooms have been painted and beautified.
- A new light fixture and fan cabinet were installed.
- One sink has to be raised for wheelchair access, and a curtain will be placed around it.
- One more mural will be done in the main hallway.
- Water jug refiller water fountains are being considered.
- There will be an outdoor and indoor unit.
- Locations: library youth center, Pinkney (combined project with the RCA, who is paying for half), and Bayley Beach.
- Historic Rowayton needs to approve locations.
- The outdoor unit will be shut off in the winter.
- Electrician and plumber have been out to assess the library location.

Bayley Beach Camp
- A new person is running the camp this summer.
- A flyer was sent out in the E-Blast.
- The E-Blast went out last week, and again today.
- Many people have been asking questions.

Dogs at Bayley Beach
- Dogs are not allowed from April 1st to October 15th.
- People should pick up after their dogs.

Cell Tower
- The town is looking into putting a cell tower in town.
- Verizon approached the town, and they considered Bayley, but decided against it due to the need to remove trees.
- T-Mobile approached the fire department, who was connected with the Verizon conversations.
- They are looking at potentially putting a cell tower at the fire station.
- Site inspection will determine coverage and height.
- They need to determine if the benefits outweigh the cosmetic change.
- Cell coverage is not great in town.
- It was worse a while ago, but has gotten better in the last two months.
- As you get 5G, your range gets less.
- If T-Mobile wins the bid, Verizon can put their stuff on the T-Mobile pole.
- AT&T and T-Mobile can put their stuff on Verizon pole.
- If they use the fire department, the radio antenna would get combined into the cell tower.

Revenue/Rent Discussion
- Discussion about revenue/rent of $2,000 a month, with a starting bid of $1,000 a month.
- The money would go to the hose company.
- The hose company has needs coming up, including OSHA requirements.
- The money would help them
- Even $24,000 a year could help them request less money.
- There is concern about the City of Norwalk charging the six taxing district to use the Norwalk Fire Department next year.

Farmer's Market
- The Farmer's Market is coming back with new management starting in May
- The time of the Farmer's Market is changing from 12-5 to 10 AM to 2 PM.
- Jillian is running it and has a focused plan of attack.
- She has experience from the Westport Farmers Market.

City of Norwalk Charter Revision
- The City of Norwalk is looking to do a charter revision, and the Sixth Taxing District is part of that charter.
- The commissioners will be reviewing the charter.
- The charter says that there are three commissioners on alternating six year terms.
- It also lays out the boundaries of the taxing district.
- They will seek legal counsel to avoid problems if necessary.

Treasurer's Report
- Checks issued and the ACHS for March, the notices a little higher than usual.
- Paid $180,000 annual debt service.
- Michael Hazard is for snow removal.
- Expenses for the year are running a little over budget.
- Anticipate being about $50,000 over budget at the end of the year.
- This is in the operating budget.
- There's a $20,000 offset that the accountant said they have to recognize differently.
- The bank account will probably be around $50,000 lower than projected.
- The bank account has 15% of operating expenses as a baseline cushion.

Snow Removal
- Concern about the amount of money spent on snow removal.
- $4,000 is for the railroad.
- It's not just snow removal, but also salting for pedestrians.
- The railroad fund pays for the railroad snow removal, but the community center and Ambler lot come out of operating.

- Many snowstorms were on weekends this year, so Ted and Rob weren't here to do the snow removal.
- There were mechanical issues with the plow.

Fire Marshal Report
- Ed submitted his fire marshal report.
- There is nothing exciting going on.
- Ed has combination battery operated smoke and CO detectors if any residents are interested in them.

Smoke and CO Detectors
- There are approximately 20 smoke and CO detectors available, which were obtained for free from the state.
- These detectors have replaceable batteries.
- They are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Fire Department Call
- The fire department responded to a furnace backfire on Yarmouth Road.
- There was elevated carbon monoxide in the house, which was vented.
- There was no damage due to the incident.

Property Manager's Report
- Art Center Project: The project to redo the deck behind the art center has been awarded to Salvatore. Permits have been applied for and are awaiting city review.
- Sewer Work: Sewer work is being redone underneath the community center. A drain camera revealed several broken pipes, increasing the project's cost.
- Children's Library: Quotes are being obtained to paint the water-damaged area in the children's library.
- Bottle Filling Stations: Finalizing the installation of bottle filling stations.
- Dog Park: Seeding of the dog park will begin tomorrow, weather permitting.
- Front Entrance Gate: The front entrance gate and light fixtures will be sandblasted and painted. The original color of the fixtures is being considered for preservation.
- Greenhouse Roof: Lynn Anderson is being consulted to select the material for the new greenhouse roof, aiming to stay within budget.
- Spring Cleanup: Gas blowers can be used for normal spring cleanup from April 1st to June 1st.

Beach and Playground
- Kayak Racks: There is a plan to move a couple of the kayak racks at the beach.
- Pavilion: The water has been turned on in the pavilion.
- Snack Shack: Di's Shanty will start cleaning the snack shack, and the fridge and cooler will be put back the week of the 21st.
- Picnic Tables and Chairs: Five picnic tables and five composite Adirondack chairs are being ordered with Doug's help.
- Parking Lot: Bill and Ted are planning to address potholes in the parking lot using millings and a skid steer, similar to last year.
- Seawall Sidewalk: Sand will be placed on the parking lot side of the seawall sidewalk to prevent flooding.
- Lifeguards: Lifeguards are being hired. Last year's guards are returning, and there are plenty of candidates.
- Gate Guards: There is a need for gate guards, and it's suggested to post the position in an E-Blast.
- It was suggested to contact Jody to see if she knows anyone who would be interested.
- Assistant Beach Director: Bill has found a local candidate for assistant beach director and is preparing to make a formal offer.
- Kayak Rentals: Kayak rentals are brisk, primarily at the beach and community center, with less activity at Pinkney.

WI-FI Update
- A bid has been received from PCS to redo the WI-FI in the Community Center, including some exterior coverage.
- The bid needs review, especially considering Verizon's interest in a cell tower.
- The plan is to create one WI-FI network across the property, eliminating the need to switch between different spots.
- Frontier is working on running the digital line, which has been challenging due to communication issues.
- The building's architecture, including hay chutes and crawl spaces, will be utilized to run lines and create a unified WI-FI network.
- Michael Thom offered to review the WI-FI proposals.

Meeting Adjournment
- Next meeting will be May 5th at 6:00.
- Motion to adjourn was made and seconded.
- Meeting adjourned.