MINUTES
Commissioners' Meeting
SIXTH TAXING DISTRICT, City of Norwalk
June 2, 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.

Minutes from the May 5th Meeting were approved by Ms. Langalis and Mr. Myerson.

Beach Permits Eligibility
- Beach permits eligibility is a perennial issue.
- The Sixth Taxing District owns Bayley Beach, Pinkney Park, Rowayton Community Center, the fire department, and the art center. These properties were bought solely with Sixth Taxing District taxpayer money.
- People with a 06853 zip code might not actually be in the sixth taxing district and therefore are not paying property tax to the sixth taxing district, meaning they don't get a beach sticker. They can still go to Bayley Beach and pay the daily parking fee.
- There is a list of properties that are partially in the 6TD and partially in Norwalk. This list was established in 2012 after a lawsuit against the taxing district by a resident in the Vanderbilt/Possum Circle area.
- The tax assessor for the city decided to change some properties and take them out of the six taxing district.
- The 6TD hired an attorney and settled the case with the city, agreeing that the line established in 1927 would never be moved.
- Properties on both sides of the district line would perpetually be able to get a beach sticker, regardless of what portion of the property was in the district.
- The beach form has been updated to read "6th taxing and district" instead of "06853" for clarification.
- It is now easy to look up online through the city what district you're in.

Public Questions
- A resident asked two questions.
- First question: Even though taxes are paid to Norwalk, a portion comes back to the district (5% of a $2 million budget).
- Second question: Regarding beach passes, he received a ticket at Calf Pasture beach despite having a Bayley Beach pass because his car was registered in New York.
- The city of Norwalk monitors license plates to verify residency for beach access.
- Anyone in Norwalk can use the beach as long as their car is registered in Norwalk.
- Registering a car in Norwalk is the easiest way to prove residency for things like transfer station passes.

Car Registration and Beach Access
- Technically, cars are supposed to be registered in Norwalk if you live there.
- Beach access issues are "prickly."
- A resident was misinformed that Norwalk residents with stickers couldn't access Calf Pasture Beach.
- Bayley Beach sticker format changed; it's now tied to the license plate.

Norwalk Taxes and Mill Rate
- Norwalk residents pay taxes that contribute to Bayley Beach upkeep.
- The Sixth Taxing District is unique in Connecticut, started in 1927 for streetlights and trash pickup.
- The district has the lowest mill rate due to efficient trash collection and a volunteer fire department.
- The mill rate is lower, but property values are higher. A portion of taxes goes to Bayley Beach.

Train Station Security Cameras
- New security cameras have been installed at the train station.
- The train station manager can monitor the cameras 24/7.
- Ed helped hook up the cameras to his computer and phone, noting the clarity and detail are "amazing."
- The monitor was installed.
- The new system can confirm license plate numbers for ticketing and violations.
- There's a proposal to add cameras to the other side, with one monitor for both sides.
- The new system eliminates the monthly ADT fee (around $180/month).
- A proposal exists to add another camera to see the rest of the parking lot, bridging to the New Haven side. The new system will have one user interface and one monitor for all sides.
- The phone lines to both sheds have been canceled to reduce costs.
- The phone line was needed for the ADT security cameras.
- The $6,600 includes an additional camera to see the rest of the parking lot, bridging to the other side, a camera on the other side to catch license plates, and an extended camera to the end of the train station line.
- The upgrade includes an electrical bridge, so no additional equipment needs to be installed on both sides.
- The new cameras will be installed on the shed, not the station building.
- The internet runs through the station building.
- The frontier line comes in at the station house, which is also where they get electric wires.
- The video archive uses a rolling one terabyte hard drive.
- Currently, the archive holds roughly 60 to 70 days of footage, but this will decrease to 30 to 40 days with the additional cameras.
- The system only records on motion, not 24/7, to conserve space.

- The system can read license plates and has recorded almost 3,000 license plates on the westbound side in one to two weeks.
- The system identifies repeat license plates, though there is some error in read accuracy.
- There is a lower camera to catch license plates more accurately.

Approval and Installation
- The $6,600 is approved and will come from the train station budget/account.
- The equipment will be ordered and installed in about a week.

Violation Updates
- Out of 333 notices sent since March 7, 66 have been paid, and 24 have been dismissed.
- A couple hundred haven't been paid.
- They are making progress in collecting more money.
- Ed and Doug will work out the process for using the Barnacle, which will be used when someone has five outstanding tickets.
- Doug will share a list of people with three or more tickets.
- The new system allows setting up alerts by license plate number, so Ed can get an alert if someone with outstanding tickets enters the lot.

New Playground
- Commissioner Sattler attended the opening of the new $450,000 playground.
- The funds were raised by Friends of Bayley Beach,
- District employees Ted and Bob helped with the project.

Dog Park Management Update
- 55 applicants for dog licenses so far.
- Licenses are being checked.
- Those with invalid license numbers will be asked to send a photo of their license.
- Rick McQuaid offered in-person licensing in June, possibly on Saturday, June 21st.
- First-time licenses must be obtained in person.
- Renewals can be done online.
- The license runs from July 1 through June 30.
- Gate code will be active July 1.
- Lanyard and gate code distribution: Wednesday, June 25th.
- Possibly Saturday, June 28th as well.
- Lanyards will have a Bayley Beach/Dog Park sticker with numbers 1-200.
- This is to identify dogs/owners in case of issues.
- Information about lanyard/code distribution will be sent via email blast and posted on the dog park Facebook page.

- No guest dogs allowed.
- All dogs must be registered.
- There will be no in-person registrations.
- Signs with rules may need to be updated to match the form.
- The gate code will change monthly or quarterly.
- The new code will be emailed to registered users.

Cell Tower Update
- Verizon had a site visit last week.

Fire Department Barbecue
- October 18th.

Cell Tower
- Renderings of what the cell tower would look like and lease agreement information are forthcoming.
- The site appears viable and could potentially attract other carriers beyond Verizon.
- This would be better for the area and offer additional fees.
- Emergency radio communication equipment would be relocated to the top of the tower.
- The process is lengthy, potentially taking another 12 months.
- A decision needs to be made about whether the tower is too intrusive for nearby residents.
- The tower would be in the back parking lot towards the back of the fence, not close to or on the building.
- The Connecticut Sighting Council gets involved but doesn't have much say.
- Cell phone tower companies get leniency from the state to encourage more builds.
- Monthly fees paid by Verizon or other carriers would go to the Rowayton Hose Company.

Other Updates
- Summer camp sign-ups are decent but not exceptional.
- The fire department volunteered to alow parking for the farmers market at the fire station due to a large funeral.
- The church parking lot was not crowded, resulting in less use of the field.
- Positive feedback has been received about the new market hours.

Porch Jam
- Porch Jam, run by the RCA, is happening on the 7th.
- There will be road closures, and pedestrians may not be able to linger at the bands.

Golf carts are not allowed and illegal on the streets.
- Norwalk police will start ticketing golf carts.

Race
- A race is being planned, potentially as an annual event.
- It may require road closures.
- Annie is working with the Transportation, Parking, and Mobility (TMP) committee to figure out a route.
- The organizers are considering using the community center for the start to avoid parking fees.
- The race is through the Middle Fairfield Hockey Association.

Website Redesign
- The RCA recently had their website redone.
- The speaker suggests that the district's website should also be redone.
- Gavin McGee, who did the RCA website, is being considered for Shorehaven's website as well.
- The speaker suggests budgeting for the website redesign.
- Redoing the antiquated system will cost around $10,000.
- The current system costs $1,000 a year to maintain.

Gilbert Hill Cut Through
- The city of Norwalk is considering owning the Gilbert Hill cut through.
- In 2012, the six taxing district was involved in conversations around the cut through to the train station.
- Some property owners have been maintaining the path.
- Adam Blank, the attorney for the district, shared information with the mayor's office.
- The city may establish a permanent easement over the land to protect the footpath.
- This action aims to secure the footpath for residents in perpetuity.
- There is a discussion about sending out a map showing the actual footpaths.
- The map should exclude private property with a sewer easement.
- Jeff Ortolano had a clear visual map, possibly from Port Jam.
- The goal is to refresh people's understanding of public footpaths.

Frontier Call
- A call with Frontier was the last step in the process to get the line run to the community center.
- The line will be active around June 20th, increasing capacity.

District Treasurer's Report
- Capital reallocation is needed due to the kayak rack rebuild.
- Propose reducing the district-wide new blue truck fund by $5,500 to cover the $5,500 kayak rack rebuild.
- Temporary reallocation from the reserve for future projects is needed for the Art Center deck and the fire department's new chief vehicle.
- Increase the Art Center deck by $4,500 and the new fire department chief vehicle by $66,895.
- Reduce the reserve for future projects by $71,395, to be reversed on July 1st.
- Motion made to approve these reallocations.

Checks and Fund Reports
- Standard month of checks: $200,000, minus $50,000 transfer to capital, totaling $157,000.
- $62,000 to the library (quarterly payment).
- Capital projects are fully funded with recent reallocations.
- Railroad annual permits are lighter than budgeted this year.

Railroad Budget
- Revenue will be a little under budget this year because the signups and renewals happened last fiscal year when they moved from Park Mobile to Parklync.
- Expenses are a little stronger because of new cameras, snow removal, and repair and maintenance.
- The railroad fund balance is healthy for long-term capital projects like repaving.

Operating Revenue and Expenses
- Taxes are fully collected, with a little more expected in June.
- - Expenses are over budget due to property management division changes and repair and maintenance needs.
- Outside cleaning service and snow removal are contributing factors.
- They will probably use about $50,000 of the rainy day fund.

Fire Marshal Report
- Four building inspections (5 man hours)
- Clerical work (16 hours)
- One career development training (3 hours)
- One investigation (1 hour)
- District meeting (2 hours)
- FNHSFMA meeting (monthly)
- Fireworks meeting (1 hour)
- Plan review (1 hour)
- Tent inspection (1 hour)

- Two food truck inspections (3 hours)
- Total: 35 hours

Beach Director and Rental Agent Update
- Bill is working on a new float and wants to discuss it with the commissioners due to changes in the water level at the beach.
- The budgeted amount was $5,000, but he's looking at something around $4,300.
- The ladder on the current float is getting damaged due to increased silt.
- Bill is also looking into a different type of ladder that rises with the water line.
- Four lifeguards were recently certified in a private class, which the commissioners agreed to pay for.
- There's been a shortage of people who can certify this year, making recertifications challenging.
- Bill is ordering miscellaneous beach items like trash cans, recycling bins, and swim lines.
- The swim line needs replacement.

Fireworks and Picnic Tables
- Louisa and Matt Smith are working on a new system for picnic table access during fireworks at Roton Point to prevent traffic congestion.
- They are considering an approach of holding people in the parking lot instead of on the street.

Lifeguard Recertification
- Four lifeguards were recertified, bringing the total to ten.
- Two more need to be certified.
- Need to get documentation that lifeguards paid or have certification.
- "We need to get documentation that they paid or certain or that they have. Or that they have the certificate. Certificate. That's the most important thing."
- Bill is ensuring all documentation is in the HR file.

Taxing District Discussion
- A new resident inquired about the taxing district.
- The mill rate is smaller in this district, which can be advantageous.
- Information on mill rates for each taxing district can be found on the City of Norwalk's website in the yearly budget.
- The Board of Education is cutting positions, causing controversy.
- The resident previously lived in New Canaan and was involved in government there.
- Annual budget meetings for the following year are held in February and are open to the public.

Bridge Jumping
- Kids jump off the bridge when the water is rough.
- There was a discussion about painting a line to indicate a safe jumping point, but the city is concerned about liability if someone gets hurt.
- Bridge jumping is illegal, and signs prohibiting it were removed.
- The city rebuilt the bridge, improving it by removing rebars.

Incident & Safety
- In 30 years, only one kid drowned, but it wasn't from bridge jumping; he was on the rocks and didn't know how to swim.
- Kayakers are advised to tell jumpers to swim and inform them about the "three stones" rule: if the tide is high and three stones are wet, it's safe to jump.
- Jumpers now use both sides of the bridge since the sidewalk was redone.

Bridge Ownership & Crowds
- The bridge is a city bridge, rebuilt by the City of Marwa.
- Channel 12 covered the bridge jumping, describing it as a "circus" due to the crowds.
- It's better to jump when the tide is high.

Tides & Jumping Advice
- Nature painted a line thousands of years ago, indicated by three blocks.
- The blocks start below the girders under the bridge.
- Tides change about 8 inches per hour, with high tides occurring twice a month.
- Advice: Hold your nose, plug your ears, and do a cannonball; no diving.

Bayley Beach Payment Update
- Bayley Beach now has a square handheld for taking card payments, including chip, tap, and Apple Pay.
- They are working on the Wi-Fi.

Meeting Adjournment
- The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 7, at 6 p.m. in the Grace Room.