

CITY OF NORWALK
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
April 17, 2017

Attendance: Darren Oustafine, Chairman
Lewis Clark, Vice Chairman
Dave McCarthy
John Flynn
John Igeneri
Frederika Bikakis-Hajian- (via phone)
Greg Burnett (via phone)

Staff: Bruce Chimento, DPW Director
Ralph Kolb, DPW Senior Environmental Engineer
Chris Torre, DPW Superintendent

Others: John Ahern, CH2MHill, OMI, Inc.
Paola Molloy, CH2MHill, OMI, Inc.
Joe Hawley
Pat DeVito
Amy McNichols
Pat McNichols
Steve Bartush
Paul Miller
Walter McNichols
Hugh McManus
Larry Katz
Ginger Katz
Patrick Shields
Mandy Teare

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Oustafine called the meeting to order at 5:30PM

**** MR. MCCARTHY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO TAKE THE AGENDA OUT OF ORDER.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. REPORTS

c. Discussion on Marvin Beach Pump Station Status

Mr. Kolb said that on April 4, 2017, during the heavy rain event there was a significant amount of material that had come down to the pump station and clog the two pumps at

the station. He said that because of pump issues and a high wet well, OMI mobilized a godwin pump in order to maintain sewage pumping at the station and prevent a sewage spill into the harbor. In addition, OMI also brought in McVac to assist them to pump down the wet well. During additional work by OMI and McVac to pump down the wet well and clear the pumps of debris in order to get the pump station back up and running, it was determined that there was a partial wall collapse of the wet well and influent pipe was found. He said that OMI had McVac continued to remove debris in the wet well so that there could be further evaluation done and to put a camera in the wet well to better understand what is going on, and they did confirm that the main pipe coming into the wet well was collapsed, and they are unsure of the integrity of the wet well wall. He said that Wright-Pierce is the consultant for the WPCA on pump stations and they are tentatively scheduled to do a man entry inspection on Wednesday to assess the condition of the wet well walls, and once that is done staff will be meeting with them to discuss what the next options will be.

Mr. Ahern said that AJ Penna was also called in and had two Godwin pumps installed and they are maintaining those pumps. Mr. Clark asked if the wet well is functional now. Mr. Kolb said “no” and they are currently pumping from the two manholes upstream of the wet well and then pumping into the force main. He said that as of today no sewage has entered the sound.

Mr. Bartush- Shellfish Commission

Mr. Bartush stated that they are concerned with the material that can potentially leak into the sound and affect the shellfish beds.

Paul Miller- Marvin Beach

Mr. Miller stated that he is here for information and that he is on the board for Marvin Beach and will need to relay that information to the residents.

Patrick Shields- 120 Gregory Blvd.

Mr. Shields asked if the pump station suffer any damage during Hurricane Sandy. Mr. Ahern said that there were no sewage issues at that time in that area. Mr. Oustafine said that during Hurricane Sandy that there were problems with one of the pump stations and the affects were noticeable immediately.

Walter McNichols - 14 Alden Avenue

Mr. McNichols stated there seems to have been a lot of issues with the pump station throughout the years, and he is not interested in a “band-aid” fix but in the bigger picture such as feasibility impact studies, and said that the piece that goes underneath the harbor is just as big of an issue if not bigger, and as he understands it is not included in this evaluation and he thinks that it should be. He said that they are interested in a thorough solution to this problem with feasibility behind it and if that pump station should even have to stay in that location. Mr. Kolb said that the force main that is under the harbor is under the CH2MHill contract under the collections systems and has been identified as a capital project for funding, and they are currently working on the scope for design. He said as far as the pump station that they still are in the process of seeing the full extent of what is going on, and staff will be discussing options with the consultant to

determine what the best approach will be and discussing it with the board next month. Mr. Oustafine suggested that a news release be provided to the neighborhood in advance of any major construction. He also said that no one on this board or staff would approach anything with a “band-aid approach” and everything that he has seen them do over the years has been comprehensive and long term.

Pat DeVito- 6 Lighthouse Lane

Mr. Devito said that the current situation is not something he wants to deal with through the summer between the smell and the vibration of the pumps.

Pat and Amy McNichols- 9 River Drive

Mr. McNichols stated he likes the long term approach and that they are by no means looking for a “band aid” approach, but he is also a little shocked that they will need to deal with the current situation through the summer months, and that it is not a good situation for those of them that are close to the pumps between the diesel smell and the vibration, and he would like something to be looked at to mitigate that. Mr. Ahern said that he will contact Godwin to see if there is anything they can do to absorb the vibration. Mr. McNichols said that they would like to be apprised regarding meetings as to what is going on and that they will be attending regularly to try and understand what the options are.

Hugh McManus- 33 River Drive

Mr. McManus stated his concerns regarding sewage backing up into basements.

Ginger Katz- 22 Alden Avenue

Ms. Katz stated her concerns regarding the noise and vibration and said that it is very taxing every day and she is worried about the long term affect into the harbor.

Mandy Teare- 13 Elliott Street

Ms. Teare said that she is an officer of the Marvin Beach Association and she is here to learn and support her neighborhood.

Larry Katz- 22 Alden Avenue

Mr. Katz stated his concern regarding the cars coming around the corner and the jersey barriers taking away some space.

Joe Hawley- 13 Wallace Avenue

Mr. Hawley said that he is the President of the Marvin Beach Association and that there are 121 houses in Marvin Beach, on said that on behalf of the community this is not just affecting Alden Avenue, and this is the entire community and requested that they be kept aware of what is going on and provided his email addresses for the record and said that he can be reached at info@marvinbeach.org or at Hawley.joe@gmail.com and that he can post any updates that are sent to him.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM WPCA MEETING HELD ON MARCH 20, 2017

**** MR. MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. BE IT RESOLVED THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY FOR THE CITY OF NORWALK TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR WASTEWATER PUMP STATION ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN. IN FURTHERANCE OF THIS RESOLUTION, DARREN OUSTAFINE, THE CHAIRMAN IS DULY AUTHORIZED TO ENTER INTO AND SIGN SAID CONTRACTS ON BEHALF OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY FOR THE CITY OF NORWALK. THE CHAIRMAN IS FURTHER AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE SUCH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND EXECUTE SUCH OTHER DOCUMENTS AS MAY BE REQUIRED BY THE STATE OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN CONNECTION WITH SAID CONTRACTS AND TO EXECUTE ANY AMENDMENTS, RESCISSIONS, AND REVISIONS THERETO.

Mr. Kolb said that under the on call contract with Wright-Pierce they will be assessing all 22 pump stations, and that they are working with the state and are able to get 55% grant money for their level of effort, and that this is the first process step in the process to submit the application to start the grant funding process.

**** MR.IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. CONTRACT OPERATIONS REPORT:

a. OMI Monthly Operating Report- March 2017 (copy included)

Mr. Ahern reported on the maintenance and said that routine maintenance has been done. He said that there were no violations received for the month, but that there was a performance guarantee due to the cold weather and increased flow. He said that negotiations have been completed for the new collective bargaining agreement with Local 2405 which will take them to the end of the OMI, Inc. contract. He reported on the collections systems and said that the pump shaft was repaired at the Karen Drive pump station, and that repairs were made to the old convertor at the Strathmore Lane Pump Station. He said that there were no overflow or spills for the month and that AJ Penna installed a manhole and replace 10' of pipe at 8 Hermanny Court. He said that nitrogen

fell into band "D". Mr. Oustafine said that since there were no by-passes for the month he asked how they found out about the back-ups. Mr. Ahern said through customer service requests and that most of the time it is due to a problem in the house but that they check the city line and most of the time the problem will be due to their lateral or and internal problem in the house, but that they investigate all complaints. Mr. Oustafine asked if any of them resulted in a back-up in anyone's house that was related to our pipe. Mr. Ahern said "no".

Mr. Ahern reported on the changes to personnel and said that the Lead Collections Operator Alan Carpenter has retired on March 31, 2017, after 26 years of service and that Ben Nieves has taken over as the Lead Collections Operator. He reported of the OSHA recordable incidents and said that maintenance Manager Dale Schmude was injured when the newly installed hand wheel valve in the headwork's building fell and struck him. He reported on the monthly rolling averages and said that for cctv was 0.85 miles per month and for cleaning was 4.2 miles a month.

b. Discussion on Blower Maintenance (letter included)

Mr. Kolb said that Mr. Torre had sent a letter to Mr. Ahern requesting information on the maintenance history of all four blowers at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Ahern said that they are in the process of gathering their information and responding. Mr. Oustafine asked where they are as far as the replacement of blowers. Mr. Kolb said that there are two on site that are operable and that two have gone off site to be evaluated and repaired.

c. Micro Drum Screens (letter included)

Mr. Kolb said that staff has had some recent discussions with DEEP and the EPA regarding the drum screens, and the way that the permit is written it limits the technology and that DEEP has said that they can apply for a permit modification to open it up to alternative screening devices.

5. REPORTS

a. FY 16/17 Revenues/Expenditures MUNIS Report (copy included)
Mr. Kolb reported and said that everything is tracking as expected.

b. EPA Inspection Update
Mr. Kolb said that staff had met with the EPA and the DEEP to discuss the draft administrative consent order, and that it was a good meeting and their Attorney from Verrill Dana is red-lining the draft order based on the meeting discussions and what was agreed to, and it will be sent to the EPA for any additional comments, and that eventually there will be a finalized administrative order.

d. Sewer Use Bill Appeals/Adjustments Update

1) Wastewater Pump Station Asset Management Plan
Mr. Kolb said that the plan has been approved by the DEEP.

- 2) Main Lift Pump Replacement Project
Mr. Kolb said that all six pumps have been completed and are running great and said that if anyone would like to see them to contact him and he will schedule a tour.
 - 3) Sluice Gate Replacement
Mr. Kolb said that there is a Godwin pump on-site and that there is a meeting tomorrow to discuss the schedule.
 - 4) Collection System Projects
Mr. Kolb said that he is currently working with CH2MHill to come up with a final design scope of work for the projects and what they anticipate doing over the next year.
- e. 1) Appeal Status
Mr. Kolb reported and said that the adjustments to date are \$78,519.
- f. Information copies:
1) Proposed Nitrogen Credit Exchange-2016 (copy included)
Mr. Kolb said that Norwalk is anticipated to receive \$90,959.00 in nitrogen credits for 2016.

**6. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS ONGOING LITIGATION WITH FLOWSERVE
ABOUT MAIN LIFT PUMPS' FAILURE, SEWAGE OVERFLOW FINDINGS BY
CONNECTICUT FUND FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

**** MR. MCCARTHY MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Executive session began at 6:30PM.

Executive session ended at 6:45PM

No action was taken.

7. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. FLYNN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:46PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dilene Byrd