

CITY OF NORWALK
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
August 21, 2017

Attendance: Darren Oustafine, Chairman (via phone)
Lewis Clark, Vice Chairman
Mayor Rilling
Dave McCarthy
John Flynn
John Bove
John Igeneri
Greg Burnett (via phone)

Staff: Bruce Chimento, DPW Director
Lisa Burns, DPW Principal Engineer
Ralph Kolb, DPW Senior Environmental Engineer

Others: John Ahern, CH2MHill, OMI, Inc.
Paola Molloy, CH2MHill, OMI, Inc.
Steven Bartush, Shellfish Commission
Pat McNichols

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Clark called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND SECRETARY

**** MR. MCCARTHY MOVED TO NOMINATE THE CURRENT SLATE OF OFFICERS AND SECRETARY.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM WPCA MEETING HELD ON JUNE 19, 2017.

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MR. MCCARTHY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO TAKE THE AGENDA OUT OF ORDER AND MOVE ITEM 4 INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OR VICE CHAIRMAN TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES INCLUDING CLOSEOUT OF THE OMI CONTRACT; PROCUREMENT OF NEW OPERATING AGENT/COMPANY; AND OTHER QUALITY ASSURANCE/CONTROL REVIEWS RELATED TO CAPITAL AND OPERATING PROJECTS FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$125,000 ANNUALLY. (MEMO ATTACHED)

ACCOUNT NO. 224062-5298

Mr. Kolb said that Scott Orenstein had previously been working on behalf of the WPCA to prepare contract documents, and staff has decided to move on and retain Verrill Dana, LLP to assist the WPCA. Mr. McCarthy asked how their rates compare to Scott Orenstein's rate. Mr. Kolb said their proposed rate is \$350 per hour and \$250 per hour for the Associates, and that Mr. Orenstein's rate was \$275 per hour.

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. CONTRACT OPERATIONS REPORT:

a. OMI MONTHLY REPORT- JUNE & JULY 2017 (COPY INCLUDED)

Mr. Ahern reported on the maintenance and collections system for June and said that cleaning has begun at the Marvin Beach Pump Station following the repair. He said that they also repaired the back flow preventer at the Calf Pasture Beach Pump Station. He reported on the spills for the month and said that at 4 Couch Street there has been an ongoing problem with the private lateral and that the Health Department has been notified, at 250 Westport Avenue there was a spill due to a grease blockage and at 6 Perry Avenue there was a 20 gallon spill caused by a city contractor and that the contractor has made the repairs. He reported on the collections system repairs and said that AJ Penna had maintained the Marvin Beach bypass, repaired the force main at Perry Avenue and repaired the lateral at 323 Main Avenue. He said that there were no regulatory issues or storm flow events for the month and that nitrogen fell into band "D".

Mr. Ahern reported on the maintenance and collections system for July and said that the soft start #2 at the Five Mile pump station was replaced, the force main was shut down for a city contractor at Perry Avenue and that the Marvin Beach bypass was placed in operation. He reported on the spills for the month and said that there was 100 gallon spill at 46 Chestnut Street due to a sewer pipe leaking into a storm water catch basin and that the contractor has repaired the line. He reported on the collections system repairs and said that a manhole wall was repaired on Riverside Drive, the sewer line was repaired on Alden Avenue, the line at the manhole on Merritt Place was repaired and 30,000 gallons were bypassed due to the Perry Avenue bridge construction. He reported on the changes to personnel and said the Maintenance Clerk Alvin Williams has resigned and that they are now in the process of recruiting a replacement. He said that

on July 7, 2017 that the Wastewater Treatment Plant was on storm flow and that nitrogen fell into band "D". He reported on the collections system data management and inspection for the month and said that the CCTV for the month was 1.45 miles and that the monthly rolling average for televising was 1.04 miles and for cleaning was 4.00 miles. Mr. Flynn asked if there were any issues with flooding due to the heavy rain. Mr. Ahern said "no".

6. REPORTS

- a. FY 16/17 and FY 17/18 Revenues/Expenditures MUNIS Report (copy included)
Mr. Kolb reported and said that everything is tracking as expected.
- b. Discussion on Marvin Beach Pump Station Status (report included)
Mr. Kolb reported and said that the original existing pump station is back up and running and that OMI, Inc. and AJ Penna have installed a new manhole and replaced approximately 15' of sanitary sewer line that had failed going into the original pump station. He said that this is a short term fix to get the original station up and running and to eliminate the need for Godwin Pumps on site. He said that Wright-Pierce is currently working on the basis of design for the long term pump station replacement and that they have looked at three locations for the pump station, and after reviewing the three options the preferred options are to either install the new pump station within the footprint or adjacent to the existing pump station. Mr. Flynn asked who will be making that decision. Mr. Kolb said that staff will. Mr. Flynn asked when the final decision will be made. Mr. Kolb said that Wright-Pierce will have a preliminary sight plan by early September. Mr. Clark asked if the Marvin Beach Association has a copy the report. Mr. Kolb said not yet because he wanted to present it to the Board prior to presenting it to the association but that he will be emailing it to them tomorrow.
- c. Electronic Bypass Reporting Issues (letter included)
Mr. Kolb said that he had sent a letter to the DEEP regarding several issues with the electronic bypass reporting system and real time mapping. He said that Norwalk takes the reporting obligations seriously and work determinedly to achieve compliance with these obligations, and recognize the importance of stakeholders, including the local shellfish industry and obtaining timely and accurate information on bypass events. He stated in the letter that he would like to address several issues that have occurred in the electronic reporting such as notification to the Norwalk Health Department, omissions within electronic notification to the agencies (i.e. Aquaculture) and inaccurate active bypasses on the real time map. He said that the purpose of the letter was to notify DEEP and bring the issues to their attention that the team has discovered but that he has not heard back from them as of yet.
- d. Discussion on Major Repair and Replacement Account
Mr. Kolb said that he and Mr. Chimento will be meeting with Mr. Dahl on Friday to discuss some of the expenses that OMI has been spending or proposing to spend out of the major repair and replacement account. He said that approximately \$1 million dollars has been spent by OMI, Inc. that was not yet authorized through the major repair and replacement account. Mr. Chimento said that staff will report back to the Board in September with their recommendations. Mayor Rilling asked if there is language in the contract that caps the amount that can be spent without WPCA approval. Mr. Chimento said \$10,000.

- e. Discussion on WPCA Projects:
 - 1) Pump Station Asset Management Plan
Mr. Kolb said that Wright-Pierce is currently evaluating all 22 pump stations for the WPCA and that they will be developing an asset management plan for long term capital improvements.
 - 2) Collection System Projects
Mr. Kolb said that CH2M is the on-call consultant and that they are currently putting together approximately a \$3 million dollar project. He said that a majority of the work will be the lining of sanitary sewers and point repair work as needed, and that it should be ready to go out to bid later this year.
 - 3) Plant Water Pump System Replacement
Mr. Kolb said that staff is currently working with ARCADIS, Inc. to come up with a design and to go out to bid to replace the 1980 plant water pump system at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
 - 4) SCADA Upgrade
Mr. Kolb said that the current SCADA system is outdated and that ARCADIS, Inc. is working to switch it over to a fiber optic system with new servers.
- f. Sewer Use Bill Appeals/Adjustments Update
 - 1) Appeal Status
Mr. Kolb reported and said that the adjustments to date is approximately \$25,000
- g. Public Works, Fire, and Police Open House- September 30th
Mr. Kolb said that on September 30, 2017, at 10:00AM the annual open house will be held at the Public Works Center.
- e. Information copies: None
Mr. Kolb said that on August 13, 2017, there was an article in the Norwalk Hour regarding the City of Norwalk partnering with Norm Bloom & Sons and Harbor Watch to help identify pollution sources and eliminate them from getting into the harbor and impacting the shellfish industry and the beach use. Mr. Clark said that the article was highly complementary of Norwalk and gives a special compliment to Mr. Kolb for the assistance that he provides to Harbor Watch.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS ONGOING LITIGATION WITH FLOWSERVE ABOUT MAIN LIFT PUMPS' FAILURE.

**** MR. MCCARTHY MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE ONGOING LITIGATION WITH FLOWSERVE REGARDING THE MAIN LIFT PUMPS' FAILURE AND TO DISCUSS ANY ITEMS RELATED SPECIFICALLY TO PERSONNEL OR CONTRACT MATTERS WITH RESPECT TO ITEM #4 OF THE AGENDA.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Executive session began at
Executive session ended at
There was no action taken.

4. AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OR VICE CHAIRMAN TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES INCLUDING CLOSEOUT OF THE OMI CONTRACT; PROCUREMENT OF NEW OPERATING AGENT/COMPANY; AND OTHER QUALITY ASSURANCE/CONTROL REVIEWS RELATED TO THE CAPITAL AND OPERATING PROJECTS FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$125,000 ANNUALLY.

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Mr. Oustafine asked how many days the consultant will be onsite. Mr. Chimento said that they will be starting with two days and that he will be asking for a per-diem rate. Mr. Burnett asked if there will be anything put in place to measure the individual's effectiveness. Mr. Chimento said that will be determined through his work product. Ms. Burns said that they can also request a six month report of the accomplishments. Mayor Rilling requested that it be more frequent so that determinations can be made along the way. Mr. Igneri asked if the engagement is terminal at will. Mr. Chimento said "yes". Mr. McCarthy said that he is concerned with the letter which states the long term structure of preparing a plan for regionalization of the WPCA, and it does not state to explore the feasibility and economic impact of future regionalization, and that was never discussed or voted on by this Board. He said that the WPCA is an extremely well functioning operation for the City of Norwalk that provides extremely cost effective sewer removal and treatment to its rate payers, and he would not want in any way to impact that now or in the future. He said that he is shocked and concerned with the verbiage that is in the letter. Mr. Chimento said at this point it is for operations only and if it is decided to move on with anything further it will be looked at as a board, and that future regionalization will be looked at closely and that he does not see any region that Norwalk can join but that we can start are own region. Ms. Burns said that the revised resolution that is on the agenda limits the scope of service, and does not include the regionalization component and that it should have been more broad to the strategic plan, and it is for the closeout of the contract with OMI, Inc., procurement of a new contract which can include going back to the city, and reviewing the capital and operating projects. She said that the scope of services that was included in the letter was not prepared by Mr. McCormick. Mr. Clark requested that structure be eliminated from his scope. Mr. Chimento said that regionalization will not be in the scope of work. Mr. Oustafine asked if there is a reasonable expectation that this person will be able to identify the shortcomings and possible improvements and be able to move on or is this something that is envisioned as something that will go on forever. Ms. Burns said it is just to get through the OMI contract transition.

**** MR. CLARK MOVED TO APPROVE MARK MCCORMICK FOR THE RATES THAT HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED AND THAT THE RATES WILL BE RENEGOTIATED IN ACCORDANCE AT THE BOARDS DISCRETION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. MCCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dilene Byrd