

CITY OF NORWALK
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
December 18, 2017

Attendance: Darren Oustafine, Chairman
Lewis Clark, Vice Chairman
Fredericka Biakis-Hajian
John Igeneri
Edward Camacho
Vincenzo Capozzoli

Staff: Ralph Kolb, DPW Senior Environmental Engineer
Robert Barron, Finance Director

Others: John Ahern, CH2MHill, OMI, Inc.
Paola Malloy, CH2MHill, OMI, Inc.
Kevin Dahl, CH2MHill, OMI, Inc.
Mark McCormick
Mr. Narus, Norwalk Hospital

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Oustafine called the meeting to order at 5:36PM.

5. CONTRACT OPERATIONS REPORT:

a. OMI MONTHLY REPORT- NOVEMBER 2017 (COPY INCLUDED)

Mr. Ahern reported on the maintenance for the month of November and said of note that the number of work orders that have been completed for the month is down and the back log is up and the reason for that is the jobs that have been done are larger jobs requiring more time. He said that there were no permit violations or performance guarantee exceedances for the month. He reported on said training and said several employees attended vibration training.

Mr. Ahern reported on the collections system and said that there were two spills and that one occurred at the Wastewater Treatment Plant resulting in a 4,000 gallon sewage spill and the other one was at the Westport Avenue Pump Station. Both were a result of the bubbler level system failing. He said that they made modifications at both sites to prevent this issue in the future. Additional alarms were added at the WWTP to alert the operator sooner of any level issue. He said that nitrogen fell into band "D". He said that the total CCTV for the month of November was 3.14 miles and for cleaning is 7.24 miles and that they are more than doubling the monthly averages.

Ms. Bikakis-Hajian arrived at 5:40PM.

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

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. APPROVE THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORK'S RECOMMENDATION TO MAKE A ONE-TIME SEWER USE FEE ADJUSTMENT FOR 34 MAPLE STREET (NORWALK HOSPITAL) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$265,875. (COPY INCLUDED)

Mr. Kolb said that the Norwalk Hospital had appealed their sewer use fee earlier this year and staff had visited all three sites containing cooling towers. Each site utilizes city water for cooling purposes and that the majority of the water evaporates into the atmosphere and only 20% is discharged back to the sanitary sewer. He said that based on the calculations revised sewer fees have been established. Ms. Bikakis-Hajjian asked why there is a substantial difference in the three years of data. Mr. Nevis said because additional cooling towers were added. Mr. Kolb said that going forward there is a sub-meter for each site and January 1st of each year a representative from the Norwalk Hospital will send a photo of each meter to WPCA staff for use in calculating its annual sewer use fee. Mr. Oustafine asked if any other members of the public would like to speak on this topic. There were no additional comments.

Mr. Camacho arrived at 5:50PM.

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENTION- MR. CAMACHO.**

4. AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OR VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH RAFELIS FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS, INC. IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$6,400 TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO UPDATE THE 2009 SEWER RATE STRUCTURE EVALUATION AND WATER CONSUMPTION BASED BILLING STUDY. (COPY INCLUDED)

ACCOUNT NO. 224062-5298

Mr. Kolb said as directed by the board staff has obtained proposals to update the 2009 water consumption based study. He said that three firms were contacted and the low bidder was Raftelis Financial Consultants for \$6,400. He said that they will put together a technical memorandum and update the critical components of the study and along with discussion on third party billing.

Mr. Barron distributed the draft statement of funds for this current year and said that the change in net position is over \$4.5 million dollars and that over the past five years the capital asset costs are being covered and over \$3 million dollars is still being added per year. He suggested that the consultant look at where we are with the net position and how we have grown our net position while still covering the depreciation and provide some advice as to what the rate structure has to be. Ms. Bikakis-Hajjian said that the depreciation should be added

back and the capital improvements that were made over the years should be taken out and that is what the net position should be from a cash flow point of view. There was further discussion ensued and Mr. McCormick said that the consultant will be looking at flat based billing and comparing it to consumption based billing.

Mr. Camacho asked if there is insurance to cover catastrophic loss. Mr. Barron said he will get the property coverage and report back to the board.

**** MR.IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE OPTION ONE OF THE AGREEMENT FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$6,400.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. REPORTS:

a. FY 16/17 Revenues/Expenditures MUNIS Report (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said everything is tracking as expected and said that staff are currently working on the sewer use fee for Wilton. He also said that \$110,000 has been received in septage disposal revenue for this fiscal year and that staff had budgeted \$325,000, but that the septage revenue continues to decline and are anticipating approximat \$275,000- \$300,000 in revenue collected.

b. Draft FY 18/19 Capital Budget (copy included)

Mr. Kolb presented and said for fiscal year 2018-19 there are three items that staff had requested which include \$5 million dollars for collection system rehabilitation, \$4 million dollars for pump station upgrades and \$100,000 for SCADA.

c. Discussion on WPCA Projects:

1) Marvin Beach Pump Station Status (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said that staff has met with Wright-Pierce and they are at 90% completion for the design for the rehabilitation of the Marvin Beach pump station, and that they will receive the revised drawings within the next two weeks and the project will go out to bid February 1st.

d. Sewer Use Appeals/Adjustments Update

- 1) Mr. Kolb said that the adjustments to date are \$36,112 but will increase for the Norwalk Hospitals sewer use adjustment.

e. Information Copies

- 1) 2018 WPCA Meeting Schedule (copy included)
There was no discussion.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS ONGOING LITIGATION WITH FLOWSERVE ABOUT MAIN LIFT PUMPS' FAILURE AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT SERVICE AGREEMENT EXIT AND PROCUREMENT

**** MR. CLARK MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Executive session began at 6:25PM
Executive session ended at 6:40PM
There was no action taken.

8. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR.IGNERI MOVED TO ADJOURN
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 6:40PM.
Respectfully Submitted,

Dilene Byrd