

CITY OF NORWALK
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
March 16, 2020

Attendance: Darren Oustafine, Chairman
Lewis Clark, Vice Chairman
John Igeneri (via phone)
John Bove
John Flynn

Staff: Anthony Carr, Chief of Operations and Public Works
Ralph Kolb, WPCA Senior Environmental Engineer

Others: Paola Molloy, CH2MHill, OMI, Inc.
Kevin Dahl, CH2MHill, OMI, INC.
John Marcin, SUEZ (via phone)

1. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED SEWER USE RATES TO BE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020 (NOTICE INCLUDED)

Mr. Oustafine opened the public hearing at 5:30PM.

Mr. Kolb reviewed the proposed rates and said for a single family unit the proposed rate is \$367, the commercial and mixed use property flat fee is \$525 and the flow is \$9.49 per 1,000 gallons.

Mr. Oustafine asked if Wilton was invited to attend the public hearing since they are a customer. Mr. Kolb said "no" and that typically that is not done but the Legal Notice was in the Norwalk Hour with the proposed rates.

**** MR. BOVE MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

No one from the public commented.

WPCA REGULAR MEETING:

2. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Oustafine called the meeting to order at 5:35PM.

**3. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM WPCA MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 18, 2020
(COPY INCLUDED)**

**** MR. FLYNN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 18, 2020 AS AMENDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. APPROVE THE SEWER USER RATES TO BE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020

**** MR. CLARK MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEWER USER RATES TO BE EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
2020.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY 2020-21 OPERATING BUDGET (COPY ATTACHED)

Mr. Kolb said the WPCA capital projects will be cash funded. The projected rate increase is 2% for the next five years, and in 2019 the WPCA will be receiving nitrogen credits but the amount is still yet to be determined by the Connecticut DEEP. He said the target is to maintain 180 days of operating budget.

**** MR. BOVI MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY 2020-21 OPERATING BUDGET.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY 2020-21 CAPITAL BUDGET (COPY ATTACHED)

**** MR. BOVI MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY 2020-21 CAPITAL BUDGET.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Carr commended Mr. Kolb for his work on both the operating and capital budgets and said the Chief Financial Officer is extremely pleased with the financial forecast for the WPCA.

7. APPROVE 65 FEET OF 8-INCH PVC SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION ALONG COVENTRY PLACE FOR INCLUSION INTO THE CITY'S SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM (LETTER AND DRAWING INCLUDED)

Mr. Oustafine said per the Connecticut General Statute a public hearing is required prior to extending a sewer. Mr. Kolb said this project was done through Public Works and the sewer was paid for by the resident, and per the City of Norwalk standards and details the city had accepted it and are now asking the WPCA to accept it for operations and maintenance.

**** MR. CLARK MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS TO ISSUE ORDERS ON CONTRACT TO GREEN MOUNTAIN PIPELINE SERVICES, LLC FOR THE SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (PROJECT WPCA 2018-2) FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,000,000 (BACKUP TO BE PROVIDED AT MEETING)

ACCOUNT NO. 09194062-5777-C0361

Mr. Kolb circulated documentation of the areas that have been identified to be added into the Green Mountain contract as change orders. He provided an overview of the areas and said it has been determined after the investigation in the Knight Street area that there is a 30" sanitary sewer line when surcharged leaks into one of the buildings elevator shafts and by lining will eliminate that problem. He also said as part of an ongoing investigation that the sanitary sewer on Witch Lane is being rehabilitated with lining, and the manholes are very thin but to replace the manholes he received an estimate of approximately \$350,000, so staff has been working with the Jacobs and the contractor to determine a way to rehabilitate the existing manholes with mortar and line them. He said staff is anticipating the smoke testing in the Wall Street area to be done during the week of March 3rd to identify any issues. The Westport Avenue force main connection will be reconnected to a portion of the force main that has been abandoned, and the direction of the flow will be redirected to Beacon Street via Strawberry Hill Avenue. He said the Beau Street pipe replacement was installed without outside drop and the road had been paved recently and they thought they would be able to line the sanitary sewer, but lining is not an option so it will need to be replaced and then have the road repaved in that location. He said as part of the inspection they have identified two sections of pipe on Chestnut Street that have failed and can't be lined and is creating a surcharge conditions and one of the new developments will be directly impacted.

**** MR. CLARK MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. CONTRACT OPERATIONS REPORT

a. OMI Monthly Operating Report – February 2020 (copies included)

Ms. Molloy reported on the maintenance for the month of February and said of note they are continuing with the efforts for the ETER, and have replaced the hypo pumps and installed the pump control panel and the manufacturer will be inspecting it tomorrow.

There were 498 total work orders for the month and they have completed 479 ending with a backlog of 19, there were no permit or performance guarantee violations for the month.

Ms. Molloy reported on the collections system and said they are continuing with the ETER and replaced two pumps on Lawrence Street and completed a replacement project on Bouton Street. There were no overflows or spills for the month and Nitrogen performance was in band "D". There were no regulatory inspections but they did receive the report for the last regulatory inspection and there are some items they need to work on, and she will be replying to the DEEP so they are aware they are being worked on but overall it was a good inspection.

Ms. Molloy said that the rolling monthly average for CCTV was 1.60 miles and for cleaning was 5.00 miles. She reported on the major repair and replacement projects and said they had found the air relief valve at Shady Beach and were able to eliminate it out of the system, but found none for Perry Avenue. She said there were a total of 14 customer service requests but there was an error on the service request for Ivy Place which ended up being a bypass, and they had cleaned the line and the resident has filed a claim with the city and we have already agreed to pay the costs that were incurred.

b. End of Term Equipment Replacement Status (copies included)

Ms. Molly reported on the items that were replaced and the total ETER funds available is negative \$807,854.31.

Mr. Dahl said the company is responding to the Coronavirus pandemic and has company protocols in place, and the plan for this site will be coming out this week and they have already taken actions in response to the pandemic. He said they are unsure what will be happening with chemicals and supplies but they do have global agreements in place, but if there is a shortage of any kind they will make the WPCA aware of what they will be doing.

10. REPORTS:

a. **FY 19/20 Revenues/Expenditures MUNIS Report (copy included)**

Mr. Kolb said that everything is tracking as expected.

b. Wastewater Systems Manager Position

Mr. Kolb said that two interviews were held and an offer was made to one of the individuals but that person has declined the offer. He said the position will now be re-advertised.

c. Discussion on EPA's AOC (letter included)

Mr. Kolb discussed the response letter to the EPA and said there are several items that need to be updated in the CMOM annual report which includes Fats, Oils and Grease program updates, and staff has updated the website to include more information for residential customers. He also said there were questions based on the sewer spills in the area of 56 Beacon Street and the approach will be to go out for an RFQ later this summer for hydraulic modeling and analysis. There were also questions regarding the sewer spills on Ely Avenue and Roodner Court and said that the sewer line runs through an easement area which is hard to get to for cleaning so Green Mountain will CCTV the line and identify any rehabilitation recommendations and will ultimately line it to avoid sewage spills at that location. He said on February 13, 2020 the WPCA had provided EPA with an updated CSO Annual Report containing Enterococci bacteria monitoring results and going forward, the WPCA will include these results in its CSO Annual Report. He said the EPA has also requested an update on the Outfall 002 project and have reported to them that it is anticipated to be on line by August, 2020 and CH Nickerson is currently on site working on the project.

d. Discussion on WPCA Products:

1) Sanitary Sewer System Rehabilitation- Various Locations

Mr. Kolb said that Green Mountain continues to move forward on the sanitary sewer system rehabilitation projects, and staff has requested an additional \$1 million dollars for additional rehabilitation work that has been identified.

2) Outfall 002-1- Chlorination/Dechlorination

Mr. Kolb said CH Nickerson is on sight and that work is going forward and is scheduled to be completed by August, 2020.

3) Keeler Brook, Five Mile, and Old Trolley Way PS Rehabilitation

Mr. Kolb said staff had anticipated to build a new pump station 100 yards away from the existing pump station however, there are many obstacles because of Eversource so he will be circling back with the design team at Wright-Pierce to see if rehabilitating the existing station would be feasible. Mr. Oustafine asked if Verrill Dana was able to help with any legal advice. Mr. Kolb said "yes" they had helped a lot regarding environmental concerns that Eversource had.

e. Sewer Use Bill Appeals/Adjustments Update

- 1) Appeal status

Mr. Kolb said the adjustments to date are \$112,077.

Mr. Oustafine asked if the WPCA is still funding Mr. McCormick. Mr. Kolb said "yes" but on a very limited basis and he is helping with the ETER. Mr. Carr said the plan was to carry the cost in the operating budget through March.

f. Information Copies: None

Mr. Igneri left the meeting at 6:20PM.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM SERVICE AGREEMENT EXIT.

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

Executive session began at 6:20PM
Executive session ended at 6:41PM.
There were no motions made or actions taken.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:41PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dilene Byrd