

**CITY OF NORWALK
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
September 21, 2020**

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

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

Others: John Marcin, Project Manager, SUEZ
Matthew Brown, Asst. Project Manager, SUEZ
Attorney Mathew Todaro, Verrill Dana, LLP (via phone)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Oustafine called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM WPCA MEETING HELD ON JULY 20, 2020 (COPY INCLUDED)

**** MR. FLYNN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS TO ISSUE ORDER ON CONTRACT TO C.H. NICKERSON & CO., INC. FOR THE OUTFALL 002-1 CONTROL PLAN: CHLORINATION & DECHLORINATION PROJECT (PROJECT: WPCA 2019-1) FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000.00.

ACCOUNT NO. 224062-5298

Mr. Kolb said we are coming to the end of the startup of the project but did have some change orders along the way which included additional structural repairs to the existing chlorine contact tank that were more than originally anticipated. In addition, there was also a repair to the stairwell to the headworks building to stop groundwater from coming through the concrete wall. He said due to the additional work they are approximately \$50,000 over for the project.

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

4. AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OR THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE THE FINAL RELEASE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FIFTH AMENDMENT TO THE APRIL 17, 2000 AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN NORWALK WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY AND OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL., INC. FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF NORWALK WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT.

Mr. Kolb said that amendment five was approved and executed by the WPCA approximately two years ago and a condition of amendment five was a final release of OMI that only pertained to the end of term equipment and replacement (ETER). He said all of the work has been completed and they are just waiting for the WPCA to sign the release. This authorization will all allow the Chairman or the Vice Chairman to execute that release.

Attorney Todaro said this release does not pertain to the overall service agreement and only pertains to amendment five, and any claims that come up from this point forward outside of the scope of amendment five still can be brought against OMI, Inc. however, if a claim was for a piece of equipment that was within the scope of amendment five this would be releasing the opportunity to go back for any type of remedy from OMI, Inc.

Mr. Tsiranides and Mr. Dachowitz joined the meeting at 5:35PM

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

5. AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OR VICE CHAIRMAN TO RETAIN VERRILL DANA, LLP TO PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES RELATED TO SAVE THE SOUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ENGAGEMENT LETTER. (LETTER TO BE PROVIDED AT MEETING.)

Mr. Kolb said that he had circulated the engagement letter to the board members and this authorization is for Verrill Dana so they can track time under a specific task order for assistance to the WPCA with Save the Sound. He said there will be further discussion in executive session.

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

6. CONTRACT OPERATIONS REPORT:

- a. SUEZ Monthly Operating Report- August 2020 (copy included)

Mr. Marcin reported and said they are continuing with their Covid-19 scenario II provisions throughout the month of August and had no issues. He said there has been a lot of production on the collections system and that 3.9 miles of cleaning was done for the month of August, and are above their target year to date for sewer cleaning. He said that 3.4 miles of TV inspection was also done, and have inspected 67 additional manholes.

Mr. Marcin said they are seeing some extremely high chlorine demand due to high temperatures and water chemistry and experiencing breakpoint chlorination and this phenomenon has happened in other wastewater treatment plants. He said they will continue to research it and hopefully come up with some innovative proactive approaches. Mr. Kolb said that Norwalk has experienced breakpoint chlorination in the past.

Mr. Marcin said there were no permit violations for the month but exceeded the contract limit for fecal coliform, but were in compliance with all of the other contract parameters. He said that nitrogen was at 380 pounds per day which is up slightly from last month but still is on a very strong downward trend.

Mr. Kolb said that the all-time best numbers for total nitrogen in the past 20 years with OMI, Inc. was approximately 350 pounds per day for the month, and in July was at 303 pounds per day which was an all-time best for Norwalk. He said anytime total nitrogen is below 400 pounds per day for a month is just incredible for this wastewater treatment plant.

Mr. Marcin said the centrifuge installation had begun today and he will keep staff and board posted in the upcoming meetings on the progress.

7. REPORTS:

- a. FY 19/20 and FY 20/21 Revenues/Expenditures MUNIS Report

Mr. Kolb reported and said septage continues to go down as anticipated because the haulers are going to other plants where the fee is less but the local haulers are still coming to the site.

Mr. Dachowitz said that they have recently priced the bond deal on behalf of the WPCA and in August they had issued \$42 million dollars tax exempt bonds for the regular capital budget that was planned during the year. He said as they were doing the other bond issuance in September he had spoken to Mr. Kolb and received some cash flow estimates. He said he also spoke to Ms. Lam regarding the cash and investment need to issue more bonds for previously authorized projects that the WPCA planned on spending over the next few years. He said given we are at record low interest rates thought it would be a good time to bond so \$18.5 million was bonded on behalf of the WPCA and \$1.5 million on behalf of the Parking Authority. He noted that these do not affect the city's credit rating because they are both enterprise funds and authorities that sets the rates such that they break even each year, and the rates and revenues cover the debt service that is required to service the debt. He said for the \$18.5 million dollars that was issued the true interest cost is 1.305% and is a 15 year bond. He said the maximum debt service is \$1.78 million dollars per year and the average debt service is \$1.4 million dollars. He said based on his

discussions with Mr. Kolb this will cover expenditures on the capital side that are anticipated over the next 18-24 months.

Mr. Dachowitz left the meeting at 5:50PM.

b. Discussion and WPCA Projects:

1) Smith Street- Head of the Harbor

Mr. Kolb said that DPW engineering had brought to his attention via the legal department that there is contaminated material on the site. He said there is a 36" sanitary sewer interceptor that runs through the property and currently the law department and the developer are working out the details so in the future we will not have to excavate and make repairs on the sewer line. He said he has been asked to get a proposal to CIPP line the 36" interceptor and he is now in the process of doing that and will keep the board updated.

2) Wall Street Area Sanitary Sewer Improvements

Mr. Kolb said he had a conference call today with Jacobs Engineering and the bid documents are almost 100% complete and he anticipates the project will go out to bid later this fall. He said it will entail the relocation of the sanitary sewer main at 2 Knight Street and in addition to that work they will CIPP line the Wall Street sanitary sewer from Main Avenue to Smith Street. He said the estimated cost of the project is \$1.8 to \$2 million dollars.

3) Sanitary Sewer System Rehabilitation- Various Locations (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said he has a summary of the scope of work and what has been completed to date and said for CIPP lining that approximately 83% has been completed and for excavation work are at 57% complete. He said a few weeks ago the Westport pump station force main which discharged at Strawberry Hill Avenue @ Catalpa Street was relocated which eliminates any potential of sewage overflows on Gwendolyn Street.

4) WWTP- Aeration Tank Electrical Infrastructure Improvements (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said a task order was signed with ARCADIS for the aeration tank electrical infrastructure improvements. He said over the last couple of years there has been an increase of equipment failing due to electrical issues and equipment failure can impact the process. The SUEZ team along with ARCADIS and WPCA staff have identified a plan to install new electrical raceway and new electrical conduit.

5) WWTP- Outfall 002-1- Chlorination/Dechlorination Improvements

Mr. Kolb said they are in the process of testing/training/start-up of the system and final startup in the next couple of weeks.

- 6) WWTP- SCADA Upgrade Phase III (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said the project consists of mobile SCADA application and incorporating system components that are not on SCADA into the software.

- c. Sewer Use Bill Appeals/Adjustments Update

Mr. Kolb said there have been four adjustments to date and one increase in sewer fee so have added \$10,590 to the overall budget.

- 1) Nitrogen Credits (copy included)

Mr. Kolb presented the final numbers and Norwalk will be receiving \$ 355,683 for nitrogen credits and are number two in the state.

- 2) Draft NPDES Permit (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said that the NPDES was issued as a draft by the Connecticut DEEP and staff and the Suez team will review the permit and see if there is anything they would like to comment on.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS SAVE THE SOUND

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Executive session began at 6:05PM.

Executive session ended at 6:50PM.

There were no motions made and no actions were taken.

9. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd