

**CITY OF NORWALK
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
October 19, 2020**

Attendance: Darren Oustafine, Chairman
Lewis Clark, Vice Chairman
John Bove
John Flynn
Tom Keegan

Staff: Anthony Carr, Chief of Operations and Public Works
Ralph Kolb, WPCA Senior Environmental Engineer
Chris Torre, Superintendent of Operations
Henry Dachowitz (via phone)

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 5:32PM.

Mr. Oustafine introduced Mr. Keegan and said he is a member of the Common Council and he will be replacing Mr. Capozzoli on the WPCA Board.

**2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM WPCA MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2020
(COPY INCLUDED)**

Change “Bovi” to “Bove”

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

**3. AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$5,109.35 TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH JULY 13, 2020 LETTER
AND INVOICE (COPIES INCLUDED)**

ACCOUNT NO. 224062-5298

Mr. Kolb said as part of the Walk Bridge project the sanitary sewer was replaced on Osborne Avenue which the CTDOT had paid for in the amount of \$216,700, and they do a calculation for depreciation for a reserve credit which they invoice back to the City and this is our portion of the replacement cost. He said the sewer was clay tile and is now pvc. Mr. Carr added that there was a concern that the vibrations and the construction equipment from the Walk bridge project would damage the pipe so the CTDOT had agreed to replace it which was an add-on to the project as a request by the city.

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

**** MR. CLARK MOVE TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE
AGENDA.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Kolb said the City of Stamford is rehabbing its headworks building so during the next 6-9 months they will not be able to accept septage haulers from the Stamford/Darien area. The Town of New Canaan has already said they cannot accept it. He said Norwalk does have the capacity to accept additional haulers and by allowing the septage haulers from Darien/Stamford it would be closer for them rather having to go to Bridgeport or New Haven. He said the current ordinance only allows septage from Norwalk/Wilton service area without WPCA Board approval. Mr. Clark asked if that will provide additional revenue. Mr. Kolb said “yes” and it will be ten cents per gallon and they would still have to go through the city process, and the health department would inspect the vehicles and they would have to register the vehicles and post a bond. Mr. Clark asked if there are any issues with the extra capacity. Mr. Marcin said “no”.

**** MR. FLYNN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ACCEPT SEPTAGE HAULERS FROM
STAMFORD AND DARIEN.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. CONTRACT OPERATIONS REPORT:

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

Mr. Marcin reported and said they are continuing with severity level two for the month of September and there were no new cases of Covid-19 with staff.

Mr. Marcin said there was a chlorine residual exceedance on September 11, 2020 and we have come up with a solution for the problem, and will coordinate the installation of three additional chlorine residual analyzers so there will be additional monitoring points and allow us to eliminate any future problems.

Mr. Marcin said there was a force main break on September 21, 2020, on Strawberry Hill Avenue and had worked with AJ Penna throughout the night and were able to make the repair and replaced 10 ft of the force main. Mr. Oustafine asked how much sewage was lost due to the force main break. Mr. Marcin said less than 500 gallons were reported in the initial report. He added staff created a dam and mobilized the vacor truck and were able to contain it.

Mr. Marcin said they have continued with the camera activities and completed 2.6 miles of sewer cleaning, 2.7 miles of TV inspection and had inspected 75 manholes during that process.

Mr. Marcin said there was huge progress in the industrial pretreatment program and performed 68 out of the 475 restaurant inspections in the month of September.

Mr. Marcin said they had a cookout of September 16, 2020, where the management staff cooked lunch for their team as well as some city staff and we are hoping to have another one in November.

Mr. Marcin said that the nitrogen performance for the month was good. Mr. Carr said that Norwalk was second lowest in the state of Connecticut for nitrogen in 2019. Mr. Kolb said that Norwalk received approximately \$355,000 in nitrogen credits and that exceptional performance for Norwalk is anything below 400 pounds per day, and prior to this year we have only twice been below that but since Suez has been on board we have had multiple months.

Mr. Marcin said that they continue to have regular meetings with Mr. Kolb and the team regarding integration with the Cityworks system.

b. Dewatering Equipment (centrifuge) and Odor Control Project Update.

Mr. Marcin said the centrifuge project is well underway and the contractor had mobilized in September and it is assembled and on the platform so there is good progress being made and are hoping to have it completed by Thanksgiving.

c. Smart Covers

Mr. Marcin said that five of the smart covers were installed and are transmitting data back and are able to look at the data through their website which Mr. Kolb also has access to. He said it will give further visibility in the collection system.

5. REPORTS

a. FY 20/21 Revenues/Expenditures MUNIS Report (copy included)

Mr. Kolb referred to the CFO.

Mr. Dachowitz said that he had read an article that stated that Viola was buying 30% of Suez and he had a concern that they may affect future pricing with less competition and maybe a decline in service. He said the President of Suez for the US and Canada had called him and he explained that Viola is only buying 29.9% and will not have representation on the Board of Directors, and will have no involvement in the day to day management and the unions at Suez have protested. He said that he had reiterated to him the commitment to Norwalk and he explained that Suez North America has 70 contracts and he wants Norwalk to be the “shining star” and the best example of how well they are doing is that 17 of their existing contracts were up for renewal and 16 were reordered to SUEZ, which is proof that these are long term partnerships so they are obviously doing a good job. He said that he had told him that we are very pleased and all the reports he receives are positive and want to maintain our great relationship /partnership long term.

Mr. Dachowitz said we are going into budget season and noted with the new borrowing that we just completed on September 15, 2020, the debt service schedule has changed and he will be sure that the financial advisor provides a current updated debt service schedule so you can anticipate what the debt service for fiscal year 2021/22 will be so the rate can be set to cover all the costs including the debt service.

Mr. Dachowitz left the meeting at 5:40PM.

b. Discussion on WPCA Projects:

1) RFQ- Collections Systems On-Call Engineering Services (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said the RFQ was issued on September 29, 2020, and closed with an addendum on Friday and a submission deadline of October 29, 2020 and anticipates coming to the board at the November meeting with a recommendation of a firm. He said the goal is to bring the consultant on board to update the collection system master plan, conduct flow monitoring in the spring of 2021, review collection system data that has and continues to be collected and develop projects based on that information. Mr. Carr said they will also update the hydraulic model which will show the problem areas and trouble spots and it will also be the master plan that will drive the capital improvement program for the WPCA. Mr. Flynn asked in a system that is as old as it is why would there be a need to update a sanitary sewer size. Mr. Carr said one example is if the existing sanitary sewer was undersized to begin with. Mr. Flynn asked if there is a list of locations that are assumed to be undersized. Mr. Kolb “no” but that is what the flow monitoring and the model will show.

2) Sanitary Sewer System Rehabilitation-Various Locations

a. Smith Street 36-inch CIPP Lining RFP (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said since last month Green Mountain Pipeline Services has been onsite and have been CCTV'ing pipe that they will be lining in the coming weeks. He also said there are two request for proposals in and one is to line Smith Street which is a 36" reinforced concrete pipe that was installed in 1930. He said the Head of the Harbor project is working with the Corporation Counsels office to come up with an agreement with utilities and easements to share some of the costs.

b. Shady Beach PS Force Main CIPP Lining RFP (copy included)

He said the second proposal is to CIPP line the Shady Beach pump station force main.

3) Wall Street/2 Knight Street Relocation and Improvements.

Mr. Kolb said this is approximately a \$1.8 million to a \$2 million dollar project and has just received the 100% design documents and he is in the process of reviewing the drawings and bid specs along with the engineering department. He said the project will go out to bid once his review has been completed.

4) WWTP-Facility Plan Update (copy attached)

Mr. Kolb said in March of this year, the WPCA submitted application to the Clean Water Fund priority list in the amount of \$225,000 to update the facility plan from 2009 and if approved would receive 55% grant. He said that ARCADIS is developing the scope of work and the task order should be completed shortly and should have a signed copy for the next meeting to share with the Board. He said included in the scope is to look at the historical, current and projected flow at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and work with Planning & Zoning for development and growth within the City over the next 10-20 years which will all be incorporated into this plan.

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

Mr. Kolb said they are at 85% of startup/training but did have a few issues last week with the startup and are working with the contractor and mixer vendor but the system should be online by next week for a storm event.

6) WWTP Scum improvement project

Mr. Kolb said the scum improvement project is a small but critical project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and currently we do have primary scum removal that goes to a small holding tank and gets pumped out once per month and hauled away for disposal. He said the scum generated on the final settling tanks gets pumped back to the filtrate wet well within the secondary building and pumped back to the aeration process. This scum is food for organisms which create foam and can impact the process and can impact the sludge settleability within the final settling tanks. He said this project will remove the scum so the potential benefit is improved water quality, less foam in the aeration tanks, and possibly improved sludge settleability. He said the pipe drawings will be completed this week and SUEZ will obtain quotes to begin the project as soon as possible. Mr. Oustafine asked how much the project will cost. Mr. Kolb said less than \$100,000.

c. Discussion of Fats, Oils and Grease (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said due to Covid-19 more people are home and are dumping grease down the sink along with flushing wipes that should not go into the collection system so we have created a FOG brochure/door hanger to explain to the residents in FOG problem areas how they can help us to remove FOG from the system. He said that Mr. Thelusca has hand delivered over 3,000 of the door hangers over the last couple of weeks. He said in addition to that we have also updated the WPCA website to include residential information on FOG and also private inflow and infiltration. Mr. Oustafine suggested including the brochure in the tax bill. Mr. Kolb that may be complicated because the city has a plan for their inserts, but that the school system has a good way for public outreach, but due to Covid-19, staff have put that on hold and focused on other public outreach methods.

d. Sewer Use Bill Appeals/Adjustments Update.

1. Appeal Status

Mr. Kolb said the appeals to date are \$24,210

e. Information Copies: None

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUS DRAFT NPDES PERMIT PROCESS

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

Executive session began at 6:15PM

Executive session ended at 6:47PM

There were no motions made and no actions were taken.

7. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. BOVE MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:47PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd