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**CITY OF NORWALK
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
REGULAR MEETING
January 19, 2021**

Attendance: Darren Oustafine, Chairman
Lewis Clark, Vice Chairman
John Igneri
John Bove
Tom Keegan
George Tsirinides

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Oustafine called the meeting to order at 5:31PM.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM WPCA MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 16, 2020
(COPY INCLUDED)

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. CONTRACT OPERATIONS REPORT:

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

Mr. Marcin reported and said that they were very limited this month with Covid-19 operability plan which remained in level three through most of the month of December based on the increase of cases in Fairfield County. He said that staff is split into two teams and they are alternating weeks and have had seven confirmed cases of Covid-19 since May of 2020 and four employees that have been on quarantine based on contract tracing so a total of eleven people were impacted which equates to almost 50% of their staff. He said they have been able to keep that isolated and to the best of their ability they have determined that no one had contracted the virus while working.

Mr. Marcin said that the Wastewater Treatment Plant was in compliance with all the contract limits for the month of December with the exception of the sewer collections where they were able to complete .6 miles of sewer cleaning, .67 miles of TV inspection, 382 manhole inspections as well as 2.6 miles of SL-RAT inspections.

Mr. Marcin said the IPP program remained on hold in December as part of the level three protocols, but staff is utilizing the off weeks to complete a lot of the health and safety training.

Mr. Marcin said they are continuing to receive septage from Stamford during their construction shut down.

Mr. Marcin said the Wastewater Treatment Plant was in compliance with all permit limits in December, and the nitrogen was 462 pounds per day which reduced the 2020 average to 498 pounds per day which will be the final number for 2020 pending any final adjustments. He said they were looking for a little bit of a lower number but had a high result that came in on December 20, 2020, which they had investigated because it was out of the trends and believe it was due to an error in the sampling or lab analysis but could not document that. Mr. Kolb pointed out that 462 pounds per day for the month of December was an all-time best for any month of December, and the 498 pounds per day for the calendar year is an all-time best for the City of Norwalk.

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

Mr. Marcin said the centrifuge installation is progressing quickly and will be starting it up this week and if all goes well will be making the first sludge cake tomorrow.

Mr. Kolb said that odor control is also part of the dewatering project and will be done mid-year and will be two carbon systems which should really help to eliminate odors from the property. Mr. Oustafine asked if potassium permanganate is still being used for odor control. Mr. Marcin said "yes".

4. REPORTS:

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

Mr. Kolb said that the nitrogen credits have been received from CT DEEP for 2019 in the amount of \$355,683, and the sewer bill is currently being generated from the finance department for the Town of Wilton.

b. Draft FY21/22 Capital Budget (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said that WPCA staff is requesting \$1 million dollars for collection system rehabilitation and an additional \$1 million dollars for pump station upgrades and replacement. He said it also includes the next few years outlook of anticipated capital requests but is subject to change because we are in the process of doing a collection system master plan to evaluate collection system projects. In addition to that ARCADIS will also be doing a facility plan update and will look at various technologies related to Outfall 002 and depending on the study and outcome there may be projects generated that we may have to include for future funding.

c. Discussion on Shorefront Park

Mr. Kolb said in late December SUEZ received a call for 11 Shorefront Park and it was determined that in 1960 the sewer main was installed in front of houses at 9, 11 and 15 and for some reason those three houses were connected on a common lateral that went to an old septic tank on the original property before it was subdivided. The septic tank had an overflow for a pipe that went to an abandoned sanitary sewer main so in the 1960's the city abandoned the sewer line that the common lateral was connected to when they installed a new main. Over a year ago OMI, Inc. had found a few other homes that had the same situation where homes were connected to an abandoned sewer line so at the cost of the WPCA through the MRR account for collections we connected those properties to the active sewer main. He said that he had directed SUEZ to connect house numbers 9, 11 and 15 to the active sewer line to provide services immediately which will also be paid through the MRR funds for the collections system.

Mr. Igneri asked what the costs are. Mr. Kolb said the first one was done as an emergency but the two at number 11 and 15 were planned installations but he does not yet have the final costs. Mr. Marcin said that he will provide an update of the costs at the next meeting.

d. Discussion of WPCA Projects:

1) Sanitary Sewer System Rehabilitation- Various Locations

Mr. Kolb said that Green Mountain is televising, cleaning and measuring sections of pipe to be lined and that 85% of the project has been completed. He said last week they had a large successful lining that was installed and it was a 24 hour operation between Knight and Brook Street the ran under some of the buildings. He said there is also a large project coming up on Witch Lane that needs both excavation and lining and he is currently working with the team on the bypass pumping plan and the traffic control plan.

2) Smith St. Sanitary Sewer Interceptor

Mr. Kolb said this is the 36" reinforced concrete sewer main that was installed in 1929 that flows from Wall Street to Moody's Lane and he is in the process of getting pricing from Green Mountain to line that pipe. The reason is that the Head of the Harbor is working with the city and the Connecticut DEEP to put land use restrictions on their parcel and our 36" pipe goes through that parcel so we would like to line it to prolong the life of the pipe by at least 50 years.

3) PS- Five Mile, Old Trolley Way, Karen Dr., and Woodward. Rehabilitation

Mr. Kolb said it is at approximately 100% design and on February 1, 2021, he will be working with Mr. Carr and Ms. Valadares to go over the final review and anticipate the project to be advertised in the next few weeks. The project will consist of rehabilitating the four pump stations.

4) WWTP- Scum Improvements

Mr. Kolb said that staff has requested that SUEZ get three quotes for scum piping improvements to help to remove scum from process and to date have received two quotes and once we receive the final quote he will authorize SUEZ to proceed with the lowest quote.

5) SCADA Upgrade Phase III

Mr. Kolb said that staff is working with Aaron Associates and ARCADIS for a mobile application so that we can monitor the treatment plant, pump stations and the Ann Street siphon remotely and it will also improve security.

Mr. Oustafine asked if there is any update on the Keeler Brook pump station. Mr. Kolb said it is moving along and that Eversource has granted us an easement within the same property, and they have backed off on some of the requirements to abandon the old pump station. He said that last week he went to the Planning Commission for a review of the easements and they have approved them and the next step is to go to the Common Council for approval. He said in February he will also have to go to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a variance.

e. Sewer Use Bill Appeals/Adjustments Update

1) Appeal status

Mr. Kolb said the appeals to date are \$24,577.

f. Information Copies

1) 2021 WPCA Meeting Schedule (copy included)

There was no discussion.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS DRAFT NPDES PERMIT AND PUBLIC HEARING PROCESS

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Executive session began at 5:56PM.

Executive session ended at 5:41PM

There were no motions made or votes taken.

6. ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:43PM