

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone, Zoom, and/or the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at www.norwalkct.org/meetings.



Members of the public can call in and listen to a meeting. They will not be able to speak or see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" will need to register in advance and use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to view the meeting, but are not participating, can view a live stream on the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. This stream is delayed by approximately 20 seconds. Please find the information using the link above. The meeting recording and minutes will be posted on the City of Norwalk website within seven (7) days after the meeting.



Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Dilene Byrd at dbyrd@norwalkct.org to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

**CITY OF NORWALK
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
REGULAR MEETING
February 16, 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

Others: Mathew Todaro, Verrill Law

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM WPCA MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 19, 2021 (COPY INCLUDED)

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED FY 2021-22 SEWER USE RATES ON MARCH 15, 2021 AT 5:30PM. (DRAFT NOTICE INCLUDED)

Mr. Carr said that the staff recommendation for the proposed sewer use rates for fiscal year 2021-22 is to keep the sewer user rates flat with a zero percent increase given the fiscal constraints due to Covid-19 and the proposed tax increases. He said that staff feels a zero percent increase is fair and equitable for the citizens of Norwalk, and that he has had discussions with Mayor Rilling and he is in full support and recommends the zero percent increase as well.

Mr. Oustafine asked if the fee will also be waived for industrial pre-treatment. Mr. Kolb said "yes" for industrial users and FOG registration fees for restaurants this year which we typically collect about \$5,000- \$10,000 per year in revenue but the \$200 waiver goes a long way especially to the smaller establishments. Mr. Carr said staff wants to waive the registration fees but that is prudent to have the fees for the enforcement and compliance to still pertain because compliance is important and having the fee in place for non-compliance will incentivize applicants and existing entities to remain compliant.

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED FY 2021-22 SEWER USE RATES ON MARCH 15, 2021 AT 5:30PM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER FROM REPLACEMENT RESERVE ACCOUNT 224062-5789) TO OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES ACCOUNT (224062-5298) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$850,000.00 TO BE USED FOR THE SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (PROJECT: WPCA 2018-2).

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS TO ISSUE ORDER ON CONTRACT OT GREEN MOUNTAIN PIPELINE SERVICES, LLC. FOR THE SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (PROJECT: WPCA 2018-2) FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$850,000 (COPY INCLUDED)

ACCOUNT NO. 224062-5298

Mr. Kolb said the funds will be used for additional sanitary sewer improvements with Green Mountain Pipeline Service. This includes CIPP lining of a 36" reinforced pipe from 1929 on Smith Street from Wall Street to Moody's Lane. Head of the Harbor is currently working with the City to enter into an agreement that states we don't do any excavation repairs on the pipeline because they are working on property land use restrictions with the CTDEEP due to soil contamination. He said because of that staff has reached out to Green Mountain Pipeline Services to get lining pricing to rehabilitate the pipe. The

proposal is for \$527,000 and the reason we are requesting \$850,000 is because in addition to that proposal staff have identified some additional lining work in the Shady Beach area with an anticipated cost range of \$150,000 to \$200,000. He said the monies being requested will cover both of those projects plus any additional work as we get closer to closure of the \$5 million dollar lining project with Green Mountain Pipeline Services.

**** MR. FLYNN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Tsirinides and Mr. Bove joined the meeting at 5:40PM.

6. CONTRACT OPERATIONS REPORT:

a. SUEZ Monthly Operating Report- January, 2021 (copy included)

Mr. Marcin reported and said that January was a busy month but did have continued restrictions due to Covid-19, but at the end of the month were able to transition back to severity level two which means we were on full regular shifts for staff.

Mr. Marcin said that the Wastewater Treatment Plant was in compliance with all the contract limits for the month of January but were limited particularly in the collections system due to Covid-19 but none the less were able to complete 0.35 miles of sewer cleaning, 0.63 miles of TV inspection, as well as 2.6 miles of SL-RAT inspections. He said there was also a sewer collapse on Charles Street caused by a recently installed water service line that we worked on with city staff and AJ Penna on January 3rd and 4th and were able to get that repaired.

Mr. Marcin said the IPP program was on hold in January but have resumed industrial pretreatment inspections beginning in February and should be able to report some good progress for the month of February.

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 January, and the nitrogen performance was 514 pounds per day which begins the 2021 calendar year running average. Mr. Kolb added that that was an all-time best for the month of January.

Mr. Marcin said we have brought our GIS technician on board who will be assisting with the GIS mapping and she provided maps for the executive summary this month which will hopefully give a good visual view of the progress that is being made in the collection system.

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

Mr. Marcin said the mechanical installation of the centrifuge was completed in January and the unit is operational and is running well and is producing sludge cake greater than 26% of total solids.

7. REPORTS:

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

Mr. Kolb said that everything is tracking as anticipated but the industrial pre-treatment revenue account had an issue for the but the finance department was able to correct it on Friday.

- b. Draft FY21/22 Capital and Operating Budgets (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said that WPCA board and staff is requesting \$1 million dollars for collection system rehabilitation and an additional \$1 million dollars for pump station upgrades and replacement and is currently going through the city process.

Mr. Kolb said that just over a \$19.6 million dollar operating is also being requested and the budget assumes no rate increase for sewer use fees for fiscal year 2021-22.

Mr. Flynn asked how that compares with previous years. Mr. Kolb said last year the approved operating budget was \$19 million dollars.

Mr. Kolb said that the finance department is also working on sending out the sewer use bill for Wilton and once that does he will have a final number to project out against but for now he is using a place holder of \$600,000.

- c. Discussion of WPCA Projects:

- 1) Collections- Sanitary Sewer System Rehabilitation- Various Locations

Mr. Kolb said that approximately 85% of the work has been completed but the work has recently been delayed due to the weather.

- 2) Collections- Belden and Burnell Blvd. Gravity Sewer

This was discussed under item c.1 of the agenda.

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

Mr. Kolb said the project has just gone out to bid and is advertised on the city's website. There is a mandatory pre-bid meeting on February 23rd via zoom and the bids are due back in March.

- 4) PS- Keeler Brook Force main

Mr. Kolb said that staff continues to work with Eversource and today received a draft agreement for the easement on their property so staff had a call today with Verrill Law and there are conditions that will still need to be negotiated with them. He said this Thursday he will be attending the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to request a variance for the construction of the new pump station because the area is zoned for two story buildings but due to the high tension wires above can only have a one story building.

5) WWTP-SCADA Upgrade Phase III

Mr. Kolb said the Suez team and himself had a good workshop with Aaron Associates and ARCADIS to give them direction on what we are looking for and are now just waiting to receive their feedback.

e. Sewer Use Bill Appeals/Adjustments Update

1) Appeal status

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

f. Information Copies

1) Letter to CTDEEP- (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said the letter is from Verrill Law to the DEEP and was based on the public hearing process and will discuss the process in more detail during the executive session.

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

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Executive session began at 6:04PM.

Executive session ended at 6:30PM

There were no motions made or votes taken.

9. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. FLYNN MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:35PM

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd