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**CITY OF NORWALK  
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL  
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE  
REGULAR MEETING  
March 15, 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  
Ralph Kolb, WPCA Senior Environmental Engineer

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**1. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED SEWER USE RATES TO BE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021 (NOTICE INCLUDED)**

Mr. Kolb said there is a proposed zero percent increase for fiscal year 2021/22 and the registration fee for industrial and food establishments is proposed to be waived.

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

**\*\* MR. IGNERI MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The public hearing closed at 5:32PM.

No one from the public spoke and there were no comments received by staff to be read into the record.

**WPCA REGULAR MEETING:**

**2. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Oustafine called the meeting to order at 5:32PM.

**3. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM WPCA MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 16, 2021 (COPY INCLUDED)**

**\*\* MR. IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4. APPROVE THE SEWER USER RATES TO BE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021.**

**\*\* MR. BOVI MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEWER USER RATES TO BE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5. APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY 2021-22 OPERATING BUDGET (COPY ATTACHED)**

Mr. Kolb said the financial model was done based on the current fiscal year and did a five year forecast and looked at anticipated revenue and expenditures over that time period, as well as capital monies that have currently been approved over the past couple of years based on anticipated spending and cash flow as well as future capital requests that will be made. He said the opening fund balance is around \$18 million dollars and the CFO for the city bonded in September 2020 for approximately \$18.5 million dollars to take advantage of the low interest rates long term to fund capital projects.

Mr. Kolb said the WPCA will be receiving nitrogen credits for 2020 but at this point do not know what the credit sharing will be from the state, but 2020 was an all-time best for the City of Norwalk and are estimating receiving \$525,000 in revenue. He said because SUEZ has done such a good job there is a 25% cost sharing with the SUEZ team.

Mr. Kolb said the target is to maintain 180 days of operating budget and the proposed operating budget for fiscal year 2021/22 is just under \$18.5 million dollars and the goal of the fund balance is not to go below \$9 million dollars. He said staff does anticipate future debt service principal and interest payments will increase.

**\*\* MR.IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY 2021-22 OPERATING BUDGET.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6. APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY 2021-22 CAPITAL BUDGET (COPY ATTACHED)**

Mr. Kolb said that the request incudes \$1 million dollars in collection and pump station monies for fiscal year 2021/22. Mr. Oustafine asked if some of the monies will be taken from the bonding. Mr. Kolb said “yes”.

**\*\* MR. KEEGAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY 2021-22 CAPITAL BUDGET.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**7. AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OR THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE JANUARY 27, 2016 AGREEMENT WITH WRIGHT-PIERCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$350,000 AND EXTEND THE TERM OF THE AGREEMENT BY THREE (3) YEARS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ON-CALL PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES. (COPY INCLUDED)**

**ACCOUNT NO. 09204062-5777-C0361**

Mr. Kolb said the current contract with Wright-Pierce expired in January, 2021, however the work is still ongoing so there is language in the contract to keep it open ended. Staff are requesting a three year extension, along with \$350,000 for additional services related to the construction phase of the comprehensive pump station improvement project which consists of four pump stations that are currently out to bid. He also said a sewer improvement project on Belden Avenue went out to bid today so construction services will be needed there as well as for future construction phase services for the Keeler Brook Pump Station improvement project. He said that project is currently at 100% design and are continuing to work with Eversource.

Mr. Kolb said that city staff has been very pleased with Wright-Pierce and we have solid rates with them and they do excellent work and would like to continue to work with them on these projects and in the future.

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

**8. AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$5,391.10 TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH FEBRUARY 26, 2021 LETTER AND INVOICE (COPIES INCLUDED).**

**ACCOUNT NO. 224062-5298**

Mr. Kolb said that the state is moving forward with the project and this is the reimbursement cost from the city that is due back to the state. He said the state is fully funding the replacement of the sanitary sewer on East Avenue and the depreciation which was calculated based on Lochner and was determined to be \$5,391.10 and the state has invoiced the WPCA for that amount.

Mr. Carr said as part of the Walk Bridge Project the engineers at CTDOT stated that the sewers would not be impacted from the work that they would be doing in the area but after negotiating with them were able to get a section of the sanitary sewer main replaced.

Mr. Oustafine asked if Lochner was working for the state or for the city. Mr. Kolb said they were working for the city and WPCA.

Mr. Kolb said the Fort Point Bridge will be replaced and staff will continue to negotiate with CTDOT regarding the sanitary sewer main that goes underneath. He said that should complete the impacts to the sewers from the Walk Bridge project.

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

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. CONTRACT OPERATIONS REPORT:**

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

Mr. Marcin reported and said that February was a challenging month but got a lot done and were able to fully transition out of severity level number three into level two which means we were back at full staff, and over the past month have had zero cases of Covid-19 or employees out on quarantine.

Mr. Marcin said there was a process upset in late February and had a failure of one of the sodium bisulfite pipes which is the dechlorination system that fed the 002 outfall tank and was relatively undetected because 002 outfall tank is not activated and get mixed with water and ultimately recycled back to the wastewater treatment plant. He said it resulted in some challenges with the mixed liquor as well as a bacteria and chlorine residual issue. He said it was a challenging situation but were able to get to the bottom of it very quickly and were able to mitigate it to a daily exceedance for bacteria on February 19<sup>th</sup> and a daily exceedance for chlorine residual on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. He said the plant was back to stable condition shortly after the event occurred and nitrification is still looking very good for the month and for the year.

Mr. Marcin said that there were three permit exceedances and where related to contract exceedances and he and Mr. Kolb will calculate those and he will include them in the invoice.

Mr. Marcin said that on February 21<sup>st</sup> there was a repair to a 24” gravity sewer on Orchard Street and was a great combined effort with city staff, SUEZ staff, the contractors and NPD. He said they had identified a complete collapse of the top of the 24” pipe that had created a sink hole. He presented photos of the repair efforts.

Mr. Oustafine asked if this is a candidate for lining. Mr. Marcin said “yes” lining is the next step. Mr. Kolb said that he has requested that the SUEZ team obtain pricing from Green Mountain to line the pipe from Quincy Street to the west side interceptor that is along the river and this work would rehabilitate the entire length of the pipe on Orchard Street. Mr. Oustafine said that he is very interested in the outcome and suggested to maybe install a manhole at the location. Mr. Kolb said that Green Mountain is capable of lining it but they will need to have perfect measurements and the sock will need to be fabricated so when it is pulled through it will line up with the proper sizing.

Mr. Carr said that a 10’ section of pipe was replaced and that Green Mountain had televised the line because the liner will need to be specific and custom fabricated to meet the dimensions. He also added that there was no interruption of service and it was a great coordinated effort.

Mr. Marcin said the collections system work continued to be limited in February due to Covid restrictions however staff was able to complete over 1.00 miles of sewer cleaning, .52 miles of TV inspection, as well as 0.96 miles of SL-RAT inspections. He said all the crews are back now and will be making good progress especially with the better weather.

Mr. Marcin said the IPP has resumed and that inspections were completed at 43 locations.

Mr. Marcin said that we continued receiving septage from Stamford during their construction shut down.

Mr. Marcin said that the monthly nitrogen performance was significantly impacted in late February due to the sodium bisulfite release however, good early performance in February resulted in a monthly average of 595 pounds per day which increased the 2021 calendar year running average to 554 pounds, and are still well below of where we were this time last year. Mr. Kolb added that this was the third all-time best for nitrogen performance for the month of February.

Mr. Oustafine asked if the SL-RAT would have caught the issue on Orchard Street. Mr. Kolb said “no”.

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

Mr. Marcin said that the centrifuge continues to run well and are continuing to work on the final electrical, masonry and odor control systems along with training and system optimization. He said the unit is operating well and is producing sludge cake greater than 26% total solids.

## **10. REPORTS:**

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

There was no discussion.

- b. Discussion of WPCA Projects:

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

Mr. Kolb said due to the weather in February a lot of work did not get done but Green Mountain will be coming back in town on March 22<sup>nd</sup> to do some lining work in the Shady Beach area. He also said that there is significant work to be done on Witch Lane.

- 2) Collection- Belden and Burnell Blvd. Gravity Sewer (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said that there is a currently an invitation out to bid for sewer redirection for the Yankee Doodle garage and the areas adjacent to the garage which currently all have sewer but the sanitary sewer runs underneath the Avalon property. Crews are limited to what type of maintenance can be done due to grease and debris. He said the laterals will be tied into the new gravity line and hopefully eliminate the hotspot.

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

Mr. Kolb said that on March 18, 2021, the bids are due back and the work will be do rehabilitate the Five Mile, Old Trolley Way, Karen Drive and Woodward Avenue pump stations. He said we anticipate this project to be approximately \$5 to \$6 million dollars.

- 4) PS- Keeler Brook and Force Main

Mr. Kolb said that the project is at 100% design and will need to visit conservation to get their approval for the new force main but are currently working with Eversource and Verrill Law to obtain a permitted easement for the new pump station.

- 5) WWTP- SCADA Upgrade Phase III

Mr. Kolb said that the project is moving along and is for enhanced security and mobile application.

6) WWTP- Electrical Infrastructure Improvements

Mr. Kolb said all of the electrical will be moved overhead and will be a two tier set up and the project is currently at 90% design with ARCADIS. He said staff is currently reviewing the submission and will be going out to bid later this year.

c. Sewer Use Bill Appeals/Adjustments Update

1) Appeal status

Mr. Kolb said the appeals to date are \$29,907

d. Information Copies: None

Mr. Carr said he would like to commend Mr. Torre and Mr. Kolb specifically on the operating budget and the healthy fund balance each year. He also said we are looking to employ Woodard and Curran to look into the existing financial model.

Mr. Kolb said that approximately 80% of the 40 flow meters have been installed since last week to do the flow monitoring and the information will be used to update on the hydraulic model for the collection system.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MR. IGNERI MOVED TO ADJOURN  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd