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

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

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 MARCH 15, 2021 (COPY INCLUDED)

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENTION-MR. CAMACHO**

3. AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OR VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH KOVACS CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,005,750 FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE PUMP STATION UPGRADE PROJECT (WPCA 2021-01). (BID DOCUMENTS ATTACHED)

ACCOUNT NO. 09204062-5777-C0360

Mr. Kolb said that on March 18, 2021, the WPCA received three bids for the rehabilitation project of the four pump stations. He said that the engineers estimate was around \$5 million dollars and Kovacs Construction was the low bidder, and that Kovacs Construction had put in a lot of time and effort to evaluate this project and submitted a solid bid that staff is happy with. He said that Wright-Pierce has reviewed all of the numbers as well as the bid documents and staff's recommendation to the board is to authorize the Chairman or the Vice Chairman to enter into an agreement to proceed. Mr. Clark asked if the city has worked with Kovacs Construction in the past. Mr. Kolb said not recently but the city has approximately 15 years ago on some other pump station work He also mentioned they are one of a few top companies for pump station construction projects. Mr. Camacho asked if staff is concerned on the bid coming in \$1 million dollars below the engineers estimate. Mr. Kolb said "no" because the estimate was conservative due to Covid-19. Mr. Camacho asked what the plan is in the event they are in fact are short. Mr. Carr said that there is an item on the agenda to issue change orders not to exceed \$200,000. Mr. Oustafine said that he has worked with Kovacs Construction in the past and they are reputable and had come up with a lot of creative ideas which had allowed them to save money.

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO ISSUE ORDERS ON CONTRACT TO KOVACS CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE PUMP STATION UPGRADE PROJECT (WPCA 2021-01) FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$200,000

ACCOUNT NO. 09204062-5777-C0360

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. CONTRACT OPERATIONS REPORT:

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

Mr. Marcin reported and said that they had remained in severity level II for the month of March for Covid-19 operations and are back to normal staffing and continue to use PPE, social distancing and disinfecting procedures remain in effect and they have been case free for some time.

Mr. Marcin said the facility recovered well from the process upset that was reported last month related to the sodium bisulfite internal spill and Mr. Brown and his team did an outstanding job adjusting the facility into full aeration mode. He said by the end of March they had really good numbers and were able to keep the monthly average on track with the good performance they have had historically.

Mr. Marcin said the collection team continued to ramp up and were able to complete 1.43 miles of sewer cleaning, 1.6 miles of TV inspection and over 5 miles of SL-RAT and manhole inspections.

Mr. Marcin said the industrial pretreatment program continued in March and did over 68 inspections of the industries.

Mr. Marcin said the WWTP was in compliance with all permit and contract limits in March and as a result of the good nitrogen recovery had an average of 551 pounds for the month which decreased the annual average down to 551 pounds. He said that all of the state reporting has been completed as well as the quarterly ATMR sampling. He said they also submitted the Tier II hazardous material inventory form which is required on March 1st of each year.

Mr. Marcin said over the last eight months there has been some discussions between Viola and SUEZ regarding a possible merger of those companies and there was an announcement on April 12, 2021, that the board of directors of both companies have reached an agreement in principal of a merger between the two companies. He said there will be another meeting held on May 14, 2021, and there will be more details provided at that meeting but are now making preparations to merge and will keep the board updated. He said that the contract between the city and SUEZ will be honored and completely transferable and there is also an excellent team on the ground that is part of that contract so whatever changes take place the team will remain here on the ground and continue to do a great job. Mr. Kolb said that staff will continue to work with the SUEZ project team to understand what is happening on a monthly basis

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

Mr. Marcin said the installation of the centrifuge continues and are working on the final punch list items. He said in addition to the final installation of the odor control system the masons are on site this week and are finishing the center block wall to isolate off the centrifuge area, and the scrubber is scheduled to be delivered by the end of April. He said they are hoping by the middle of May to have the odor control systems fully inter-connected and operating for that project.

Mr. Oustafine asked if the pipe on Orchard Street has been lined. Mr. Kolb said that the SUEZ team is still doing its homework and there are old sanitary sewer lines on Butler Street that SUEZ is in the process of cleaning and televising because the plan it to divert the wastewater during the lining process. He said that Green Mountain is working on the scope and SUEZ is continuing to do the field investigation and getting the information to Green Mountain to get the best price possible and develop a good plan for not just the lining but also the bypass pumping of the sewage. He said staff will have more to report next month as far as a schedule for that work.

6. REPORTS:

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

Mr. Kolb said on note the Wilton sewer bill has been sent out and a copy of the bill is included with the agenda.

- b. Discussion on sewer use fee appeal for 120 Newtown Ave (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said that Christopher Polidoro purchased the property seven years ago and at that time was told by the seller that he was on city sewer but recently discovered he was on septic and is requesting that the sewer use fees are reimbursed or the connection fee be waived. He said that staff has been working with Darin Callahan of the Law Department along with Verrill Law and will have more to report to the board next month, but they are looking at the most current state statutes on how to address sewer use fees versus taxes and typically the state statute for taxes are reimbursable for up to three years maximum. He said to date the legal team has informed staff that sewer use fees and connections fees are separate issues and not to mix the two at this time.

Mr. Oustafine said there was a similar situation on Bob White Drive and the WPCA had voted to reimburse them the three years and waive the connection fee. Mr. Keegan asked if there is a process to determine if someone is connected to the sewer. Mr. Camacho asked if there was a determination made if the mistake was originally made by the city for the situation on Bob White Drive. Mr. Kolb said “no” but there are a multiple ways an error may occur and is a case by case basis and we don’t always know why things may have occurred at the time. Typically, the City extends the sanitary sewer and leaves it to the property owner to hire an individual contractor to connect.

- c. Discussion on WPCA Projects:

- 1) Financial Model (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said that he and Mr. Carr have reached out to Woodard and Curran to provide a scope of work to do a financial model. He said years ago the WPCA had a financial model that was originally prepared by ARCADIS, and had the model for many years and was very robust and had predicated out 20-30 years and focused on the five year look ahead. He said that Woodard and Curran has a very strong financial team and will the model will help the WPCA to justify spending and will it be a very useful planning tool moving forward.

2) Collection- Sanitary Sewer System Rehabilitation- Various Locations

Mr. Kolb said that Green Mountain along with AJ Penna are in the process of replacing some critical manholes on Witch Lane @ Old Trolley Way, and once that is completed Green Mountain will further line that location closer to MLK Blvd. He said they are also working on lining Smith Street from Wall Street to Moody's Lane and that is a challenging lining project and are working with the critical stake holders. He said the cost of the project will be over \$6 million dollars with the change orders that have been added.

3) Collection-Belden and Burnell Gravity Sewer

Mr. Kolb said this project is a relocation of the gravity main on Burnell Blvd. and Belden Avenue because the operation and maintenance of the current line is not possible and has been on the hot spot list for quite some time. He said the project went out to bid and the bids were received last Thursday and staff is in the process of reviewing the bids but the low bid is currently \$178,000 and will be on the agenda for discussion next month.

4) Collection- Flow Metering

Mr. Kolb said currently through Brown and Coldwell installed 40 flow meters throughout the collection system at the end of March and will go through the end of May to collect flow data especially during wet weather to update the hydraulic model for the collection system. He said the information is critical for any capacity concerns in the collection system and will also be gathering data from Planning & Zoning for future development to understand how that will impact the collection system. He said that all of the information will go into a long term master plan where we can develop capital projects for the next 20 years and will tie into the financial model.

5) PS- Five Mile, Old Trolley Way, Karen Drive, and Woodward Avenue Rehabilitation

Mr. Kolb said that Kovacs Construction Corporation was the low bidder for the project as discussed in item one of the agenda

6) WWTP- SCADA Upgrade Phase III

Mr. Kolb said this is for enhanced security along with remote monitoring and are now testing the system in a demo mode and it will help the management team

during wet weather and staff is very excited to move forward and finalize this project.

7) WWTP- Electrical Infrastructure Improvements

Mr. Kolb said all of the electrical wiring will be raised on all five tanks onto a support structure above the water level and are currently at 90% design to go out to bid. He said that once phase one has been completed SUEZ will install online analyzers and phase two will be to replace the aeration tank blowers and the electrical infrastructure inside the solids handling building.

d. Sewer Use Bill Appeals/Adjustments Update

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

e. Information Copies:

1) Public Notice- FY 21/22 Approved Sewer Use Fee (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said for fiscal year 2021/22 there will be a 0% increase for the sewer user fees and the registration fees for the food establishments and the industrial users were waived.

2) Town of Wilton FY 20/21 Sewer Bill (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said the bill was sent out by the finance department on April 14, 2021 and was in the amount of \$ 686,158.

7. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. BOVI MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd