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**CITY OF NORWALK
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
REGULAR MEETING
May 17, 2021**

Attendance: Darren Oustafine, Chairman
Mayor Rilling
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: Matthew Brown, SUEZ

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Oustafine called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.

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

On page 5, Item C1, Line 6 delete “will”

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

3. AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OR VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH A. VITTI, EXCAVATORS, LLC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$177,500 FOR THE BELDEN AVENUE SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (WPCA 2021-02). (BID DOCUMENTS ATTACHED)

ACCOUNT NO. 09194062-5777-C0361

Mr. Kolb said that the Yankee Doodle Garage and the adjacent properties are currently connected to the sanitary sewer that runs underneath the Avalon and ultimately ties into the sewer main adjacent to the Norwalk River. He said long term that is not a solution to operate and maintain the sanitary sewer and the properties periodically experience sewer backups in their private laterals due to the configuration. He said the project will redirect flow from Burnell Blvd. to Belden Avenue and will allow the WPCA to maintain the sewer main. He said the bid went out and two bids were received and AJ Penna was the high bid and A.Vitti Excavators LLC was the low bid at \$177,500. Mr. Igneri asked if they have been used in the past. Mr. Kolb said “no” but the City of Stamford has and Wright Pierce did some research and found they have been in business for quite some time. Mr. Oustafine added the Town of Darien has also used them with great success.

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

AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO ISSUE ORDERS ON CONTRACT TO A. VITTI, EXCAVATORS, LLC FOR THE BELDEN AVENUE SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (WPCA 2021-02) FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000.

ACCOUNT NO. 09194062-5777-C0361

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

5. CONTRACT OPERATIONS REPORT:

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

Mr. Brown reported and said that SUEZ' COVID-19 Operational Continuity Plan remained at severity level two, and the use of PPE, social distancing and disinfection procedures remain in effect.

Mr. Brown said the SUEZ collections system work continued to progress in April and staff was able to complete over 4.14 miles of sewer cleaning and 3.4 miles of TV inspection along with over 1.14 miles of SL-RAT inspections.

Mr. Brown said the centrifuge continues to operate well and is producing sludge cake greater than 23% total solids.

Mr. Brown said the IPP inspection program continued in April and inspections were completed at 55 locations, and the wastewater treatment plant continued to receive septage from Stamford during their construction shut down.

Mr. Brown reported on the regulatory events and said that the wastewater treatment plant was in compliance with all permit limits for the month of April. He said the new NPDES permit was sent to the city on April 30, 2021 and SUEZ began the new sampling for CBOD on May 1, 2021. He said that the monthly nitrogen performance was good in April resulting in a monthly average of 381 pounds per day, which decreased the 2021 calendar year running average of 510 pounds per day. He noted that over the last 12 months they have averaged 437 per day.

Mr. Brown said the new DMR, MOR and NAR reports were all submitted to CT-DEEP and EPA in April, and that EPA did perform a small inspection and have not yet received the report but the inspector said that it went well and will provide an update on the report at the next meeting.

Mr. Brown provided an update on the issues on Orchard Street and Harborview Avenue and said they have completed the cleaning and CCTV and next week a representative from Green Mountain will come to meet with the team and complete the survey and should have a full estimate for the work to complete the project on Orchard Street.

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

Mr. Brown said the centrifuge installation subcontractors continue work on the final punch list items and the odor control systems. The carbon scrubbers are scheduled for arrival in late May and should be operational by end of June.

6. REPORTS:

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

Mr. Kolb said that the bill for Wilton had gone out for their annual sewer fee and are now waiting to receive the reimbursement.

b. Discussion on WPCA Projects:

1) Financial Model (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said that Woodard and Curran will be working on task order number one which is to develop a financial model which will include gathering data, reviewing and evaluating the existing rates and fee structures, model development and eventually a presentation to the staff and the WPCA board.

2) Collection- Sanitary Sewer System Rehabilitation- Various Locations (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said overall the total project for CIPP lining is over 50,000 linear feet of lining and is currently 78% complete. He also said that the spot lining is 80% complete and the excavation repairs are 65% complete. Mr. Flynn asked how the effectiveness of the lining is tested. Mr. Kolb said a video is taken before and after lining

3) Collection- Relocation of Sanitary Sewer at Wall Street and 2 Knight Street (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said the range of the project is \$1.3 million dollars to \$1.7 million dollars and is to relocate the main interceptor from under the building to the top of a storm culvert and tie it into Brook Street, and once that is complete the next phase will be to abandon the tunnel under Wall Street and provide a solid foundation for the road. He said the project is currently out to bid and the bids are due back on June 3, 2021.

4) Collection- Flow Metering

Mr. Kolb said there are currently 40 flow meters in the collection system and have been monitoring over the last six weeks and the data will be used to update and calibrate the hydraulic model.

5) WWTP-SCADA Upgrade Phase III

Mr. Kolb said the new screens have just been received for the SCADA mobile so the SUEZ management team, Mr. Carr and he can monitor the SCADA system 24/7.

c. Sewer Appeals/Adjustments Update

1) Appeal Status

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

2) Sewer Billing- Water Consumption

Mr. Kolb said when the operating budget was being done staff anticipated receiving revenues of approximately \$16.9 million dollars for sewer use fees but will be receiving approximately \$16.5 million dollars and the reason for the shortfall is due to the consumption being down for commercial mixed use properties due to Covid-19, but on the residential side the numbers are almost identical to last year.

d. Information Copies:

1) Nitrogen Credits (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said that he is happy to report that Norwalk is number three in the state for receiving nitrogen credits and Norwalk had a record setting year for removing nitrogen and will be receiving \$108,000. He said we were anticipating higher nitrogen credits based on past history but the price dropped for nitrogen credits and even though the revenues are down for receiving nitrogen credits Norwalk along with other facilities in Connecticut performed very well and are do very good for the environment.

7. IN-PERSON WPCA MEETINGS

Mr. Kolb asked in the WPCA board is open to starting in person meetings beginning next month. Mr. Oustafine asked if a hybrid model can be done. Mr. Kolb said there will be the option to call in for those who can't attend in person. Mayor Rilling said he is still waiting on guidance from the Governor's office related to hybrid meetings and in person meetings. He said they think the state legislative will most likely approve it and staff will keep the board updated. It was the consensus of the board to have hybrid meetings going forward.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS NPDES PERMIT AND SEWER APPEALS

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Executive session began at 6:05PM

Executive session ended at 6:34PM

There were no motions made and no votes were taken.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd