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**CITY OF NORWALK
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
REGULAR MEETING
October 18, 2021**

Attendance: Darren Oustafine, Chairman
Lewis Clark, Vice Chairman
John Igneri
John Bove
John Flynn
Thomas Keegan
George Tsiranides

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

Others: John Marcin, Project Manager, SUEZ
Matthew Brown, Asst. Project Manager, SUEZ
Attorney Mathew Todaro, Verrill Dana, LLP

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS DRAFT CONSENT ORDER, SEWER APPEALS AND CONNECTION FEES.

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.
THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Executive session began at 5:51PM
Executive session ended at 6:19PM
There were no motions made and no votes were taken.

3. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM WPCA MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2021. (COPY INCLUDED)

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

4. AUTHORIZE THE ALLOCATION OF \$300,000 TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR USE ON THE STORM/SEWER SEPARATION PROJECT BEING ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS UNDER THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK LAND M. RONDANO, INC. FOR PROJECT DGR 2020- ON CALL DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS.

ACCOUNT NO. 09204062-5777-C0361

Mr. Kolb said that the WPCA has done this in the past for the Wilton Avenue area and the intent of this is to issue a purchase order to Rondano, Inc. to be managed by DPW for when the contractor performs sewer separation projects at various locations. He said the two locations in particular that were identified are Plymouth Avenue and Ohio Avenue because currently there is either minimal or no storm drainage, and the eight catch basins that are located on those roads are connected to the city's sanitary sewer. He said as part of the project the catch basins will be disconnected from the sanitary sewer and once these two streets have been completed there may be one other location that the contractor and DPW will be looking to separate. Mr. Oustafine asked if the city and WPCA will be splitting the cost. Mr. Kolb said the cost will be shared and the WPCA will be paying for the work on Plymouth Avenue and Ohio Avenue due to the separation from the sanitary sewer. Mr. Igneri asked where the storm water will go after the separation. Mr. Kolb said DPW will have Rondano install new storm pipes and connect them to the new storm drain system and will discharge to the receiving water body.

Mr. Oustafine asked if the WPCA had contributed to eliminating and separating a combined system in the past. Mr. Kolb said "yes" in the area of Wilton Avenue and there was a cost sharing.

Mr. Flynn joined the meeting at 6:27PM

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. CONTRACT OPERATIONS REPORT:

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

Mr. Marcin reported and said there was a significant impact last month due to the storms on September 1st and September 2nd and had a total of 7.51 inches on rain over a 24-hour period and led to a lot of flash flooding and significant increases in flows at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. At 10:00AM on September 1st we had exceeded the 30 MGD threshold and activated Outfall 002 for 25.5 hours until 11:30AM on September 2nd and the system performed very well during the event and presented the highlights. He said that during the event we had 100% reliability of the mechanical systems and all of the pumps and all of the pump stations ran and there were no failures and the pumps at the wastewater treatment plant ran at 100% during the entire storm with no issues. He said the Ann Street syphon was again activated for this event for two hours and 20 minutes during the peak of the storm and had SSO's at the same locations we had seen during the July event.

Mr. Marcin said the team was able to complete 0.8 miles of sewer cleaning and almost three miles of TV inspections along with three miles of critical hot spot inspections. The IPP program continued with 28 inspections during the month, and we continue to receive septage from Stamford wastewater treatment plant during their construction. He said the nitrogen performance numbers were very good but due to the high flows during the

month ended up with monthly average of 590 pounds which is still well below the permit limits, but increased the running average slightly to 507 pounds per day.

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

Mr. Marcin reported that the mechanical installation of the scrubber is complete, and the electricians are finalizing the final electrical hook up and control system balancing this week and will be turning the unit on soon in the odor control and solids handling building.

c. Orchard Street Sanitary Sewer Improvements Update

Mr. Marcin provide an update on the Orchard Street lining project and said it is a fairly complex project and there are a lot of details in the bypass pumping and want to be extra careful and be sensitive to the residents, and have also identified a few small excavations that will be performed ahead of time to make the bypass pumping go smoother and are scheduled and will happening soon. He said the final step is to put together the traffic control plan and review it with DPW engineering staff and will them discuss an implementation schedule.

Mr. Marcin provided an update of the merger between Veolia and SUEZ and said there has been a lot of good progress and are on schedule for a mid-December early January transition and it will expand our regional resources and will provide further updates as we get closer.

Mr. Keegan left the meeting at 6:42PM.

6. REPORTS

a. FY 21/22 Revenues/Expenditures MUNIS Report (copy included)

There was no discussion.

b. Discussion on WPCA Projects:

1) Collection-Sanitary Sewer System Rehabilitation- Various Locations

Mr. Kolb reported and said last month it was reported that the lining on Smith Street went well and was completed at the end of August. He said that AJ Penna is doing some point repair work, and Green Mountain is doing CCTV work on the sections of pipe that will soon be lined and are hoping to finish out the contract by the end of this calendar year.

2) Collection- Dreamy Hollow Area

Mr. Kolb reported and said Woodard and Curran is nearing the end of a major drainage design in the Dreamy Hollow area for DPW and will be going out to bid shortly. He said there is also a sanitary sewer component because where the drainage is going the sanitary sewer will need to be relocated and he and Chief Carr have been working with Woodard and Curran on the design of the sanitary sewer and capacity analysis to ensure that any replacement of the sanitary sewer is designed with sufficient pitch and capacity for the area.

3) Collection- Belden and Burnell Blvd. Gravity Sewer

Mr. Kolb reported and said that A. Vitti Construction had started the project last week and will be redirecting the flow from underneath the buildings at the Yankee Doodle Garage and the adjoining building and the work should be completed within 30 days.

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

Mr. Kolb reported and said the Kovacs Construction contract has been ongoing and they have 360 days to complete all of the work and we have a monthly meeting with the team.

5) WWTP- Aeration Tanks Electrical Infrastructure Improvements (copy included)

Mr. Kolb reported and said the project is going out to bid within the next couple of weeks and will be moving all of the low and high voltage electrical above the walking path, and once the work is completed SUEZ will be installing additional BNR analysis equipment to help optimize the wastewater treatment plant process.

c. Sewer Use Bill/ Appeals/Adjustments Update

1. Discussion on the Maritime Aquarium sewer use charge

Mr. Carr said it was determined that the best course of action would be for Verrill Law to provide a legal opinion on what is considered a fee versus a tax and the user is requesting a hardship for their sewer charge on the July 2020 invoice and the January 2021 invoice in the amount of approximately \$45,000.

Attorney Todaro said it is more accurate from the language of the statute both at the state level as well as the local code to use the term “charge” and there is a process in the city code for an entity that is potentially appealing a charge and the process is laid out on the WPCA website where someone who can obtain the forms and file the

appeal with the WPCA and can be heard either by the Director of Public Works or the WPCA Board, and any appellant has the right to appeal that decision to the Superior Court. He said the best fit is to run the request through the appeal process and recommend that they complete the sewer use appeal form and the WPCA can proceed to process the appeal just as they would any other appeal and at the hearing, they will have an opportunity to present their request and members of the public can weigh in on the appeal and the WPCA board will render a decision at some point.

Mr. Igneri asked if the appeal is due to Covid-19 and the impacts to the attendance at the Maritime Aquarium. Attorney Todaro said “yes”. Mr. Igneri said there were many Federal and State grants available for organizations such as the Maritime Aquarium and asked if they had received any of those grants. Attorney Todaro said that would be a good question that could be asked of a representative of the aquarium if they decide to request an appeal of those charges. Mr. Igneri said the city has also announced that we have received Federal and State grants and questioned if they may qualify for those as well. Mr. Igneri said during this period the Maritime Aquarium had installed a new tank for the seals and would like to see the comparison in their bill to earlier years for the same time frame. Mr. Kolb said that he has the water data that can provided to the board but will now reach out to the Maritime Aquarium and aske if they want to submit a formal appeal. Mr. Oustafine requested that the water data be sent to the board prior to the next meeting. Mr. Tsiranides requested that staff ask a representative from the Maritime Aquarium if they had received any of the relief funds that were allocated, and if they have a grant writer who is also looking into additional funding opportunities.

Mr. Tsiranides left the meeting at 7:05PM.

2) Appeal Status

Mr. Kolb said the appeal status to date is \$125,049.

Mr. Oustafine asked if the WPCA is making money on the septage fees. Mr. Kolb said it fluctuates but \$175,000 is the anticipated revenue that will be collected this fiscal year and to date have collected just over \$19,000 but there is a lag in the reporting.

d. Information Copies: None

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:08PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd