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**CITY OF NORWALK  
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL  
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE  
REGULAR MEETING  
November 15, 2021**

Attendance: Darren Oustafine, Chairman  
Lewis Clark, Vice Chairman  
John Igneri  
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  
Attorney Adam Blank  
Jason Enters

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

## **2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM WPCA MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 18, 2021. (COPY INCLUDED)**

**\*\* MR. TSIRINIDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **3. ACT ON SEWER USE CHARGE ADJUSTMENT FOR 587 CONNECTICUT AVE ( 587 CTA LLC RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT) FOR FY 19/20 AND 20/21. (COPY INCLUDED)**

Mr. Kolb said for fiscal year 2021-2022 the sewer use fee was billed correctly in the amount of \$20,185 and the WPCA board will need to discuss if they want to correct the fee for fiscal years 2019-20 and 2020-21 because sewer use fee calculation was based on one unit and not on fifty five. He said the revised charges would be \$20,185 for fiscal year 2020-2021 and \$19,800 for fiscal year 2019-2020.

Attorney Blank said that 587 Connecticut Avenue is a 55-unit apartment building with at self-storage center that is also located on the property and was a special permit approval so therefore would fall under the schedule for commercial and mixed-use properties over 110, 000 gallons, and not the fixed rate for apartments, and requested going forward it be assessed as that. Mr. Enters said there is only one water service and one sewer service to the property and is indeed a mixed-use property and is the same as the Head of the Harbor building south which he also owns and is billed by usage. Mr. Kolb said the only difficulty is that there are two buildings on the property with one water meter for both the commercial and residential building so if the bill is based on consumption there would be one bill for the property and how that will be divided is not up to the WPCA to decide but would be up to the property owner and that is where it is complex. Mr. Enters said they are fine with that and that is how the water bill is currently done. Mr. Kolb said there would need to be clarification for the Tax Assessor and Tax Collector on who would receive the bill. Mr. Enters said the residential building would receive the bill.

Attorney Blank said the other issue is that section 7-255 of the State Statute allows the WPCA to set rates and to give classifications which the WPCA has done, but what the statue does not give the WPCA the authority to do is to retroactively change a rate and/or schedule and assess an increase so what is being asked of the board tonight is to go back two grand list years and add a \$20,000 increase assessment for the 2018 and 2019 grand list years.

Mr. Oustafine said that a mistake was made and the WPCA has gone back in the past but limited how far we went back to three years. Mr. Blank said the state statue does not apply to the WPCA, so it is his position that if it has been done in the past it was done without authority and suggested the WPCA give their counsel an opportunity to look at it and respond unless the WPCA wants to act on it tonight.

Mr. Oustafine asked what the cost difference is from billing 55 units separately versus the single meter. Mr. Enters said at the Head of the Harbor there are 60 units and 5000 square feet of office space and this past year the sewer use bill was \$18,034, and the flat rate billing per apartment was just over \$21,000 and are requesting the bill is generated for actual usage going forward and are entitled to that because it is a

mixed used property. Mr. Oustafine said by now there should be actual water usage data for this building. Mr. Enters said he went back and looked at the last couple of years and would be a difference of \$2,000-\$3,000 based on this fiscal year.

**\*\* MR.IGNERI MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM UNTIL NEXT MONTH.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4. ACT ON ACCEPTING HOLDING TANK WASTEWATER GENERATED FROM RESTROOM TRAILERS FROM VARIOUS LOCATIONS COLLECTED BY STONE INDUSTRIES, LLC. (COPY INCLUDED)**

Mr. Kolb said this is a request that staff received by a resident that lives in Wilton and is running a business out of his house and is storing wastewater on his premises that is collected in New York and Connecticut and are looking for a disposal location, and previously they were bringing it to Saratoga Springs, New York. He said our septage policy is designed for any Norwalk or Wilton parcel that generate wastewater to dispose of it in Norwalk, and anything outside of that would require the Chief of Public Works along with the WPCA to agree with accepting outside waste. Mr. Clark asked if they had identified what the quantity they will be disposing is. Mr. Kolb said 200-250 gallons each time and if we do decide to accept it staff is proposing to charge 10 cents per gallon, and the only concern he has because it is coming from various locations is what is in the wastewater. Mr. Keegan asked if there is anyway to be certain that hazardous materials are not disposed of. Mr. Oustafine asked Mr. Marcin if he is familiar with anyone disposing port-a john material into a wastewater treatment plant. Mr. Marcin said those chemicals are designed to be biodegradable in a wastewater treatment plant and have never experienced any adverse effects, and this septage will help our biological process because it will provide some additional food for the bio-organism to eat.

Attorney Todaro said that some sort of characterization can be requested from the supplier of the sludge and can be done in a phased approach so that all the material is not brought in at once to see how the system reacts.

Mr. Oustafine asked if it would be feasible to take a sample from the load. Mr. Marcin said “yes” and that is done to some degree now.

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

**5. CONTRACT OPERATIONS REPORT:**

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

Mr. Marcin reported and said there was another storm event on October 26, 2021, totaling 4.6 inches of rain that led to increased flows to the wastewater treatment plant and at 9:40AM went onto stormflow with a total discharge time of seven hours and eight minutes, and 1.5 MGD was discharged through outfall 002, and during that same time put 9.9 million gallons through the regular outfall and were in all of the effluent permit requirements so were in compliance with the blended discharge during the entire storm event. He said all the pumpstation operated well during the event and the collections department dedicated a significant amount of time to storm cleanup in October, but were still able to complete over 2.6 miles of TV and 1.2 miles of the critical hotspot areas. He said that IPP activities continued and inspected 39 additional locations and continued to receive septage from Stamford and our team is still working under severity level two for Covid-19 protections and have no current cases and no employees currently on quarantine.

Mr. Marcin said that regulatory events were in compliance for all of the permit limits for the month of October and had good nitrogen performance, but the flows were still up.

b. Odor Control Project Update

Mr. Marcin reported and said that the scrubber installation is complete and are scheduling the start up in the next couple of weeks.

c. Orchard Street Sanitary Sewer Improvements Update

Mr. Marcin reported and said the Orchard Street project plan has been finalized and in under the final review.

## **6. REPORTS**

a. FY 21/22 Revenues/Expenditures MUNIS Report (COPY INCLUDED)

There was no discussion.

b. CMOM Program Annual Report-2021 (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said the CMOM annual report gets submitted to the EPA and the CT DEEP on an annual basis and discusses all our activities for the current year and what is being planned for 2022.

c. Discussion on WPCA Projects

1) Collection System Master Planning

Mr. Kolb said staff is working with Brown and Caldwell and they are updating the hydraulic model which is a long process but should start to see some data in the new year.

2) Collection- Sanitary Sewer System Rehabilitation- Various Locations

Mr. Kolb said later this week Green Mountain Pipeline Services and AJ Penna will be working together to raise some manholes and following that they will be installing a liner on Edith Lane and will continue to be in town through the end of the year to complete the lining work that was scheduled.

3) Collection- Belden and Burnell Blvd. Gravity Sewer

Mr. Kolb said the A. Vitti Company has approximately 120' of new pipe to install but there are a lot of utilities in this intersection and did have to make some changes, but the project is still on track to be completed in early December.

4) Collection- Wall Street/2 Knight Street Relocation and Improvements

Mr. Kolb said the Holzner Company was awarded the project and have been doing some site survey work and are working with Jacobs Engineering on the drawing submittals.

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

Mr. Kolb said Kovacs Construction is continuing to receive material for the various improvements at each station.

6) PS-Bell Island PS Improvements

Mr. Kolb said that SUEZ has purchased a pump and a contractor will be installing it and will take out the second pump and have it rehabilitated and will be used as a spare. He said they will also be doing an excavation in the near future because that station does not have a bypass connection. Mr. Igneri asked if the pump station will be raised. Mr. Kolb said “no”, the proposed work does not require to raise the entire station. In the future, if major replacement of the station is proposed, we would have to raise the station because of FEMA requirements.

7) WWTP- Aeration Tanks Electrical Infrastructure Improvements

Mr. Kolb said at the Wastewater Treatment Plant we have just advertised the aeration tanks electrical infrastructure improvements and last week had a mandatory pre-bid meeting, and the bids are due back in early December.

d. Sewer Use Bill Appeals/Adjustments Update

1) Maritime Aquarium

Mr. Kolb said we did reach out to the Maritime Aquarium following last month’s WPCA meeting but have not yet received a response, but they have received funding due to Covid-19 and may not be as interested in a credit on their sewer use charge.

2) Appeal Status

Mr. Kolb said the adjustments to date are \$ 125,049.

**7. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS SUEZ MERGER WITH VEOLIA.**

**\*\* MR. TSIRINIDES MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

Executive session began at 6:19PM.

Executive session ended at 6:52PM.

There was no action taken and no votes were taken.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MR. IGNERI MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:54PM.