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**CITY OF NORWALK
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
REGULAR MEETING
December 20, 2021**

Attendance: Darren Oustafine, Chairman
Lewis Clark, Vice Chairman
Barbara Smyth
John Igneri
John Flynn
Thomas Keegan
Edwin Camacho
John Bovi

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. TO ORDER

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

Mr. Oustafine said there was a death of a longtime employee of the WPCA and asked Mr. Marcin to say a few words about the individual and then will hold a moment of silence. Mr. Marcin said an unfortunate tragedy occurred in the month of November where one of the longest employees to ever work for the City of Norwalk John Carothers had suffered a heart attack while at work and was not able to be saved. He said that Mr. Carothers was a graduate of Norwalk High School and came to work for at the wastewater facilities in the early 1970's and worked for over 50 years as a mechanic at the facility and will be sorrily missed. There was a moment of silence held.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS SUEZ MERGER WITH VEOLIA, DRAFT CONSENT ORDER, AND PENDING/POTENTIAL SEWER APPEALS.

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Executive session began at 5:35PM.

Executive session ended at 6:32PM

There were no motion made and no votes were taken.

3. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM WPCA MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2021 (COPY INCLUDED)

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION- MS. SMYTH.**

4. ACT ON SEWER USE CHARGE ADJUSTMENT FOR 587 CONNECTICUT AVENUE (587 CTA LLC)

**** MR. CAMACHO MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM UNTIL THE JANUARY MEETING AND AUTHORIZE COUNCIL TO RENEGOTIATE AND TO GIVE STAFF TIME TO REPORT BACK WITH MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENTS.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS TO ISSUE ORDERS ON CONTRACT WITH A. VITTL EXCAVATORS, LLC FOR THE BELDEN AVENUE SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (WPCA 2021-02) FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000.

ACCOUNT NOS. 09194062-5777-C0361 AND 09204062-5777-C0361

Mr. Kolb said work is taking longer than anticipated because A. Vitti is finding conflicts with many utilities while trying to install the gravity sanitary sewer on Burnell and Belden Avenue. He said there is now a path but there is some overlapping work that they will have to do in order to get the pitch that is needed, as well as remove and install a new precast sanitary manhole on Belden Avenue and these are change orders that were not anticipated.

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. **AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OR VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH KOVACS CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,091,320 FOR THE AERATION TANKS ELECTRICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (WPCA 2021-4). (BID DOCUMENTS ATTACHED)**

Account No. 09174062-5777-C0545

Mr. Kolb said that Kovacs construction was the low bidder, and they are also currently working for the WPCA on a \$4 million dollar pump station project and are doing good work. He said the WPCA had ARCADIS reach out to them to ensure there was nothing they had missed in the price proposal and found that they did not, and that they are confident in the \$1.1 million dollar proposal that they had provided so staff is recommending to enter into a contract with them for the improvements at the wastewater treatment plant on the electrical infrastructure.

**** MR. KEEGAN MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7. **AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS TO ISSUE ORDERS ON CONTRACT WITH KOVACS CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION FOR THE AERATION TANKS ELECTRICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (WPCA 2021-4) FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$100,000.**

Account No. 09174062-5777-C0545

**** MR. KEEGAN MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8. AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$14,850 FOR WEBSITE DESIGN AND BUILD FOR THE WPCA BY THE SNYDER GROUP INCORPORATED. (COPY INCLUDED)

Account No. 224062-5298

Mr. Kolb said the existing WPCA website went online in 2007 and it is time for a refresh and make it more user friendly for customers. He said staff had engaged the mayor's office and the IT department for recommendations of vendors and had reached out to three vendors for pricing and had received proposals from two of them. The Snyder Group was the low proposer. Mr. Oustafine asked if this will be related to the city's website and if so why the same vendor is not being used. Mr. Kolb said he was informed that the city may be going out to look at other vendors. He also said the mayor's office will be involved in the look and flow so it is similar to the city's website.

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9. AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$75,000 TO FGB CONSTRUCTION COMPANY AS PART OF THE CITY OF NORWALK'S PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT FOR BR2021-1 ROWAYTON AVENUE OVER KEELERS BROOK BRIDGE PROJECT BEING ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR THE PURPOSE OF RELOCATING THE SANITARY SEWER. THE MAYOR WAS AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH FGB CONSTRUCTION COMPANY ON DECEMBER 7, 2021, BY THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL AND ON DECEMBER 14, 2021 BY THE COMMON COUNCIL, RESPECTIVELY.

Account No. 09204062-5777-C0361

Mr. Kolb said that the Rowayton Avenue bridge had failed and there is an existing sanitary sewer line that runs under that failed bridge and in order to install the new bridge/culvert DPW engineering and their contractor must relocate the sanitary sewer north of the structure. He said the purchase order for \$75,000 would be administered by DPW engineering and would cover those expenses, and that Brown and Caldwell provided the details on the design to DPW engineering and to the FGB Construction. Mr. Carr said that FGB was awarded the contract under a sole source procurement and the contract is in the process of being prepared by corporation counsel, so they have not done any work yet but had also received a sole source approval to purchase the box culvert so the city will procure that directly from the concrete manufacturer because it will save 45 to 60 days off the project as well as 20% on the capital costs. He said the construction would most likely not start until after the new year with an anticipated completion date in April, 2022.

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10. AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$986,875 TO COLONNA CONCRETE & ASPHALT PAVING LLC. AS PART OF THE CITY OF NORWALK'S PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT FOR DRG 2021-1 DREAMY HOLLOW/BETTS BROOK AREA DRAINAGE, SANITARY SEWER & WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT BEING ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR THE PURPOSE OF RELOCATING THE SANITARY SEWER. THE MAYOR WAS AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH COLONNA CONCRETE & ASPHALT PAVING LLC. ON DECEMBER 7, 2021, BY THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL AND ON DECEMBER 14, 2021 BY THE COMMON COUNCIL, RESPECTIVELY. (COPY INCLUDED)

Account No. 09204062-5777-C0361

Mr. Kolb said that this is a major DPW storm drainage project in the Dreamy Hollow area and currently the sanitary sewer and water lines are in the path of where the proposed storm drain system is going to be installed so these costs cover the relocation and sizing of the sanitary sewer in the area of where the new drainage will be installed.

****MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**** MR. CAMACHO AMENDED THE MOTION AND MOVED TO APPROVE ITEMS 10-12.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

11. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS TO ISSUE ORDERS ON CONTRACT WITH COLONNA CONCRETE & ASPHALT PAVING LLC. FOR THE PROJECT DRG 2021-1 DREAMY HOLLOW/BETTS BROOK AREA DRAINAGE, SANITARY SEWER & WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$148,031.25.

Account No. 09204062-5777-C0361

12. AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$43,168.01 TO WOODARD & CURRAN AS PART OF THE CITY OF NORWALK'S PRELIMINARY FOURTH AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT DATED AUGUST 12, 2019 TO PROVIDE CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH DRG 2021-1 DREAMY HOLLOW/BETTS BROOK AREA DRAINAGE, SANITARY SEWER & WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT BEING ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR THE PURPOSE OF RELOCATING THE SANITARY SEWER. THE MAYOR WAS AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A FOURTH AMENDMENT WITH WOODARD & CURRAN ON DECEMBER 7, 2021 BY THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL AND ON DECEMBER 14, 2021 BY THE COMMON COUNCIL, RESPECTIVELY.

Account No. 09204062-5777-C0361

13. CONTRACT OPERATIONS REPORT:

a. SUEZ Monthly Operating Report – November 2021 (copy included)

Mr. Marcin reported and said the collections team was able to complete 1.7 miles of tv inspection and 1.35 miles of cleaning for the month. He said our collections system technical expert had come in and he spent three days with the team and made several field observations as well as finalized the installation and pilot tested three new smart manhole cover technologies from a new vendor at three locations and that the trials went okay but found the smart covers we currently have are far superior.

Mr. Marcin said we will be using the utilization of drone technology for the inspection of some of the larger sewers and mapped out a plan that the collections system technical expert will pursue and do a pilot for drone technology.

Mr. Marcin said the IPP inspection program continued and did 37 locations and continued to receive septage from Stamford while their construction is ongoing, and the facility remains at severity level two for Covid precautions although we recently have been escalated to severity level tree which limits the visitors we can receive at the facility as well as inter-project travel restrictions for our employees.

Mr. Marcin said we were in compliance with all permits for the month of November and the monthly nitrogen performance remained good.

Mr. Marcin said staff is preparing for the merger with Veolia which will take place on January 18, 2022, and there will be a series of meetings and possible site visits as part of the merger at the Norwalk facility.

b. Odor Control Project Update

Mr. Marcin said a functional startup of the odor control system was done last Thursday and operated as anticipated but there is a list of punch list items, so the contractor is on site this week to complete all of those items. He said we are preparing for a full and permanent start up either next week or the following week.

c. Orchard Street Sanitary Sewer Improvements Update

Mr. Marcin said the preparations continue to be finalized for the Orchard Street lining project and are in the process of completing a small excavation that is necessary for the bypass pumping on Quincy Street and once that is completed with finish the permitting process and anticipate the execution of that project in late January or early February.

Mr. Clark said he noticed the nitrogen levels have been up for the year and asked if there is a reason for that. Mr. Marcin said the flows continue to be up from the storm events that we

have been experiencing, but nothing that was out of the ordinary just an upward trend and one of the things we are working on is to operate the wastewater treatment plant with lower secondary sludge blankets because with the storm events we had this summer we had fared well with having those blankets be at a lower level.

14. REPORTS

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

There was no discussion

- b. Draft FY 22/23 Capital Budget (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said the capital budget request was submitted and are asking for \$3 million dollars in capital funding for the collections system. He said because of the pending consent order and proposed facility plan update will look at other improvements at the WWTP and have included a place holder of \$5 million per year for a total of \$15 million dollars, but over the next few years those numbers will be refined.

He said Brown and Caldwell is in the design phase for collections system rehabilitation work in the Bell Island and Sammis Street pump station sewer sheds. This area is in a tidal area so CIPP lining would help prolong the life for an additional 50 years for the sanitary mains in those areas and reduce infiltration into the collections system.

- c. Discussion on WPCA Projects:

- 1) Collections System Master Planning

Mr. Kolb said Brown and Caldwell had come to the site last Friday and had a meeting with staff on the hydraulic model that is being calibrated based on the flow data that was done early last year, along with meeting with the SUEZ team to fine tune the model so it can predict storms in the future. He said it is a work in progress and will continue to be worked on in 2022 and eventually be included in the collections system master plan as we identify projects and associated costs.

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

Mr. Kolb said the project is coming to an end and there are a couple of small areas within Norwalk that we are still looking to CIPP line, and are now working with their new manager for the project at Green Mountain Pipelining Services to be sure the punch list is up to date and a final schedule of when that work will take place.

- 3) Collection- Belden and Burnell Blvd. Gravity Sewer

This was discussed under item 5 of the agenda.

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

Mr. Kolb said that the Holzner Electric Company is relocating the sanitary sewer through a special chamber and is a \$2.1 million dollar project that was awarded a few months ago.

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

Mr. Kolb said that Kovacs is upgrading four pump stations but have been dealing with material shipping delays due to Covid and anticipates work to pick up in January with three of the four stations to be completed by August 2022.

6) PS- Bell Island PS Improvements

Mr. Kolb said that staff is working with the SUEZ team on the pumpstation improvements.

7) WWTP- Aeration Tanks Electrical Infrastructure Improvements

Mr. Kolb said this item was approved earlier tonight

d. Sewer Use Bill Appeals/Adjustments Update

1) Maritime Aquarium

Mr. Kolb said the Maritime Aquarium did have some questions earlier regarding their sewer bill but will be paying the charge and there will be no appeal or sewer use adjustments submitted.

2) Appeal Status

Mr. Kolb said the appeals to date are \$ 134,441.

e. Information Copies

1) 2022 WPCA Meeting Schedule (copy included)

There was no discussion.

2) WPCA Contact List (copy included)

There was no discussion.

15. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. CAMACHO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd