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**CITY OF NORWALK
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
REGULAR MEETING
June 21, 2022**

Attendance: Darren Oustafine, Chairman
Barbara Smyth
John Bove
John Igneri
Chris Mannella
Neal Konstantin

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

Others: John Marcin, Project Manager, SUEZ
Matthew Brown, Asst. Project Manager, SUEZ
Carena Massey, Jacobs Engineering

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. INTRODUCTION OF JOHN IGNERI AND CHRIS MANNELLA

Mr. Oustafine welcomed Mr. Igeneri and Mr. Mannella to the WPCA.

3. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM WPCA MEETING HELD ON MAY 16, 2022. (COPY INCLUDED)

Under the attendance, remove Mr. Clark as an attendee.

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND SECRETARY FOR PERIOD BETWEEN JULY 1, 2022, TO JUNE 30, 2023

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED TO NOMINATE MR. OUSTAFINE AS CHAIRMAN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MR. BOVE MOVED TO NOMINATE MR. IGNERI AS VICE CHAIRMAN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO NOMINATE DILENE BYRD AS SECRETARY.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. CONTRACT OPERATIONS REPORT:

- a. Veolia Monthly Operating Report- May 2022 (copy included)

Mr. Marcin reported and said the collections system teams performed over three miles of TV inspections, cleaned over two miles of sewer, inspected over 109 manholes, and also spend a considerable amount of time of the hotspots. He said they also completed over 20 miles of hot spots and two miles of the SL-RAT inspection.

Mr. Marcin said there were a number of tours in May, and in June had 40 students from Brian McMahan High School do a tour and there were a lot of good questions and dialogue with the students. He said that several members of the WPCA as well as staff from the finance department had also taken a tour on separate visits and the tours went well and encouraged the members of the WPCA to come and take the tour. Ms. Smyth said there are a few Common Council members that would like to take the tour and requested that it be scheduled over the next month or so and there may be also members of the WPCA who were not able to take the tour the last time that may want to attend.

Mr. Marcin said that there was a cookout held on May 18, 2022, to commemorate the two-year anniversary with the City of Norwalk.

Mr. Marcin said that 47 industrial pre-treatment inspections were completed and continue to receive the septage from Stamford while they complete their construction.

Mr. Marcin said they were in compliance with all the permits for the month of May and the nitrogen was reduced to 480 lbs. per day for the month which lowered the annual average for another consecutive month.

b. Strawberry Hill Avenue Emergency Sewer Work- 6/15/22

Mr. Marcin said last Wednesday evening they received a report of water leaking on Strawberry Hill Avenue just outside of the back entrance to Norwalk High School and determined there was a break in the force main. He said it was an excellent team effort right from the notification and were able to shut down the pump station and haul the wastewater by using septage trucks so the pipe could be drained and investigate the cause of the failure and found that there was a patch that was placed on the original 12" force main which had ultimately failed and caused a leak in the force main. He said the team started the repair at 4:30PM and the repair was completed, and the road was paved by 5:00AM the next morning. Ms. Smyth commended Mr. Marcin and Mr. Kolb and their team for the work that was done, and the middle school graduations were being held that evening and she did not receive a single complaint. Mr. Kolb said he was very happy with the team. Mr. Carr said there was no disruption in service and thanked the team and said they had a good system in place. Mr. Oustafine suggested that staff save the pipe so if the DEEP asks if any force main inspections were done there is a section of pipe which is invaluable and would not be obtained without destructive testing. Mr. Kolb said that staff is working with the Veolia team and their resources to see what technologies are available for inspections of force mains without completely shutting down pump stations. Mr. Marcin said staff was also able to apply the new SCADA feature and was helpful in the field during this emergency situation.

c. Orchard Street Sanitary Sewer Improvement Updates

Mr. Marcin said they will be moving forward soon on the Orchard Street project, and it is a complicated project with a lot of public interfaces.

d. Major Repair or Replacement/ Out of Scope Items- None

6. REPORTS

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

There was no discussion.

b. Discussion on WPCA Projects:

1) Collections- Sanitary Sewer System Rehabilitation- Various Locations (Project Presentation by Jacobs Engineering)

Ms. Massey presented and the sanitary sewer improvement project and said the system services over 70,000 people in Norwalk, Wilton and Westport. She said there are over 200

miles of sanitary sewer, 22 pump stations, over 6000 manholes, over six miles of force mains, and two major siphons and began this project in 2016 and have over 75% of the collection system sewer pipe PACP coated. She said the collection system concerns focus is on broken and deformed sewers, historical problem areas and force main and pipes down stream of force mains, and the cost of the project was \$2.75 million dollars and targeted 36 pipe segments determined by risk analysis, and out of the 7 hot spots at the time had targeted 43 locations that needed sewer rehabilitation, 13 locations were put on the hot list, 12 locations will remain on the hot spot list and 11 locations were removed and the Marvin Beach force main replacement was designed but there was a major failure before this project was able to get into construction but by having the 90% design documents completed were able to quickly begin the force main replacement. She discussed the program moderations and said as part of the project they decided to include additional pipes for repair based on the likelihood of failure.

Ms. Massey discussed the summary of the project and said it started off with \$2,775,775.00 and the cost of the project to date is \$5,361,426.45 and includes almost doubling the CIPP lining and added 2,000 large diameter CIPP lining and tripled the amount of sewer replacements and added some short liners. Ms. Smyth asked where the funding came from for the increased cost of the project. Mr. Kolb said thorough the WPCA available capital budget that are dedicated for collections. He also said that Green Mountain Pipe Liners did all of the work and had honored their pricing from 2018 so the rates have been excellent.

Ms. Massey said the project achievements includes targeting municipality concerns in a cost-effective manner, adding twice the amount of the scope to the original project and were able to repair over 21,000 additional feet of pipe, and rehabilitated pipes prior to them needing to be replaced saving over ten times the cost of dig repairs by CIPP lining.

2) Collection System Master Planning

Mr. Kolb said we are due to submit the updated collections master plan to the State of Connecticut by September 30, 2022, and Brown and Caldwell is the consultant that has been working on the collection system master plan and he should be receiving rough draft of the plan over the next few weeks.

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

Mr. Kolb said that Ms. Massey is the engineer on this project as well and the work is in progress.

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

Mr. Kolb said that Kovacs Construction has been working on the pump station projects and the upgrades will not be completed until early next year due to shipping delays but are hoping the Karen Drive Pump Station rehabilitations completed late fall.

5) PS- Bell Island PS Improvements

Mr. Kolb said this was a change order for Kovacs and they will be adding a bypass connection on the force main.

- 6) PS- Fort Point PS Improvements
There was no discussion.

- 7) WWTP- Aeration Tanks Electrical Infrastructure Improvements

Mr. Kolb said that electrical infrastructure improvements are being made at the wastewater treatment plant and that work is ongoing and anticipates that work to be completed later this year.

- 8) SCADA Upgrade Phase III

Mr. Kolb said they are down to 12 open items of equipment from the 1990's that was not on SCADA so they are adding them so that the operations team knows what it is happening at all times and will give them the flexibility if an adjustment needs to be made.

Mr. Mannella disclosed that Kovacs Construction is working for him as a subcontractor on a project that is unrelated to the City of Norwalk.

- c. Sewer Use Bill Appeals/Adjustments Update

- 1) Appeal Status

Mr. Kolb said the sewer use appeals/adjustment to date are \$224,820, and the fiscal year 2022/23 tax bills have gone out including the sewer use charges.

- d. Information Copies:

- 1) NACWA-2021 Cost of Clean Water (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said the average sewer use fee in the United States is \$551 for a single-family residence for wastewater services in the country, and Norwalk is at \$382. He said the WPCA has done very well to operate, continue to invest into its assets and keep the rates down for the Norwalk users.

- 2) Final Nitrogen Credit Exchange (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said that DEEP has just sent out the final nitrogen credit exchange for calendar year 2021 and Norwalk is number four and will be receiving \$79,077 in nitrogen credits.

Mr. Bove acknowledged the Bloom family and Copps Island Oysters, and said it was great to tour their facility. Ms. Smyth agreed and said that it was a terrific experience and is great to see the results of the work of the people to keep our water clean and the health of the water and oysters.

7. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. BOVE MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:23PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd