

**CITY OF NORWALK
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
JULY 19, 2010**

Attendance: Darren Oustafine, Chairman
Lewis Clark, Vice Chairman
Doug Hempstead
Fred Wilms
Frederika Bikakis-Hajian
Laurel Lindstrom
Andy Conroy

Staff: Hal Alvord, DPW Public Works Director
Lisa Burns, DPW Operations Manager
Ralph Kolb, DPW Wastewater Systems Manager
Dilene Byrd, DPW Secretary

Others: Rick Lavoie, CH2MHILL, OMI
Lailani Metzler, Malcolm Pirnie

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Oustafine called the meeting to order at 5:34PM

**2. APPROVE MINUTES FROM WPCA MEETING HELD ON JUNE 21, 2010 AND
SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON JUNE 24, 2010. (COPY INCLUDED)**

**** MR. CLARK MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JUNE 21, 2010
** 3 ABSTENTIONS- HEMPSTEAD, BIKAKIS-HAJIAN AND LINDSTROM
** MOTION PASSED**

**MR. CLARK MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM SPECIAL MEETING ON JUNE 24,
2010
** TWO ABSTENTIONS- HEMPSTEAD AND BIKAKIS- HAJIAN**

4. REPORTS

- a. FY 09/10 Revenues/Expenditures Report (MUNIS report included)
Ms. Burns said that all invoices are due by July 30, 2010, and she will report on the year end numbers for fiscal year 2009-10 at the September meeting.
Mr. Wilms arrived at 5:38PM

- b. WWTP Phase I Upgrade Project Update (Report Attached)
Mr. Kolb said that Norwalk Marine continues to install the second row of walers and bracing and LCI continues to excavate. He said that there will be a second load test on the pilings that will begin on July 21, 2010. Mr. Hempstead asked if more piles will be required than what were required on the first design. Ms. Burns said that has not been an official determination and are waiting for the results from the load test. She said that a third party expert has been brought in which is Haley and Aldrich who did the original pile design and site work for the upgrade in the 1990's to oversee the current engineer. Ms. Lindstrom asked if there will be an increase in cost for the piles. Mr. Kolb said that there is that potential but that it would come out of the contingency fund. Mr. Conroy asked how much money is in the contingency fund. Mr. Kolb said that there is currently approximately \$1.4 million dollars.
- c. Contract Operations Status- Annual Inspection Report (representative from Malcolm Pirnie to attend, copy included).
Ms. Metzler said that the report covers the period from April 2009 to April 2010, and it includes site inspections. She said that the overall report is positive and that all of the treatment areas are performing very well. She said that the most deficient side of the Wastewater Treatment Plant is the head works but the capital upgrade project (Phase I) will address that. She said that she inspected five of the pump stations and only one had received a low ranking due to the pumps being old and starting to fail, which has been identified and the new replacements are on the way. She said that nitrogen removal is at its best since 2002 and is currently 119 pounds per day below the general permit requirement. She said that the City along with OMI's help has sent out the fees for the Industrial Pre-Treatment Program for the second year and in the initial fee collection the City reported a 90% success rate in collecting the fee.
- d. Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Registration Fee- Waive fee until January 1, 2011
Mr. Kolb said that on July 1, 2011, all class III and IV food establishments must comply with the DEP general permit for fats, oils, and grease. He said that staff has been waiving the registration fee to help business's during the current economic conditions and would like to keep doing that until January 1, 2011. Chairman Oustafine asked if some businesses will go out of business due to site restraints. Mr. Alvord said "no" and there is an inside alternative unit that is acceptable. He said that the objective of the program is not to generate revenue but to control the high strength dischargers that are coming into the Wastewater Treatment Plant. After further discussion the Board agreed to waive the fee until January 1, 2011.
- e. Connection Fee Appeal- 45 East Rocks Road (copy included)
Mr. Kolb said that the resident is an elderly gentleman who is currently on septic, He is trying to obtain a reverse mortgage and his bank is mandating that he connect to the city sewer. He said that staff is recommending not waiving the connection fee because there have been hardships equal to this one presented in the past which have been denied. Mr. Conroy asked how many waivers have been done to date. Mr. Alvord said there has only been one at 80 Fair Street which was a redevelopment project. Mr. Hempstead asked if there is a mechanism in place that in the case of a hardship that the fee could be spread out over a ten year period with interest and assess it on the tax bill. Mr. Alvord said "no" and that he does not believe that can be done because it is not a tax. After

further discussion it was the consensus of the Board not to waive the sewer connection fee.

f. Sewer Use Bill Appeals/Adjustments Update

1. Appeal Status

Mr. Kolb said that the adjustments for fiscal year 2009-10 were \$152,623, and to date for this fiscal year are \$42,654 of which \$35,000 were expected.

2. 79 Seaview Avenue Sewer Appeal

Mr. Kolb said that this is a commercial property that is billed the flat rate of \$365 per sewer and the property is connected however, there was a fire a couple of years ago and the property is vacant but is still connected to the city sewer. He said typically for residents and commercial sites that are vacant and are connected to the city sewer are charged the sewer use fee but if they file paperwork to disconnect through a sewer capping the fee would be removed until the property connects again. After further discussion it was decided not to waive the sewer use fee.

g. OMI Report:

1. Monthly Operating Report- June 2010 (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said that for the month of June there were some monthly permit violations and performance guarantee exceedances. He said that there were also two solids excursions. He said that nitrogen fell into band "D". Mr. Oustafine asked if the Wastewater Treatment Plant is now under control. Mr. Kolb said "yes".

2. Draft Nitrogen General Permit (copy included)

Ms. Burns said that she and Mr. Lavoie had attended the information session in Hartford and that she will be making two comments on behalf of the City.

3. Septage Receiving Station Letter (copy included)

Mr. Wilms asked if Ms. Bloom has responded to the letter. Ms. Burns said "no" but since receiving the letter they are now using the correct pin numbers. Ms. Bikakis-Hajian asked why it took so long to find the problem. Mr. Kolb said that it is an automated system and that it used to be done on the honor system, and haulers would purchase tickets and hand them in when they dumped. He said that when the old system was being used it brought in approximately \$250,000 in revenue and there were more companies and more trucks that dumped, and today approximately \$550,000 is collected with fewer companies and fewer trucks. He said that there were some concerns that companies were getting around the automated system so he had a camera installed. Ms. Bikakis-Hajian asked if staff thought this will be paid. Ms. Burns said that she would need to negotiate with them on what restitution they will be making. Mr. Hempstead asked how much Sutherland brings in per year. Mr. Kolb said anywhere from \$ 60,000 to \$100,000 per year. Ms. Bikakis-Hajian suggested that it may be cost effective to have someone monitoring the system. Ms. Burns said that she has no available personnel and that someone would need to be stationed there at all times, but when she has light duty personnel available she stations them there. Ms. Bikakis-Hajian said that they should not only be fined but also arrested. Ms. Burns said that would be up to the prosecutor. Ms. Burns said that the next meeting will be held with the Corporation Counsel.

4. Contract Year 11- CPI Adjustment (copy included)
Mr. Kolb said that this is confirming that the 2.08% CPI adjustment is acceptable.

5. ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. BIKAKIS-HAJIAN MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 6:05PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Dilene Byrd

DRAFT