

**CITY OF NORWALK
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
FEBRUARY 22, 2010**

Attendance: Darren Oustafine, Chairman
Lewis Clark, Vice Chairman
Mayor Moccia
Laurel Lindstrom
Fred Wilms
Frederika Bikakis-Hajian

Staff: Hal Alvord, DPW Public Works Director
Lisa Burns, DPW Operations Manager
Ralph Kolb, DPW Wastewater Systems Manager
Tom Hamilton, Finance Director

Others: Rick Lavoie, CH2MHill, OMI

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Oustafine called the meeting to order at 5:30PM

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM WPCA MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 25, 2010

**** MS. LINDSTROM MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**3. SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED FY 2010-11 SEWER USE RATES ON
MARCH 15, 2010 AT 5:30PM (DRAFT NOTICE INCLUDED)**

Mr. Oustafine said that there are Westport residents connected to the Norwalk sewer system and asked if the legal notice is correct in stating "Sanitary sewer charges apply within city limits only". Ms. Burns said "yes" because that is how the State Statute reads.

**** MR. WILMS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. REPORTS

- a. FY 09/10 Revenues/Expenditures Report (MUNIS report included)
Ms. Burns said that the projections for the year have been included in the proposed operating budget. She said that on the expenditure side that account 452D and 452E were entered into MUNIS incorrectly and are reversed and she is working that out with the Comptrollers office.

- b. Draft FY 10/00 Capital and Operating Budget (copies included with the capital sheets)
Ms. Burns distributed the financial model and discussed the operating budget. She said that the rate increase was based on a \$12 rate increase for the residential rate, and a \$20 rate increase on the commercial flat fee for 110,000 gallons, and an additional \$0.35 cents per 1,000 gallons above that. Mr. Hamilton asked if the financial model is assuming the Phase II project. Ms. Burns said “yes” and is assuming \$95 million dollars in additional expenditures. Mr. Wilms requested that in the future that any financial targets that are trying to be maintained be put into a separate section so it is clearly identifiable on the financial model. Mr. Hamilton asked that the financial model be run with a fifteen dollar increase rather than a twelve dollar increase to see what it does for the out years. After further discussion it was decided to advertise the residential rate for \$250.00.
- c. WWTP Phase I Upgrade Project Update
1. Construction Webcam available on the WPCA Website: www.wpcanorwalk.org (link is located on bottom of Phase I project page under current/recent projects)
Mr. Kolb gave an update on the status of the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade.
- d. Update on the request made by the owner at 23 Lindenwoods Road (copy included)
Ms. Burns said that staff had met with Bob Maslan and looked at all of the sewer extensions that were done, and how they were done in the past ten years. Mr. Maslan prepared a legal opinion which states that the Corporation Council has researched the statutes and ordinances that pertain to the installation on and maintenance of municipal and private sewerage systems, and they found no statute or ordinance that authorizes the City or the WPCA to enter into private developer’s agreement. She said that she has sent a copy of the letter to the Attorney who is involved and has not yet heard back from him.
- e. 6 Redwood Road- Sewer Connection Fee Discussion (copy included)
Ms. Burns said that she had called the homeowner and left a message stating this was going to be on the agenda, and to contact her for further information and she had not received a phone call back from them. Ms. Bikakis-Hajian asked if there is a hardship involved. Mr. Alvord said “no” not that he is aware of.

**** MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO DECLINE THE REQUEST**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- f. 1 Strathmore Lane
Mr. Kolb said that prior to 2008 they have paid their sewer use bill. He said that Pepe & Hazard has now gotten involved as well as the Tax Collector. Mayor Moccia said in the future that this should be referred to the Tax Collector so that a lien can be placed on the property and that a Lawyer should not be obtained.
- g. Sewer Use Bill Appeals/Adjustments Update
1. Appeal Status
Mr. Kolb said that the adjustments to date are \$87,632.

- h. FOG Regional Facility Update
Ms. Burns said that when the DEP had sent out their Clean Water Fund priority list this year they had indicated that they had grant monies available for exploring regional Fats, Oil and Grease receiving stations. She said that she had written a letter to the DEP stating that if there is money available that Norwalk would be willing to look at doing a study and constructing Fats, Oils, and Grease receiving station. She said that this could potentially be a revenue generator which could be used to offset the sewer rates. Mayor Moccia asked where the receiving station will be located. Ms. Burns said at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. She said that staff has put together a draft request for qualifications and that the cost of the study will be approximately \$50,000 and will be 55% grant. She requested that Mr. Clark be on the selection panel if this moves forward.
- i. Information Copies
 - 1. 2009 CSO Monitoring Report (copy included)
No discussion.
 - 2. Tighe & Bond- 2009 CT Sewer Rate Survey (copy included)
No discussion.
 - 3. DEP Compliance Inspection Report (copy included)
No discussion.

5. CONTRACT OPERATIONS REPORT

- a. Public Works Director Report:
 - 1. Odor Issues
Mr. Kolb said that no odor complaints have been received. Mayor Moccia requested this item be removed from the agenda unless there are odor complaints received.
- b. OMI Report:
 - 1. Monthly Operating Report- January 2010 (copy included)
No discussion.

8. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. WILMS MOVED TO ADJOURN**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**
The meeting adjourned at 6:35PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Dilene Byrd