

**CITY OF NORWALK
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
FEBRUARY 23, 2009**

Attendance: Darren Oustafine, Vice Chairman
Mayor Moccia
Faye Bowman
Lewis Clark
Frederika Bikakis-Hajian
William Krummel
Fred Wilms
Andrew Conroy

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

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

**2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM WPCA MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 26, 2009.
(COPY INCLUDED)**

**** MR. CLARK MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES WITH CORRECTIONS
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**3. SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED FY 2009-10 SEWER USE RATES
ON MARCH 16, 2009 AT 5:30PM (DRAFT NOTICE INCLUDED)**

Mr. Krummel asked if there is any data available stating the average annual consumption for single family and two family residences. He said he would like to see the relationship for commercial mixed use properties and single family and two family residences. Ms. Burns said that she does not have that information with her, but said they are not the same rate and that the commercial consumption is higher. Ms. Burns said that she would e-mail that information to Mr. Kummel. She said that there is a very in depth study that is being finalized on consumption based billing and that the consultant will be sending her the revised draft report. She said that she will share the report at the next Board meeting and also at the Finance Committee meeting on March 12, 2009.

Mr. Krummel asked about the returned check fee of \$50.00. Ms. Burns said that the Board had approved the \$50.00 returned check fee for the IPP program and she wanted to be consistent.

**** MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. REPORTS

- a. FY 08-09 Revenues/Expenditures Report (MUNIS report included)
No discussion.
- b. Draft FY 09/10 Operating and Capital Budget (copies included)
Ms. Burns said that some projections were done based on the year to date report of where the WPCA will end up in every account at the end of the fiscal year. She said that the actuals were down in the Wilton sewer use fees, and that other revenues are down significantly for the year which is mainly due to the current economic conditions. She said that nitrogen credits will be received for last year in the amount of \$ 170,820. Mayor Moccia asked how many individual accounts are uncollected. Mr. Hamilton said that last year he had provided the Board with a list of delinquent accounts and would provide an updated list at the Board's request. Mr. Wilms said that \$450,000 is being projected for the IPP surcharge and asked what that is being assumed at. Ms. Burns said that by moving forward with the fee next year, the projection is based on the formula that was originally shared with the Board. Mr. Wilms asked about the interest on the delinquent accounts and the investment income. Ms. Burns said she was not able to get confirmation from the Tax Collector on the interest from the delinquent accounts, and that the investment income number comes from Fred Gilden.
- Ms. Burns said that there have been no major changes on the expenditures side. She said that the salary increases are based on the collective bargaining agreements, and step increases for staff. She said that the O&M fee is what is paid to OMI, Inc. for contract operations for the facility which is set by contract, and also includes amendment 3. She said that the indirect expenditures are what the WPCA transfers to the city for financial services. She said that legal services were decreased and is somewhat dependent on if it is decided to proceed with the process for looking at obtaining the water consumption data from the First District Water Department.
Mr. Hamilton left at 6:00pm
- c. WWTP Phase I Upgrade Status
Ms. Burns said that phase one of the WWTP upgrade is at the 30% design point and that a very productive value of engineering session was held last week. She said that it will go out to bid by the end of April 2009, and will be ready to award the project by June 30, 2009, which is the DEP deadline. She said that Norwalk was on the list and the Bond Commission had approved \$34.8 million dollars in Clean Water Funds, but now with the Stimulus money the word from the DEP is that Norwalk will be on the list for the full \$45 million dollars. She said that there are problems with the Stimulus money which were not anticipated. She said that the buy American provision was not factored into the cost of the WWTP upgrade and will increase the cost of the project if that provision moves forward.

- d. Westport Avenue Area I/I Remediation Project- Freeholders Process Update (letter included)
Mr. Kolb said there were 8-10 homeowners that work had been done on their property and are being assessed through the Tax Collector for the next 10 years. He said the total assessment is \$76,554. Mayor Moccia asked if interest is charged. Mr. Kolb said he is unsure and would have to check with the Tax Collector.
- e. Norwalk River Interceptor Project Update
Mr. Kolb said that Spiniello Company is in the process of lining the 48" west side interceptor and as of today have lined approximately 1200' of sewer. He said that that the contractor discovered approximately 130' of 48" pipe was in very bad condition south of I-95 along Oyster Shell Park. Mr. Krummel asked what the life expectancy is of the liner. Mr. Kolb said that the liner is guaranteed for 10 years, but the expectancy is 50 years. Ms. Burns said that before and after pictures will be provided at next months Board meeting. She said that there were a few odor complaints received from the residences of Maritime Yards due to the installation of the liner, and that the contractor has been working with the management company regarding that.
- f. Discussion on the Mobile Radio Survey (Mesh Network)
Mr. Alvord said that the Board had requested written input from other departments stating that they would use the system if the WPCA spends the additional funds to set up the mesh network. He said that he had received an e-mail from the Police Department stating that the mesh network would not do them much good and also from the Fire Department stating that they would be interested, but that they don't have any specific applications at this time. Ms. Burns said that staff is proposing to use the RF solutions.
- g. Sewer Use Bill Appeals/Adjustments Update
1. Appeal Status
Mr. Kolb said that do date \$380,549 in sewer use adjustments have been made.
- h. Information Copies
1. WPCA Contact List (copy included)
No discussion.
2. 2008 CSO Annual Report (copy included)
No discussion.
3. Request for Qualifications- Renewable Energy Options for the WWTP (copy included)
Ms. Burns said that 17 responses were received from the request for proposal from consulting firms and teams. She said that she has asked Tom Hamilton to participate on the selection panel.
4. Estimated 2008 Nitrogen Credit (copy included)
Mr. Kolb said that Norwalk is expected to receive \$170,820 in nitrogen credits.
5. NACWA Newsletters (copy included)
No discussion.

5. CONTRACT OPERATIONS REPORT

a. Public Works Director Report

1. Odor Issues
No discussion.

b. OMI Report

1. Monthly Operating Report - January 2009 (copy included)
Mr. Lavoie said that there were no permit violation issues but had 2 performance guarantee excursions.
2. Collection System and Pump Station MRR Accounts (copy included)
Mr. Lavoie said the collection system cleaning and TV work is down due to the cold weather, but that the robot system was out for the entire month and completed approximately 3 miles of TV work. He said that the off line sewer siphon was TV'd and it was discovered that it has been off line for over 15 years. He said there were no problems discovered with the siphon and he is waiting on the report to confirm. He said if the report confirms there are no problems it will be put back on line to relive some of the pressure on the south side siphon chamber during a wet weather event. Mayor Moccia asked what the reason was for taking it off line. Mr. Lavoie said that no one remembers why it was taken off line, but was probably due to flows.

6. ACTION ON ANY ITEM DISCUSSED HEREIN

No discussion.

7. ADJOURNMENT

**** MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 6:30PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Dilene Byrd