

CITY OF NORWALK  
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY  
September 15, 2014

Attendance: Darren Oustafine, Chairman  
Lewis Clark, Vice Chairman  
James Clark  
John Flynn  
Galen Wells  
Doug Hempstead  
Dave McCarthy

Staff: Hal Alvord, DPW Director  
Lisa Burns, DPW Operations Manager  
Ralph Kolb, DPW Senior Environmental Engineer

Others: John Ahern, CH2MHill, OMI, INC  
Kevin Dahl, CH2MHill, OMI, INC.  
Lonnie Metzler, ARCADIS  
Cathy Mallon, ARCADIS  
Marie Oravez  
Diane Lauricella

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS ONGOING LITIGATION WITH  
FLOWSERVE ABOUT MAIN LIFT PUMPS' FAILURE**

**\*\* MR. JAMES CLARK MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Executive session began at 5:32PM

Executive session ended at 5:50PM

No action taken

**3. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM WPCA MEETING HELD ON JULY 21,  
2014 (COPY INCLUDED)**

**\*\* MR. MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED**

**\*\* ONE ABSTENSION- MS. WELLS**

**\*\* MR. MCARTHY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **4. REPORTS**

- e. Discussion on sewer use fees for accessory apartments  
Ms. Burns said that that it is the recommendation of staff that for next rate setting to make an accessory apartment rate which will be 1 ½ times the single family rate. She said that she has spoken with the Tax Collector and she said that it would be extremely problematic to make any changes to the current year's rate structure. Mr. James Clark asked what Ms. Oravez or someone in her position does in her situation. Ms. Burns said that there is no appeal because there is currently no rate so therefore there is nothing to appeal.

**\*\* MR. FLYNN MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MR. MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THAT THE PROPERTY AT 8 MYRTLE STREET ONLY BE CHARGED 1 ½ TIMES THE EXISTING RESIDENTIAL RATE AND THE BALANCE BE REFUNDED AS A RESULT OF A RATE APPEAL.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- a. FY13/14 and FY 14/15 Revenues/Expenditures MUNIS Report (copies to be handed out at the meeting)

Mr. Kolb reported on the FY 13/14 report and said that \$68,254 was spent in the legal services account and the initial budget was \$30,000, which was due to various litigations with Flowserve and the NPDES permit. He said that everything else has tracked as expected.

- b. Contract Operations Status- Annual Inspection Report (draft report previously distributed, representatives from ARCADIS to attend)

Mr. Kolb said that each year ARCADIS performs an annual inspection and they are here to report on their findings. Ms. Metzler reported and said that overall it appeared that the general maintenance throughout the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the pump stations was deficient during the evaluation period snapshot. She said that many pieces of equipment were observed or reported in disrepair, primarily at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and that this is not typical of findings from observations made during many previous inspections. For example, the aeration system which is the "heart" of the biological process at the Wastewater Treatment Plant had only nine of the ten IMLR pumps operating which could affect nitrogen removal performance. She said that currently the Supplemental Facility has been awarded the lowest risk ranking at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and that during the evaluation, the screens were observed

with debris and standing water from the previous rain event and although the system is challenging to clean, the screens are past their useful life and standing water and debris will aggravate its deteriorating condition. She said that the WPCA should continue to implement improvement plans as noted in the capital planning program. She said that of the nine pump stations that she inspected, four of them received a low risk rating of two which included Bouton Street, Marvin Beach, Shady Beach and Keeler Brook, and is mostly due to older infrastructure. She said that as the WPCA continues to prioritize pump station improvements and that she recommends that these four stations be considered for upgrades. She said that it was out of the ordinary this year when she went through the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and said that for many years the plant has excelled in both treatment and condition. She said that during the inspection she had noted various things and that she immediately discussed the findings with OMI, Inc. staff as well as the WPCA staff, and they had quickly gotten together and discussed the findings and put a plan forward to repair the items in a prioritized manner. She said that it is her understanding that the critical items were tackled first. Ms. Burns said that there are still some outstanding items and that staff is continuing to work with OMI, Inc., and that all the critical systems are operating properly. She said that staff did get OMI, Inc. engaged immediately and they came through and performed a thorough examination of all the processes, and they brought in a number of outside resources in order to address things quickly. She said that Kevin Dahl has been on site every week since this has happened, and has been present at all the weekly coordination meetings. Mr. James Clark asked what process has been changed so that this will not happen again. Mr. Dahl said the communication protocols had to be reviewed so this would be prevented in the future.

- c. Discussion on the Beacon Street Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project  
Mr. Kolb said that the contractor is currently on site and they are cleaning and televising the sanitary sewer lines for lining purposes. He said that due to a Parks and Recreation project at the Nathan Hale school field that staff was concerned of their activities effecting the sanitary sewer line. He said that they have expedited the lining of a 600' section and that they are performing the work today and that it should be completed tonight. He said that due to work be expedited there was a \$10,000 extra change order on the project.
- d. Discussion on ongoing investigation by Norwalk Police Department  
Ms. Burns said that there is some apparent investigation from the Norwalk Police Department and that staff is not sure what they are investigating. She said that approximately one month ago that detectives had come down to speak with her and Mr. Kolb, but that they could not say if the WPCA was a subject or a target of the investigation, and they had also requested to interview a number of OMI, Inc. staff. She said for a time they were working with the Police Department but at some point they had gotten their Corporate Attorney involved because it is unclear as to what is being investigated. She said that the WPCA has also engaged its environmental Attorney. Mr. James Smith asked if the detectives have filled in the Attorney as to what they are investigating. Ms. Burns said "no".
- f. Discussion on the Sammis Street Pump Station (report included)  
Mr. reported and said this week the contractor will be pouring the concrete. Mr. Flynn asked why it is taking so long to complete the project. Mr. Kolb said that per the contract they have 365 days to complete the project.

- g. DPW Open House- September 27<sup>th</sup>  
Mr. Kolb said the the DPW open House is scheduled for September 27, 2014, from 10:00AM- 1:00PM at the Public Works Center and that Wastewater Treatment Plant tours will be given.
  
- h. Sewer Use Bill Appeals/Adjustments Update
  - 1. Appeal Status  
Mr. Kolb said that the adjustments to date are \$ 103,303
  
- i. Information Copies:
  - 1. WWTP Performance Guarantee Non-Compliance Report  
Mr. Kolb reported on the performance guarantee non-compliances for July and August. Ms. Burns said that she want to clarify that non-compliant means that they are compliant with the NPDES operating permit, but they are not compliant with the levels in the actual contract that are the requirements from the State. She said that staff is not recommending that any penalties be assessed.
  
  - 2. OMI Monthly Report- July and August 2014 (copy included)  
Mr. Kolb reported on the major items that were completed and said that AJ Penna has repaired the force main on Hawkins Avenue. He said that nitrogen fell into band "D"

## **5. ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MR. JAMES CLARK MOVED TO ADJOURN**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 6:45PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Dilene Byrd