

CITY OF NORWALK  
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY  
September 21, 2015

Attendance: Darren Oustafine, Chairman  
Lewis Clark, Vice Chairman  
Dave McCarthy  
John Flynn  
Jerry Petrini  
Frederika Bikakis-Hajian

Staff: Bruce Chimento, DPW Director  
Lisa Burns, DPW Operations Manager  
Ralph Kolb, DPW Senior Environmental Engineer  
Chris Cavalier, WPCA Junior Engineer

Others: John Ahern, CH2MHill, OMI, Inc.  
Paola Molloy, CH2MHill, OMI, Inc.  
Greg Bazydola, ARCADIS  
Lonnie Metzler, ARCADIS  
Eric Muir, CH2  
Chris Pierce, Wright-Pierce  
Scott Orentstein, Goldberg Segalla

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND SECRETARY**

**\*\* MR. MCCARTHY MOVED TO NOMINATE THE CURRENT SLATE OF OFFICERS AND SECRETARY**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**3. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM WPCA MEETING HELD ON JUNE 15, 2015  
(COPY INCLUDED)**

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

**\*\* MOTION PASSED**

**\*\* ONE ABSTENTION- MS. BIKAKIS-HAJIAN**

**4. AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OR VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH CH2M IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000 TO PROVIDE ON-CALL PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCOPE OF SERVICES LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER 14, 2015 (COPY INCLUDED)**

**ACCOUNT NO. 09144062-5777-C0361**

Ms. Burns said that is one of a series of three on-call contracts that the WPCA staff is putting before the Board for approval. She said that the intent is that each of the on-call engineering agreements will have a project or task order for the hours for each of the categories and that it will be led by staff. She said that the WPCA has not gone out for any solicitation for professional services in quite a long time so staff thought the procurement should be refreshed. She said that the scope of services for that the agreement with CH2M is for the on-call engineering services for the wastewater collection system, and the current programs are the Ely Avenue replacement or construction of the pump station, the Marvin Beach force main replacement, the East Avenue interceptor capacity restoration project and various priority sewer rehabilitation projects.

**\*\* MR. FLYNN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Petrini arrived at 5:50PM

**5. AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OR THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH ARCADIS U.S., INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000 TO PROVIDE ON-CALL PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCOPE OF SERVICES LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER 4, 2015 (COPY INCLUDED)**

**ACCOUNT NO'S. 09084062-5777C0256, 09124062-5777-C0360, 09154062-5777-C0544, 09154062-5777-C0545**

Ms. Burns said that the scope of services for the ARCADIS agreement is for the solids handling facility improvements, aeration system and blower improvements, wet weather treatment improvements and influent sluice gate replacement within the Wastewater Treatment plant site. She said that staff anticipates looking at the solids handling facility for improvements which will need to be done prior to the agreement expiring with CH2M for contracts operations, and said that staff may want to separate out the solids handling and disposal from the O&M agreement when it goes out to bid for the operation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**\*\* MR. MCMARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- 6. AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OR THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH WRIGHT-PIERCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250,000 TO PROVIDE ON-CALL PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE PUMP STATION AND ANN STREET SIPHON CHAMBER PROJECT (PROJECT: WPCA2013-1) (MEMORANDUM INCLUDED)**

**ACCOUNT NO. 09124062-5777-C0360**

Ms. Burns said that the scope of services for the Wright-Pierce agreement is to begin looking at the problematic pump stations and will begin with the Keeler Brook pump station and then the Fort Point pump station.

**\*\* MR. MCMARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- 7. AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OR THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE FEBRUARY 24, 2014 WITH DELRAY CONTRACTING INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$22,499.66 FOR THE SAMMIS STREET PUMP STATION AND ANN STREET SIPHON CHAMBER PROJECT (PROJECT: WPCA2013-1) (MEMORANDUM INCLUDED)**

**ACCOUNT NO. 09114062-5777-C0360**

Mr. Kolb said that the \$22,499.66 deficiency is for the clean-up of the project. Mr. McCarthy said that the pump station looks great. Mr. Clark asked if this will conclude the project. Mr. Kolb said "yes" with the addendum the only item that is outstanding is the automatic air relief valves, and the check valve limit switch and that they are in and now need to be installed. Mr. Clark asked if there will be a change order for that work. Mr. Kolb said "no" and that the cost is included. Mr. Flynn asked when they will be installed. Mr. Kolb said that he is waiting to hear back from the engineer on the dates but that it will be soon.

**\*\* MR. FLYNN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**8. AUTHORIZE TRANSFER FROM REPLACEMENT RESERVE ACCOUNT (224062-5789) TO CONTRACT OPERATIONS ACCOUNT (224062-5258) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200,000 THAT WAS PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD ON DECEMBER 15, 2014 TO REIMBURSE OMI AND THE WASTEWATER AND COLLECTION SYSTEM MAJOR REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT FUND (MRR)**

Mr. Kolb said that the \$200,000 was approved by the Board on December 15, 2014, and that the monies are going to get put into MRR and utilized once the Pine Point sewer work was completed. He said because this is an operating account that staff will need a re-authorization of the funds because it is a new fiscal year. Mr. McCarthy asked if Pine Point Road will now be paved. Ms. Burns said that is now at Public Works and that she would get back to them with the schedule.

**\*\* MR. FLYNN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9. AUTHORIZE TRANSFER FROM REPLACEMENT RESERVE ACCOUNT (224062-5789) TO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ACCOUNT (224062-5258) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$314,458.50 THAT WAS PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD ON JANUARY 12, 2015 FOR PAYMENT OF INVOICES TO ARCADIS U.S., INC. RELATED TO THE MAIN INFLUENT PUMP AND RELATED EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

Mr. Kolb said this is the same situation as the prior agenda item and is for monies that were approved for ARCADIS for the main lift pump project for \$314,458.50, and is for the payment of invoices that have not been paid to date.

**\*\* MS. BIKAKIS-HAJIAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**10. AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OF VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND GENERAL RELEASE WITH THERESA PONGER AT 23 MACINTOSH ROAD FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000 FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF SEWAGE DAMAGE (CLAIM SUBMISSION AND DRAFT AGREEMENT INCLUDED)**

Mr. Kolb said that staff had originally requested the homeowner to sign a release or go through the claim process. He said she has now submitted a claim on June 23, 2015, and documented the damage. He said that the issue now is that she does not have the

funds to pay for the damages and the City will not release the funds. Attorney Orenstein said that the proper approach to this is to have a settlement agreement and have a general release signed by both the WPCA and the resident. Mr. Kolb said that due to the concerns with the situation Mr. Orenstein's firm would be the escrow agent, and that the WPCA would pay the escrow agent and they would release the funds to the contractor and whatever funds are not used once the work has been completed would be released back to the WPCA.

**\*\* MR. FLYNN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **11. REPORTS**

- a. FY 14/15 and FY 15/16 Revenues/Expenditures MUNIS Report (copy included) Ms. Burns reported and said that fiscal year 14/15 ended positively, and that the WPCA continues to be in a healthy financial position, and continues to maintain a healthy operating reserve.

Mr. Kolb reported on FY 15/16 and said that there is over \$600,000 in additional sewer use charges received which is more than was anticipated. Ms. Bikakis-Hajian said that the principal debt service is over \$5 million dollars but that it was not paid. Ms. Burns said that she thinks it is due to the cash versus accrual basis but that she would check with the Finance Director. Mr. McCarthy said to get a better clarity since there has been a change he requested that Mr. Barron and or Mr. Gilden attend the next WPCA meeting.

- b. Contract Operations Status- Annual Inspection Report (please bring draft report previously distributed to Board members, representatives from ARCADIS, US. Inc. to attend)

Ms. Metzler reported and said she is happy to report that overall the improvement and observations were positive this year, and that nothing that is not typical at a Wastewater Treatment Plant was observed, and that the focus areas continue to be addressed. She reported on the pump stations and said that this year there was an added table for pump stations to the report where all 25 pump stations are now shown, and includes the current rankings on them, and that overall out of the 22 wastewater pump stations, eight of them currently have a risk ranking of two, and that none had a risk rating of one, and that most of them are already identified as part of a maintenance program. She said that from a permit perspective there were no permit violations for the fiscal year other than

a maximum daily on one occasion that was due to high flows, and there were no monthly exceedences. She said that from a nitrogen perspective for calendar year 2014, the Wastewater Treatment Plant ended up owing the State money to buy credits to break even with their limit and this year from the point the evaluation was stopped the plant is in line to receive credits back.

c. WPCA Staff Organizations Restructuring:  
1) Operations Manager

Ms. Burns said that there have been some changes and that her position as Operations Manager has been moved to City Hall to overlap with the existing Principal Engineer who plans to retire soon. She said that previously she was a 0.6 employee with the WPCA and that 60% of her time was spend on WPCA projects, and it is yet to be determined moving forward on how much of her time will now be available to the WPCA. She did not believe there is a plan to fill the Operations Manager position once she vacates it to Principal Engineer. Ms. Bikakis-Hajian asked who is now doing the work of the Operations Manager. Ms. Burns said that she will continue to assist with the capital projects aspect of WPCA work. Ms. Bikakis-Hajian asked who was currently doing the day to day work that the Operations Manager was doing, and said that she does not think it is fair to pass the work onto someone who is already overworked, and that there is a need to find a qualified individual that can fill the position to continue the great work that has been done.

2) Sr. Environmental Engineer

Ms. Burns said that Mr. Kolb is the Senior Environmental Engineer and is a .75 employee to the WPCA, and said that he also does stormwater and solid waste programs and projects. She said that he is essentially doing the same things now minus the solid waste portion which has been moved to another employee in the department.

3) Junior Engineer- Introduction of Chris Cavalier

Ms. Burns said that there has been a staff change with the Jr. Engineer and the Wastewater Systems Technician, and said that two Jr. Engineers have been swapped. Mr. Berkun has been moved to City Hall to work on permits. He has DPW permit experience previously. She said that Mr. Cavalier was the Permit Engineer and is now with the WPCA and is new to wastewater.

4) Wastewater Systems Technician

Ms. Burns said that the Wastewater Systems Technician, which had been Kyle Bader is responsible for approximately \$1 million dollars worth of revenue has left to take a promotion at the Health Department.

Mr. Chimento said that Mr. Kolb will be more involved with the day to day operations at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The position is currently vacant and being advertised. Some existing DPW interns are interested in the position. Mr. McCarthy said that he understands the movements, and has no problem with them, but that he is a bit concerned with the size of the operation if something were to happen. Mr. Petrini said that he shares the same feelings and that he has serious concerns with the changes, and that he is willing to give anything a try but that he is opposed to defunding the position of the Operations Manager. Ms. Bikakis-Hajian said that she agrees. Mr. McCarthy said that he doesn't know if this many changes this fast is the right way to go. Mr. Chimento said that the Wastewater Systems Technician will be filled soon, and that Mr. Cavalier is a fast learner and has a lot of experience with city construction and plan reviews. Mr. Mc McCarthy asked since a portion of the Operations Managers salary is funded thorough the WPCA if the Board has a vote. Mr. Orenstein said that the WPCA is an authority created by statute, and that the powers would be designated by statute and city ordinance, and he does not know what it states as far as the ability to determine staffing, but that he would add it to his lists of tasks and report back to the Board if desired

**\*\* MR. FLYNN MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MR. MCCARTHY MOVED TO DIRECT SCOTT ORENSTEIN TO PROVIDE COUNSEL ON THE STAFFING ISSUE**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNNANIMOUSLY**

d. Discussion on the Proposed Mall Project

Mr. McCarthy said that he had attended the public hearing and that gentlemen had stood up and spoke, and that he had also put his thoughts into a letter that was in the newspaper last night. Mr. McCarthy read the letter and said that it is a valid concern at some level, and since it was put forth publicly twice he wanted to be sure that everyone on the Board and staff was aware of it. Mr. Kolb said that in the NFDES permit the design rating the State has for Norwalk is 18MGD and that the Wastewater Treatment Plant would have to be at 90% of that flow for

180 days, and that the Wastewater Treatment Plant now is less than 14 MGD per day on an annual average. Ms. Burns said that average daily flow has been coming down which is primarily due to the wet weather projects, and rehabilitation projects that have been done in the collections system. She said that in addition to that in 2006 the Board had adopted the sewer connection fee and any developer coming into the City pays a significant connection fee to connect to the system, and the fee is based on the size of the water meter. Mr. McCarthy requested that a semi-annual report be done on the new large developments that would be adding large capacity to the system so that the Board is aware of what that number is.

e. Discussion on WPCA Project:

1) Main Lift Pump Replacement Project

i. Flygt Pump Price Proposal

Ms. Burns said that the main lift pump project is out to bid and that the bids are due back on October 21, 2015. She said that there was a mandatory pre-bid meeting held today, and that the engineers estimate for the job is between \$3.9 and \$4.8 million dollars. Mr. Bazydola provided an update on the project. Ms. Burns asked if the Board had an upper negotiating limit. After further discussion it was the census of the Board that there is no limit but to get the best deal possible.

2) Beacon Street Interceptor Service Area Sewer System Rehabilitation Project

Mr. Kolb said that a majority of the work has been completed but that on William Street there is approximately a 600 foot section of pipe that needs to be televised to identify any repairs and that will close out the original project. He said that in addition to that smoke testing was done in the Saddle Road area on Clara Drive due to a pollution concern, and that will also be addressed under the lining and point repair project. Mr. Flynn asked what a pollution concern is. Mr. Kolb said it is wastewater getting into the storm pipe. He said that staff is putting a scope together to obtain pricing from the contractor. He said that on Lockwood Lane is another location where it was identified approximately 1200 feet that staff would like to line because sewage is leaking out of the sanitary main into the storm.

- 3) Sammis Street Pump Station and Ann Street Flood Damage Upgrade  
Mr. Kolb said that there are a few minor items to be addressed and then the project can be closed out with FEMA and the insurance company.
  
- f. Sewer Use Bill Appeals/Adjustments Update
  - 1) Appeal status  
Mr. Kolb said that the adjustments to date are \$24,115.
  
- g. Information Copies:
  - 1) OMI Monthly Operating Reports-June/July/August 2015 (copy included)  
Mr. Kolb reported and said that nitrogen was in band "D" and that the Wastewater Treatment Plant continues to perform very well.
  - 2) Contract Year 16-CPI Adjustment Letters (copy included)  
Mr. Kolb said that there is a zero percent CPI adjustment.
  - 3) Sewer Rate Information  
No discussion.

**12. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS ONGOING LITIGATION WITH FLOWSERVE ABOUT MAIN LIFT PUMPS' FAILURE AND EXPERT WITNESSES**

**\*\* MR. MCCARTHY MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION  
\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Executive session began at 6:55PM  
Executive session ended at 7:37PM  
No action was taken.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MR. MCCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7:37PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Dilene Byrd