

**CITY OF NORWALK
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
REGULAR MEETING
April 21, 2025**

Attendance: Darren Oustafine, Chairman
Chris Mannella
John Bove
Barbara Smyth
Heather Dunn (Arrived at 5:40 PM)

Staff: Vanessa Valadares, Chief of Operations and Public Works
Ralph Kolb, WPCA Senior Environmental Engineer
Nelya Bauer, Wastewater Systems Manager
Wilber Giron, DPW Permit Engineer

Others: Trever Steeprock, Project Manager, Veolia, Inc.
Ross Gambino, Asst. Project Manager, Veolia, Inc.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Oustafine called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Oustafine called the roll; all those listed in attendance were present.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Santos Martinez- 184 Bouton Street

Mr. Martinez said he lives at the end of the street and is still on Septic, and their system is old and at the end of its useful life. He said he requests the city's help to extend the sewer line to the end of the street so additional properties can tie into the sanitary sewer. He said the properties are small, so replacing the current septic system will be challenging if it fails. There is also an issue with the water table being very high and having a problem with water retention from Brien McMahon High School, which saturates the ground at their properties and is a challenge because

there is a lot of water. Five houses are currently on septic and requesting the sewer line be extended so they can connect to the city's sanitary sewer.

Sean Rosa- 178 Bouton Street

Mr. Rosa said if the sanitary sewer is extended, there is a potential for approximately 10 houses or more to connect, which would mean more property tax revenue for the city. He has lived there for over 20 years, and when the field at Brien McMahon was redone, the turf field did not absorb the water, and the field was pitched towards the hill, so the water ran through all of the yards. The resident at 182 Bouton Street is elderly, and she has two sump pumps that run 24/7 year-round, and she has lost furnaces over it, and the water is non-stop. He said the septic tanks are getting old, there is so much runoff, and the houses are in rough shape.

Christina Valasquez- 188 Bouton Street

Ms. Velasquez said she lives with her mother at the last house on Bouton Street. She agrees with the previous comments and that they also get a lot of water, which has been worse since the field at Brien McMahon was redone.

Mr. Oustafine encouraged those who spoke to attend the public hearing to provide their opinion and address their concerns.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting: March 17, 2025

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING ON MAY 19, 2025, AT 5:30 PM FOR PROPOSED SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION FOR 2 MULLER AVENUE, NORWALK, CT.

Mr. Giron said that staff requests the board to reschedule the public hearing, which was initially scheduled for today. However, the applicant failed to notify the public in a timely manner, as required by the policy for the extension and the state statute. He said that staff requests that the public hearing be rescheduled for May 19, 2025, to give the applicant the time needed to notify the public accurately.

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

**B. SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING ON MAY 19, 2025, AT 5:30 PM FOR SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION REQUEST ON BOUTON STREET, NORWALK, CT.
(COPY INCLUDED)**

Mr. Giron said that the staff requested that the board consider scheduling a public hearing based on a petition from the neighborhood. The city is asking to extend the sewer extension to be incorporated into the capital project, and the fee will be passed onto the neighborhood should it get approved.

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C. AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OR VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH TIGHE AND BOND TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING AND CIVIL SERVICES RELATED TO SITE PLANNING, LAND USE EVALUATION, BUILDING ASSESSMENT, DRAINAGE ANALYSIS, PERMITTING FOR A MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT, AND OTHER RELATED WORK FOR THE SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$250,000.

Mr. Kolb said the WPCA team went out with an RFQ and conducted interviews last week. Based on the committee's decision, Tighe and Bond were the consultants selected to view the RFQ and the presentations. This project is for the acquisition related to the Keeler Brook pump station project that has been discussed in previous meetings.

**** MS. DUNN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Contract Operations Report

1. Veolia Monthly Operating Report- March 2025 (copy included)

Mr. Steeprock reported that in March, the Veolia collections system team completed 1.46 miles of TV inspection, .93 miles of sewer cleaning, 17 manhole inspections, 6.11 miles of SL Rat, .62 miles of hot list cleaning, and responded to 16 service calls. The IPP inspection program conducted 24 inspections.

Mr. Steeprock said the return-activated sludge (RAS) flow controllers were removed and updated with a new flow control system. The Veolia maintenance team emptied and cleaned aeration tank #3. An air

Mr. Steeprock said the nitrogen performance for March was good, considering the colder temperatures. He said all permits and permit requirements were followed and that all the required reports were submitted to the DEEP and EPA. The bi-monthly and quarterly sludge reports were submitted in March. Connecticut State Aquaculture visited the site and conducted grab sampling of the effluent following an illness outbreak. Still, they are certain that it is related to Norovirus, not shellfish.

Mr. Steeprock said in March that there were two high-level events at the Keeler Brook pump station, and the new system provided early warnings. Since the issues last month, we have had a significant decrease in issues and an increase in pump quality, and the redundancy is doing what it is supposed to do.

2. Major Repair or Replacement/Out of Scope Items:

a. Keeler Brook Temporary Control Panel (copy included)

Mr. Steeprock said they have an agreement with the WPCA and subsequently with vendors to prepare a separate control panel for the Keeler Brook pump station. The intention is to run the pump station as if it were a normal pump station, even though temporary pumping measures are being used. The control panel is currently being constructed and should be completed within the next few months.

b. Wet Weather Chemical Pump Skid (copy included)

Mr. Steeprock said this project will replace pumps for the wet-weather flow, as the existing pumps did not allow for a good range of coverage. The skid and pump have been ordered, but unfortunately, they have a very long lead time of 90-120 days and were ordered a month ago.

c. Old Trolley Way Pump Station Site Restoration (copy included)

Mr. Steeprock said the site will be rehabilitated, which will include upgrading the fence, and is in the planning and ordering phase, and is working on getting the driveway permit submitted.

B. Reports:

1. FY 24/25 Revenues/Expenditures MUNIS Reports (copy included)

There was no discussion.

C. Discussion on WPCA Engineering Projects:

1. Beacon Street Sanitary Sewer

Ms. Bauer said the project is progressing from 60% to 100% design and is working to expedite the bid documents.

2. Hubbell's Lane Relief Sewer

Ms. Bauer said the project is at 90% and is working to reconfigure the alignment at the Park Street/East Wall Street intersection.

3. Final Settling Tank

Ms. Bauer said the kickoff meeting was held last week, and the ARCADIS team inspected the final settling tanks as a baseline.

D. Discussion on WPCA Construction Projects:

1. Collection- Sammis and Bell Island Sewershed Rehabilitation

Ms. Bauer said 75% of the manholes and lateral grouting work has been completed, and the team should complete the work by September 30th.

E. Sewer Use Appeals/Adjustments Update

Ms. Bauer said the sewer use appeals/adjustments to date are \$82,724.

F. Information Copies: None

Mr. Manella asked about the status of the potential FEMA reimbursement for the Keeler Brook pump station. Ms. Valadares said they have received mixed information, and a few items may not be considered part of the reimbursement. She said staff will continue applying and working and applying for the reimbursement. She also reminded the board that receiving FEMA funding takes a long time to process.

Ms. Valadares said that Ms. Bauer is leaving the WPCA for new professional adventures and thanked her. Ms. Bauer said she has enjoyed working with the WPCA and has been an amazing experience. The WPCA board wished her luck in her future endeavors.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd