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**CITY OF NORWALK
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 18, 2023**

Attendance: Darren Oustafine, Chairman
John Igneri, Vice Chairman
Chris Mannella
John Bove
Heather Dunn

Staff: Vanessa Valadares, Chief of Operations and Public Works
Ralph Kolb, WPCA Senior Environmental Engineer

Others: Mathew Brown, Project Manager, Veolia, Inc
Ross Gambino, Asst. Project Manager, Veolia, Inc.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Oustafine called the meeting to order at 5:30PM. There was not a quorum present.

2. PUBLIC INPUT- (GUESTS AT THE WPCA MEETING AMY SPEAK TO ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA. COMMENTS SHALL BE LIMITED TO NO MORE THAN THREE (3) MINUTES PER SPEAKER.)

There was no public input this evening.

4. CONTRACT OPERATIONS REPORT

a. Veolia Monthly Operating Report- November 2023 (copy included)

Mr. Brown reported and said November was another successful month and the collections team completed 3 ½ miles of TV inspection, 3 ¼ miles of sewer line cleaning, and 1.23 of SR RAT sonar inspection. He said that 134 manhole inspections were also done as well as 39 IPP samples and inspections. He said they have begun a large implementation project on the aeration basins and the project was originally set to begin when Veolia took over the contract, but had identified some infrastructure issues and had done a large conduit project and the same company that did all of that work is doing the instrumentation installation along with SCADA contractor and should be tied into the SCADA system at the end of January.

Mr. Brown said that a full-time office administrator has been hired and she is a Norwalk native and has had a long career in the corporate world in Stamford as an executive assistant and she will start on January 2, 2024. He said as he mentioned at the last meeting the utility worker has been promoted to Operator I and has recently hired a new utility worker who is currently finishing a seasonal position at Recreation and Parks and will be starting on January 8, 2024.

Mr. Brown said the facility was in compliance with all permit requirements for the month of November, and the average flow for the month was 11.9, and the average flow for a six-month rolling average is 12 for the flows.

b. Sludge Blend Tank Rehabilitation Update

Mr. Brown said that the coating team completed the interior and exterior tank for blend tank number one, but some of the electrical piping still needs to be done and should be fully back online by the first or second week in January. He shared before and after pictures and said that they did a phenomenal job on the project.

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

1) Bell Island PS Stair Replacement (copy included)

Mr. Brown said the Bell Island pump station which is a small pump station and most of it is underground the staircase that goes to the bottom of the wet well is the original staircase and is very corroded and unsafe so they have worked with WPCA staff and decided it was best to replace the staircase and should be installed at the beginning of the new year.

Ms. Dunn joined the meeting at 5:33PM.

2. **APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE WPCA MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 20, 2023 (COPY INCLUDED)**

On page 2, item 2, change “of” to “on”

**** MR. IGNIERI MOVED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR (4) IN FAVOR AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION- MS DUNN.**

5. REPORTS

a. FY 23/24 Revenues/Expenditures MUNIS Reports (copy included)

There was no discussion.

b. Draft FY 24/25 Capital Budget (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said there are two requests for fiscal year 2024-25 and the first is for just over \$13 million dollars for the collection system rehabilitation and the monies that are being requested is following the Collection System Master Plan and Facility Plan and follows the recommendations as the plan suggested. He said for the wastewater treatment plant part of the Facility Plan that was submitted there were \$68 million dollars in total over 10 years of recommended non-consent order items and staff would like to move the final settling tank project forward at a cost of approximately \$20 million dollars, and the blower project at a cost of \$18 million dollars which will help to reduce greenhouse gases as well as electrical costs at the wastewater treatment plant, and will be phase I of three phases of the aeration system. He said there is over \$8 million dollars of past appropriations for this project and that is why they are only recommending \$30 million dollars for the project over the next three years, and because it is part of the Facility Plan that was submitted to the state for review and approval it is more of a placeholder.

c. Discussion on WPCA Engineering Projects:

1) Catch Basin Disconnect Program

Mr. Kolb said he just received the draft basis of design report for the catch basin disconnect program. He said that 38 catch basins have been identified as semi or critical that are connected to the sanitary sewer system that they are looking to disconnect. He said that he requested a meeting with the DPW engineering team later this week to engage them on the

report, so they are a part of project as they evaluate the feasibility and eventually go into design to separate the catch basins.

Mr. Mannella asked if there is an update on the pile that was through the pipe of Moody's Lane. Mr. Kolb said the pile was removed successfully and they cleaned approximately 600' of pipe and a seal was installed to keep the river water from entering the pipe at the penetration. It was a successful project and he shared all of the costs with the city's legal team, and they are working with existing property owners to determine who is responsible for which cost.

2) Hubbell's Lane Relief Sewer

Mr. Kolb said he just received the 30% design documents last week and the WPCA will be reviewing that and submitting any comments back to the engineer following review.

3) Keeler Brook PS Replacement

Mr. Kolb said within the past week WPCA staff submitted the required documents to Zoning for a zoning permit and there is a meeting scheduled this week with the legal team.

d. Discussion on WPCA Construction Projects

1) Collection- Sammis/Bell Island Sewershed Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation

Mr. Kolb said the contract was just signed with Insituform and 45,000 to 48,000 linear feet of sanitary sewer pipe will be lined, and there is a kickoff meeting with the construction team that is scheduled for January 3, 2024, and he would anticipate that in early spring that they will bring in their subcontractor to begin cleaning and televising to sections of sanitary sewer to be lined.

2) Collection- Dreamy Hollow

Mr. Kolb said the contractor is working on Saddle Road to rehabilitate some sanitary sewers that had a reversed pitch and needed to be replaced and the work is ongoing. In addition to that staff has been working with Woodard and Curran on a design for the Dry Hill Road area where there are two catch basins that are connected to the sanitary sewer, and the design they are proposing would allow them to disconnect those two catch basins from the sanitary sewer and connect it to a box culvert on Dry Hill Road out to Friendly pond and would also improve the drainage in in area.

3) PS- Five Mile, Old Trolley Way, Karen Dr., and Woodward Ave. Rehabilitation

Mr. Kolb said three of the four pump stations have been completed and the Old Trolley Way pump station is the last to be completed and the electrical contractor is on site to prepare for the pipe and pump replacement. He said there are some change orders that have been approved, but the work has not yet begun. Mr. Brown shared photos of the work.

e. Sewer Use Bill Appeals/Adjustments Update

1) Appeal Status

Mr. Kolb said the appeals to date are \$35,589.

f. Information Copies:

1) 2024 WPCA Meeting Schedule

Mr. Kolb noted that in January and February there are holidays on the third Monday of the month so the WPCA meeting will be held on that Tuesday.

6. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR.IGNERI MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:52PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd