

**CITY OF NORWALK
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
REGULAR MEETING
October 21, 2024**

Attendance: Darren Oustafine, Chairman
John Igneri, Vice Chairman
Chris Mannella
John Bove
James Frayer
Barbara Smyth

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

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

There were no public comments this evening.

**3. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE WPCA MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 16,
2024**

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. APPROVE UPGRADING THE OPEN ASSISTANT CIVIL ENGINEER POSITION TO A WASTEWATER SYSTEMS MANAGER POSITION IN THE FY 2024-25 WPCA OPERATING BUDGET (COPY INCLUDED)

Ms. Valadares said considering the way the employment market is and based on some of the applications that have been received for different positions it will be better to change this open position from a civil engineer position to a wastewater systems manager position, particularly with the amount of work that will now be faced with the Keeler Brook pump station. The cost will be minimal and will not affect the rates. Ms. Smyth asked if that would leave the WPCA short-staffed by not having the assistant civil engineer. Ms. Valadares said “no” because this is a new position. Mr. Oustafine asked how much the additional cost would be. Mr. Kolb said the financial model was rerun with the new salary and benefits for that position so in fiscal year 2024-25 there will be approximately a \$15,000 difference. Mr. Frayer asked if they would have any impact on the budget. Ms. Valadares said “no” and the budget will be able to absorb the increase.

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE UPGRADING THE OPEN ASSISTANT CIVIL ENGINEER POSITION TO A WASTEWATER SYSTEMS MANAGER POSITION IN THE FY 2024-25 WPCA OPERATING BUDGET.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS TO ISSUE ORDERS ON CONTRACT WITH GRASSO CONSTRUCTION FOR RD2024-3 BEACON STREET CURBS AND SIDEWALKS PROJECT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$75,000

ACCOUNT NO. 09244062-5777-C0361

Ms. Bauer said there is a current DPW curbs and sidewalks project that is in progress and as part of that project will be replacing portions of the sanitary sewer laterals that are beyond their useful life at nine residential locations to be sure they are not damaged as part of the sidewalk work. This is ahead of the sanitary sewer Beacon Street project which is approximately 1500 linear feet of new sanitary sewer main and will also be upsizing it from the 15” sanitary sewer to a 24” sanitary sewer to improve the capacity and mitigate flooding. Mr. Mannella asked if the 146’ of laterals would be replaced for the nine residential locations. Mr. Kolb said “yes” approximately.

**** MR. FRAYER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS TO ISSUE ORDERS ON CONTRACT WITH GRASSO CONSTRUCTION FOR RD2024-3 BEACON STREET CURBS AND SIDEWALKS PROJECT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$75,000.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. CONTRACT OPERATIONS REPORT:

- a. Veolia Monthly Operating Report – September 2024 (copy included)

Mr. Steeprock reported and said in September the Veolia collections system team completed 1.23 miles of TV inspection, the cleaning of 3.53 miles of sewer lines, 18 manhole inspections, 3.33 miles of SL Rat, and 1.79 miles of hot list cleaning.

Mr. Steeprock said the IPP inspection program conducted 32 inspections, and the storm channel under building five leading to Outfall 002 was cleaned.

Mr. Steeprock said they did not experience a wet weather event in September.

Mr. Steeprock reported on the regulatory events and said the facility followed all permit requirements for the month of September, and all the reporting was completed and submitted to the CT-DEEP and the EPA. The bi-monthly sludge and quarterly sludge reports were submitted in September.

- b. Nitrogen Performance

Mr. Steeprock said that they received a draft notice for CTDEEP stating that Norwalk was ranked fifth in the state for Nitrogen performance for 2023.

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

- 1) Building No. 2 Floor Improvements (copy included)

Mr. Steeprock said he has one MRR item for the building #2-floor rehabilitation project and they have received the quotes which have been submitted, and the vendor has been selected and will be scheduling the work in the next few weeks.

7. REPORTS:

- d. FY23/24 and FY24/25 Revenues/Expenditures MUNIS Reports (copies included)

There was no discussion.

- e. Facility Plan Update

Ms. Bauer said the team is currently working on a response back to the CTDEEP.

f. WPCA public entrance and office space layout enhancement

Ms. Valadares said with the two new positions they would like to take the opportunity to change the layout. We have also been listening to some of the residents as they find it confusing when they are coming for a permit and have engaged an architectural firm to come up with a layout that would be a better fit.

g. Discussion on WPCA Engineering Projects:

1. Beacon Street Sanitary Sewer (copy included)

Ms. Bauer said Brown and Caldwell are progressing with the project and are awaiting the updated survey file to do the design work for that project.

2. Catch Basin Disconnect Program

Ms. Bauer said that WPCA staff will be scheduling a meeting with DPW staff to discuss the project.

3. Hubbell's Lane Relief Sewer

Ms. Bauer said they received 90% drawings last week and had a review meeting with Brown and Caldwell today to review the drawings. She said that WPCA staff will also be scheduling a meeting to meet with DPW staff to discuss the project.

h. Discussion on WPCA Construction Projects

1) Keeler Brook PS Replacement

Ms. Bauer said that staff has been working with Kovac's and they have completed the bypass connection for the force main and have submitted the bid documents to the contractors and should have the pricing in November.

Mr. Frayer said at the last meeting it was discussed that there may be possible funding from FEMA for this project and asked for an update. Ms. Valadares said that staff is looking at all possibilities, and to receive FEMA funding the area needs to hit a certain threshold and staff believes that the Keeler Brook pump station will bring the area to the threshold, but FEMA has not yet confirmed. She said that the staff is investigating to see if it is possible to get a reimbursement from insurance for the bypass and the work that was done in the first 24-hour period. Mr. Kolb said that staff is also working with the risk manager to purchase one diesel pump and one electric pump as there will be a cost savings to the city by owning the pump and once the new station is up and running the pumps can be utilized. Mr. Frayer asked if the \$300,000 that was approved last month was still a good number. Mr. Kolb said "yes" for the emergency work.

2) Collection – Sammis and Bell Island Sewershed Rehabilitation (copies Included)

Ms. Bauer shared the progress of the projects and said the project is 88% complete and the contractor has successfully completed a majority of the lining work and staff is looking to add some additional lining work to the contract.

i. Sewer Use Bill Appeals/Adjustments Update

1) Appeal status

Ms. Bauer said the appeals to date are \$51,448.

j. Information Copies:

Nitrogen Program- 2023 (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said that almost \$50,000 in nitrogen revenue or credits has been collected.

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd