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**CITY OF NORWALK  
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL  
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE  
REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 16, 2023**

Attendance: Darren Oustafine, Chairman  
John Ignieri, Vice Chairman  
Barbara Smyth  
Greg Burnett  
Chris Mannella  
John Bove  
Neil Konstantin

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**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 participation this evening.

**3. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM WPCA SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2023, AND WPCA MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2023. (COPIES INCLUDED)**

On the minutes from September 14, 2023:

Under the attendance change “Bovi” to “Bove”

On the minutes from September 18, 2023:

On page 5, change the motion from “The motion passed unanimously with six (6) in favor and one (1) Opposed- Mr. Meek” to The motion passed with six (6) in favor and one (1) Opposed- Mr. Meek”

**\*\* MR. BURNETT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4. AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OR VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH INSITUFORM TECHNOLOGIES, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,363,047.50 FOR THE SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT (PROJECT: WPCA 2023-01). (LETTER ATTACHED)**

ACCOUNT NOS. 09194062-5777-C0361, 09204062-5777-C0361, 09224062-5777-C0361, AND 09244062-5777-C0361

Ms. Bauer said the project consists of 45,300 linear feet of pipelining which is approximately 8 ½ miles located primarily in the Bell Island and Sammis Street sewer sheds. She said that three bids were received for the project on September 28<sup>th</sup> and Insituform Technologies was the lowest bidder, and Brown and Caldwell reviewed the bid packages and submitted a letter of recommendation to award the contract and staff agrees with their recommendation.

**\*\* MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS TO ISSUE ORDERS ON CONTRACT WITH INSITUFORM TECHNOLOGIES, LLC FOR THE SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT (PROJECT: WPCA 2023-01) FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$850,000.**

Account No. 09244062-5777-C0361

Ms. Bauer said this is for change orders that may come up during the project and is approximately 25% of the total project cost.

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

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6. CONTRACT OPERATIONS REPORT:**

a. Veolia Monthly Operating Report – September 2023

Mr. Brown presented and said the Veolia collection system team completed 3.5 miles of TV inspections along with the cleaning of 3.5 miles of sewer lines, and 62 manhole inspections. He said the IPP inspection program conducted 30 inspections.

Mr. Brown said the centrifuge has been down for over a month and has sent the internals of the unit to Wisconsin for repair, but it will take some time to do the extensive testing before they can send it back but are expecting it by the end of November. In the meantime, they have been hauling liquid sludge to keep the plant compliant and the plant is running great.

Mr. Brown provided an update on the repairs to the blend tanks and said the steel repairs have been completed and are tentatively scheduled to be delivered the second week in November to begin the coating and that should be a two-week process.

Mr. Brown presented and said that Kevin Mauricin and John McGarty both were born and raised in Norwalk and work for Veolia and were in the operations challenge and represented the State of Connecticut and qualified in the regionals and went on to the world operators challenge which were held in Chicago a few weeks ago, and the team finished in the top half, and they did very well.

Mr. Brown said that Veolia has an environmental health and safety audit team, and a safety audit was done at the facility and had the review call last week and out of all of the audits that were ever done with Veolia or SUEZ the Norwalk facility had the fewest findings in the audit history which means they had the fewest issues. Mr. Burnett said it is great news about the audit but asked what findings were found. Mr. Brown said there were minor findings such as at the CSO tank instead of having a chain at the steps they would rather see a safety swing gate or removable railing and things of that nature, but there were no regulatory findings.

Mr. Brown said for the month of September the facility was in compliance with all the permit requirements and all of the reports were submitted to the state. He said there was one sanitary sewer overflow which occurred during a heavy rain event and had two outfall 002 activations and one was on September 10<sup>th</sup> and the other was on September 29<sup>th</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup> and all systems and processes worked great and received all the regulatory documents back from the lab and everything passed, and everything went well during the events.

b. Smart Sewer Network NEWEA / NYWEA Presentation

Mr. Brown said the New England Water and Environment is hosting a risk and resiliency conference in Stamford for the region and John Marcin who was the previous project manager and Tim Sullivan who is the present collection system manager will be giving a 30-minute presentation on risk and resiliency and how they use technology positively in the collection system.

Mr. Konstantin said there are so many good things going on and Veolia and staff are doing such a great job and asked if there is any way to publicize all the great things. Ms. Valadares said each Wednesday DPW posts information on social media, and this can be included. Ms. Smyth also suggested adding something to the mayor's dashboard.

c. Major Repair or Replacement / Out of Scope Items: None

## **7. Reports:**

a. FY23/24 Revenues/Expenditures MUNIS Reports (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said that everything is tracking as expected and noted that they have recently received the check in the amount of \$942,000 from the town of Wilton for their sewer use fee for fiscal year 2023. He said that staff is now in the process of preparing this fiscal year's invoice.

b. Touch a Truck & Open House – 10/21/2023 (flyer included)

Mr. Kolb said the Touch a Truck & Open House will be held on October 21<sup>st</sup> and is looking forward to the event.

c. Facility Plan Update (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said that the Facility Plan and the Collection System Master plan update were both submitted to the Connecticut DEEP on September 29<sup>th</sup> and copies were included on the online agenda on the Norwalk website for anyone from the public who would like to download it.

d. Collection System Master Plan Update - Amended (copy included)

This was discussed under item 7c of the agenda.

e. Financial Model Update (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said he has the task order that was recently signed with Woodard and Currin in the amount of \$15,800. He said the financial model is a ten-year plan but is updated annually for both capital and operating needs for the WPCA.

f. Discussion on WPCA Engineering Projects:

1. Catch Basin Disconnect Program

Mr. Kolb said that the team continues to evaluate 38 catch basins for disconnect from the city but there are some that are on state roads and the state right of way, so staff had a call with the state for guidance and to see if they are open to working with the WPCA to disconnect those catch basins. He said that the initial call was good, and staff have sent them some additional information and are now waiting to hear back on what information they will need from the engineering team.

2. Hubbell's Lane Relief Sewer

Mr. Kolb said another sanitary sewer will be installed on Moody's Lane and Hubbell's Lane to help with capacity and last month soil borings were done and are now waiting on the results of the test pits on the utilities and other information that is critical to the design. He said it is a one-year design timeframe and should be completed in June 2024.

3. Keeler Brook PS Replacement

Mr. Kolb said a new easement agreement is being negotiated with Eversource and Wright-Pierce has completed the design drawings and staff has been reviewing them internally and once the agreement with Eversource is in place the project will go out to bid.

4. WWTP – SCADA Enhancements (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said the team has identified some additional enhancements to the SCADA system and the signed task order that are included in the board package.

5. CIPP Lining

Mr. Kolb presented a short video of cured in place pipelining (CIPP) which ties into the Insituform work that will be done on Bell Island and Sammis Street and the video will explain the process. Mr. Burnett asked what the lining material is made of. Mr. Kolb said it is a felt sock that is impregnated with epoxy. Mr. Burnett asked if it has been tested for a long time to be sure it is environmentally safe for years to come. Mr. Kolb said "yes" and that it has been used since the 1970's and is equivalent to PVC. Mr. Oustafine said he has been using this since the 1980's and shared a section of the liner and said that it is amazing and is tougher than the original pipe and increases the efficiency of the pipe itself. Mr. Kolb said just as it is with PVC the useful life is 50 years and typically gives a 10-year warranty and Norwalk has been using it since the early 1990's. Mr. Mannella said he also used it on a job on South Main Street in 1989-1990. Ms. Smyth asked if another liner would be installed when this starts to break down. Mr. Kolb said "yes". Ms. Smyth said the real concern is pfas and asked if there are any reports of pfas in this product and is it something they should be concerned about. Mr. Kolb said that he does not have an answer regarding pfas. Mr. Oustafine suggested sharing an MSDS sheet at the next meeting as that may be able to answer some of these questions.

g. Discussion on WPCA Construction Projects (photos included)

1. Collection – Wall Street / 2 Knight Street Relocation and Improvements

Ms. Bauer reported and said the abandonment of the 30” sewer line was successfully completed in September and the contractor is currently finishing the paving work for that project.

2. Collection – Dreamy Hollow Project

Ms. Bauer reported and said the installation of the water main services along Saddle Road requires a new tap and copper piping from the tap to the new curb stop.

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

Ms. Bauer reported on the updates to the Five Mile pump station and said the contractor has just finished coating the upper portion and interior of the wet well and has also been working on the installation of the new pumps. She said the piping and the electrical wiring for the pumps is currently in progress and is scheduled to be completed around October 19<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Bauer reported on the updates to the Karen Drive pump station and said the work has been completed.

h. Sewer Use Bill Appeals/Adjustments Update

1. Appeal status

Ms. Bauer said the adjustments to date are \$24,133 and there has been no change since last month.

i. Information Copies: None

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MR. BOVE MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:06PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd