

**CITY OF NORWALK  
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL  
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE  
REGULAR MEETING  
JUNE 17, 2024**

Attendance: Darren Oustafine, 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  
Chris Torre, Superintendent of Operations, DPW  
Jared Schmitt, Chief Financial Officer

Others: Ross Gambino, Asst. Project 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 MAY 20, 2024**

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

**4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND SECRETARY FOR PERIOD BETWEEN JULY 1, 2024,  
TO JUNE 30, 2025.**

**\*\* MR. FRAYER MOVED TO NOMINATE THE CURRENT SLATE OF OFFICERS AND  
SECRETARY.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS TO EXECUTE ORDERS ON CONTRACT WITH INSITUFORM TECHNOLOGIES, LLC. FOR THE SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT (PROJECT: WPCA 2023-01) FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$800,000 (COPY INCLUDED)**

**ACCOUNT NO. 09244062-5777-C0361**

Mr. Kolb reviewed the breakdown of what staff would like to include in the Insituform contract and said they have had great success with the lining and have been very impressed with their work. He said previously there were contingency funds added for the Marvin Beach pump station sewer shed and that work was completed and would like to add the Woodward Avenue pump station sewer shed, in addition to lining staff would like to add manhole rehabilitation as well which will also include lateral grouting. He said in addition to the Woodward Avenue pump station sewer shed staff would like to add some easement areas that are difficult to maintain, as well as the Shady Beach pump station sewer shed, and lastly Veolia has been on board for just over four years now and have identified some critical assets that they have recommended for lining that are mostly due to root intrusion. He said the estimated cost is just over \$ 1 million dollars and is requesting \$800,000 this evening because there are additional change order monies available from the initial approval.

**\*\* MR. FRAYER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS TO EXECUTE ORDERS ON CONTRACT WITH INSITUFORM TECHNOLOGIES, LLC. FOR THE SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT (PROJECT: WPCA 2023-01) FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$800,000**

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

**6. AUTHORIZE THE CITY OF NORWALK'S PURCHASING AGENT TO INCREASE THE PURCHASE ORDER (WPCA OPERATING ACCOUNT 224062-5258) FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH VEOLIA WATER CONTRACT OPERATIONS, USA, INC. IN FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025 FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,770,000 (COPY INCLUDED)**

**ACCOUNT NOS. 09184062-5777-C0545, 09244062-5777-C0361**

Mr. Kolb said has taken a few years to identify areas that needed major repair and replacement but include evaluation and rehabilitation of blend tank number one, controls upgrade to generator software at the wastewater treatment plant, CIPP lining at Colonial Village and Commerce Street, rehabilitating bar screens, rehabilitating the floor in building two at the wastewater treatment plant, and lastly staff has been working with the Walk Bridge project team and they have agreed in lieu of relocating the 36" pipe the pumps will be upsized at the Fort Point pump station which would allow the force main only needing to be modified versus the gravity interceptor, and they have agreed if the city purchases the pumps and flow meter they will incur the costs of piping and labor to install it. He said all these items are being brought to the board's attention because these items are more capital related but need to move forward because without doing these projects they could create a major catastrophe at the wastewater treatment plant.

Mr. Frayer asked if the cost of the repairs was included in the budget. Mr. Kolb said if he were to pay for the blend tank repair it would deplete the budget for any additional MRR that may be identified over the course of this contract year. Mr. Frayer asked if the residuals are coming from other overages or underspending in other accounts. Mr. Kolb said “yes” and would use the collections system account and wastewater treatment plant capital account. Ms. Valadares said the funds will come from different accounts but are included in the financial model.

**\*\* MR. BOVE MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY OF NORWALK’S PURCHASING AGENT TO INCREASE THE PURCHASE ORDER (WPCA OPERATING ACCOUNT 224062-5258) FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH VEOLIA WATER CONTRACT OPERATIONS, USA, INC. IN FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025 FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,770,000.**

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

**7. AUTHORIZE THE CITY OF NORWALK’S PURCHASING AGENT TO AUTHORIZE A SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE ORDER TO TESLA INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) TESLA- MODEL Y CARS FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$100,260.**

**ACCOUNT NO. 09244062-5777-C0361**

Ms. Valadares said we are changing our fleet to a green fleet, and these will be the first fully electrical cars that will be purchased in trying to be the greenest city in Connecticut. She said the mayor has requested that vehicles being purchased are either fully electric or hybrid. There were already funds available within the WPCA budget to purchase some vehicles that are needed, and this purchase was already approved by the Public Works Committee and the Common Council and will be purchasing a total of four cars, but the WPCA will only be funding two of them.

Mr. Oustafine asked how many cars the WPCA currently has. Mr. Kolb said they typically utilize two cars per day. Mr. Oustafine asked if they will be getting rid of any of the existing vehicles that are delegated to the WPCA specifically. Ms. Valadares said they will get rotated, and the cars are pretty much under one umbrella although the funding is coming from different sources.

Ms. Valadares said there is a \$7,500 rebate for each of the cars that the city will receive. Mr. Oustafine asked what assurances there are that these cars will be dedicated to the WPCA. Ms. Valadares said the cars will be going to staff related to the WPCA and there will be no issue with WPCA not having a vehicle.

Mr. Oustafine said it is his understanding that the WPCA’s were created in the first place because in some other towns the sewer use fees were being viewed as a way to tax and there was a case where roads were being paved with sewer money, so the WPCA’s were created to be sure the sewage is being treated and not being used to pave roads. Ms. Valadares said the WPCA also contributes to some of the services for the city and if the cars end up being relocated to whoever will have the best use of the car as a way to minimize the cost to the departments, but there will be cars available to WPCA staff at all times. Mr. Oustafine asked if the cars will be parked at South Smith Street or at City Hall. Ms. Valadares said it depends on who is using the car.

Mr. Mannella asked if the chargers that were just installed are set up specifically for a Tesla or were any other electric vehicles investigated. Ms. Valadares said they are not and can be used by other types of electric vehicles by using an adaptor.

**\*\* MS. SMYTH MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY OF NORWALK'S PURCHASING AGENT TO AUTHORIZE A SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE ORDER TO TESLA INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) TESLA- MODEL Y CARS FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$100,260.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR (4 IN FAVOR AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (MR. MANNELLA)**

### **1. CONTRACT OPERATIONS REPORT:**

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

Mr. Gambino reported and said the facility did not experience any rain or wet weather events in May. He said the collections team completed 2.1 miles of TV inspection, 2.1 miles of cleaning, 64 manhole inspections, and 2.09 miles of SLRAT. He said that 38 IPP inspections were also completed.

Mr. Gambino said the facility was in compliance with all permits and requirements for the month of May.

Mr. Mannella said the average daily flow is getting high and asked if staff foresees any problems with DEEP because when facility upgrade plan was done it stated that the flows were around 12 million gallons per day. Mr. Kolb said not just in Norwalk but all of Connecticut got over 30" of rain over the past few months and speaking with other municipalities all their flows are elevated. He said it is bad timing with the ongoing communications with the state however, he believes they have peaked, and June is looking very good and will start to see the number come back down to the 12MGD to 13MGD which has been the flow they have been seeing over the past five years. He also said that several million dollars of lining work is being done which will also help. He said DEEP has two plans which are the collections system master plan which includes the catch basin disconnect program and a facility plan which includes \$50 million dollars of CIPP lining and both of these items would reduce flow in the collection system and at the wastewater treatment plant.

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

Mr. Gambino said the replacement of the final settling tank one has begun, and the new aeration instrumentation equipment is online and is providing data.

## **8. REPORTS**

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

There was no discussion.

- b. Discussion on WPCA Engineering Projects:

- 1) Catch Basin Disconnect Program

Ms. Bauer said staff is coordinating with Brown and Caldwell to finalize the report for that program.

- 2) Hubbell's Lane Relief Sewer

Ms. Bauer said smoke testing was done earlier last week and the results showed there were no connections that staff were not aware of and will help to move forward into the 90% design and expect to have that for review by the end of July.

- 3) Beacon Street Sanitary Sewer

Mr. Bauer said that Brown and Caldwell provided a memo that staff is currently reviewing.

- 4) Keeler Brook PS Replacement

Ms. Bauer said staff is working on an access agreement with Eversource for the phase II environmental assessment and have received the permit from the building department which includes conservation and fire marshal signoff.

- c. Discussion of WPCA Construction Projects

- 1) Collection- Sammis and Bell Island Sewershed Rehabilitation

Ms. Bauer said the total project includes approximately 50,000 linear feet of sanitary sewer piping and 40,000 linear feet has been completed so 79% of the contract has been completed and have added additional scope to the contract which Mr. Kolb spoke about earlier.

- d. Discussion on Beach Monitoring- South Health Explorer (copy included)

Link <https://soundhealthexplorer.org/swimmable>

Ms. Bauer said the website provides status on the health of beaches in Norwalk.

- e. Sewer Use Bill Appeals/Adjustments Update
  - 1) Appeal status

Ms. Bauer said the appeals to date are \$ 67,496.

- f. Information Copies: None

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:02PM.