CITY OF NORWALK
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 20, 2024

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

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: Mathew Brown, Project Manager, Veolia, Inc
Ross Gambino, Asst. Project Manager, Veolia, Inc.
David Conners, 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. INTRODUCTION OF JARED SCHMITT, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Mr. Schmit introduced himself and said he came to Norwalk from the Town of Fairfield where he worked for three years and served as a member of the WPCA board. He said he had the opportunity to meet with Ms. Valadares and Mr. Kolb to look at the long-term financial plan, and he greatly appreciates the model

that has been developed and realizes the WPCA has some capital needs and a healthy five-year capital plan and looks forward to working with the WPCA on those things in the future.

4. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE WPCA MEETING HELD ON APRIL 15, 2024. (COPY INCLUDED)

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE (5) IN FAVOR AND TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS- MS. SMYTH AND MS. DUNN.**

5. AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OR VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE THE SIXTH AMENDMENT TO THE JANUARY 27, 2016, AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WPCA AND WRIGHT-PIERCE INCORPORATED FOR ON-CALL PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE SUM NOT TO EXCEED $647,000. (COPY INCLUDED)

Mr. Kolb said the majority of the work is for the Keeler Brook Pump Station and is near final design and there are some charges for final design and bidding services. He said where the pump station will be located is under high tension power lines and will need personnel onsite every day with the contractor to be sure they are following Eversource requirements.

Mr. Oustafine asked if this is included in the financial model. Mr. Kolb said it has been in the model for several years as they have been in negotiations with Eversource for quite some time.

****MR. FRAYER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OR VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE THE SIXTH AMENDMENT TO THE JANUARY 27, 2016, AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WPCA AND WRIGHT-PIERCE INCORPORATED FOR ON-CALL PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE SUM NOT TO EXCEED $647,000.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. CONTRACT OPERATIONS REPORT

Mr. Conners said that Mr. Brown has given his notice and wishes him the best and is obviously disappointed in his departure, but he has been great in terms of the transition and has been very helpful in getting Mr. Gambino up to speed. Mr. Conners said he will be working closely with Ms. Valadares and Mr. Kolb to get the replacement for Mr. Brown that we all need in place, but in the interim the WPCA will have the full depth of Veolia to help Mr. Gambino and the project team moving forward.

Mr. Brown said he will be moving on and thanked the board, staff, and residents of Norwalk for a great four years of working at the facility and he will always have a special place for Norwalk.

Ms. Smyth said she is sorry to see Mr. Brown leave and that he has done a great job and wished him all of the best. The members of the board all wished Mr. Brown the best in his endeavors.

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

Mr. Gambino reported and said there was one storm event for the month that occurred on April 3, 2024, and discharged 2.21 million gallons over the duration of the event but was in compliance with all permit requirements for the month of April, and all reports were submitted to the CTDEEP and EPA.

Mr. Gambino said the collections team completed 3.58 miles of TV inspection, 3.62 miles of cleaning, 59 manhole inspections, and 1.90 miles of SLRAT. He said that 42 IPP inspections were also completed.

Mr. Gambino said the distribution chamber was cleaned and reassembled in primary tank #4.

b. Chevy Silverado EV

Mr. Gambino said Veolia has taken delivery of their first fully electric vehicle to be used at the maintenance department. Ms. Valadares said that Veolia has really been a partner with the city in trying to achieve the goal that the mayor wanting Norwalk to be the greenest city in Connecticut and had placed the order for the truck over a year ago but just took delivery this week. Mr. Oustafine asked if there are charging stations in place. Ms. Valadares said they are in the process of installing EV charging stations at the Operations Center and City Hall and should be installed over the next couple of weeks.

Ms. Valadares said that the staff also wishes Mr. Brown the best in his future endeavors.

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

1) CIPP Lining- Colonial Village Area (copy included)

Mr. Gambino said Veolia has been doing a lining project at Colonial Village and is taking some time due to the location of the infiltration to the pipe and is working closely with the contractor.

7. REPORTS

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

There was no discussion.

b. Discussion of sanitary sewer billing FY 24/25

Ms. Bauer said that staff is still working on finalizing the sewer billing and will be sharing the files with the Tax Collector this week.

c. Discussion on WPCA Engineering Projects:

1) Catch Basin Disconnect Program

Ms. Bauer said that that basis of design report is largely completed and will be moving to the 30% design phase.

2) Hubbell's Lane Relief Sewer

Ms. Bauer said that staff is working with Brown and Caldwell on the 90% design drawings and specifications.

3) Beacon Street Sanitary Sewer

Mr. Bauer said that Brown and Coldwell is performing some modeling work and will provide their recommendations.

4) Keeler Brook PS Replacement

Ms. Bauer said this item was discussed under item 5 of the agenda.

d. Discussion of WPCA Construction Projects

1) Collection- Sammis and Bell Island Sewershed Rehabilitation

Ms. Bauer presented photos before and after photos and said a lot of progress has been made and a total of 59% of the work has been completed and have lined approximately 30,000 linear feet of pipe.

Ms. Bauer said an additional scope of work has been added to the Belle Island Pump Station and will be lining the Marvin Beach area.

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

Ms. Bauer said the Old Trolley Way Pump Station is up and running and three new pumps have been installed and the exterior of the site has been restored to its original condition.

e. Sewer Use Bill Appeals/Adjustments Update

1) Appeal status

Ms. Bauer said the appeals to date are $ 67,486.

f. Information Copies:

1) Wilton Sewer Invoice FY 23/24 (copy included)

There was no discussion.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
Executive session began at 5:49PM
Executive session ended at 6:12PM.
During executive session no motions were made, and no votes were taken.

9. ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. DUNN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
The meeting was adjourned at 6:12PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd