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Members of the public may call in to participate. Callers will not be able to see the meeting participants. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, dial *9 on the phone and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" may also use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be included into the record, they must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. Please email (Dilene Byrd) at (dbyrd@norwalkct.gov) with the subject line "Public Comment" to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

**CITY OF NORWALK
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 18, 2024**

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

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

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

David Connors, Regional Vice President, Veolia, Inc.
Tom Ellis, Director, Management and Budgets

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. 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 FEBRUARY 20, 2024. (COPY INCLUDED)

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 20, 2024, AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OR VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY TO SIGN THE VERILY WASTEWATER SURVEILLANCE TESTING SERVICES MATERIALS TRANSFER AGREEMENT AS PART OF THE CDC NWSS WASTEWATER MONITORING PROGRAM AS THE SIGNATORY AUTHORITY TO ALLOW VEOLIA STAFF TO COLLECT AND SHIP SAMPLES. (COPY INCLUDED)

Ms. Bauer said the Norwalk Health Department had reached out to the WPCA regarding a new CDC testing program for the sampling of wastewater for some additional strains of Covid and the flu, and in order to participate in the program the WPCA will need to sign a materials transfer agreement. Mr. Oustafine said that Covid was tracked in the wastewater in the past and the Health Department had shared the results. Ms. Bauer said this will be in addition to that and WPCA staff has already spoken to the Veolia staff, and they will be taking the samples and have them sent to the lab.

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OR VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY TO SIGN THE VERILY WASTEWATER SURVEILLANCE TESTING SERVICES MATERIALS TRANSFER AGREEMENT AS PART OF THE CDC NWSS WASTEWATER MONITORING PROGRAM AS THE SIGNATORY AUTHORITY TO ALLOW VEOLIA STAFF TO COLLECT AND SHIP SAMPLES.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OR VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE MARCH 22, 2021, AGREEMENT WITH WOODARD AND CURRAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$300,000 AND EXTEND THE TERM OF THE AGREEMENT BY THREE (3) YEARS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ON-CALL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES. (COPY INCLUDED)

ACCOUNT NO. 09244062-5777-C0361

Mr. Kolb said that Woodard and Curran have been their consultant for approximately three years, and they update the financial model annually for the WPCA team., and they have done both storm and sanitary work and would like to add them for an additional three years to perform similar tasking for an amount of \$300,000. Ms. Smyth asked if there are any specific projects they will be used for. Mr. Kolb said they will definitely be used to update the financial model as they move forward with the facility and collections system master plan and would also like to get them engaged in the catch basin disconnect program. Mr. Mannella asked if there is money left over in their current contract. Mr. Kolb said there is a minimal amount remaining. Ms. Valadares said their scope of work was expanded as part of the Dreamy Hollow project for the sewer expansion.

**** MR. BOVE MOVED TO APPROVE TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OR VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE MARCH 22, 2021, AGREEMENT WITH WOODARD AND CURRAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$300,000 AND EXTEND THE TERM OF THE AGREEMENT BY THREE (3) YEARS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ON-CALL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. CONTRACT OPERATIONS REPORT:

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

Mr. Brown reported and said the collections team completed 1.12 miles of TV inspection, 2.7 miles of sewer line cleaning, and 1.69 miles of SLRAT. He said that 74 manhole inspections were also done as well as 42 IPP samples and inspections.

b. Aeration System Instrumentation Project

Mr. Brown reported on the instrumentation project on the aeration basis and shared photos. He said the instrumentation project was part of the original contract in 2020 and have worked with WPCA staff to have trestles installed over the aeration basins to prevent water damage to the conduit. He said the instrumentation adds more control to the process and is incorporated into SCADA. He said he feels that Norwalk is leading the charge when it comes to overall operations.

c. Sanitary Sewer CIPP Lining- Colonial Village Easement

Mr. Brown said that Colonial Village is under construction as part of the expansion of the Housing Authority project and they had surveyed the sewer and found quite a few problems so

they thought it would be best to line the easement areas, but none needed to be excavated. He said that work began in late February and should be completed by next week.

d. Major Repair or Replacement/ Out of Scope Item:

1) Bar Screen #1 Repairs (copy included)

Mr. Brown provided an update on the bar screens and said the drive unit parts are being replaced and are now made out of stainless steel so should last two to three times longer if not more than what is currently installed and should be back online in the next month. He said there are three bar screens but the other two don't appear to have as much deterioration in the drums.

Mr. Mannella asked why the effluent flow has been higher over the past couple of months. Mr. Brown said in the month of December there were four storms and heavy rain and typically over the past few years has been 12MGD but the average flow for that one month was 18 MGD and is the highest average they have seen. He said the flow for February was 13.2 MGD but there were two large storms in January and the effluent stayed elevated for many days as well. He said the levels have begun to come down however, there were already two large storms in March so will see elevated levels again but was due to I&I and directly related to rain. Mr. Kolb agreed and said there was a lot of rain in December and January and the ground water table was saturated and found its way into the system and have seen this historically in the past before Veolia came on board, and if we continue to have more normal rain the groundwater table will recede and will see the flows begin to come back down. He said the chart is a 180-day rolling average for the linear flow going through the wastewater treatment plant.

Mr. Brown introduced David Connors and said he is the new Regional Vice President. Mr. Connors said he has been in the wastewater industry for 25 years on the operations side as well as the engineering side and he is a professional engineer and is happy to be part of the team and the good work that everyone is doing in Norwalk.

7. REPORTS

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

There was no discussion.

b. CTDEEP'S Draft FY 2024-25 Clean Water Fund Priority List (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said following a productive February 20th meeting with the DEEP to discuss the collections system master plan and facility plan update they discussed the recently drafted Clean Water Fund priority list for fiscal year 2024-25 that the state had issued. He said that Norwalk has multiple projects on the list and the projects did not rank as high as they thought but are CSO related projects and the DEEP requested a comment letter be submitted and include the history on the projects and may be able to get some additional priority points and potential funding for those projects.

c. Discussion on WPCA Engineering Projects:

1) Catch Basin Disconnect Program

Mr. Kolb said the WPCA submitted all its comments to Brown and Caldwell on the draft basis of design report and they are incorporating the comments into the plan and will soon be finalized.

2) Hubbell's Lane Relief Sewer

Mr. Kolb said the Hubbell's Lane relief sewer is over 60% design and headed to 90% design with Brown and Caldwell. He said the project is to install a new relief sewer down Hubbell's Lane as well as to upgrade some of the existing sanitary sewer infrastructure on Smith Street. He said the relief sewer on Hubbell's Lane will go through the sanitary sewer extension process with the city and will come back to the WPCA to schedule a public hearing.

3) Beacon Street Sanitary Sewer

Mr. Kolb said during the wet weather events that were experienced in December and January there is a low spot at Beacon @ Willow Street where there is a potential of having sanitary sewer overflow out of a manhole and have recently engaged Brown and Caldwell to investigate this and work on some design alternatives to help relieve the sewer from overflowing during wet weather.

4) Keeler Brook PS Replacement

Mr. Kolb said the city team has submitted a package to Eversource for review for the request of a new easement for the pump station replacement.

d. Discussion of WPCA Construction Projects

1) Collection- Sammis and Bell Island Sewershed Rehabilitation

Ms. Bauer presented photos of the CIPP lining work and said the project began last Tuesday and an inspector from Brown and Caldwell is overseeing the project as well as a WPCA inspector that is overseeing the work and speaking with the public to be sure there are no safety concerns. She said the contractor has been completing appropriately 1,000 linear feet of lining work per day.

2) Collection- Dreamy Hollow Project

Ms. Bauer provided an update on the Dreamy Hollow project and said the contractor is starting the work on Dry Hill Road to disconnect two catch basins and to also reconnect some catch basins to the system. Ms. Valadares said one pipe was also lined and was successful all of the residents were very grateful.

3) PS- Five Mile, Old Trolley Way; Karen Drive; and Woodward Avenue Rehabilitation

Ms. Bauer presented the updates to the pump station rehabilitation projects and said the new pumps have been installed at the Old Trolley Way pump station and some electrical upgrades were also completed. She said the concrete repair work has been completed at the Woodward Avenue pump station.

e. Sewer Use Bill Appeals/Adjustments Update

1) Appeal status

Ms. Bauer said the appeals to date are \$ 58,601.

f. Information Copies:

1) Public Notice- FY 24/25 Approved Sewer Use Rates

There was no discussion.

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd