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**CITY OF NORWALK
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
REGULAR MEETING
February 21, 2023**

Attendance: Darren Oustafine, Chairman
John Igneri, Vice Chairman
Barbara Smyth
John Bove
Neil Konstantin
Brian Meek
Chris Manella

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

Others: John Marcin, Project Manager, Veolia
Mathew Brown, Asst. Project Manager, Veolia

PUBLIC HEARING:

**1. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED SEWER USE CHARGES TO BE EFFECTIVE
JULY 1, 2023 (NOTICE INCLUDED)**

Mr. Oustafine opened the public hearing at 5:30PM
Mr. Oustafine closed the public hearing at 5:32PM.

No one from the public commented.

2. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Oustafine called the meeting to order at 5:32PM.

**3. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM WPCA MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 17, 2023. (COPY
INCLUDED)**

**** MR.IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH IN FAVOR AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION- MR. MEEK.**

4. APPROVE THE SEWER USER RATES TO BE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023

**** MR.IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEWER RATES TO BE EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
2023.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY 2023-24 OPERATING BUDGET (COPY ATTACHED)

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY 2023-24 OPERATING BUDGET.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY 2023-24 CAPITAL BUDGET (COPY ATTACHED)

**** MR. BOVE MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY 2023-24 CAPITAL BUDGET
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**7. AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$78,400.00 TO TIGHE & BOND, INC. AS PART
OF THE CITY OF NORWALK'S PROPOSED SECOND ANNUAL EXTENSION
(APPROVED AT THE FEBRUARY 2023 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE / COMMON
COUNCIL MEETINGS) FOR CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION/OBSERVATION
SERVICES, ORIGINALLY APPROVED JANUARY 12, 2021 AND EXTENDED ONE
YEAR ON FEBRUARY 8, 2022, TO PROVIDE CONSTRUCTION
INSPECTION/OBSERVATION SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH DRG 2021-1 DREAMY
HOLLOW/BETTS BROOK AREA DRAINAGE, SANITARY SEWER & WATER MAIN
IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT BEING ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS FOR THE PURPOSE OF RELOCATING THE SANITARY SEWER,
ACCOUNT NO. 09224062-5777-C0361**

Mr. Kolb said that this is a DPW project that the WPCA is participating with since there are sanitary sewer improvements being done so there is a cost share, and this item is for resident engineering services with Tighe & Bond. Ms. Smyth said this work has had the full support of the Common Council. Mr. Manella asked what percentage of the overall inspection budget is for sanitary sewer work. Ms. Valadares said less than 30%.

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8. CONTRACT OPERATIONS REPORT:

- a. Veolia Monthly Operating Report- January 2023 (copy included)

Mr. Marcin reported and said there were some challenges in the month of January due to the cold weather and there was also a significant rain event that occurred on January 25th and went into January 26th and was very intensive in a short duration of time and they had to activate Outfall 002 and discharged for approximately two hours and forty minutes on January 25th and the early morning of January 26th. He said that all the sampling analysis and procedures were followed and were able to conduct all the necessary monitoring and reporting that was required. He said a few weeks prior to the storm event there was a failure to both of the gravity thickeners and unfortunately during the process of repairing the tanks the storm hit and resulted in some degradation of the 001 effluent as they were putting 30 MGD through the plant and had to sample in that window of time and as a result the numbers exceeded the daily limits for BOD, TSS and enterococci, and there was also a monthly violation for TSS but everything was back in line the following day. He said since then they have been working diligently with the city and their teams to come up with a plan to repair both the gravity thickeners and believe they have a long- and short-term plan. Mr. Oustafine asked if the exceedances were DEEP permit

exceedances or just contract exceedances. Mr. Marcin said both, but the contract limits are much more stringent than the DEEP limits. Mr. Oustafine asked if a bypass report was submitted. Mr. Marcin said “yes.” Mr. Konstantin said it seems strange that both gravity thickeners would fail at the same time. Mr. Marcin said they actually failed in sequence and was due to mechanical issues. Mr. Konstantin asked what the time frame is for the temporary repair. Mr. Marcin said the vendor is finalizing the plans this week and are hoping to have the parts in the next couple of weeks and have the work completed by next month and will work closely with the WPCA staff on the schedule. Ms. Smyth asked if there are capital funds available or if a special appropriation will be required. Mr. Marcin said the cost for the temporary repair will be in the range of \$100,000 and is \$250,000-\$400,000 to replace the equipment so it should not require a special appropriation. Mr. Oustafine asked if the Ann Street syphon needed to be activated. Mr. Marcin said “no”.

b. Orchard Street Sanitary Sewer Improvements Update

Mr. Marcin said the Orchard Street project has been completed and that three liners were installed and there was a lot of logistics and coordination that was required to complete the project and that the project went according to schedule and had received no negative feedback or complaints. He shared photos of the lining work.

c. Storm Event- 1/25/23

This was discussed under item 7a.

d. Major Repair or Replacement/ Out of Scope Items

1) FST No. 4 Repairs

There was no discussion.

2) Screen Wash Press Shaft

There was no discussion.

3) Grit Cleaning Services- Inland Waters

There was no discussion.

4) Fuel Tank Replacement- Keeler Brook PS

There was no discussion.

9. REPORTS

a. FY 22/23 Revenues/Expenditures MUNIS (copy included)

There was no discussion.

b. Discussion on WPCA Engineering Projects:

1) WPCF Facility Plan Update

Mr. Kolb said there was a meeting held on February 14, 2023, with ARCADIS, Veolia, and WPCA staff and they are continuing to work on the facility plan update and the plan is to have a draft update in April for the team to review and comment on and the final submission to the state is due on June 30, 2023.

Mr. Meek asked if there is an estimate on what the plant itself would cost. Ms. Valadares said there is a placeholder in the capital budget request of \$50 million dollars which was based on the financial model.

c. Sewer Use Bill Appeals/Adjustments Update

Mr. Kolb said the adjustments to date are \$39,693.

d. Information Copies: None

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:57PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd