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

Attendance: Darren Oustafine, 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

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

1. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED SEWER USE CHARGES TO BE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024 (NOTICE INCLUDED)

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

Mr. Oustafine closed the public hearing at 5:31PM.

No one from the public attended.

2. CALL TO ORDER

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

3. 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 were no public comments this evening.

4. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE WPCA MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 16, 2024. (COPY INCLUDED)

On page 5, paragraph 1, add “removal” after nitrogen.

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE WPCA MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 16, 2024, AS AMENDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Dunn joined the meeting at 5:34PM.

5. APPROVE THE SEWER USE RATES TO BE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024

Mr. Kolb said this year’s rate increase is 4.5% and the legal notice was included in the agenda and shows the current and proposed rates.

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEWER USE RATES TO BE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY 2024-25 OPERATING BUDGET (COPY ATTACHED)

Mr. Kolb said the operating budget that is included is very similar to the ones that were presented in the past months and the only change is to the inter-departmental billing between the city and the WPCA and

the WPCA and the city, which was finalized after the January WPCA meeting, so those numbers have been updated. Mr. Frayer said in looking at the actual expenses that are included in the MUNIS report there is a revised budget bringing the expense side up to \$21 million dollars due to a \$1.5 million dollar adjustment or transfer. Mr. Kolb said that is correct and was a carryover from last fiscal year and were monies that were encumbered but not yet invoiced by the Veolia team. Mr. Frayer asked if the money will be spent this year or will it be spent next year. Ms. Valadares said it is operating so will need to be spent this fiscal year and if not will need to go to the WPCA and the Board of Estimate and Taxation to request that it is transferred into the next fiscal year.

**** MR. FRAYER MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY 2024-25 OPERATING BUDGET.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7. APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY 2024-25 CAPITAL BUDGET (COPY ATTACHED)

Mr. Kolb said this is the capital budget that was presented to the WPCA in December and put forward through the city process.

**** MR. FRAYER MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY 2024-25 CAPITAL BUDGET
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8. AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OR VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY TO SIGN CONNECTICUT DEEP'S SRTK SUBSCRIBER AGREEMENT AS THE SIGNATORY AUTHORITY TO ALLOW VEOLIA STAFF TO SUBMIT ELECTRONIC FILINGS.

Mr. Oustafine said if there is an overflow that is required to report it makes perfect sense for Veolia to report it and they will need to be given the authority since they are not a municipality. Mr. Kolb said that Veolia is already reporting electronically, and this is to allow new personnel to have access as well.

MR. BOVE MOVED TO APPROVE TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OR VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY TO SIGN CONNECTICUT DEEP'S SRTK SUBSCRIBER AGREEMENT AS THE SIGNATORY AUTHORITY TO ALLOW VEOLIA STAFF TO SUBMIT ELECTRONIC FILINGS.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9. AUTHORIZE THE ALLOCATION OF \$250,000 TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR USE ON THE STORM/SANITARY SEWER SEPARATION PROJECT BEING ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS UNDER THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND M. RONDANO, INC. FOR PROJECT DRG 2023-3 ON-CALL DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS.

Account Nos. 09204062-5777-C0361 and 09244062-5777-C0361

Mr. Kolb said that WPCA staff has had success working with the DPW engineering office with their on-call contractor to conduct sewer separation of catch basins from the sanitary sewer during their drainage improvements and this is a continuation of that program. He said last year six catch basins were

disconnected from the city's sanitary sewer system. Mr. Frayer asked if this is the same as the \$250,000 that was approved at the Common Council meeting last week. Ms. Valadares said "yes" that is correct and the reason it is being requested to both boards is because the contract with Rondano is through the city and not the WPCA, and because the value and accounts will be changed it would first need to go to the Common Council to be approved and would also need to come to the WPCA to authorize the use of the funds. Mr. Frayer asked if should have come to the WPCA first for the approval to use the funds. Ms. Valadares said it is sometimes done that way but this was the best way to maximize the timing so the projects can move forward. Mr. Oustafine asked how many more catch basins are left that will need to be disconnected from the sanitary sewer system. Mr. Valadares provided an overview of the on call drainage program and said the driver of the program under engineering is the paving forecast so based on the streets that will be paved in the next three years the on call drainage contractor is sent to those areas to look at the condition of the pipes and see if any changes/upgrades are needed and sometimes during those investigations they find combined systems that need to be disconnected and average approximately 6-9, but that is why a placeholder number is used because we really don't know exactly how many they will find.

MR. FRAYER MOVED TO APPROVE TO AUTHORIZE THE ALLOCATION OF \$250,000 TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR USE ON THE STORM/SANITARY SEWER SEPARATION PROJECT BEING ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS UNDER THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND M. RONDANO, INC. FOR PROJECT DRG 2023-3 ON-CALL DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10. CONTRACT OPERATIONS REPORT:

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

Mr. Brown reported and said the collections team completed 1.59 miles of TV inspection, 1.99 miles of sewer line cleaning, and miles of SLRAT sonar inspection. He said that 133 manhole inspections were also done as well as 47 IPP samples and inspections.

Mr. Brown said that blend tank #1 was back in service in January and is now waiting on the SCADA contractor to install and program the level controller to fully complete the project.

Mr. Brown said that January was another wet month and there was a significant rain event on January 9, 2024, that led to a CSO activation that was 15 hours and 33 minutes long and discharged a total of 4.27 million gallons from Outfall 002 over the duration of the event.

b. Notice of Change in Veolia Management and Personnel (letter included)

Mr. Brown said the previous Vice President left the company in early January and there were several projects under him that included Norwalk and Dave Connors is the new Vice President and will be attending the WPCA meetings going forward, and he has been in the water industry for his entire career.

c. Aeration System Instrumentation Project

Mr. Brown said the instrumentation on the aeration basin project continues and probes are being installed to read things in the wastewater and treatment process which will provide real time data and will allow us to make adjustments much quicker, and the SCADA system will have more information on it for process control.

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

There was no report on the out-of-Scope item.

Mr. Frayer asked if the out-of-scope items are not included in the original budget and that with contingencies comes to approximately \$225,000. Mr. Brown said in contract year one there was \$10,000 for out-of-scope items and that has increased due to CPI and is now \$11,240 and any out of scope items that need to be replaced that are over that cost are passed along to the WPCA. Mr. Kolb said the operating budget with Veolia includes a contingency for out-of-scope projects. Ms. Valadares said the costs for the out-of-scope projects are within the operating and capital budget.

- 1) FST Skimmer Arm Rubber Replacement (copy included)
- 2) Submersible Mixers (copy included)
- 3) RAS Pump Upgraded Mechanical Seals (copy included)
- 4) Upgraded HVAC Controls- Building 2 (copy included)
- 5) Arc Flash Study- 5 yr. (copy included)

11. 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

Mr. Kolb said Brown and Caldwell have submitted a draft basis of design report and there are 39 catch basins that were identified in the report and are looking at the feasibility to disconnect from the sanitary sewer. He said 8-12 of those catch basins are on state roads and staff has had discussions with the CTDOT and they will be doing their own project to disconnect those catch basins from the city's sanitary sewer. The other catch basins are being reviewed by the team for feasibility and once we receive the approval to proceed from DEEP it will be done in multiple projects.

2) Hubbell's Lane Relief Sewer

Mr. Kolb said the Hubbell's Lane relief sewer is at 60% design with Brown and Caldwell. He said the project is on Smith Street and will include upgrading the sanitary sewer to allow more flow.

3) Keeler Brook PS Replacement

Mr. Kolb said the city team is working with the Eversource team on obtaining a new easement for the new pump station.

c. Discussion of WPCA Construction Projects

1) Collection- Sammis and Bell Island Sewershed Rehabilitation

Mr. Kolb said that Insituform is the contractor and is in the process of cleaning and televising the sanitary sewers and once it is completed and the paperwork has been finalized the pipes will be lined in that sewershed.

2) Collection- Dreamy Hollow Project

Mr. Kolb said they are completing the sanitary sewer improvements on Saddle Road and will be disconnecting a few catch basins on Dry Hill Road near the storm water project. Ms. Smyth asked what the anticipated date of completion is for the project. Ms. Valadares said this June, and the area will also be paved.

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

Mr. Kolb said that three of the pump stations are substantially complete and Kovacs Construction is currently working at the Old Trolley Way pump station near the intersection of Wilson Avenue and Martin Luther King Drive and is anticipated to be completed in three to four months.

d. Sewer Use Bill Appeals/Adjustments Update

1) Appeal Status

Mr. Kolb said the appeals to date are \$56,311.

e. Information Copies

1) 2023 CSO Report (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said the 2023 CSO report was submitted to the DEEP regarding Outfall-002.

12. ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. DUNN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:04PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd