

**CITY OF NORWALK
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
REGULAR MEETING
May 19, 2025**

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

Staff: Ralph Kolb, WPCA Senior Environmental Engineer
Chris Torre, Superintendent, DPW
Christine Pacelli, Wastewater Systems Manager
Mario Pizighelli, Stormwater Systems Manager
Wilber Giron, DPW Permit Engineer

Others: Trever Steeprock, Project Manager, Veolia, Inc.
Ross Gambino, Asst. Project Manager, Veolia, Inc.
Regina Flaherty, Verrill Law

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Oustafine called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Oustafine called the roll; all those listed in attendance were present.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

**A. PROPOSED SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION- 2 MULLER AVENUE, NORWALK, CT.
(DRAWING AND NOTICE INCLUDED)**

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

Nick Wendle

Mr. Wendle said he is speaking on behalf of Shawn's Lawns regarding the application to tie into the sewer from their property located on 2 Muller Avenue. This is per the conditions for their special use permit; they have begun some of the work inside the

property line and are now at the point where they will need to tie into the sewer, including adding two manholes and connecting to the sewer on Pulaski Street.

**B. SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION REQUEST ON BOUTON ST., NORWALK, CT.
(NOTICE INCLUDED)**

Santos Martinez- 184 Bouton Street

Mr. Martinez said the stretch of road at the end of Bouton Street had been left on septic, and it is here to petition to extend the sewer to the end of the street. The septic systems are old, and there is an issue with the water table being high in the area. The water comes from Brien McMahon High School, and he does not think the storm drainage is working correctly. He said they had hired an engineer to assess the issue and recommended the sewer extension, which would benefit the homeowner and the city because they could add or modify the houses on the properties. He said the last house on the street is struggling because it is located next to a swamp, which has seen more water flow recently, and water is a big issue for all of them. He read the following from the licensed engineer who performed the study:

As a licensed engineer, it is his responsibility to help the public. This office highly recommends helping the residents on Bouton Street, as this is a health-related issue. Therefore, he believes the sewer extension would help the residents and the city.

Sean Rosa- 178 Bouton Street

Mr. Rosa said he has lived at 178 Bouton Street for a couple of decades and said it wasn't that bad 20 years ago, but when the field was redone at Brien McMahon High School, it has consistently been getting worse over the past 12 years. He said it is bad for his neighbor at 122 Bouton Street, and she has a river. Not having a sewer system is hurting the area.

Silvia Perez- 188 Bouton Street

Ms. Perez said she lives in the last house on the street and has a big problem because of a swamp. It is very bad in the winter because of ice, and it is also bad in the summer. Because of the septic tanks, there are a lot of mosquitoes, and they would like to sit outside, but the odor is very bad.

Mr. Oustafine closed the public hearing at 5:42 PM.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. REGULAR MEETING- APRIL 21, 2025

- ** MR.IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no public comments this evening.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. APPROVE THE PROPOSED SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION AT 2 MULLER AVENUE. THROUGH TECHNICAL ANALYSIS, IT WAS CONFIRMED THAT THE CITY'S SANITARY SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT CAN ACCOMMODATE THE ADDITIONAL SANITARY SEWER FLOW GENERATED FROM THE PROPOSED CONNECTIONS. THE PROPOSED SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH DPW AND WPCA SANITARY SEWER PERMIT PROCESS AND SANITARY SEWER MAIN EXTENSION POLICY (ADOPTED JULY 7, 2021) AND BE REFERRED BACK TO THE WPCA BOARD FOR FINAL ACCEPTANCE (DRAWING ATTACHED)**

Mr. Giron said this item related to the first public hearing we heard this evening. Staff have nothing new to add but are happy to entertain any questions the board may have.

Ms. Smyth thanked Ms. Dunn for her memory and pointed out that Shawn's Lawn was removed from the bid process for the South Norwalk School last February due to the unsolved zoning and conservation commission violations. She has concerns about this and would like to be assured that the zoning and conservation violations have been rectified, or if the applicant has information that this would not be an issue for this project.

Mr. Wendle said this is part of that problem, and as part of the special use permit, they have to tie into the sewer, because all of the issues put forth on the plan at the time were not satisfied, so they were rejected. He provided background and said this parcel was approved for a construction yard through eminent domain; however, they could not get a mortgage due to prior contamination. They bought the property, and these conditions existed. They have been trying to

get through the process, and he has been working with Mr. Giron and Ms. Cherichetti, and they have been very helpful.

Ms. Smyth said that if this is approved this evening, it will go to the Planning and Zoning Commission, which has been following along with their problems and moving through this to rectify them. Mr. Wendle said that he believes they are aware of it, as they require the property to be tied into the sewer. Mr. Giron noted that the Planning and Zoning had notified DPW of this outstanding violation, and to comply, they must connect to the sanitary sewer.

Mr. Oustafine asked whether the applicant would be responsible for installing their own laterals. Mr. Giron said it is correct, and through the WPCA permit process, the applicant would install the sanitary sewer on their property. Through the DPW permit process, they would extend the main and make the connection at the main. Mr. Oustafine asked if Shawn's Lawn would be responsible for paying for the entire sewer extension. Mr. Giron said, "Yes," that is correct, and the intent is for Shawn's Lawn to donate the sewer main infrastructure to the city to be accepted once it has been installed, inspected, and confirmed that it meets our requirements. Mr. Oustafine asked if there was a written agreement. Mr. Giron said that information is spelled out in the sewer extension policy, and that is what has been followed through this process. Mr. Oustafine asked if a bond would be required. Mr. Giron said, "Yes." Should the Common Council approve this, the work will be performed under the permit process, where a bond is equivalent to the construction cost, so the city is secured.

Mr. Oustafine said to review that there is capacity in the line and the sewer system, which will not cost the WPCA or the rate payers of Norwalk. The developer-contractor and/or property owner will bear all costs, and the road will be returned to DPW standards. Mr. Giron said, "Yes," that is correct, and as a requirement of the permit process, they are required to backfill with a temporary trench, and DPW bills the restoration and performs the final restoration through the road restoration contract. Mr. Oustafine asked who would be inspecting the work. Mr. Giron said the DPW permit staff will have an inspector on site to confirm the sewer extension is installed correctly, and the applicant will test the main, but DPW staff will be present when testing.

**** MR. FRAYER MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM.**

***THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. REFERRAL OF ITEM A. TO PLANNING COMMISSION FOR REPORT AND RECOMMEND ACTION PURSUANT TO CONN. GEN. STAT. 8-24

**** MR. FRAYER MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM.**

***THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C. REFERRAL OF ITEM A. TO PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL FOR THE PROPOSED SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION.

**** MR. FRAYER MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM.
*THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

D. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS TO EXECUTE ORDER ON CONTRACT WITH INSITUFORM TECHNOLOGIES, LLC. FOR THE SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT (PROJECT: WPCA: 2023-01) FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$300,000 ACCOUNT NO. 09244062-5777-C0361

Mr. Kolb reviewed the breakdown of what the \$300,000 will cover and said the project's total cost is approximately six million dollars. He anticipates the project closing out at the end of September.

**** MR. FRAYER MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Contract Operations Report

1. Veolia Monthly Operating Report- April 2025 (copy included)

Mr. Steeprock reported that in April, the Veolia collections system team completed 2.40 miles of TV inspection, 4.50 miles of sewer cleaning, 43 manhole inspections, 2.95 miles of SL Rat, responded to 20 service calls, and cleaned all four final settling tank launders and both chlorine contact tanks. The IPP inspection program conducted 28 inspections.

Mr. Steeprock said new pipes and sprayers were installed in the anoxic zone of aerating tank #3 to minimize scum build-up.

Mr. Steeprock noted that Norwalk experienced moderate-heavy rain of over 2" without the storm outfall activating. The wastewater treatment plant and the collections system performed very well, with a good recovery time in the collections system, which they could monitor through the smart covers. All the lining that has been done seems to be making an impact.

Mr. Steeprock said the nitrogen performance for April was 587 pounds per day.

Mr. Steeprock said all permit requirements were followed for April, and all required reports were submitted to the CTDEEP and the EPA.

2. Draft 2024 Nitrogen Credit Exchange Buyers and Sellers (copy included)

Mr. Steeprock said that Norwalk came in at an average of 680 pounds per day/month, putting Norwalk 15th in the state. This is worse than in previous years due to the transition of staff and management over the past year and the wet weather. However, it is still a good result, and the commission will receive an estimated \$33,685 when it buys the credits. This year, they are trending significantly lower than the beginning of last year.

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

a. Pump Station Electric Wiring- SCADA (copy included)

Mr. Steeprock said the additional wiring is a project they are doing with the WPCA. The intent is to install current monitoring and wiring for eight pump stations, which will give additional information back to SCADA and can be used for troubleshooting and energy consumption monitoring. The project has been approved and should begin next week.

B. REPORTS:

FY 24/25 REVENUES/EXPENDITURES MUNIS REPORTS (COPY INCLUDED)

There was no discussion.

C. DISCUSSION ON WPCA ENGINEERING PROJECTS:

1. DISCUSSION OF SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION REQUEST ON BOUTON STREET (PRESENTATION INCLUDED)

Mr. Kolb said that, as discussed in the public hearing earlier this evening, various property owners on Bouton Street approached the WPCA to request a sanitary sewer extension. He presented an overview of the request and the residents' concerns. The original extension scope in 2021 was approximately 330', and the new request would be approximately 850' of 8" gravity main sewer along with four manholes and 10 sewer laterals.

Mr. Kolb presented the location map and proposed sanitary sewer extension request. The WPCA team estimated the project to be between 1.6 million and 2.4 million dollars, depending on the unknowns based on site conditions, current bids for comparable estimates, and total construction.

Ms. Flaherty discussed the process required to assess the benefits of new sewer lines.

Mr. Kolb shared the WPCA future capital projects that were submitted to the CT DEEP as part of the Consent Order, the Collection System Master Plan, and Facility Plan, which will need to be committed to once the CT DEEP comes back to the WPCA and plans for which the 5-year and 10-year clock begins. Staff are looking for direction from the board on how to proceed.

Ms. Dunn said there were current issues regarding blight in the area and asked which property. Mr. Martinez said that it is in every vacant lot. Ms. Dunn suggested some city insights into the area may be helpful. Mr. Frayer asked if this had been reported to the blight officer. Mr. Martinez said he has contacted the city's customer service many times over the years, and DPW has cleaned the area numerous times.

Mr. Oustafine asked who would be responsible for paying for the sewer extension as it is difficult for him to imagine how one of the properties would be benefited by \$240,000 so he does not see how the WPCA could support this except if the residents are willing to absorb that cost, which is a lot of money. Mr. Martinez said they did not imagine it would cost that much, which does not include the cost to connect each of the properties. Mr. Oustafine said he knows the benefit of a sewer and the issues related to older septic systems and inundation with drainage, and suggested that the money may be better spent solving the drainage problem, if there is one, but he doesn't see a road forward due to the cost. Mr. Oustafine asked if city staff determined the cost estimate. Mr. Kolb said "Yes" and devised the cost estimate using recent bids for DPW/WPCA projects.

Mr. Mannella asked if there is city water in the area. Mr. Martinez said, "Yes."

Mr. Frayer said if this is the only approach and this is the cost, he would have to say "No" because the city can't afford to start installing these types of installations.

Mr. Oustafine suggested that the board's direction to staff is to try to reduce the project's cost, with some of the alternatives that have been discussed.

2. BEACON STREET SANITARY SEWER

Mr. Pizighelli said the Beacon Street sanitary sewer project was recently put out to bid, and there will be a bid opening on June 11, 2025. The timetable for construction will be approximately 365 working days.

3. HUBBELL'S LANE RELIEF SEWER

Ms. Pacelli said the Hubbell's Lane sewer relief project is progressing to 90% design and will meet this week to discuss the East Wall Street and East Avenue intersection, which needs to be redesigned due to some utility issues.

4. FINAL SETTLING TANKS

Ms. Pacelli said the design of the final settling tanks is progressing toward a 10% to 30% design.

D. DISCUSSION ON WPCA CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS:

1. COLLECTION- SAMMIS AND BELL ISLAND SEWERSHED REHABILITATION

Mr. Kolb said much progress has been made with the Sammis and Bell Island sewershed rehabilitation project. The total project is just over 70,000 linear feet of pipe at various sizes, ranging from 8” to 24”, and almost 65,000 linear feet have been completed, so we are at 92% complete. Insituform is currently doing manhole rehabilitation and later grounding, which is approximately 44% of those items, and as mentioned earlier, the project should be completed by September 30, 2025.

2. PS- OLD TROLLEY WAY SITE IMPROVEMENTS

Ms. Pacelli said the Old Trolley Way pump station site improvement has begun, and all permits have been submitted and approved.

3. PS- FORT POINT IMPROVEMENTS

Ms. Pacelli said the WPCA team has been coordinating with the Walk Bridge team to discuss the coordination efforts to begin the improvements at the Fort Point pump station.

4. SEWER USE APPEALS/ADJUSTMENTS UPDATE

Ms. Pacelli said the sewer use appeals/adjustments to date are \$82,724.

VIII. DISCUSSION

There was no discussion this evening.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd