

**CITY OF NORWALK
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
REGULAR MEETING
March 16, 2026**

Attendance: Darren Oustafine, Chairman
John Igneri, Vice Chairman
Anne Wennerstrand
John Bove
James Frayer
Josh Goldstein (arrived at 5:50 PM)

Staff: Ralph Kolb, Senior Environmental Engineer
Christine Pacelli, Wastewater Systems Manager

Others: Trever Steeprock, Project Manager, Veolia, Inc.
Ross Gambino, Asst. Project Manager, Veolia, Inc.
Michael Burke, President, Veolia, Inc.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

III. ROLL CALL

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

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. REGULAR MEETING- FEBRUARY 17, 2026

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

V. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business discussed.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Contract Operations Report:

1. Veolia Monthly Operating Report – February 2026 (copy included)

Mr. Steeprock reported that the Veolia collections system team completed 1.19 miles of TV inspection, 1.12 miles of sewer cleaning, and 14 manhole inspections. He noted that no SL Rat and hot list cleaning was not done due to heavy snowfall throughout the month. The collections team responded to 11 service calls. The IPP programs conducted 11 inspections at local businesses and establishments.

The main drive bearing in primary tank #3 was replaced, and the tank is back in operation. A new chlorine induction mixer was installed in the north chlorine contact chamber.

The facility experienced a critical equipment failure of the blower system, which affected the activated sludge treatment process. The blowers were returned to normal operation as quickly as possible, but there was some effect on the effluent.

The facility's nitrogen performance for February was 598 pounds per day. As a reminder, the target is 718 pounds per day or less.

Mr. Steeprock reported on the regular events and noted that all permit requirements were met in February, and all required reports were submitted to CTDEEP and the EPA. The facility exceeded the weekly average TSS limit due to the blower outage, but all numbers have returned to normal and have recovered well.

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

a. Washpress# Replacement (copy included)

Mr. Steeprock said a project was completed a few months ago to replace a screw in the washpress, and another washpress also requires work. After evaluating the current washpress's condition and useful life, it was determined that it is time to replace it. Quotes were received from multiple manufacturers, and we have selected the most cost-effective, comparable replacement to what is currently in use.

B. Reports

1. FY 25/26 Revenues/Expenditures MUNIS Report (copy included)

There was no discussion.

C. Discussion on WPCA Engineering Projects:

1. WWTP - Final Settling Tanks Upgrade

Ms. Pacelli said staff have been working with Arcadis and are progressing toward the 60% design, and the WPCA is initiating a value-of-engineering task to keep the potential open for Clean Water Funds.

2. Collection - City of Norwalk for Bettswood Road and Barbara Drive Drainage Improvements and Sewer Separation

Mr. Kolb said the DPW and WPCA team continue to work with the consultant to finalize the bid documents. The project will go out to bid later this year.

3. Collection – Bouton Street Preliminary Engineering 30% Design

Mr. Kolb shared the draft price quote received from Woodard and Curran and said the staff is still reviewing it and will report their assessment to the board next month. The preliminary construction estimate is \$1.166 million, including the sewer laterals to the edge of the right-of-way. If work to install the service laterals at each property is included, it would add \$160,000, bringing the total to \$1.326 million. He said the next steps are to review this with Woodard and Curran, and to work with the Tax Assessor and Verrill Law regarding the freeholder process to refine the numbers on what the WPCA will be spending versus the potential benefit assessment on the properties based on their linear footage along the sewer line.

Ms. Valadares said that although this is not an action item, the reason staff is sharing the costs is based on the direction of the board, so they can have an understanding before deciding if the project will move forward, the project cost, and if the freeholders process will be pursued, and if so, how much would be recouped from that. Staff will review the design to present better numbers next time the project is presented, so the board can decide whether to move the project forward. They also do not want to continue with the design if the project will not move forward. Another thing to consider is that in the area they are proposing, it may be a hardship on property owners, depending on the benefit, and the sewer line serves approximately 8-10 residents. Also, the city has not paid for a new sewer line in decades, which is one reason it is so costly and burdens the property owner. Not following the process may trigger many other issues. If the board decides to move forward, a public hearing will need to be scheduled.

Mr. Oustafine asked whether the value of the lowest-priced house in that area is known. Ms. Valadares said they do not have that information, but the cost to install the sewer

cannot just be divided by the number of properties, and each house will need to be assessed based on the benefit value that will be added to it, and the WPCA would be fully investing and bonding for the money in fiscal year 2026/27.

Mr. Frayer asked how much has already been invested in preparing the estimates and how much more is needed to proceed to the next level. Ms. Valadares said she does not have that number available, but she would report back. As of now, the only investment would be for staff, and she will not spend any additional money with the consultant to move this forward. There will also be some legal fees, but those costs should be minimal. Mr. Frayer suggested that before spending any additional money on this, the board decide soon rather than later if the project should move forward. Ms. Valadares said that staff does not plan to spend any additional money until they receive direction from the board, but reminded the board that those homeowners came before the board last year to express their concerns about their existing septic systems and the drainage in that area, which overloaded them. The city acknowledged that, and if a septic system fails, the homeowner is responsible for replacing it, and the cost will be at least \$20,000 to \$40,000, which is another reason staff looked into this.

Ms. Valadares said it may take staff more than a month to provide some answers, but once they are ready, they will report back to the board, including the impact.

4. Collection – Fort Point PS Sewershed Rehabilitation

Ms. Pacelli said the Veolia team has completed all of the CCTV and cleaning both sewer sheds, one and two, that feed the Fort Point Street pump station and that information has been provided to Brown and Caldwell, as they are developing the scope for the CIPP lining and they are preparing their cost proposal for the project. The goal is still to have the bid documents ready for the summer.

D. Discussion on WPCA Construction Projects:

1. PS - Keeler Brook PS Replacement

Ms. Pacelli said the temporary bypass system continues to be maintained daily by Veolia. The WPCA staff continues to work with FEMA and the insurance on the claim for the storm damage that occurred in August 2024. The design consultant, Wright-Pierce, is working on the redesign of the pump station for the new location at 493 Connecticut Avenue. The other consultant, Tighe and Bond, is working on the site survey and has just issued a task order for the demolition of the building and the development of site grading for drainage in the new area where the pump station will be. The task order will be provided in the backup next month

2. Collection – Beacon Street Sanitary Sewer Replacement

Mr. Kolb said the Beacon Street sanitary sewer replacement project is progressing and has installed more than 500 feet of 24” sewer main, connected a new service lateral, and installed four manholes.

E. Sewer Use Appeals/Adjustments Update

Ms. Pacelli said the appeals/adjustments to date are \$ 20,352

F. Information Copies

1. Public Notice- FY 26/27 Approved Sewer Use Fees (copy included)

Ms. Pacelli said that the fiscal year 2026/27 approved sewer use fees were signed, posted by the city clerk, and published in The Hour.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dilene Byrd