

**CITY OF NORWALK
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
REGULAR MEETING
February 17, 2026**

Attendance: Darren Oustafine, Chairman
John Igneri, Vice Chairman
Anne Wennerstand
John Bove
James Frayer
Josh Goldstein (arrived at 5:44 PM)

Staff: Ralph Kolb, Senior Environmental Engineer
Christine Pacelli, Wastewater Systems Manager
Mario Pizighelli, Stormwater Systems Manager
Jared Schmitt, Chief Financial Officer

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

I. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Public Hearing on the proposed Sewer Use Charges to be effective July 1, 2026 (notice included)
- The public hearing opened at 5:30 PM.
The public hearing closed at 5:33 PM.
No one from the public attended.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Oustafine called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM.

III. ROLL CALL

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

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. REGULAR MEETING- JANUARY 20, 2026

Change “Weinerstand” to “Wennerstrand” throughout.

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

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation this evening.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVE THE SEWER USER RATES TO BE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026.

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEWER USER RATES TO BE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY 2026-27 OPERATING BUDGET (COPY ATTACHED)

**** MR. FRAYER MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY 2026-27 OPERATING BUDGET.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C. APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY 2026-27 CAPITAL BUDGET (COPY INCLUDED)

**** MR. BOVE MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY 2026-27 CAPITAL BUDGET.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Contract Operations Report:

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

Mr. Steeprock reported that the Veolia collections system team completed 2.3 miles of TV inspection, 1.84 miles of sewer cleaning, and 21 manhole inspections. He noted that no SL Rat and hot list cleaning was not done due to low temperatures. The collections team responded to nine service calls. The IPP programs conducted 28 inspections at local businesses and establishments.

The facility and multiple pump stations experienced a total power loss on January 15, 2026, due to a power company issue. The generator systems automatically restored equipment functionality to critical facility equipment. The team monitored all equipment and processes closely until the line power was restored. A meeting is scheduled with WPCA staff to discuss lessons learned from the event.

The ammonia and nitrate analyzers were repaired by a technician from Hach. Portable water lines and backflow preventers were installed to supply the RAS pumps with sealed water in the event of an emergency. The maintenance team completed the Moody's Lane siphon inspection.

The facility's nitrogen performance for January was 620 pounds per day.

Mr. Steeprock reported on the regulatory events and said the facility experienced one SSO during the month due to the power outage. The event was promptly reported to all required parties. Mr. Steeprock noted that all permit requirements were met in December, and all required reports were submitted to CTDEEP and the EPA.

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

a. Washpress Screw Replacement (copy included)

Mr. Steeprock said there are three bar screens and three wash presses behind them that compact the screenings. This screw is fairly old and needs to be replaced.

B. Reports:

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

There was no discussion.

2. Asset Evaluation Year 3-Veolia (copy included)

Ms. Kolb stated in the Veolia contract that there is an incentive under which the assets' conditions are assessed every 3 years. Wright-Pierce was the consultant who performed the baseline and also performed the year-three assessment. A 100-point criteria was established for the assessment of the wastewater treatment plant, pump stations, the collection system, and some miscellaneous items. The Veolia team received 89.6 points out of the maximum of 100. The contract is currently in year six, but due to COVID and the identification of critical assets, the conditions assessment was delayed. This

assessment will be performed every three years going forward. On June 30 2026, we will have completed year six of the contract, so the six-year contract assessment will be performed after July 1, 2026.

C. Discussion on WPCA Engineering Projects:

1. WWTP - Final Settling Tanks Upgrade

Ms. Pacelli said staff have been working with Arcadis and are progressing towards the 60% design.

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

Mr. Pizighelli said not much has changed since the last meeting. They are hopeful to have the bid in the fall and are looking to have the utilities moved prior to that bid, so they are coordinating with the gas and water departments to resolve those issues.

3. Collection – Bouton Street Preliminary Engineering 30% Design

Mr. Pizighelli said the soil borings have been completed, and the consultant will present the 30% at the next meeting and hopes to get the cost estimate and direction from the board on this project.

4. Collection – Fort Point PS Sewershed Rehabilitation

Ms. Pacelli said the Veolia team is completing the CCTV and cleaning both sewer sheds, one and two, that feed the Fort Point Street pump station. The scope has been reviewed by Brown and Caldwell, and they are developing a proposal and are hoping to have it out to bid over the summer.

D. Discussion on WPCA Construction Projects:

1. PS - Keeler Brook PS Replacement

Ms. Pacelli said the Veolia team continues to monitor the temporary bypass daily. WPCA staff continues to work with insurance and FEMA on the storm claim. Wright-Pierce is progressing with the pump station redesign for the new location, and Tighe and Bond are working with the team on the survey of the plot of land, which has been slightly delayed due to the snow. The team is also working on the demolition of the building, the site building, and the drainage on the site

2. Collection – Beacon Street Sanitary Sewer Replacement

Mr. Pizighelli said the Beacon Street sanitary sewer replacement project is going well and is on schedule, and is hoping to begin working on Daskam Lane, East Avenue, and Sunset Hill Avenue within the next couple of months.

E. Sewer Use Appeals/Adjustments Update

Ms. Pacelli said the appeals/adjustments to date are \$20,784.

F. Information Copies

1. 2025 CSO Report (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said the 2025 CSO report was submitted to the CT DEEP on February 12, 2026, and he is happy to report that there were no CSO events.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS DEEP'S CLEAN WATER FUND PROGRAM

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The executive session began at 5:49

The executive session ended at 6:43 PM.

During the executive session, no votes were taken, and no motions were made.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dilene Byrd