

**CITY OF NORWALK  
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL  
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE  
REGULAR MEETING  
February 18, 2025**

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

Staff: Vanessa Valadares, Chief of Operations and Public Works  
Ralph Kolb, WPCA Senior Environmental Engineer  
Nelya Bauer, Wastewater Systems Manager  
Christine Pacelli, Wastewater Systems Manager  
Darin Callahan, Asst. Corporation Counsel

Others: Trever Steeprock, Project Manage, 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, 2025 (notice included)**

Mr. Oustafine opened the public hearing at 5:41 PM.

Mr. Oustafine closed the public hearing at 5:43 PM.

No one from the public commented.

**II. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Oustafine called the meeting to order at 5:43 PM. There was not a quorum present.

**VII. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Contract Operations Report**

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

Mr. Steeprock reported and said the Water Pollution Control Facility had a successful routine inspection from CDEEP in January and there was minimal to no action required. He said the inspections were over two days and on the first day they did a desk audit and on the second day did a full plant walk-through.

Mr. Steeprock said in January the Veolia collections system team completed 1.07 miles of TV inspection, the cleaning of 1.18 miles of sewer lines, 19 manhole inspections, and 1.23 miles of SL Rat, completed 1.93 miles of hot list cleaning and responded to five service calls. The IPP inspection program conducted 41 inspections.

Mr. Steeprock noted that they are currently working with WPCA staff to enhance the IPP program.

Mr. Steeprock said the facility's nitrogen performance from January was strong at 644lbs per day and the Water Pollution Control Facility followed all permit requirements for January. The facility continues to run well even in the cold temperatures and the improvements that were made at the end of last year have proven to be beneficial.

Mr. Steeprock said there were repairs made to the chlorine analyzers that are used to maintain the chlorine dosage and have been running more consistently.

Mr. Steeprock reported on the regulatory events and said the facility followed all permit requirements for January, and all the reporting was completed and submitted to the CT-DEEP and the EPA.

Mr. Steeprock said they have backfilled the collections operator position internally and will be filling the utility worker position next.

2. Major Repair or Replacement/ Out of Scope Items: None

B. Reports:

1. FY 24/25 Revenues/Expenditures MUNIS Reports (copy included)

There was no discussion.

C. Discussion on WPCA Engineering Projects:

1. Beacon Street Sanitary Sewer

Ms. Bauer said the staff are currently working with the consultant and they are finalizing 60% design drawings and specifications and are expecting to see those in the next few weeks for review.

D. Catch Basin Disconnect Program

Ms. Bauer said the catch basin disconnect program is currently on hold as they are waiting to hear back from CTDEEP as it is part of the collections system master plan which is currently under review.

E. Hubbell's Lane Relief Sewer (copy included)

Ms. Bauer said a task order was signed with Brown and Caldwell for geotechnical services and are planning to do twelve test pits to confirm utilities in the project area.

F. Final Settling Tank (copy included)

Ms. Pacelli said the project scope has been submitted to CTDEEP for Clean Water Fund eligibility in December and received their response last week that the project is eligible and will be proceeding with the next steps.

G. Discussion on WPCA Construction Projects:

Collection- Sammis and Bell Island Sewershed Rehabilitation (copy included)

Ms. Bauer said that a task order was signed by Brown and Caldwell for additional inspection services. Insituform has recently completed some lining work and is continuing with some manhole rehabilitations and lateral grouting work.

H. Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Updates

Ms. Bauer said they are continuing to enhance SCADA at the wastewater treatment plant and pump stations.

I. Sewer Use Appeals/Adjustments Update

Appeal Status:

Ms. Bauer said the appeals/adjustments to date are \$82,724

J. Information Copies:  
2024 CSO Report (copy included)

There was no discussion.

Ms. Dunn joined the meeting at 5:44 PM.

### **III. ROLL CALL**

Mr. Oustafine called the roll, all those listed in the attendance were present and there was a quorum.

#### **IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

A. Regular Meeting: January 21, 2025

- \*\* MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no public comments this evening.

#### **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. APPROVE THE SEWER USER RATES TO BE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025**

Mr. Oustafine noted that the rates presented by Woodard and Curran at the last meeting matched the financial model and what the commission discussed.

**\*\* MR. BOVE MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEWER USER RATES TO BE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\*MR. BOVE MOVE TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO TAKE THE AGENDA OUT OF ORDER.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PENDING AGREEMENTS FOR THE KEELER BROOK PS PROJECT**

**\*\* MR. BOVE MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The executive session began at 6:00 PM.

The executive session ended at 6:10 PM.

There were no motions made, and no votes were taken.

**\*\* MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE TO ENTER INTO NEW BUSINESS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON PROPERTY ACQUISITION RELATED TO THE KEELER BROOK PUMP STATION.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* MR. BOVE MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WPCA OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS NECESSARY TO PURCHASE, ACQUIRE AND/OR TAKE BY EXERCISE OF EMINENT DOMAIN POWERS OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY.**

**WHEREAS THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY FOR THE CITY OF NORWALK HAS DETERMINED THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO ACQUIRE THE PROPERTY LOCATED 493 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NORWALK, CONNECTICUT FOR SANITARY SEWER PURPOSES;**

**WHEREAS THE CITY OF NORWALK ACTING THROUGH ITS COMMON COUNCIL DURING ITS REGULAR MEETING ON FEBRUARY 11, 2025, BY AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF A QUORUM AND ITS MEMBERS PRESENT AUTHORIZES THE PURCHASE ACQUISITION AND TAKING BY EXERCISE OF EMINENT DOMAIN POWER OF THE PROPERTY FOR SAID PURPOSES;**

**WHEREAS THE COMMON COUNCIL FURTHER AUTHORIZED AT SAID MEETING THAT MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING OR HIS DESIGNEE IS AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS NECESSARY TO PURCHASE, ACQUIRE, AND/OR TAKE BY EXERCISE OF EMINENT DOMAIN POWERS THE PROPERTY;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE WPCA HEREBY AUTHORIZES:**

- 1. THE PURCHASE ACQUISITION AND/OR TAKING BY EXERCISE OF EMINENT DOMAIN POWER OF THE PROPERTY FOR SANITARY SEWER PURPOSES AND TO FULLY FUND SUCH PURPOSE ACQUISITION AND/OR TAKING.**
- 2. AUTHORIZE THE WPCA CHAIRMAN DARREN OUSTAFINE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS NECESSARY TO PURCHASE, ACQUIRE, AND/OR TAKE BY EXERCISE OF EMINENT DOMAIN POWERS THE PROPERTY**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY 2025-26 OPERATING BUDGET (COPY ATTACHED)**

Mr. Kolb said the operating budget that is included in the board package is almost identical to what was presented to the board last meeting, other than a few minor revisions that the finance department requested for fees that the city will be billing the WPCA for services by the city, and the fees that the WPCA bills the city.

**\*\* MR. MANELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY 2025-26 OPERATING BUDGET.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **B. APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY 2025-26 CAPITAL BUDGET (COPY INCLUDED)**

Mr. Kolb said the capital budget numbers presented to the board last year have not changed.

**\*\* MR. BOVE MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY 2025-26 CAPITAL BUDGET.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **VIII. DISCUSSION**

There were no discussion items this month.

#### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MS. SMYTH MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd