

**CITY OF NORWALK  
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL  
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE  
REGULAR MEETING  
March 17, 2025**

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

Staff: Vanessa Valadares, Chief of Operations and Public Works  
Ralph Kolb, WPCA Senior Environmental Engineer  
Chris Torre, DPW Superintendent of Operations  
Christine Pacelli, Wastewater Systems Manager  
Wilber Giron, DPW Permit Engineer

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Oustafine called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. There was not a quorum present.

**II. ROLL CALL**

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

**III. 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 5:31 PM.

**\*\* MS. DUNN MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Oustafine closed the public hearing at 5:33 PM.

No one from the public commented.

**IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

A. Regular Meeting: February 18, 2025

**\*\* MS. DUNN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE (5) IN FAVOR AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION-  
MR. FRAYER.**

**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**

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

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

**B. SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING ON APRIL 21, 2025, AT 5:30 P.M. FOR  
PROPOSED SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION FOR 2 MULLER AVENUE,  
NORWALK CT.**

Mr. Kolb said that DPW had received a request to extend the sewer at 2 Muller Avenue, and part of the sewer extension process is to schedule a public hearing.

Mr. Giron said the owner of Shawn's Lawn is required to make some improvements to the property related to the conservation department, and as part of that requirement, they are required to connect to the sanitary sewer. Due to the existing sanitary sewer, they would need to extend it to make that connection possible. This project was first approved in 2020 before the city adopted a sewer extension policy. Since then, the approval has expired, and they are looking to gain re-approval to meet their requirements with the conservation department; they are required to go through the sewer extension policy, which requires scheduling a public hearing.

**\*\* MS. DUNN MOVED TO SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING ON APRIL 21, 2025, AT 5:30  
P.M. FOR PROPOSED SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION FOR 2 MULLER AVENUE,  
NORWALK CT.**

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

**C. DISCUSSION OF PETITION FOR SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION ON  
BOUTON STREET, NORWALK, CT. (COPY INCLUDED)**

Ms. Valadares said in the past, a sewer extension was approved for one of the properties on Bouton Street, which has since expired. That property now has a new owner and would like to extend the sewer to other properties, but the caveat is that they would like the city to pay for it as they believe it should be a public project and are in attendance tonight to make that request.

Mr. Oustafine said if the sewer is extended, a public hearing is required and asked if this development will be a city-funded project. Ms. Valadares said that was the property owner's request. Mr. Oustafine said regardless, the law still requires that a public hearing be held anytime a municipality extends a sanitary sewer and asked if that will be held later. Ms. Valadares said it was on the agenda as a discussion item so that Mr. Marinez could request the board, but unfortunately, he is having issues with his audio. Ms. Valadares suggested scheduling a public hearing on next month's meeting agenda; he can speak to it then.

**VII. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Contract Operations Report**

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

Mr. Steeprock said the collections department had a slow month due to the cold temperatures and hopes to pick up in the following months. In February, the Veolia collections system team completed .59 miles of TV inspection, 19 manhole inspections, .05 miles of SL Rat, and responded to six service calls. The IPP inspection program conducted 32 inspections and has been working with WPCA staff to streamline that process.

Mr. Steeprock said that primary settling tanks three and five were taken offline for cleaning and repairs but are back online.

Mr. Steeprock said the facility's nitrogen performance in February was strong, at 634 lbs per day, and the Water Pollution Control Facility followed all permit requirements for February.

2. Major Repair or Replacement/ Out of Scope Items:
  - a. Keeler Brook Temporary Level Monitoring (copy included)

Mr. Steeprock said there was one major event on February 16<sup>th</sup>, with a significant SSO event at the Keeler Brook Pump Station. Pump failures occurred, and the temporary bypass pumps had alarms. The alarms had been sent to Veolia staff up to six days before this event. Then, they stopped receiving all alarms, which wasn't exceptionally uncommon. They also discovered they had been removed from the list without their knowledge. It was an egregious thing to happen, and he has been in direct contact with

the vendor and has rectified the situation. They now have a lot more redundancy and have installed a smart cover in the wet well at the Keeler Brook Pump Station, which provides cellular monitoring. They also recently completed a project and installed a level sensor and radio system that sends that level back to SCADA with alarms.

**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

Mr. Kolb said that WPCA staff received 60% of the project's design drawings, reviewed them, and submitted their comments to Brown and Caldwell.

2. Catch Basin Disconnect Program

Mr. Kolb said the catch basin disconnect program is on hold until they receive confirmation that CTDEEP will proceed with the project.

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

Mr. Kolb said they are at 90% design and just recently performed test pits and potholes to confirm utility depths to ensure the design does not impact on the existing infrastructure.

4. Final Settling Tank (copy included)

Ms. Pacelli said the task was awarded to ARCADIS and will be commencing the design in the next couple of weeks and is a 12-month design.

**D. Discussion on WPCA Construction Projects:**

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

Mr. Kolb said Insituform crews are currently doing some manhole rehabilitations and lateral grouting work. Over the last two storm events, they have seen significant improvement in inflow and infiltration, especially in the Bell Island area.

**E. Sewer Use Appeals/Adjustments Update**

Appeal Status:

Mr. Kolb said the appeals/adjustments to date are \$82,724.

**F. Information Copies: None**

## **VIII. DISCUSSION**

There were no discussion items this month.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd