



## ***Operations Committee - Board of Representatives***

Joseph Coppola, Jr., Chair   John Zelinsky, Jr., Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Wednesday, September 23, 2015

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

Republican Caucus Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Government Center, 888

**Place:** Washington Boulevard

The Operations Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Coppola; Vice Chair Zelinsky; and Committee Member Reps. Adams, Coleman, Liebson, Mahoney and McMullen. Absent or excused were Committee Member Reps. Buckman and Giraldo. Also present were Rep. Ryan; Lou Casolo, City Engineer; and William Brink, Michael Handler, Ed Kelly and Dan Capano, WPCA.

Chair Coppola called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
1. <a href="#">O29.047</a>	APPROVAL; Agreement with D&B Engineers LLC for Design of Transfer Station Tipping Floor. 08/12/15 – Submitted by Mayor Martin 09/10/15 – Approved by Board of Finance	<b>Approved 7-0-0</b>

Mr. Casolo explained this agreement:

- The purpose of this agreement is to provide for the surveying, design work and construction oversight for repairs of the Transfer Station tipping floor
- The floor slab has deteriorated and reinforcing steel is exposed and machines are getting caught in the rebar and the life of the building is being compromised by the deterioration
- Part funding of \$175,000 was approved last year and has been appropriated
- It is a difficult repair to assess because the building is in constant use and can't be shut down without difficulty to the City; As a result, the work must be phased
- There were 2 responses to the RFP and D&B was chosen because of their experience doing this type of work and their price was more competitive
- This contract is not for the actual construction work
- They will be putting in a capital budget request for this in 2016-17 or fund through a closeout
- This company worked on the Kozciusko Park closure plan
- The rating sheet will be submitted to the Board office
- He is not aware of any prior gifts to the City, but he will get this information to the Board office

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Coppola; Zelinsky, Adams, Coleman, Liebson, Mahoney and McMullen in favor).

<sup>1</sup>2. O29.048 REVIEW; Periodic Review of WPCA.  
09/08/15 – Submitted by Rep. Coppola

**Report Made**

Mr. Brink highlighted the following issues:

- There was a bond issuance in August, which was a major accomplishment
- In response to the major sewage exceedance due to 4 inches of rain in April/May 2014, they have hired a firm to identify where this water is coming from, and have installed 65 flow meters, which remained for a year, the next step is a sanitary sewer evaluation survey to determine cross connections; this step was just begun; this will be a multi-year program
- The UV system has been significantly improved as a result of their work with the manufacturer and system reprogramming
- Odor control is working well, since they got the scrubbers running well
- They are looking into an enclosed structure for the trucks
- They have gone to round the clock sludge processing, so that it now matches the dryer rate, and they are no longer hauling sludge cake, which reduces odor
- The plant requires a Class IV operator and they only have one, so they are going to create a new position of Senior Shift Forman which will be a Class IV operator; they are trying to fill a Regulatory Compliance Officer position

Mike Handler discussed the financial position of the plant

- They have gone from \$8 million owed to the City for operating and capital and a \$0 cash reserve 18 months ago to \$1 million to solely for operating which will be paid off a year early and a cash reserve of \$6 million
- This was done by raising rates, controlling costs and efficiently operating the plant
- Past collections are at 99%, current collections are at 95%
- There have been foreclosures, the number will be included in the WPCA minutes
- The Board raised rates 1.98% on Monday which is about \$9 annually
- Board is to spending next few months to come up with best practices for operating and financial policies; they are hoping to build an adequate reserve to address emergencies

Mr. Brink and Mr. Handler responded to questions from the Committee that:

- The current rates are consistent with the national average and lower than the regional average
- Homes with no usage have no charge; it is unique that they do not have a minimum charge
- The WPCA is willing to accept any payment plan, as long as the customer remains current
- The WPCA is mandated by law to charge 18% per year to people who don't pay

3. O29.049 REVIEW; Condition, Maintenance, and Future Plans  
for City-Owned Industrial Facilities on Magee Ave.  
09/11/15 – Submitted by Reps. Ryan and DeLuca

**Held in  
Committee**

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<sup>1</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:18:00

Chair Coppola adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joe Coppola, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).