

1 **DRAFT**

2 **PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

3 **WALLINGFORD ELECTRIC DIVISION**

4 100 JOHN STREET

5 WALLINGFORD, CT

6 Tuesday, May 19, 2020

7 6:30 P.M.

8 **MINUTES**

9 **The meeting was held via teleconference. In attendance were:**

10 Chairman Robert Beaumont (TC); Commissioners Patrick Birney and Joel Rinebold (TC);  
11 Director Richard Hendershot (TC); Electric Division General Manager Tony Buccheri (TC),  
12 Office Manager Tom Sullivan (TC); Water and Sewer Divisions General Manager Neil Amwake  
13 (TC); Office Manager William Phelan (TC); Recording Secretary Bernadette Sorbo (TC). (TC-  
14 TELECONFERENCE)

15 *members of the public – Steve Gale*

16 Mr. Beaumont called the Meeting to order at 6:30 P.M., and the pledge of Allegiance was  
17 recited.

18 **1. Pledge of Allegiance**

19  
20 **2. Consent Agenda**

- 21 a. Consider and approve Minutes of April 21, 2020

22 **Motion to approve the Consent Agenda:**

23 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**

24 **Seconded by: Mr. Birney**

25 **Votes: 3 ayes**

26  
27 **3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None**

28  
29 **4. Discussion and Action: Approval of Director’s Report for the Month of April,**  
30 **2020**

31  
32 No questions or comments were presented.

33  
34 **Motion to approve the Director’s Report**

35 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

36 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

37 **Votes: 3 ayes**

38 **5. Discussion and Action: Request for PUC Action in Regard to the Electric**  
39 **Division's Compliance with Executive Orders 7S and 7W**  
40

41 Mr. Buccheri spoke on the memos from Mr. Hendershot and Mr. Sullivan on the Deferment  
42 Program and Late Payment Charges. He advised that the customers would receive late payment  
43 notices for bills that were generated after the bills that were part of the executive order. The  
44 system cannot handle taking a payment and applying it to a previous bill. This action would  
45 allow the WED to process electric bills as follows: Five percent of the computed billing or  
46 minimum charge will be added to the bill if not paid by the late date of twenty days from the  
47 rendition of the bill or the due date of the previous bill.  
48

49 Mr. Sullivan clarified that the issue is that the late payment charge on the newer bills would  
50 come due sooner than the bills issued a month or two prior. Not only would this confuse the  
51 customers but CIS would apply the payment that the customer intended for the bill with the more  
52 recent due date, to the older bill and penalize the more recent bill.  
53

54 **Motion to approve the requested relief contained in the memorandum dated May 5, 2020**  
55 **for the reason stated therein**

56 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

57 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

58 **Votes: 3 ayes**  
59

60 **6. Discussion and Action: Approval of a Resolution – Costa**  
61

62 **Motion to approve the Resolution for Thomas Costa**

63 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

64 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

65 **Votes: 3 ayes**  
66

67 **7. Discussion and Action: Approval of a Resolution – LeTourneau**  
68

69 Mr. Beaumont commented that he wishes Barbara and John the best.  
70

71 **Motion to approve the Resolution for Barbara LeTourneau**

72 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

73 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

74 **Votes: 3 ayes**  
75

76 **8. Discussion and Action: Approval of a Resolution – Szymanski**  
77

78 Mr. Beaumont commented that Walt will be missed very much and that Walt has done an  
79 excellent job for the Wallingford Electric Division.  
80

81 **Motion to approve the Resolution for Walt Szymanski**

82 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

83 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

84 **Votes: 3 ayes**

85

86 **9. Discussion and Action: W/S – Continuation of the Water and Sewer Divisions**  
87 **Town Center Zone Economic Development Program – Reduced Units of**  
88 **Connection**

89

90 Mr. Amwake spoke on the memorandum dated April 24, 2020 regarding the Town Center Zone  
91 Economic Development Program for the Water and Sewer Divisions. Mr. Amwake stated that  
92 this was previously approved by the PUC two years ago. There are no changes to the program  
93 other than rolling it forward for a term of four years. In the past two years there has been one  
94 location that took advantage of this program which was the Center Street Brewery located at 25  
95 Wallace Avenue. They did receive discounted water and sewer connection charges when they  
96 upgraded their meter due to their larger demand for brewing operations. The Water and Sewer  
97 Divisions are looking to move this program forward for another four years in the downtown  
98 development district.

99

100 **Motion to approve the extension of the Water and Sewer Divisions Town Center Zone**  
101 **Economic Development Program**

102 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

103 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

104 **Votes: 3 ayes**

105

106 **10. Discussion: WPCF Upgrades Project**

107

108 Mr. Amwake reviewed the logistics. The Sewer Division plans to submit an application to the  
109 Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission for acceptance at the IWWC June 3, 2020  
110 meeting for a permanent soil stockpile area between the RBCs and the Low Level PS driveway.

111

112 Mr. Amwake reviewed the building and facility construction. He stated that all sheeting that is  
113 planned to be removed has been pulled from along the western, northern and eastern sides of the  
114 Anaerobic Basin has been completed. The backfill has been placed to within approximately 6  
115 feet of the top of the AB walls. Today they were continuing to install the handrails around the  
116 basin.

117

118 At the Intermediate Pump Station, the qualitative hydrostatic test was successfully completed.  
119 Please note that the quantitative hydrostatic test was performed prior to the April, 2020 update.  
120 The contractor is in the process of installing a 36-inch pipe from the Primary Settling Tanks  
121 splitter box to the new IPS.

122

123 At the Tertiary Phosphorous Building the Contractor continues to place rebar and form the  
124 exterior and interior walls. Approximately 30% of the exterior walls are in place, and about 10%  
125 of the interior concrete walls have been poured.

126

127 At the UV Disinfection/Post Aeration Building all the exterior and interior concrete walls have  
128 been formed and poured. The hydrostatic test for the exterior walls is planned to begin next  
129 week.

130			
131	Construction Contract Payment Applications – C. H. Nickerson		
132	Original Contract Sum	\$45,507,000.00	
133	Net Change by Change Orders	<u>(\$47,432.14)</u>	
134	Contract Sum to Date	\$45,459,567.86	As of April 15, 2020

135			
136	Construction Contract Schedule		
137	Original Completion Date	February 10, 2022	
138	Net Change Schedule Days	<u>0</u>	
139	Contract Completion Date	February 10, 2022	

141 Mr. Birney questioned what a quantitative hydrostatic test is? Mr. Amwake responded that a  
 142 basin is filled with a known volume of water and then over a series of days a measurement of the  
 143 volume of water or the vertical difference in the volume of water is done to see if there are any  
 144 cracks specifically in the base slab. The quantitative test focuses on the base slab and the  
 145 qualitative test focuses along the all of the exterior walls because they are not back filled yet and  
 146 you can see seepage coming through.

147  
 148 Mr. Birney questioned if there has been any Covid related impact on construction? Mr. Amwake  
 149 responded No. Governor Lamont classified construction as an essential business. We are  
 150 working in multiple areas around the site. C.H. Nickerson is practicing social distancing as  
 151 much as possible. All workers have masks and/or face coverings. On a logistical basis  
 152 construction has not been impacted. The only delay currently is the replacement of the fuel oil  
 153 tank at the Pistapaug Pond Water Treatment Plant. This is due to staffing and ordering of the  
 154 materials.

155  
 156 **Public Question and Answer Period**

157  
 158 Mr. Beaumont stated that a question was emailed from Ms. Adelheid Koepfer of Whiffletree  
 159 Lane requesting to be read for tonight’s meeting. Mr. Beaumont stated that he would read this  
 160 to the PUC. The email was as follows:

161  
 162 Background: I have seen a petition from a Sheehan student circulate the web, asking the Board  
 163 of Education to bring electric school buses to Wallingford. I fully support this endeavor. I also  
 164 imagine that if the school district or the bus company are taking on this idea, there will be  
 165 questions relating to: the electric connection to the bus depot, what kind of charging  
 166 infrastructure would be best, and how both could be installed or upgraded, ect.

167  
 168 Question: can the PUC/WED please name a liaison who can collaborate with the school district,  
 169 Board of Ed, or the bus company on those considerations? How can this person be contacted?”

170  
 171 Mr. Buccheri stated that he will be the point of contact on this project. Mr. Buccheri has been  
 172 contacted by the student about this and has provided her with information on the generator  
 173 interconnection agreement and the studies that would have to be done for a facility like this to be  
 174 built and interconnected into the system. Last week Mr. Buccheri participated with a call from  
 175 the student and others from the town and he will remain the point of contact on this project.

176  
177 Mr. Hendershot commented to keep in mind that Wallingford does not own their own school  
178 buses and that this would have to be provided by the bus services vendor.  
179  
180 Mr. Beaumont asked if there have been questions coming from the school district or if it is  
181 primarily coming from the student? Mr. Buccheri responded so far it's been coming directly  
182 from the student. There have been some pilots from New York and California for these types of  
183 electric bus programs. These have been done working with investors and grant funding.

184  
185 Mr. Gale questioned if the Annual Energy Efficiency Report is out? Mr. Hendershot responded  
186 that this has come out and that he will have a copy mailed to him.

187  
188 There were no further questions from the public

189  
190 The Public Question and Answer Period Closed

191  
192 Mr. Patrick Birney questioned if there will be a separate notice with an invoice starting in June or  
193 will there be a specific notation on a specific invoice starting in June in regards to the Deferment  
194 Program and late charges? Mr. Sullivan commented that as of right now the monthly bills are  
195 going out with the messages on it. Come June 12 and thereafter those bills will go out with the  
196 due date clearly stated as it normally is with 20 days and a bill message briefly explaining.

197  
198 Patrick Birney questioned on the timeline for the next steps on the rates. Mr. Amwake advised  
199 that a draft schedule was provided to the Director yesterday. On June 16<sup>th</sup> Mr. Amwake would  
200 like to present the rates to the PUC again as a refresher and then set the public hearing date. Mr.  
201 Amwake recommended for this to occur by July 14, 2020 and for the rates to go effective  
202 October 1, 2020. The three-month delay has an estimated revenue impact of \$107,400.00. Mr.  
203 Phelan ran the numbers and if the usage rates increase by less than .05 cents for the first year it  
204 will account for the loss.

205  
206 Mr. Birney questioned on item number 4-15 in regards to the negative numbers shown on the  
207 Daily Volume and Cost of Open Positions for the month March. Mr. Hendershot responded that  
208 he will work on the answer and have it ready for Mr. Birney when he reaches out to him directly.  
209 Mr. Hendershot commented that Mr. Keeney will at some point make a presentation at an  
210 ERMOC meeting on another table from the ENE Report..

211  
212 Mr. Beaumont commented to remove any references to Bristol Meyers in Craig's report.

213  
214 **ADJOURNMENT**

215  
216 **Motion to adjourn**  
217 **Made by: Mr. Birney**  
218 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**  
219 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,

Bernadette Sorbo  
Recording Secretary

Joel Rinebold  
Secretary