

**APPROVED**

4/16/24

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
WALLINGFORD ELECTRIC DIVISION

100 JOHN STREET  
WALLINGFORD, CT 06492

Tuesday, April 02, 2024

6:00 P.M.

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Robert Beaumont; Commissioners Joel Rinebold and Laurence Zabrowski; Director Richard Hendershot; Electric Division General Manager Jake Arborio; Electric Division Business Office Manager Marianne Dill; Water and Sewer Divisions General Manager Neil Amwake; Water and Sewer Divisions Business Manager Donald Langenauer and Acting Recording Secretary Michelle Bracale

*Absent – None*

*Members of the Public – None*

Mr. Beaumont called the Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M., and the pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

**2. Consent Agenda**

- a. Consider and Approve Meeting Minutes of March 19, 2024
- b. Consider and Approve Purchased Power Workshop Minutes of March 21, 2024

**Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda**

**Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**

**Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

**Votes: 3 ayes**

**3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda**

**None**

43                   **4. Discussion and Action: Bid Waiver to Prepare an update to the Solids Handling**  
44                   **Improvements Section (Chapter 5) of the “Facility Plan for the Wallingford**  
45                   **Water Pollution Control Facility.”**  
46

47 Mr. Amwake referenced the memorandum from himself dated March 27, 2024 to the PUC. In  
48 November 2018 AECOM of Rocky Hill completed the Facility Plan for the Wallingford Water  
49 Pollution Control Facility. The Facility Plan evaluated wastewater treatment plant processes and  
50 equipment on a 20-year timeline (2021-2041). The facility plan assessed the headworks  
51 screening and grit removal facilities, preliminary treatment, the rotating biological contractors  
52 (RBCs), secondary settling, and solids handling as well as building and laboratory facilities in  
53 addition to tertiary phosphorus treatment options. AECOM also looked at the solids handling  
54 complex.  
55

56 The two primary anaerobic digestors were originally constructed in 1958, but were completely  
57 refurbished with new covers and equipment during the 1987 upgrade. The secondary digester  
58 and the gravity thickener were constructed in 1987 as well. There has been no improvement to  
59 the solids handling complex since 1987 other than emergency repairs. Per the Facility Plan, “All  
60 three digester covers are in poor condition and need to be replaced, as do the boiler/heat  
61 exchangers, pump, belt filter presses and polymer equipment. All of the gas equipment and  
62 piping needs to be replaced. Piping inside the digestors is in need of replacement as are the  
63 valves on the sludge piping.” Further, “The electrical systems in this building are not explosion  
64 proof, which is not in accordance with newer NFPA 820 guidelines.” [page 5-2].  
65

66 Included in the memorandum is the solid processing advantages and disadvantages. One of the  
67 advantages is that the digestion process reduces the quantity of sludge that must be disposed of  
68 offsite, thereby reducing transportation and disposal costs. However, anaerobic digestion is a  
69 relatively complicated biological process and there are safety related considerations because of  
70 the toxic and flammable nature of digester gas. Further, and importantly, the anaerobic digestion  
71 of biosolids results in the release of soluble nitrogen and phosphorus, which when returned to the  
72 wastewater treatment process results in higher nutrient loadings that must then be processed by  
73 the Wallingford WPCF.  
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75 AECOM prepared two cost estimates which are highlighted on Item No. 4-4. Complete  
76 renovation of the solid handling complex at the time was \$18,502,000.00. The alternative would  
77 be to eliminate digestion. The total cost for this would be \$11,692,000.00 which includes the  
78 capital cost (\$9,740,000.00) as well as the present worth of annual O&M costs (\$1,952,000.00).  
79

80 The WSD is requesting that an update to the Solids Handling Improvements Section (Chapter 5)  
81 of the “Facility Plan for the Wallingford Water Pollution Control Facility” be prepared. The  
82 updated document would include, though not be limited to, an evaluation and condition  
83 assessment of solids handling equipment and processes and a review of solids handling options,  
84 including: 1) maintaining and rehabilitating the existing anaerobic digestion equipment and  
85 process. 2) eliminating the anaerobic digestion process and dewatering the sludge to  
86 approximately 20% solids for transportation and disposal offsite, or 3) eliminating the anaerobic  
87 digestion process and thickening the sludge to approximately 6% solids for transportation and  
88 disposal offsite.

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AECOM staff is intimately familiar with the operations, processes and layout of the Wallingford wastewater treatment plant as they have completed the Facility Plan document and design of the WPCF Upgrades Project, as well as providing engineering and construction administration services during the construction phase of the WPCF Upgrades Project. It would be disruptive at this juncture to select a different engineering firm, with different staff and engineers, to prepare an update to the solids handling improvements section of the Facility Plan, including a current evaluation of solids handling structures, equipment and processes and future solids handling options along with associated capital and operating expenses.

The cost estimate to prepare an update concerning the solids handling complex for the WSD is approximately \$175,000.00. The last estimate from AECOM is \$166,694.00. Funding for this task is available via monies remaining in the Design Phase task for the WPCF Upgrades Project. As of March 1, 2024 approximately \$375,000.00 is available cognizant of outstanding and yet to be billed design-phase invoices from AECOM. As of April 2, 2024 there is \$380,548.67 remaining in the Design Phase.

Mr. Rinebold commented that this is needed and the update is appropriate.

Mr. Zabrowski questioned what would happen to the digester tanks? Would they be eliminated completely?

Mr. Amwake stated that they would be utilized as sludge storage tanks if anaerobic digestion was eliminated..

**Motion to Endorse a Bid Waiver for AECOM to provide an update to the solids handling improvement section of the November, 2018 “Facility Plan for the Wallingford Water Pollution Control Facility” via existing funding in the WPCF Upgrades Project design phase budget**

**Made by: Mr. Rinebold**  
**Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**  
**Votes: 3 ayes**

**Public Question and Answer Period**

None - No Members Present

**Public Question and Answer Period Closed**

**5. Discussion and Possible Action: Budget Amendment – Sewer Division – FY 2023/2024 – Transportation Equipment**

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Mr. Langenauer stated that the WSD has plans to replace vehicle SD-17, a 2006 Ford Pick-up Truck, which is utilized by the Maintenance Repair Technicians for garage operations, including on-call roadway emergencies. The existing vehicle is being offered as a trade in. WSD budgeted \$50,000.00 in FY 2023-2024 to replace this vehicle and since then vehicle prices have increased significantly. As such, an additional \$20,000.00 was recently approved by the PUC as part of the Sewer Division's proposed FY 2024-2025 budget. Bidding for the replacement SD-17 vehicle closed on March 14, 2024. The winning bid for the vehicle received on March 14, 2024 was for \$70,210.00. In order to ensure that the current bid is held and no further cost increases are incurred, the Sewer Division would like to award the bid as soon as possible.

Therefore, WSD would like to ensure that the additional funds of \$20,210.00 required to purchase the vehicle are available in the current fiscal year. Once appropriation of these funds in the current fiscal year are approved the \$20,000.00 budgeted for next fiscal year will be returned to retained earnings at the end of FY 2024-2025.

Mr. Zabrowski questioned if the WSD was putting another \$20,000.00 into the budget?

Mr. Langenauer stated that the WSD is going to take \$20,000.00 out of the budget that was budgeted for next year and put it into this year's budget. Next year's money will not be spent.

**Motion to Approve the Budget Amendment to increase Account #46300392 –  
Transportation Equipment by \$20,210.00 for reasons stated in the memorandum dated  
March 27, 2024**

**Made by: Mr. Rinebold  
Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski  
Votes: 3 ayes**

**6. Discussion and Possible Action: Budget Transfer – Electric Division – FY  
2023/2024 – General Plant – Office Furniture and Equipment**

Mr. Arborio stated that last fiscal year the WED budgeted approximately \$60,000.00 in Account 390 – General Plant – Structures and Improvements in error for a replacement of a computer server and for software related to a work management system. The WED is requesting to transfer the funds from Account 390 to Account 391 – General Plant – Office Furniture and Equipment to account for the sever replacement.

Mr. Hendershot noted the funds were budgeted to the wrong account.

**Motion to Approve the Budget Transfer – Electric Division – FY 2023/2024 – in the amount  
of \$60,000.00 from Account 390 to Account 391 – General Plant – Office Furniture and  
Equipment**

181 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**  
182 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**  
183 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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187 **Correspondence**

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189 Mr. Amwake shared with the PUC the Legal Notice that will be published in *The Record-*  
190 *Journal* on Thursday, April 4, 2024 for the proposed Water Division Rates. The public hearing  
191 is scheduled for April 16, 2024 and the WWD is required to post the Legal Notice at least ten  
192 days in advance. The Public Hearing will be part of the PUC regular meeting. The tables are  
193 dense because there are various meter sizes. Traditionally the WWD publishes a four-year rate  
194 though the WWD has provided the PUC with publishing a six-year rate for feedback. There are  
195 no six- oreight-inch meters in the system as of now and the WWD does not have a rate for them  
196 therefore these meters were removed from the budget workshop. To be cautious the WWD  
197 would like to adopt rates for the six- and eight-inch meters just in case there are customers in the  
198 future.

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200 Mr. Zabrowski questioned how will the rates be added for the six- and eight-inch meters?

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202 Mr. Amwake stated that this will be presented at the meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> and the PUC will vote  
203 on this.

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205 Mr. Amwake pointed out a typo under the Consumption Charge located on the bottom of page 2  
206 of the Public Hearing. The Rate as of 10/1/2028 will be corrected to 7/1/2028.

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210 **ADJOURNMENT**

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212 **Motion to Adjourn**

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214 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**  
215 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**  
216 **Votes: 3 ayes**

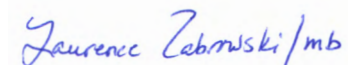
217  
218 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:35 p.m.

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220 Respectfully submitted,

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224 Michelle Bracale  
225 Acting Recording Secretary

Respectfully submitted,



Laurence J. Zabrowski  
Secretary