

APPROVED

9/4/24

SPECIAL MEETING

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

WALLINGFORD ELECTRIC DIVISION

100 JOHN STREET

WALLINGFORD, CT 06492

Tuesday, August 13, 2024

6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Robert Beaumont; Commissioners Dr. 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 and Acting Recording Secretary Michelle Bracale

Absent – Water and Sewer Divisions Business Manager Donald Langenauer

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 July 16, 2024
- b. Consider and Approve Budget Amendment – Electric Division – FY 2024/2025 – Account #924 – Property Insurance
- c. Consider and Approve Budget Amendment – Electric Division – FY 2024/2025 – Account #925 – Injuries and Damages

Motion to: Approve the Consent Agenda

Made by: Mr. Zabrowski

Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold

Votes: 3 ayes

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 9/10/24
AT 9:40am AND RECEIVED BY
Mister Pomzo (LG) TOWN CLERK

42 **3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda**

43
44 None

45
46 **4. Discussion and Action: Approval of the Director's Report for the Month of July**
47 **2024**

48
49 Mr. Zabrowski noted that transformers were delivered, and questioned what were the quality
50 control problems?

51
52 Mr. Arborio stated that the recent delivery of pad-mounted transformers was missing hardware
53 and had bent sides. Photos were sent to Howard Industries and their response was to send an
54 RMA (Return Merchandise Authorization) to take the transformer back or send a can of spray
55 paint to resolve the issues. Howard Industries warned the WED that due to staffing constraints
56 following up with an RMA could cause a year delay. Mr. Arborio is still waiting on a response
57 back from Howard Industries.

58
59 **Motion to: Approve the Director's Report for the Month of July 2024**

60
61 **Made by: Dr. Rinebold**

62 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**

63 **Votes: 3 ayes**
64
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66

67 **Public Question and Answer Period**

68
69 None - No Members Present
70

71 **Public Question and Answer Period Closed**
72
73
74

75 **5. Discussion and Possible Action: Budget Transfer – Sewer Division – FY**
76 **2023/2024 – Attendant & Laboratory Expenses (Account #46100642)**
77

78 Mr. Amwake referenced the memorandum dated August 7, 2024 and stated that in January 2023
79 the Sewer Division made a calculation as to the staffing dollars for the FY 2023-24 budget.
80 During FY 2023-24 these labor dollars were then charged to the various WSD accounts based on
81 actual work completed at each employee's applicable hourly rate. Because there are no extra
82 labor dollars budgeted, and because it is highly unlikely to predict with 100% accuracy what
83 work will be completed during the fiscal year, year-end labor dollar transfers are foreseeable. It
84 was noted that of the \$110,200.00 labor expenses approximately \$43,020.00 are benefit line
85 items. The WSD has funds available in other labor accounts therefore this would be considered
86 a budget transfer.
87

88 **Motion to: Approve the Budget Transfer – Sewer Division – FY 2023/2024 to increase**
89 **Account #46100642 by \$110,200.00 as specified in Item 5-3 of the August 13, 2024 PUC**
90 **Agenda**

91
92 **Made by: Dr. Rinebold**
93 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**
94 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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98 **6. Discussion and Action: Resolution – Kim Maloney**
99

100 Mr. Amwake stated that Ms. Maloney is retiring after thirty-one years of service to the
101 Wallingford Water and Sewer Divisions. Ms. Maloney was present for the 1991-1993
102 construction of the Water Treatment Plant, the 2005 Nitrogen Upgrade and the 2019-2022
103 Tertiary Phosphorus Upgrades at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Amwake pointed out that
104 though the laboratory is based at the Sewer Treatment Plant, the laboratory takes care of the
105 water treatment, water quality and the wastewater system sampling and analyses. This is another
106 gigantic loss for the Water and Sewer Divisions due to the various duties that are required for
107 this position. Ms. Maloney's knowledge and her ability to evaluate the laboratory results and
108 interpret the regulatory requirements immensely contributed to maintaining effective and
109 efficient water and wastewater treatment and operations.

110
111 Ms. Maloney has also been a mentor, exercising her ability to explain and teach complex
112 chemical and biological processes and data in simple terms so that all staff can understand the
113 information. Her experience and knowledge will be a tremendous loss. This position has been
114 relabeled from Chemist to Laboratory Manager. One of the current Laboratory Technicians has
115 been promoted to Laboratory Manager.

116
117 Mr. Beaumont stated that he has heard nothing but good things about Ms. Maloney.

118
119 **Motion to: Approve the Resolution for Kim Maloney**

120
121 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**
122 **Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold**
123 **Votes: 3 ayes**

124
125
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127 **7. Discussion and Possible Action: Budget Transfer – Electric Division – FY**
128 **2023/2024 – Account 593 – Distribution – Maintenance Overhead Lines**
129

130 Ms. Dill stated that this request for the transfer of funds relates to the fiscal year that ended June
131 30, 2024. After reviewing the books for the year, the WED is seeking a budget transfer for an
132 additional \$60,000.00 in Account 593 – Distribution – Maintenance of Overhead Lines. This
133 account is where labor gets charged for storms or weather related events that affect poles and

equipment. There were several events that happened during the course of the year that contributed to the need for additional funds. Examples are the costs related to labor, overtime, double-time, retention of contractors and meals related to the September, 2023 hurricane that did not significantly impact Connecticut (\$41k) and the Mutual Aid costs incurred during December, 2023 storm (\$20k). As this is one of the WED's largest O&M accounts with a budget of \$1,538,592.00, staff initially felt that these costs could be absorbed due to staffing vacancies. Due to a series of trouble calls and higher than expected overtime costs during May and June along with the severe storm the last weekend of June, WED needs additional funds. Funds are available for this transfer from Account 584 – Distribution – Operations – Underground Line Expenses (\$45,000.00) and Account 592 – Distribution – Maintenance Station Equipment (\$15,000.00). In both accounts, payroll costs incurred are less than budgeted due to allocation of labor resources to other areas of the business based on need as described above.

Dr. Rinebold commented that this is well justified.

Mr. Beaumont agreed.

Motion to: Approve the Budget Transfer – Electric Division – FY 2023/2024 for \$60,000.00 to Account #593 – Distribution – Maintenance Overhead Lines

Made by: Dr. Rinebold

Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski

Votes: 3 ayes

8. Discussion and Possible Action: Budget Appropriation – Electric Division – FY 2024/2025 – UPSEU 424 – Unit 17 – Collective Bargaining Agreement - Various Accounts

Ms. Dill stated that this is a request for a budget appropriation in fiscal year 2024-2025 seeking an additional \$356,358.00 from retained earnings into various operating and capital accounts which have been affected by the recent settlement of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Wallingford and UPSEU 424 – Unit 17 (Management Union). The appropriation request includes \$284,032.00 for wages, \$71,292.00 for pension contribution at a rate of 25.1%, and \$1,034.00 for Medicare taxes at a rate of 1.45%. Funds for this appropriation are available from Retained Earnings. The budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 was prepared early in calendar year 2024 and approved at a time when this Collective Bargaining Agreement had expired. Since that time, a new Collective Bargaining Agreement has been ratified. The WED requested a budget appropriation in the amount of \$75,987.00 for fiscal 2023-2024 budget year to cover the retro-active portion of wages, pension and taxes related to the new Collective Bargaining Agreement at the special meeting of Public Utilities Commission on June 25, 2024.

Motion to: Approve the Budget Appropriation – Electric Division – FY 2024/2025 – UPSEU 424 – Unit 17 – Collective Bargaining Agreement in the amount of \$356,358.00 to various accounts as outlined in Item 8-3 of the August 13, 2024 PUC Agenda.

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181
182 **Made by: Dr. Rinebold**
183 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**
184 **Votes: 3 ayes**
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188 **9. Discussion and Possible Action: Budget Appropriation – Electric Division – FY**
189 **2023/2024 – WEPCU Collective Bargaining Agreement – Various Accounts**
190

191 Mr. Arborio stated that this is funding for the retro-active pay once the contract was settled up to
192 June 30, 2024. The WED is requesting a budget amendment in the amount of \$1,643,247.74 for
193 Fiscal Year 2023-2024. This amount represents the retro-active portion of the Collective
194 Bargaining Agreement related to wages (\$1,313,547.35) and pension (\$329,700.39) incurred
195 from September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2024. This includes all employees that have retired and
196 quit. A budget appropriation to reflect the financial impact on Fiscal Year 2024-2025 will be
197 presented at a later date.
198

199 Dr. Rinebold questioned if Medicare taxes are not included?
200

201 Ms. Dill responded that is correct. Medicare taxes are not included.
202

203 **Motion to: Approve the Budget Appropriation – Electric Division – FY 2023/2024 –**
204 **WEPCU Collective Bargaining Agreement in the amount of \$1,643,247.74 to various**
205 **accounts as outlined in Item 9-3 of the August 13, 2024 PUC Agenda**
206

207 **Made by: Dr. Rinebold**
208 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**
209 **Votes: 3 ayes**
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213 **Correspondence**
214

215 Ms. Bracale provided the PUC an outline for the updates on the Wallingford Electric Division's
216 125th Anniversary Celebration.
217

- 218 • There is a banner on front of the building.
- 219 • Due to a larger presence at Celebrate Wallingford, there will be 20x30 tent divided into
220 three sections (giveaways, energy conservation and 125th memorabilia).
- 221 • Vinny's Deli – 125th Celebration "Sandwich" – Employees submitting ideas
222

223 Dr. Rinebold stated that he likes everything about this and would like to have a message included
224 to demonstrate the WED's reliability, cost effectiveness and environmental quality.
225

226 Mr. Arborio thanked Michelle and Mary for organizing the event.

227

228 Mr. Beaumont thanked Michelle and Mary for all they have done for this event.

229

230

231

232 **ADJOURNMENT**

233

234 **Motion to Adjourn**

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236 **Made by: Dr. Rinebold**

237 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**

238 **Votes: 3 ayes**

239

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

241

242

243

244 Respectfully submitted,

245

246 

247

248 Michelle Bracale

249 Acting Recording Secretary

Respectfully submitted,



Laurence J. Zabrowski
Secretary