

APPROVED

11/6/24

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
WALLINGFORD ELECTRIC DIVISION
100 JOHN STREET
WALLINGFORD, CT 06492

Tuesday, October 1, 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 September 17, 2024

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda

Made by: Dr. Rinebold

Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski

Votes: 3 ayes

3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

None

RECEIVED FOR RECORD

AT 9:45 am AND RECEIVED BY
Kristen Pango TOWN CLERK

11/7/24

UG

42 **4. Discussion and Possible Action: Budget Amendment – FY 2024/2025 – Electric**
43 **Division – Account 592 – Distribution – Maintenance of Station Equipment**
44

45 Mr. Arborio stated that this is for a budget appropriation seeking an additional \$569,000.00 in
46 Account 592 – Distribution – Maintenance of Station Equipment. The increase is related to the
47 costs associated with the replacement of forty (40) GE Powervac PV-VL 13.7-750 bus bottle
48 assembly replacements and bus refurbishments. The project was bid on Public Bid 23-109 in
49 Fiscal Year 2023-2024. In June 2024, the project was awarded to Sunbelt Solomon Services,
50 LLC. Purchase Order 24201986 was created in the amount of \$569,000.00 for this project.
51 However, the work scope was not started during Fiscal Year 2023-2024 due to storms and the
52 need for the system to be in a nominal configuration to maximize reliability. The \$569,000.00
53 encumbered in the O&M account 592 – Distribution – Maintenance of Station Equipment was
54 not spent during Fiscal 2023-2024 due to the timing of the project. Through the year end closing
55 process, these unused funds were returned to Retained Earnings. As an O&M expense, these
56 funds cannot be carried forward.

57
58 Mr. Zabrowski stated that he is glad the WED is staying on top of this and questioned how long
59 were these neglected?

60
61 Mr. Arborio stated fifty to seventy years.

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63 Mr. Beaumont stated great job and it is certainly appreciated.

64
65 **Motion to Approve the Budget Amendment – FY 2024/2025 in the amount of \$569,000.00**
66 **from Retained Earnings to Account 592 – Distribution – Maintenance of Station**
67 **Equipment**

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69 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**

70 **Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold**

71 **Votes: 3 ayes**
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75 **Public Question and Answer Period**

76
77 None - No Members Present
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79 **Public Question and Answer Period Closed**
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83 **5. Discussion and Possible Action: Hedging Policy modification to allow for any**
84 **one Supplier to provide up to 40% of Energy needs for 2025 and 2026**
85

86 Mr. Hendershot referenced the memorandum dated September 26, 2024 and stated that the WED
87 is seeking approval to hedge upwards of 40% of its anticipated future annual energy in calendar

years 2025 and 2026 with any given counterparty. This modification is requested because the most active and competitive counterparties for the WED's forward energy needs are already hedged at 29% in 2025 and at 29% to 34% in 2026. The requested modification will allow the WED to be able to consider these counterparties for additional hedges in calendar years 2025 and 2026, for which the WED is approximately 80% and 70% hedged respectively.

There was further discussion on the process and policy.

Motion to Approve a Modification of the Hedging Policy and write an exception into the Policy increasing the limit for any one Supplier to provide up to 40% of Energy needs for calendar year 2025 and for calendar year 2026

Made by: Dr. Rinebold

Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski

Votes: 3 ayes

6. Discussion and Possible Action: Budget Amendment – FY 2024/2025 – Sewer Division – Transportation Equipment (Account #46300392)

Mr. Amwake 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 (MRT's) for pump station and garage operations, including on-call emergencies. The existing vehicle is being offered as a trade in. The WSD budgeted \$50,000.00 in FY 2023-2024 to replace this vehicle and since then (in January 2023 in preparation for the FY 2023-2024 budget process) vehicle prices have increased significantly. Therefore, an additional \$20,000.00 was proposed as part of the Sewer Division's FY 2024-2025 budget in February 2024. Bidding for the replacement SD-17 vehicle closed on March 14, 2024. When the FY 2024-2025 Sewer Division budget was approved by the PUC on March 8, 2024 final bid (cost) information was not available to ensure appropriate funding was made. The winning bid for the SD-17 vehicle received on March 14, 2024 was \$70,210.00. In order to ensure that the bid price was held and no further cost increases incurred the Sewer Division requested a FY 2023-2024 budget amendment of \$20,210.00. This budget amendment was approved by the PUC on April 2, 2024 (Agenda Item No. 5). The Town Council subsequently approved this budget amendment on April 9, 2024 (Consent Agenda Item 3f). As such, the additional \$20,000.00 budgeted for FY 2024-2025 will be returned to Retained Earnings at the end of FY 2024-2025.

While the WSD requested to re-appropriate (carry forward) the \$50,000.00 for the FY 2024-2025 budget and the PUC approved this re-appropriation as part of the FY 2024-2025 budget approval and adoption process, the Water and Sewer Divisions Business Manager inadvertently omitted this re-appropriation of \$50,000.00 from the Town Council approval submission, and the funds were therefore returned to Retained Earnings. The FY 2023-2024 funding of \$70,210.00 was swept to Retained Earnings on June 30, 2024 since these funds were not properly re-appropriated as part of the FY 2024-2025 budget approval and adoption process. The WSD respectfully requests PUC approval of a FY 2024-2025 budget amendment to increase Account

#46300392 – Transportation Equipment by \$50,210.00. Funds for this purpose will be made available through a corresponding transfer from Cash in the Source of Funds section of the Sewer Division budget. The vendor is keeping the price.

Dr. Rinebold requested a characterization of SD-17.

Mr. Amwake stated that SD-17 is a utility body pick-up truck that includes a bed, special gate and utility boxes on the side of truck where mechanics keep all of the tools. This is not a standard pick-up truck with a normal bed.

Motion to Approve the Budget Amendment – FY 2024/2025 to Increase Account #46300392 – Transportation Equipment by \$50,210.00

Made by: Mr. Zabrowski

Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold

Votes: 3 ayes

7. Discussion Only: Water Service Line Inventory Update and Next Steps

Mr. Amwake stated that this is a discussion only and that this is an opportunity to bring the PUC up to speed as to the status of the WWD Water Service Line inventory also referred to as the Lead Service Line Inventory. The Wallingford Water Division Lead Awareness pamphlet was previously distributed to all of the Wallingford customers in January, February and March 2024 requesting assistance from the customers as to what type of water service line they have. The inventory submission is due to the Department of Public Health Drinking Water Section no later than October 16, 2024. The goal is to submit the inventory on or around October 9, 2024.

There are approximately 13,500 inventory line items for the WWD. Across all of those WWD has identified 416 lead goosenecks. By definition, if the only lead piping serving the home is a lead gooseneck, pigtail or connector, then the water service line is not considered a lead service line.

The WWD has zero (0) Galvanized Requiring Replacement (GRR) water service lines. By definition a galvanized service line is considered a lead service line per EPA and DPH if the private side galvanized service line ever was or is currently downstream of any lead service line or a service line of unknown material including a lead gooseneck. The acronym for Galvanized Requiring Replacement is GRR. A galvanized service line is not considered a lead service line.

One week ago the WWD had 128 Galvanized Requiring Replacements. The logic provided in the DPH's database was found to be incorrect after the emailed the live database to DPH for verification. DPH corrected the logic error and emailed the database back to the WWD. The logic and the spreadsheet was corrected and now the WWD is down to zero (0) GRR's. As of this evening (October 1, 2024) there are nine (9) service lines as Status Unknown. The Engineering Section and Water Operations staff will continue to research and conduct test pits of

these unknown water service lines. The test pits will be completed on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday this week at these nine locations. This number will change again by the time that the WWD makes their submission to the DPH.

Within thirty days of submitting the water service line inventory to the DPH the WWD shall mail a letter to the GRR and Unknown Status properties. Mr. Amwake provided the PUC with a copy of the DRAFT letter to be mailed to the GRR and unknown properties for the PUC to read and review. Most of the letter is standard language that the WWD is not allowed to revise, update or adjust. The WWD will need to just fill in the missing information on the letter. If you are GRR (which the WWD is down to zero) or lead Status Unknown the customer can conduct water sampling. As such, the WWD will coordinate sample bottle distribution, collection and laboratory analysis for the nine unknown customers requesting sampling. Costs for one sampling event are to be paid by the WWD.

At this time lead goosenecks are not considered lead service lines though will be replaced when encountered during planned or unplanned infrastructure work pursuant to 40 CFR section 141.84.

While currently none, it is recognized that through further investigation (test pits and additional records research) the WWD may uncover a GRR water service line. Per the current Lead and Copper Rule with Vision known as the LCCR as well as the upcoming Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) the WWD has up to ten years to replace the GRR and Unknown Status water service lines or 10% each year. EPA, DPH and the WWD strongly recommended that both the public side and the private side of the WSL be replaced at the same time as one continuous project. This approach will entail the WWD contractor performing work on both public property and private property. The public side funding options would be WWD's portion of the water service. The Private Side Funding Options are:

1. The work on the private side to be included in the WWD's future capital budget.
2. Invoice (assess) the property owner for the contractor's cost to perform the work on private property. If assessed this could result in a lien on the property and filed on the land records.
3. Invoice the property owner for a percentage of the cost to perform the work with the WWD paying for the balance (25% / 75% split, 50% / 50% split, etc.).
4. Invoice each property owner a flat fee regardless of the level of effort to perform the private side replacement with the WWD responsible for the balance.

EPA anticipates finalizing the Lead and Copper Rule Improvement (LCRI) prior to October 16, 2024 so new and/or updated requirements are forthcoming. Mr. Amwake stated that he did not believe this may be completed by then as there are a few items that need to be finalized in order to meet this date. Some outstanding items that that will need to be researched further are:

1. Identify all unknown water service line materials.
2. Initial inventory due no later than October 16, 2024 allows for "unknown" identifiers
3. Lead service line replacement requirements up to ten years
4. Revised sampling and testing protocols
5. First and Fifth liter of water collected and analyzed

226 6. Lowering the lead action level from 15 µg/L to 10 µg/L.

227
228 The WWD would like to be prepared if a GRR or an Unknown Status water service line is found
229 so that there will be a policy in place for the related private side costs. One outstanding question
230 is what if a homeowner declines to replace the private side of a GRR?

231
232 Mr. Amwake stated that his personal opinion for the best option would be for the work on the
233 private side to be included in the WWD's future capital budget.

234
235 Dr. Rinebold requested information to review in regards to what is the parallel with the WED
236 service drops from the pole to customer's house.

237
238 There was further discussion on the best funding option.

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240 **Committee Reports/Correspondence**

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244 **ADJOURNMENT**

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246 **Motion to Adjourn**

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248 **Made by: Dr. Rinebold**

249 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**

250 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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252 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:44 p.m.

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255 Respectfully submitted,

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258
259 Michelle Bracale
260 Acting Recording Secretary

Respectfully submitted,



Laurence J. Zabrowski
Secretary