

APPROVED

12/17/24

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
WALLINGFORD ELECTRIC DIVISION
100 JOHN STREET
WALLINGFORD, CT 06492
Tuesday, November 19, 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; Water and Sewer Divisions Business Manager Donald Langenauer and Acting Recording Secretary Michelle Bracale

Absent – None

Members of the Public – Bill Comerford

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 November 6, 2024

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda

Made by: Mr. Zabrowski

Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold

Votes: 3 ayes

3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 12/18/24
AT 12:20 PM AND RECEIVED BY
Michelle Bracale (LG) TOWN CLERK

42 None

43
44
45
46 **4. Discussion and Action: Approval of the Director's Report for the Month of**
47 **October 2024**
48

49 Dr. Rinebold noted that the local network transmission and the forward capacity amount costs
50 are up but the regional network services are down. Dr. Rinebold questioned if Connecticut is
51 generally going in the direction that WED will pay more for power via ISO New England and
52 some of the Connecticut costs for the forward capacity market?
53

54 Mr. Hendershot stated that capacity is soft and has been for a while. There are more machines
55 and generators than there needs to be. Transmission is like death and taxes and has been for two
56 decades. This is the only way investor-owned utilities (IOU's) make money. None of the new
57 equipment is being built near load centers.
58

59 Dr. Rinebold commented that he is not pleased with how some of the transformers are coming in
60 and requested Mr. Arborio to keep an eye out on this issue. Dr. Rinebold supports Mr. Arborio
61 in his actions moving forward.
62

63 Mr. Beaumont thanked Mrs. Bracale and Mrs. Lombardo for all of the work that was done for
64 the celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the WED.
65

66 **Motion to Approve the Director's Report for the Month of October 2024**
67

68 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**

69 **Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold**

70 **Votes: 3 ayes**
71
72
73

74 **Public Question and Answer Period**
75

76 Mr. Comerford stated that he read an article in the paper in regards to the surveillance camera
77 that was put up at the Department of Public Works. Does the WED have a policy if third parties
78 would like to install a surveillance camera to the poles? Does the WED or the PUC need
79 permission in writing prior to installing? How does this work?
80

81 Mr. Hendershot stated that this cannot be done without WED permission. This does not require
82 PUC approval as WED staff would review this request. If the WED staff approves the request,
83 then this approval may need to go to the Department of Law to draft a Third Party Attachment
84 Agreement. Mr. Hendershot stated that he was not certain on what the Department of Law
85 process may entail.
86

87 Mr. Comerford questioned there will be some type of formal paperwork?

88
89 Mr. Hendershot stated yes.
90
91 Mr. Beaumont commented that the WED would need to confirm that the WED owns the pole
92 and that it is not the telephone company's (Frontier's) pole. If it was the telephone company's
93 pole, the attachment agreement would then need to be with that company and not with WED.
94
95 Mr. Hendershot stated that it is not allowed to attach to a pole unless there is an agreement in
96 place between the custodian of the pole and the attaching party.
97
98 Mr. Comerford requested an update in regards to the exit interviews noted in the minutes a while
99 back.
100
101 Mr. Hendershot stated formal exit interviews and informal exit interviews are not done by
102 Human Resources universally. Mr. Hendershot's understanding is that if a conservation
103 organically happens when employees come in and handle their "departing paperwork" with
104 Human Resources, there is no documentation nor is it recorded. The parties just have
105 conversations.
106
107 Mr. Comerford stated that he believes that there should be something documented or in writing.
108
109 Mr. Hendershot stated that this would be a question for Town Hall.
110
111 Mr. Comerford stated that there are some water lines that do not have meters. He then questioned
112 when will those flat rate customers be required to have meters?
113
114 Mr. Amwake stated that he would need to speak with Mr. Pawlowski, Water Division
115 Superintendent, but does not believe that these lines are in the double digits. One water service
116 line serves a seasonal fountain and there may be 6 unmetered water service lines total that are
117 legacy water service lines compared to approximately 14,000 water accounts.
118
119 Mr. Hendershot noted Mr. Comerford's concerns and stated that WWD does not have an answer
120 as to when these service lines will have a meter installed.
121
122 Mr. Comerford questioned if the PUC meetings will be recorded so that the public can watch
123 these from home?
124
125 Mr. Beaumont stated no.
126
127 Mr. Comerford pointed out that there is a surveillance camera installed on a pole at the Cemetery
128 but could not find any PUC approval for this.
129
130 Mr. Hendershot stated that he doubts there is any and questioned the pole number.
131
132 Mr. Beaumont stated that he knew where the pole was and that it is located on Prince Street in
133 front of the cemetery.

Mr. Comerford stated that he will send over the pole number to the WED and questioned that this could potentially be in violation of the WED rules? (He also provided photos of the installed camera.)

Mr. Hendershot responded yes.

Mr. Comerford thanked the PUC.

Public Question and Answer Period Closed

**5. Discussion and Possible Action: Revised Budget Page 81 – FY 2024/2025 –
Sewer Division – Source of Funds and Use of Funds**

Mr. Langenauer stated that the WSD recently identified the following errors on its Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025 budget pages approved by the PUC and by the Town Council during the FY 2024-2025 budget approval and adoption process. Specifically, on page 81 of the Town of Wallingford Annual Budgets Book (adopted May 23, 2024) for the Sewer Division, in the Use of Funds section, the bond payment amount of \$103,600.00 omitted bond payments of \$1,656,980.00 for the WPCF Upgrades Project Debt; and therefore, this amount should accurately be \$1,760,580.00. Additionally, the Regular Capital value as approved should correctly be \$1,417,500.00 instead of \$1,430,500.00. These changes impact the Net Appropriation from Cash for Rate Stabilization number which should be \$335,486.00 as opposed to an Appropriation to Cash of \$1,308,494.00 for FY 2024-2025. These changes while impactful to the cash on hand, do not require any appropriation to cash as they only impact retained earnings. Mr. Langenauer apologized and stated that the errors are solely on him.

Dr. Rinebold questioned if these would be characterized as administration corrections?

Mr. Langenauer responded yes.

**Motion to Approve the Revised Budget Page 81 – FY 2024/2025 – Sewer Division as
outlined in Item No. 5-5 of November 19, 2024 PUC Agenda**

Made by: Dr. Rinebold

Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski

Votes: 3 ayes

**6. Discussion and Possible Action: Budget Transfer – FY 2024/2025 – Electric
Division – Account 392 – General Plant – Transportation Equipment**

Mr. Arborio stated that the WED is seeking an additional \$150,000.00 transfer from Account 362 Distribution – Station Equipment to Account 392 General Plant – Transportation Equipment. The WED originally budgeted to replace three vehicles – a 2013 Chevy Equinox (ED15), a 2014 International Bucket truck (ED17) and a 2010 Ford E250 Cargo Van (ED28) in the current fiscal year. Based on the needs of the WED, the 2013 Chevy Equinox and the 2014 International Bucket truck will be replaced with like vehicles while the 2010 Ford E250 Cargo Van will be replaced with a pick-up truck. The Fiscal Year 2024-2025 capital budget for account 392 General Plant – Transportation Equipment was set at \$430,000.00. The below table details by vehicle the shortfall versus budget and includes a contingency to address exceptions noted on Public Bid 24-037 (bucket truck).

	Original Budget	Bid	Shortfall
Replace 2013 Chevy Equinox (ED15)	25,000.00	29,232.00	4,232.00
Replace 2014 International Bucket (ED17)	350,000.00	447,877.00	97,877.00
Replace 2010 Ford E250 Cargo Van (ED28)	55,000.00	64,580.00	9,580.00
	430,000.00	541,689.00	111,689.00
Estimated Contingency- Bucket truck			38,311.00
Total requested			150,000.00

Funds in the amount of \$150,000.00 are available for transfer from Account 362 Distribution – Station Equipment in which the WED had budgeted for the refurbishment of two station transformers. The WED will only be able to contract a single refurbishment during the current fiscal year.

Dr. Rinebold asked to characterize the competitive nature of the bids.

Mr. Arborio stated that there was only one bid for the pick-up truck. Ford has stopped making three quarter-ton and one-ton short bed trucks for the 2025 model year. The WED requires a short bed for the sub-station staff as they need something that they can maneuver within the substation yard. There were three bids for the sport utility vehicle. The lowest bid came in as a Ford Escape. There were three bids for the bucket truck. The WED is still going through the lowest bid to see if it is suitable for WED. The difference between the lowest and the middle bid is approximately \$35,000.00. The high bid is approximately \$100,000.00 greater than the lowest bid. The last time a bucket truck was purchased was in 2022 and was around \$290,000.00. The high bid for this fiscal year was \$500,000.00. The lead time went from 10 months to 2-3 years. They quoted a 2026 with provisions to move that out should the need arise.

Mr. Beaumont questioned any way you cut it there are supply chain issues period?

Mr. Arborio responded that is correct.

Dr. Rinebold stated that these vehicles are needed and that the WED has done their due diligence with competitive bidding.

Motion to Approve the Budget Transfer – FY 2024/2025 in the amount of \$150,000.00 to Account 392 – General Plant – Transportation Equipment

Made by: Dr. Rinebold

Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski

Votes: 3 ayes

7. Consider and Approve: 2025 Schedule of Meetings

Mr. Hendershot noted the asterisks and stated these were dates that were moved around due to other events taking place.

Mr. Zabrowski questioned if the next meeting is December 3, 2024?

Mr. Beaumont stated the next meetings are December 3, 2024 and December 17, 2024.

Motion to: Approve the 2025 Schedule of Public Utilities Committee Meetings as presented

Made by: Mr. Zabrowski

Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold

Votes: 3 ayes

8. Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 1-200(6)(E) and § 1-210(b)(5)(B) and § 7-232a to discuss Customer Power Agreement

Motion was made to move into Executive Session at 6:29 p.m. pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 1-200(6)(E) and § 1-210(b)(5)(B) and § 7-232a to discuss Customer Power Agreement

Made by: Mr. Zabrowski

Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold

Votes: 3 ayes

Attendance at Executive Session: 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 and Town Attorney Farrell (joined at 6:49 p.m.)

259 **Time of Executive Session: 6:29 p.m. to 6:55 p.m.**

260

261

262

263 **Committee Reports/Correspondence**

264

265 None

266

267 **ADJOURNMENT**

268

269 **Motion to Adjourn**

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271 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**

272 **Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold**

273 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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275 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:56 p.m.

276

277

278

279 Respectfully submitted,

280

281

282

283 Michelle Bracale

284 Acting Recording Secretary

Respectfully submitted,

Laurence Zabrowski

Laurence J. Zabrowski
Secretary