

APPROVED

5/20/25

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

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

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 Assistant Business Manager Scott Cleary 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 April 15, 2025

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda

Made by: Dr. Rinebold

Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski

Votes: 3 ayes

3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

RECEIVED FOR RECORD

AT 1:25 PM AND RECEIVED BY

Mike Pango (16) TOWN CLERK

None

4. Discussion and Possible Action: Customer Appeal – 20 Clearview Dr. – Request for Sewer Credit

Mr. Amwake referenced the pictures shown in Item No. 4-4 and Item No. 4-5 and stated that the resident had a leak in the hose spigot for the garden hose outside of their residential dwelling. As is standard for the Water and Sewer Divisions through the PUC, the Water and Sewer Division will entertain a credit on the sewer bill if there is proof that the water did not go down the sanitary sewer. The customer sent pictures of the ice accumulation as evidence that the water did not in fact go down the sewer drain. The owner's April 1, 2025 water and sewer bill was calculated to be \$1,810.81 and was based on the period December 9, 2024 – March 6, 2025. During that billing period, 16,600 cubic feet of water went through the water meter. The Business Office has reviewed the consumption history for this account and has determined that average daily usage for the same billing cycle over the prior five years is 14.91 cf. Since there were 87 days in the April 1, 2025 quarterly bill, the five-year average quarterly usage is equal to 1,297 cf. Subtracting the calculated quarterly average from the 16,600 cf used in this same quarter results in a difference of 15,503 cf. Sewer usage is calculated at 75% of water consumption reflecting a sewer usage difference of 11,477 cf. As the prevailing sewer usage charge is \$8.07 per ccf (one hundred cubic feet), the customer would be entitled to a credit in the amount of \$926.22. The Sewer Division respectfully recommends that the PUC approve a sewer credit to the customer at 20 Clearview Drive for the sewer portion of their April 1, 2025 bill in the amount of \$926.22.

Motion to: Approve a Sewer Credit to the Customer at 20 Clearview Dr. for the sewer portion of their April 1, 2025 bill in the amount of \$926.22.

Made by: Mr. Zabrowski

Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold

Votes: 3 ayes

5. Discussion and Possible Action: Sewer Division – Endorsement of the Clean Water Fund Planning Grant Authorizing Resolution for the Update to the Solids Handling Complex Improvements Section (Chapter 5) of the "Facility Plan for the Wallingford Water Pollution Control Facility"

Mr. Amwake stated that the WSD has engaged with AECOM of Rocky Hill, Connecticut to prepare an update to the Solids Handling Improvements Section (Chapter 5) of the "Facility Plan for the Wallingford Water Pollution Control Facility." Originally, this was to be a paper update. After evaluation of the solids handling equipment, the WSD and AECOM are piloting two types of screw presses to verify that the technologies available for sludge dewatering will be able to meet 20% solids, with 22% solids preferred by solids (sludge) disposal vendors. The WSD plans

to submit a State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Clean Water Fund (CWF) Planning Grant for the Solids Handling Complex Update planning effort. The CWF Planning Grant application is for 55% of the total project costs, with the balance Local Share (WSD) funds.

CWF Planning Grant (55%)	\$167,321.00
Local Share (45%)	<u>\$136,899.00</u>
Total Project Cost	\$304,220.00

Please note that the above values include project contingency monies so the final total project cost and percentage values may differ.

One of the documents required for the CWF Planning Grant submission is a resolution adopted by the applicant, the Town of Wallingford, authorizing the Mayor to file the application and execute the grant agreement, if approved. The WSD is requesting PUC endorsement of the Clean Water Fund Grant Authorizing Resolution as part of the Sewer Division's CWF Planning Grant application for the Solids Handling Complex Update. The Town Council will then approve the Mayor for signatory privileges for the Grant.

Dr. Rinebold questioned whose Resolution is this?

Mr. Amake responded that it is from the DEEP. The WSD downloaded the resolution from the CWF application page.

Dr. Rinebold stated that the resolution is very open ended.

There was further discussion on the two phases of the sludge pilot testing.

Motion to Endorse the Clean Water Fund Planning Grant Authorizing Resolution for the Update to the Solids Handling Complex Improvements Section (Chapter 5) of the "Facility Plan for the Wallingford Water Pollution Control Facility" as provided by DEEP (see attached)

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

Public Question and Answer Period

No Members Present

Public Question and Answer Period Closed

134
135 **6. Discussion and Action: Waive Article I, Section I of the PUC By-Laws and add:**
136 **Discussion and Possible Action: Budget Transfer – Sewer Division – FY**
137 **2024/2025 – Maintenance of Treatment Equipment (Account #46100652)**
138

139 **Motion to Waive Article I, Section I and add the above referenced item to the agenda.**
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141 **Made by: Dr. Rinebold**

142 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**

143 **Votes: 3 ayes**
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147 **7. Discussion and Possible Action: Budget Transfer – Sewer Division – FY**
148 **2024/2025 – Maintenance of Treatment Equipment (Account #46100652)**
149

150 Mr. Amwake stated that in April of 2025, the WSD experienced an idle roller Belt Filter Press
151 failure, which also resulted in irreparable belt damage. Both the upper and lower filtrate belts as
152 well as the idle roller were replaced on Belt Filter Press #1 expending the Sewer Division's spare
153 parts inventory. The current Belt Filter Press units are original to the 1989 treatment plant
154 upgrade. Dewatering solids are imperative to effectively remove nutrients from the wastewater,
155 as well as to meet the criteria of the Connecticut State DEEP National Pollution Discharge
156 Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. Thereby, additional rollers and belts should be purchased
157 as spare parts to avoid downtime and effective treatment. It is necessary to purchase the
158 following spare parts: upper and lower belts and an 18-foot roller assembly. It is estimated that
159 these will cost approximately \$22,750.00 including contingency. Funds for this purpose will be
160 made available through a corresponding transfer from Account #46100928 - Regulatory
161 Expenses which is also known as the Nitrogen Credit Line Item.
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163 Mr. Amwake pointed out that for FY 2025-2026 the budget does reflect the actual unit cost for
164 the nitrogen credits.
165

166 **Motion to: Approve the Sewer Division Budget Transfer - FY 2024/2025 – Maintenance of**
167 **Treatment Equipment to increase Account #46100652 by \$22,500.00 for the purpose to**
168 **purchase spare upper and lower belts and an 18-foot roller assembly.**
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170 **Made by: Dr. Rinebold**

171 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**

172 **Votes: 3 ayes**
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176 **8. Discussion and Possible Action: Budget Amendment – Electric Division – FY**
177 **2024/2025 – Account 593 – Distribution – Maintenance of Overhead Lines**

178 Mr. Arborio stated that the WED is seeking an additional \$312,000.00 in Account 593 –
179 Distribution – Maintenance of Overhead Lines. This account includes labor, overhead and

materials used, and expenses incurred in the maintenance of overhead distribution lines facilities the book cost of which is included in Account 364 – Poles, Towers & Fixtures, Account 365 – Overhead Conductors & Devices and Account 369 – Services. A review of the costs incurred year to date plus staff estimated costs to be incurred for the remainder of this fiscal year indicates that additional funds are needed. The increase is related to the additional payroll and overhead costs incurred into the account due to several weather-related events that happened during the course of the fiscal year. The most notable examples are the costs associated with labor, overtime, double-time, retention of contractors and meals related to the early August storm (\$96,000.00) which included \$18,000.00 of mutual aid, the late August storm (\$92,000.00) and the February 16th ice storm (\$124,000.00) which included \$17,000.00 of mutual aid. As this is one of our largest O&M accounts with a budget of \$1,563,839.00, staff initially felt that these costs could be absorbed due to staffing vacancies. Funds are available for the transfer portion of this amendment from Account 584 – Distribution – Operations – Underground Line Expenses (\$127,000.00), Account 580 - – Distribution – Operations – Supervision and Engineering (\$50,000.00) and Account 590 – Distribution – Maintenance Supervision and Engineering (\$39,000.00). In all three accounts, payroll costs incurred are less than budgeted due to allocation of labor resources to the other areas of the business based on need as described above and/or staff vacancies. These three transfers contribute \$216,000.00 to the shortfall. The remainder of the funding needed will come from Account 365 – Distribution Plant – Overhead Conductors through Retained Earnings. The WED will return \$96,000.00 from the Capital Account (Account 365 - – Distribution Plant – Overhead Conductors) to Retained Earnings. The WED will then take \$96,000.00 from Retained Earnings and appropriate those funds to the Operating and Maintenance Account (Account 593 Distribution – Maintenance of Overhead Lines). It is necessary to do this portion of the amendment in two steps as the WED cannot move funds directly between a capital account and an operations and maintenance account.

Motion to: Approve the Budget Appropriation – FY 2024/2025 in the amount of \$96,000.00 from Account 365 – Distribution Plant – Overhead Conductors to Retained Earnings.

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

Motion to: Approve the Budget Appropriation – FY 2024/2025 in the amount of \$96,000.00 from Retained Earnings to Account 593 – Distribution Maintenance – Overhead Line.

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

Motion to: Approve the Budget Appropriation – FY 2024/2025 in the amount of \$127,000.00 from Account 584 – Distribution Operations – Underground Lines, \$50,000.00 from Account 580 – Distribution Operations – Supervision and Engineering, and \$39,000.00 from Account 590 – Distribution Maintenance – Supervision and Engineering to Account 593 – Distribution Maintenance – Overhead Line for a total of \$216,000.00.

226 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**
227 **Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold**
228 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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231 **Committee Reports/Correspondence**

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235 **ADJOURNMENT**

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237 **Motion to Adjourn**

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239 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**

240 **Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold**

241 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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243 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:29 p.m.

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246 Respectfully submitted,

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250 Michelle Bracale

251 Acting Recording Secretary

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Respectfully submitted,



Laurence J. Zabrowski
Secretary