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12/2/25

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
WALLINGFORD ELECTRIC DIVISION

100 JOHN STREET

WALLINGFORD, CT 06492

Tuesday, November 18, 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 – 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 5, 2025

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda.

Made by: Mr. Zabrowski

Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold

Votes: 3 ayes

3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

None

42 **4. Discussion and Action: Director's Report – Month of October 2025**

43
44 Dr. Rinebold questioned where is the money going for the ancillary service market costs that was
45 discussed in the last PUC meeting?

46
47 Mr. Hendershot stated that it is to pay generators to be there.

48
49 Dr. Rinebold stated that he shares his concerns with his fellow commissioners and is not overly
50 happy about it. This will need to be watched.

51
52 There was further discussion on the future prices.

53
54 Mr. Zabrowski referenced the I/I Mitigation Program and questioned if the one new issue found
55 in October is a trend?

56
57 Mr. Amwake stated that it generally is. What staff is finding is that if customers know that there
58 is an issue, they generally will not participate even though there is a strong reimbursement
59 program.

60
61 Mr. Beaumont questioned are there any more LED street lights that need to be changed out?

62
63 Mr. Arborio stated that the WED records show no. The private lights are replaced upon failure
64 or requests from the customers.

65
66 **Motion to Approve the Director's Report for the Month of October 2025.**

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. Bill Comerford questioned what is the employee vehicle policy for the WED or the WWSD
77 that take vehicles home?

78
79 Mr. Hendershot stated that some of the cars are assigned, others are shown in the staff's job offer
80 letters or traditionally left with the position of the General Manager to take vehicles home.
81 Employees that are on call are also assigned a vehicle so that they can respond when called in.

82
83 Mr. Comerford questioned can the staff use the vehicles for personal use for the staff that is
84 allowed to take the vehicles home?

85
86 Mr. Hendershot stated generally yes.

87

88 Mr. Comerford questioned if the Distribution Superintendent is allowed to use the vehicle?

90 Mr. Hendershot stated he believes so.

92 Mr. Beaumont stated that that position has been allowed a vehicle since at least the 1950's. It's not necessarily in the job description but has been done since the 1950's.

95 Mr. Comerford stated that the PUC is in violation for the past six years for not submitting the annual report due by October 1st and questioned if the PUC was aware of this?

98 Mr. Comerford stated that the Town Clerk did not have a copy of the annual report.

100 Mr. Hendershot stated it has been longer than six years and he was made aware of Mr. Comerford's request for the copy of the annual report. Mr. Hendershot stated that he has been with the Town for twenty years and he has not seen one report and was unaware of the reports. Previous Mayors and the current Mayor has not requested this from Mr. Hendershot. Mr. Hendershot suspects that the Town Hall believes that the annual financials are sufficient. The annual financials are submitted as scheduled.

107 Mr. Comerford stated that in the Charter, the Comptroller is required to submit these reports.

109 Mr. Comerford questioned why are these meetings not being recorded so that Government TV can put the meetings online so that the public do not have to attend?

112 Mr. Hendershot stated that it is not a requirement and it is a long standing practice that these meetings have never been recorded.

115 Mr. Comerford stated that it is a requirement through PURA.

117 Mr. Beaumont stated that PURA has nothing to do with the PUC.

119 Mr. Hendershot stated that if Government TV is supposed to record these meetings, then they should be doing that but they never have.

122 Mr. Comerford stated that it is a requirement and maybe the PUC is not aware that it is.

124 Mr. Comerford referenced the PUC meeting minutes in regards to exit interviews and questioned if this will be changed so that there are exit interviews conducted?

127 Mr. Beaumont stated that if the PUC believed that it was necessary, they would do so.

129 Mr. Comerford questioned how long does an account go before the power is shut off?

131 Mr. Hendershot stated there are rules described in the Connecticut General Statutes. It is complex and takes a while for the customer's power to be shut off due to non-payment.

134 Ms. Dill stated that once the shut off notice is given, the WED gives the customer time to make a
135 payment arrangement.

136
137 Mr. Comerford pointed out that there was a residential customer who owed around \$10,000.00 -
138 \$12,000.00 for over a decade.

139
140 Mr. Beaumont stated that some of those accounts may possibly have medical needs.

141
142 Mr. Arborio stated that there is certain criteria that prevents the WED from shutting off the
143 power.

144
145 Mr. Hendershot stated that the WED requests from customers that have met this criteria to
146 redocument their medical needs annually.

147
148 Mr. Comerford questioned would a lien be put on the property?

149
150 Mr. Hendershot stated that the WED does not have the capability of placing a lien.

151
152 Mr. Comerford questioned how many employees are in the utilities divisions?

153
154 Mr. Hendershot stated about 140 employees.

155
156 **Public Question and Answer Period Closed**

157
158
159
160 **5. Discussion and Possible Action: Budget Amendment – Water Division – FY**
161 **2025/2026 – Employee Pension & Benefits**

162
163 Mr. Cleary stated that the WWD does not typically budget for unemployment compensation as
164 future unemployment claims cannot be forecasted at the time the WWD budget is approved and
165 adopted. However, this fiscal year there has been an unemployment claim for a former WWD
166 employee who was entitled to such compensation. The WWD anticipates this will be for a
167 period of six months with the possibility of an extension for an additional three months of
168 unemployment compensation totaling \$24,738.00. The Town of Wallingford has already made
169 the first three months payment to the State of Connecticut for \$8,246.00. The WWD is
170 requesting PUC approval of a Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget amendment to increase Account #
171 43100926 – Employee Pension & Benefits by \$24,738.00.

172
173 **Motion to Approve a Budget Amendment – Water Division – FY 2025/2026 to Increase**
174 **Account #43100926 – Employee Pension & Benefits by \$24,738.00 from Retained Earnings.**

175
176 **Made by: Dr. Rinebold**

177 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**

178 **Votes: 3 ayes**

179

180 **6. Discussion and Action: 2026 Schedule of Meetings**
181

182 Dr. Rinebold stated that he may not be able to attend the March 3, 2026 PUC meeting and that he
183 will let the PUC know once the date is closer.
184

185 **Motion to Approve the 2026 Schedule of Meetings for the Public Utilities Commission as**
186 **presented.**
187

188 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**

189 **Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold**

190 **Votes: 3 ayes**
191
192
193

194 **Committee Reports/Correspondence**
195
196
197

198 **ADJOURNMENT**
199

200 **Motion to Adjourn**
201

202 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**

203 **Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold**

204 **Votes: 3 ayes**
205

206 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:36 p.m.
207
208

209 Respectfully submitted,
210

211 *Michelle Bracale*
212

213 Michelle Bracale
214 Acting Recording Secretary

Respectfully submitted,

Laurence Zabrowski /mb

Laurence J. Zabrowski
Secretary