

APPROVED

12/23/25

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

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

6:00 P.M.

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Robert Beaumont; Commissioners Dr. Joel Rinebold and Laurence Zabrowski; Director Richard Hendershot; Water and Sewer Divisions General Manager Neil Amwake; Water and Sewer Divisions Business Manager Donald Langenauer; Water and Sewer Divisions Assistant Business Manager Scott Cleary and Acting Recording Secretary Michelle Bracale

*Absent – Electric Division General Manager Jake Arborio and Electric Division Business Office Manager Marianne Dill*

*Members of the Public – Richard Donegan and 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 18, 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

#### **4. Discussion and Possible Action: Customer Appeal – 12 Partridge Run**

Mr. Langenauer referenced the memorandum dated November 26, 2025 and stated that on October 20, 2025, the Wallingford Water and Sewer Divisions sent a high consumption notice to Mr. Richard Donegan at 12 Partridge Run in advance of the third quarter invoice that would be mailed early November 2025. On November 9, 2025 the customer transmitted an e-mail to the WWSD customer mailbox requesting a sewer credit as a result of the extensive lawn work and repair that had been performed at the property which required significant watering due to the below average precipitation conditions. Pictures in support of the work performed were included in the e-mail. On November 11, 2025, in response to the e-mail request, the WWSD Business Manager telephoned the customer to discuss his request and explained that sewer usage was already charged at 75% of water consumption. On November 12, 2025 Mr. Donegan requested a copy of the invoices for the last five years. These invoices were immediately emailed to Mr. Donegan the same day and he acknowledged receipt. After reviewing the invoices, the usage was higher for this quarter than over the last five years. Based on the facts presented, the Sewer Division is not suggesting that a sewer credit be granted to Mr. Donegan at this time.

Mr. Hendershot noted the written material from Mr. Donegan dated December 2, 2025 for the PUC to consider and stated that it is difficult for Mr. Donegan to speak as he had throat cancer.

Mr. Donegan thanked Michelle Bracale and Donald Langenauer for their incredible service. Mr. Donegan stated that he compiled all relevant numbers into an MS Excel spreadsheet, including graphs illustrating usage and charges to support his claim. Mr. Donegan stated that a review of his graphs shows that his water usage and payments for the fourth quarter of 2025 were significantly higher than in the previous five years. Photographs of his lawn damage from last year through this spring demonstrate the severity of the issue. Mr. Donegan did not water his lawn in the fourth quarter last year as the lawn was dead, as shown in the photos. By spring 2025, he aggressively removed seven lawn and leaf bags of invasive creeping bent grass after applying numerous applications of insecticides. Following this, he aerated the soil, applied topsoil, reseeded the lawn and applied fertilizer several times. Daily watering, sometimes twice a day was crucial to the repair process. Mr. Donegan typically watered at 5/6:00 am during the drought, skipping only the very few days when rain was forecasted. To estimate his usage, Mr. Donegan created a spreadsheet and determined that his daily watering cost was about \$5.00, totaling approximately \$150.00 per month and \$450.00 for the quarter, not including surcharges.

Dr. Rinebold questioned how does the WSD come up with the sewer usage charge of 75% of the water consumption?

Mr. Amwake stated that this was an inherited number and that he would need to take a look at the former General Manager or Business Managers to see how this was formulated. From an industry standard, this is low. From an academic standpoint, the percent used is 90%. Whether it is 75% or 90% you would adjust the unit cost to meet the revenue requirements. The WSD

88 revenue requirements are simply based on the WSD costs. There is no profit and there is no  
89 return on investments.

90  
91 Dr. Rinebold questioned can the WSD meter the wastewater?

92  
93 Mr. Amwake stated that the technical requirements allow for a sanitary meter to be installed to  
94 meter what goes down the sanitary sewer. Traditionally, this is for industrial customers or large  
95 commercial customers.

96  
97 Dr. Rinebold questioned what can be done for large water users that do not use the sanitary  
98 sewer system? A customer that routinely fills up pools, washes cars or heavily irrigates?

99  
100 Mr. Amwake stated the customer can put in an irrigation meter. This would avoid the WSD  
101 basic service fee as well as the WSD unit costs. As a courtesy, the WSD will run a return on  
102 investment for the customer based on what the irrigation needs are, cost of the meter and cost of  
103 the plumber. The basic service fee will still be charged in the winter and spring.

104  
105 Mr. Beaumont stated that to the best of his knowledge the 75% has been used since the last four  
106 decades.

107  
108 Mr. Donegan stated that he would like to put an irrigation meter on his home and that he applied  
109 for one.

110  
111 Mr. Amwake instructed Mr. Donegan to get in touch with Mr. Langenauer to start this process so  
112 the WSD can perform a return on investment (ROI) analysis for him.

113  
114 Mr. Donegan thanked everyone for all of their help.

115  
116 **No Action Taken**

117  
118  
119  
120 **Public Question and Answer Period**

121  
122 Mr. Comerford questioned if there was an update from the legal department in regards to the  
123 public giving their address at the PUC meetings?

124  
125 Mr. Hendershot stated that this has been clarified.

126  
127 Mr. Comerford questioned if anyone reached out to the legal department in regards to the Charter  
128 violations that was presented at the last PUC meeting?

129  
130 Mr. Hendershot stated that he does not believe so and reiterated that Mr. Comerford's questions  
131 about this matter should be directed to the Comptroller's Office. It is the PUC's position that the  
132 financials that are prepared on a quarterly basis satisfies that need. If the Comptroller does not  
133 think so he should make the PUC aware of this.

134 Mr. Comerford questioned that it is not required for the Chairman of the Board per Charter to  
135 submit the annual reports to the Town Clerk?

136  
137 Mr. Beaumont stated that would be correct.

138  
139 Mr. Comerford questioned why exit interviews primarily by third parties would not be done?

140  
141 Mr. Comerford questioned if audio files of the minutes from the meetings are kept?

142  
143 Ms. Bracale responded yes.

144 Ms. Bracale stated that the audio files are required to be kept six months after the meeting  
145 minutes are approved.

146  
147 Mr. Comerford gave paperwork to the PUC and spoke on video recording of the PUC Meeting in  
148 regards to PURA and Government TV that was presented at the last PUC meeting.

149  
150 Mr. Beaumont stated that he spoke to the Law Department and they have stated that this is not  
151 the case. PURA has nothing to do with the PUC and the PUC is not required to video record the  
152 meetings.

153  
154 Mr. Hendershot stated that PURA may have some jurisdiction over local television. The PUC  
155 does not know anything about that. If Government TV has certain responsibilities per  
156 PURA, than that is Government TV's responsibility to see to it. This is not the PUC's  
157 responsibility.

158  
159 Mr. Comerford questioned how does comp time work?

160  
161 Mr. Hendershot stated that this is short for compensatory time, which is giving time to  
162 employees who earn it in lieu of paid overtime wages.

163  
164 Mr. Comerford questioned if there was ever a case where an employee took more comp time  
165 than they were entitled to?

166  
167 Mr. Hendershot stated that he cannot swear that this has never happened but not to his  
168 knowledge.

169  
170 Mr. Comerford questioned if it is a requirement to have a short bed pickup truck in order to  
171 maneuver around the substation?

172  
173 Mr. Hendershot stated that experience has taught the staff this, as there are a lot of obstacles in a  
174 substation. You need smaller than average equipment in the substation to safely maneuver  
175 around everywhere.

176  
177 There was some discussion on purchases that did not follow the Town Charter and purchasing  
178 protocol from the Town of Wallingford in 2023 and Mr. Comerford stated he will bring the  
179 paperwork to the next meeting to discuss and review with the PUC.

180  
181 Mr. Beaumont stated that he did not recall this.  
182  
183  
184

185 **Public Question and Answer Period Closed**  
186  
187

188  
189 **Committee Reports/Correspondence**  
190  
191  
192

193 **ADJOURNMENT**  
194

195 **Motion to Adjourn**  
196

197 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**

198 **Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold**

199 **Votes: 3 ayes**  
200

201 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:44 p.m.  
202

203 Respectfully submitted,  
204

205   
206

207 Michelle Bracale  
208 Acting Recording Secretary

Respectfully submitted,



Laurence J. Zabrowski  
Secretary