

APPROVED

1/21/26

SPECIAL MEETING

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
WALLINGFORD ELECTRIC DIVISION

100 JOHN STREET
WALLINGFORD, CT 06492
Tuesday, December 23, 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 Business Manager Donald Langenauer; Water and Sewer Divisions Assistant Business Manager Scott Cleary and Acting Recording Secretary Michelle Bracale

Absent – None

Members of the Public – Dawn Warner, Eric Warner, Deana Sala and Charles Young

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 December 2, 2025

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda

Made by: Dr. Rinebold

Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski

Votes: 3 ayes

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42 **3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda**
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44 None
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48 **4. Discussion and Action: Director's Report – Month of November 2025**
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50 Dr. Rinebold commented that he is pleased to see the staff keeping an eye on the ISO-NE
51 process that is moving forward.
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53 Mr. Beaumont referenced Item No. 4-2, October Wholesale Power Supply and questioned if the
54 October actual power costs and the October forecasted power costs included the credit from the
55 settlement for the overcharges in June?
56

57 Mr. Hendershot stated yes, that is exactly why.
58

59 Mr. Beaumont referenced Item No. 4-3 Personnel, Project Engineer/Planner and stated that
60 Human Resources posted the position on July 3rd and closed the posting on November 21st.
61

62 Mr. Amwake stated that traditionally the position would be posted for thirty days but for certain
63 positions the Human Resources Department will post some positions as an open posting. Human
64 Resources will wait until there is a sufficient number of applicants that have been submitted
65 electronically. Human Resources will then decide one week prior to close the posting. Human
66 Resources will then conduct an oral panel merit examination. It took another one month for
67 Human Resources to conduct the oral panel merit exam for one candidate.
68

69 **Motion to Approve the Director's Report for the Month of November 2025**
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71 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**

72 **Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold**

73 **Votes: 3 ayes**
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77 **Public Question and Answer Period**
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79 None
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81 **Public Question and Answer Period Closed**
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85 **5. Discussion and Possible Action: Power Cost Adjustment – January 1, 2026 –**
86 **June 30, 2026**

Mr. Hendershot stated that since the net change in the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) from the preceding period is less than \$0.005 per kWh there is no opportunity for the PUC to modify the calculated PCA per the stipulation of Rate 12. The impact of the power cost adjustment on a 750-kWh monthly residential bill is an increase of \$1.69. The PCA calculation is based off of a six month look back and a six month look ahead.

Dr. Rinebold questioned if the WED still has cash above minimum?

Mr. Hendershot stated yes. The WED has more than enough cash on hand to address any surprises that may come up.

Mr. Beaumont stated that he does not recall the delta ever being this low.

No Action Taken

6. Discussion and Possible Action: Customer Appeal – 140 Woodhouse Avenue

Ms. Dawn Warner commented that Mr. Scott M. Cleary was very helpful. Ms. Warner stated that she understands that this will be an uphill battle as the WWSD has rules, policies and protocols that they follow. Ms. Warner was surprised when she received the high bill. Ms. Warner moved into a single family residential dwelling on Woodhouse Avenue at the end of June 2025. The home is around 1,500 square feet. On July 23rd the first reading was done and the bill for that was paid in the amount of \$422.56 without any thought as Ms. Warner thought the bill covered a longer period of time. Ms. Warner stated that when she saw 35,000 cubic feet, she did not think anything of it as she did not know how much 35,000 cubic feet translates to. Ms. Warner stated that she now knows what that translates to. Ms. Warner understood that she did not get a telephone call from the WWSD in regards to a high bill as the WWSD did not have a historical record for the usage since she just moved in. However, Ms. Warner believes that the WWSD should have reached out to notify her that the usage was high and try to evaluate the situation. If Ms. Warner understood how much she was actually using she would have done the dye test immediately to test her toilets for leaks and avoided the 31,200 cubic feet usage. Since the leak was found the usage has been normal. Ms. Warner stated she is not looking for a full reimbursement but at least some kind of compromise as she feels that the WWSD could have taken one more step to alert her of the high bill and high consumption.

Mr. Cleary stated that Ms. Warner gave a very good synopsis of the situation. Mr. Cleary stated that he was the one to call the customer to inform her of the high bill. The first bill was significant usage but also the first read for a new WWSD customer. Since the customer just moved in sometimes the bills are higher due to work being done at the property. The WWSD is not aware of what goes on in every house. After the leak was found the usage went down to normal. Mr. Cleary provided Ms. Warner with the figures for a 12-month payment plan to bring her account current.

133 Dr. Rinebold questioned what does the payment plan look like?

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135 Mr. Cleary stated that a 12-month plan was around \$450.00 a month. The WWSD could do a
136 24-month payment plan as this would be the limit of what the Division would allow. The 24-
137 month payment plan would be around \$250.00 a month.

138
139 Mr. Beaumont stated that the WWSD treats the water to get it to the customer. If the water goes
140 into the sewer, then that wastewater has to be treated again as well.

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142 Mr. Cleary stated that he will call over to Ms. Warner tomorrow to review the figures for the
143 payment plans.

144
145 Ms. Warner questioned if there is interest that will be added?

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147 Mr. Cleary stated that there is statutory interest but the interest is factored in the payment plan
148 amount. Every time you make a payment there is less interest.

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150 Mr. Zabrowski questioned what is the statutory interest rate amount?

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152 Mr. Cleary stated that the WWSD charges 1.50% per month.

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154 **No Action Taken**

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158 **7. Discussion and Possible Action: Customer Appeal – 499 S. Elm Street**

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160 Ms. Sala stated that she knew her bill was going to be high but not as high as it was. Ms. Sala
161 stated that she had a break in a pipe and was found immediately. Ms. Sala was washing laundry
162 when she heard the water coming in. Ms. Sala went to put the clothes in the dryer and there was
163 water coming out but the washer was not in use. Ms. Sala went and inspected and found the
164 water leaking in the crawl space with a dirt floor. Once the leak was detected the water was
165 turned off and the pipe was repaired immediately. The water that was leaking did not go into the
166 sanitary sewer.

167
168 Mr. Cleary stated that he agrees with Ms. Sala and everything that was stated to the PUC. Mr.
169 Cleary proactively contacted the customer by telephone to alert her of the unusually high-water
170 meter reading which was to be billed on December 1, 2025. During that phone call Ms. Sala's
171 son-in-law advised the WWSD that he had done repair work to a compromised (burst) copper
172 pipe. Pictures of the leak were included in the PUC packet for review. The interior pipe leaked
173 onto an unfinished dirt floor and therefore did not enter the sanitary sewer collection system.

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175 Dr. Rinebold stated that there was no cost associated going into the sanitary sewer system
176 therefore nothing should be billed for the sewer usage.

Motion to Approve the Water & Sewer Division to issue a sewer credit in the amount of \$524.40

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

8. Discussion and Possible Action: Budget Amendment – Water Division – FY 2025/26 – 300 Williams Road Open Space

Mr. Amwake referenced Item No. 8-5 and stated that the WWD originally purchased 300 Williams Road. This parcel is 95.281 acres. All of the 300 Williams Road parcel lies within the Wallingford watershed, with the majority of the land being classified as Class I watershed land with the balance being classified as Class II watershed land. The WWD submitted an Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) Grant Application for this parcel. The grant application included a plan to provide passive recreational activities including walking and hiking, orienteering, nature photography and streambank fishing. On June 8, 2022 the Town was informed by the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) that Wallingford was the recipient of an OSWA Grant of \$487,500.00. On February 24, 2023 the Town received the grant payment.

The WWD then purchased 138 Williams Road. This parcel is 40.70 acres. The WWD again submitted an Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant application. The Town was informed by CT DEEP that Wallingford was again the recipient of an OSWA Grant of \$435,500.00; however, the Town has not received the funds yet. The funds are being held by DEEP until the Town closes out items remaining in other grant awards and opportunities. One of the open items is the completion of passive recreation improvements at 300 Williams Road including an access driveway, limited parking and fencing. The OSWA Grant of \$435,500.00 for 138 Williams Road will not be disbursed by the State until the Town finishes the passive recreation improvements at 300 Williams Road.

Public Bid No. 25-044 was opened on November 6, 2025. Nine bids were received, ranging from \$149,964.92 to \$295,050.00. The Bureau of Purchases identified an issue with the bid for the low bidder and therefore the Town is moving forward with the second-lowest bidder at a bid price of \$158,000.00. In FY 2023-24 the WWD appropriated \$135,000.00 for construction of the access drive and parking. As such, the bid price is greater than the current appropriation, a difference (deficit) of \$23,000.00. A 15% contingency should be added to the bid price which is equal to \$23,700.00. Together, the WWD appropriation shortfall is \$46,700.00. If the 15% contingency is not needed after the project is completed the capital abandonment process will sweep these funds back into retained earnings at the end of the fiscal year. One of the items with municipal budgeting is the WWD staff cannot approve change orders if the funds are not on the table, per se. The funds need to be 100% available in municipal budgeting and financing. If not the WWD would then need to go back to the PUC and Town Counsel to ask for additional contingency funds while the contractor waits.

Mr. Amwake referenced Item No. 8-7 and stated that this is the letter from DEEP that lists the outstanding items. The WWD is not responsible for all of the outstanding items. The WWD is working with Program Planning and the Mayor's Office to complete them.

Mr. Zabrowski questioned when is the outstanding work supposed to be done?

Mr. Amwake stated that the contract cannot be signed until after the funding is in place. The Town Council is not meeting until January. The bidder is holding their price until WWD has the funding in place.

Motion to Approve a Budget Amendment – Water Division – FY 2025/26 to Increase Capital Account #43300310 – Land by \$46,700.00 from Cash (Retained Earnings)

Made by: Mr. Zabrowski

Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold

Votes: 3 ayes

Committee Reports/Correspondence

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn

Made by: Mr. Zabrowski

Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold

Votes: 3 ayes

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Bracale
Acting Recording Secretary

Respectfully submitted,



Laurence J. Zabrowski
Secretary