

1 **APPROVED**

2 3/17/26

3 TOWN OF WALLINGFORD
4 PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
5 WALLINGFORD ELECTRIC DIVISION
6 100 JOHN STREET

7 WALLINGFORD, CT 06492

8 Wednesday, February 18, 2026

9 6:00 P.M.

10 **MINUTES**

11 **PRESENT:** Chairman Robert Beaumont; Commissioners Dr. Joel Rinebold and Laurence
12 Zabrowski; Director Richard Hendershot; Mayor Vincent Cervoni; Electric Division General
13 Manager Jake Arborio; Electric Division Business Office Manager Marianne Dill; Electric
14 Division Energy Conservation Specialist Donald Mauritz; Water and Sewer Divisions General
15 Manager Neil Amwake; Water and Sewer Divisions Business Manager Donald Langenauer;
16 Water and Sewer Divisions Assistant Business Office Manager Scott Cleary and Acting
17 Recording Secretary Michelle Bracale

18
19 *Absent – None*

20
21 *Members of the Public – Gerald E. Farrell, Sr., Jeremy Grossman and Naresh Komal*

22
23 Mr. Beaumont called the Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M., and the pledge of Allegiance was
24 recited.

25
26 **1. Pledge of Allegiance**

27
28
29
30 **2. Discussion and Action: Resolution – Gerald E. Farrell, Sr. (Item moved from #8)**

31
32 Mr. Beaumont stated that Attorney Gerald E. Farrell, Sr. served over forty-two years with the
33 Town of Wallingford working with the Department of Public Utilities. Mr. Farrell joined the
34 Wallingford Department of Law in 1983 where he was Assistant Town Attorney for twenty-eight
35 years, then became the Town Attorney and has been so for the last fourteen years. Attorney
36 Farrell was able to accomplish obtaining the last grant given by the Federal Clean Water Act in
37 the amount of \$43,000,000.00 to build the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Also, he, along with
38 Attorney Robert O’Neil went to arbitration on their beliefs that CMEEC was overcharging the
39 WED and recuperated over \$3,000,000.00.
40

41 Mr. Beaumont commented that Attorney Farrell has done a superior job. Mr. Beaumont thanked
42 and praised Mr. Farrell for everything he has done for the utilities over the last forty years.

43
44 Mr. Beaumont read the resolution as stated in Item No. 8-1.

45
46 Mr. Farrell thanked everyone and stated that it has been a privilege and an honor to be the Town
47 Attorney of Wallingford. The PUC is part of what makes Wallingford such a great Town.

48
49 **Motion to: Approve the Resolution for Gerald E. Farrell, Sr.**

50
51 **Made by: Dr. Rinebold**

52 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**

53 **Votes: 3 ayes**

54

55

56

57 **3. Consent Agenda**

58

59 a. Consider and Approve Special Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2026

60

61 **Motion to: Approve the Consent Agenda**

62

63 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**

64 **Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold**

65 **Votes: 3 ayes**

66

67

68

69 **4. Items Removed from Consent Agenda**

70

71 None

72

73

74

75 **5. Discussion and Action: Director's Report – Month of January 2026**

76

77 Mr. Beaumont referenced Item No. 4-18 and noted for the first five months of the fiscal year the
78 WED is paying +\$1,300,000.00 more than last year when it was the forward reserve market.

79

80 Mr. Zabrowski stated that he agrees that the Day-Ahead Ancillary Service charges are way too
81 high.

82

83 Mr. Hendershot stated that he has had conversations with Energy New England and they are
84 starting to look at ideas and possible strategies for hedging Day Ahead Ancillary Service
85 Charges.

86

87 Dr. Rinebold thanked Mr. Hendershot for all the information that was sent over for review.
88 Mr. Zabrowski questioned if this will drop off at any point in time?

89
90 Mr. Hendershot responded no, this is a component of the ISO-NE market and the ISO-NE tariffs
91 and will be this way until ISO-NE changes it.

92
93 **Motion to: Approve the Director’s Report for the Month of January 2026**

94
95
96 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**
97 **Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold**
98 **Votes: 3 ayes**

99
100
101
102 **Public Question and Answer Period**

103
104 None

105
106 **Public Question and Answer Period Closed**

107
108
109
110 **6. Discussion and Possible Action: Customer Appeal – Sewer Division – 448 North**
111 **Colony Road (*Item Moved*)**

112
113 Mr. Langenauer stated that on October 1, 2025 the WWSD Business Office contacted BAS
114 Properties, LLC and spoke to the car wash Site Manager, Jeremy Grossman, to inform him of a
115 high consumption for his upcoming November 2025 WWSD bill. It was noted that the
116 November 2025 quarterly invoice reflected a consumption of 74,000 cf (approximately 553,500
117 gallons) reflecting a charge of \$8,757.00. Mr. Grossman informed the WWSD that there had
118 been a broken pipe that was responsible for this high consumption. On December 9, 2025, Mr.
119 Komal visited the customer window to request relief of the November 2025 bill. Mr. Komal
120 stated that the Scrubbin’ Bubbles car wash business at this address had been closed for more than
121 two years. It was explained to Mr. Komal that he could request a sewer credit through a PUC
122 appeal process only if this water would not have gone into the public sanitary sewer collection
123 and treatment system. On January 22, 2026, two WWSD Inspectors went to the property to
124 investigate the leak event identified by the property owner. The WWSD Inspectors found two
125 floor drains in the immediate area of the identified leak. The floor was pitched to allow for water
126 to properly enter these floor drains. The floor drains are connected to the sanitary sewer lateral
127 for the property per plans filed and retained by the WWSD Engineering Section. In addition,
128 there was no noted water damage on the walls. Given the amount of water consumption, the
129 inspectors would have expected to see significant water damage had the water not gone into the
130 drain and ultimately the public sanitary sewer and collection and treatment system. As a result,
131 the water would have in fact been treated, and a sewer credit would not be warranted.

132

133 Mr. Grossman stated that it wasn't a pipe but a hose. An employee was straightening up and left
134 the hose on and it burst. Mr. Grossman drove to the property the next day to get the mail and
135 noticed the water coming out of the building. The water was immediately shut off.

136 Mr. Komal stated that the business has been closed for over two years. This was not done on
137 purpose.

138
139 Dr. Rinebold stated that we know the water was used and questioned did the water go down
140 through the flow drain and into the sewer system where the water was treated, or did it go out of
141 the building and into the grass area where it did not use the sewer?

142
143 Mr. Langenauer referenced the photos in Item No. 6-10 and Item No. 6-11 and stated that the
144 pictures identify the drains in the area and the pitch of the floor. The WWSD suspects that
145 because of the pitch in the floor the water would have gone down the drain which means it would
146 have gone into the sewer system. If the water did not go down the drain there would have been
147 visible evidence of water damage on the walls.

148
149 Mr. Amwake confirmed that the floor drains are tied to the sanitary sewer system per the
150 plumbing and layout plans. The WWSD investigates all customer appeals to the best of their
151 ability. The water has gone through the meter and there is no proof that the water did not go into
152 the sanitary sewer system.

153
154 Dr. Rinebold questioned how could water have by-passed the floor drains and gone out into the
155 grass area by the parking lot?

156
157 Mr. Amwake stated it is not the WWSD's responsibility to prove.

158
159 Mr. Langenauer stated that there are other businesses next door and if it had not gone down the
160 drain the other businesses would have been complaining about the water flooding the area.

161
162 Mr. Langenauer stated that the WWSD can offer a one-year payment plan and can set this up
163 with the customer directly.

164
165 Mr. Amwake stated that sewer usage is based off of 75% of the water consumption.

166
167 Mr. Beaumont stated the previous bill was \$332.00 which is the Basic Service Fee.

168
169 **No Action Taken**

170
171
172
173 **7. Discussion and Possible Action: Update Policy E-3 – Residential Customer's**
174 **Policy Regarding Home Energy Savings™ Program**

175
176 Mr. Mauritz stated that the WED Policy E-3 was last revised on October 17, 2014. Since then,
177 there have been changes to the Home Energy Savings (HES) Program that are not reflected in the
178 current policy. The proposed revisions to the Policy E-3 are:

- 179
180
181
182
183
184
185
186
187
188
189
1. To update the stated purpose to more accurately reflect current program objectives (i.e. provide basic weatherization services and information on other energy efficiency improvements).
 2. To change policy to allow customers to participate more than once. This change is consistent with the *Home Energy Solutions Program* offered by Eversource Gas and Southern Connecticut Gas Company.
 3. To add a requirement linking participating in HES as a prerequisite to qualifying for WED's *Insulation Rebate*. This ensures that existing insulation levels are determined by a trained technician and that air sealing is completed prior to insulation being added.

190 Mr. Mauritz shared the tracked changes to the Policy E-3 with the PUC to review.

191
192 Mr. Beaumont referenced Item No. 5-3 and noted that paragraph 8. is a new item added to the
193 Policy E-3: Only customers that have participated in the HES Program and exceed the duct
194 leakage threshold (as determined by HES Technicians) qualify for duct sealing.

195
196 **Motion to: Approve the Revised Policy E-3 – Residential Customer’s Policy Regarding**
197 **Home Energy Savings™ Program**

198
199 **Made by: Dr. Rinebold**

200 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**

201 **Votes: 3 ayes**
202
203
204

205 **8. Discussion and Possible Action: Budget Amendment – Sewer Division – FY**
206 **2025/2026 – Miscellaneous Expenses (Account #46100643)**
207

208 Mr. Langenauer stated that the WSD typically budgets for natural gas at its water pollution
209 control facility based upon historical usage. This year’s budget of \$55,000.00 was based upon
210 Eversource Gas invoices for the prior three fiscal years. Recently, natural gas usage at the WPCF
211 has increased significantly. Initially, the Business Office worked with WSD leadership to make
212 changes within the WPCF to reduce natural gas usage. When these revisions did not have any
213 noticeable impact on natural gas consumption, the Business Office contacted Eversource Gas to
214 inquire as to why consumption had increased significantly from prior fiscal years. The Business
215 Office was informed by Eversource Gas that on April 16, 2025 an Eversource Gas technician
216 identified that the battery in the natural gas meter located at the WPCF was inoperable. Based on
217 prior Eversource Gas invoices the gas meter battery stopped working on or around November 2,
218 2021 per WSD calculations. Between November 2, 2021 and April 15, 2025, the natural gas
219 usage at the WPCF was recorded as 0 ccf. As such, during this period Eversource Gas invoices
220 for natural gas usage at the WPCF reflected the Customer Service Charge and Daily Demand
221 Meter Charge (basic service fees) plus a Demand Charge and SER Mechanism charges as
222 applicable. While the technician replaced the battery, Eversource Gas did not notify the
223 Wallingford Sewer Division that the battery stopped working nor that it had been replaced. This
224 coupled with one of the coldest winters in quite some time and significantly increased natural gas

225 prices has resulted in a budget shortfall for natural gas at the water pollution control facility. The
226 WSD anticipates that it will require an additional \$65,000.00 to meet the natural gas
227 consumption for the WPCF for the remainder of the fiscal year for a FY 2025-2026 total of
228 \$120,000.00. Funds for this purpose will be made available through a corresponding transfer
229 from Cash in the Source of Funds section of the Sewer Division budget.
230

231 **Motion to: Approve a Budget Amendment – Sewer Division – FY 2025/2026 to Increase**
232 **Account #46100643 – Miscellaneous Expenses by \$65,000.00 from Retained Earnings**

233
234 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**
235 **Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold**
236 **Votes: 3 ayes**
237

238
239
240 **Committee Reports/Correspondence**
241

242
243
244 **ADJOURNMENT**
245

246 **Motion to Adjourn**
247

248 **Made by: Dr. Rinebold**
249 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**
250 **Votes: 3 ayes**
251

252
253
254 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:58 p.m.
255

256 Respectfully submitted,
257

258 

259
260 Michelle Bracale
261 Acting Recording Secretary

Respectfully submitted,



Laurence J. Zabrowski
Secretary