

APPROVED

4/21/26

1
2 TOWN OF WALLINGFORD
3 PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
4 WALLINGFORD ELECTRIC DIVISION
5 100 JOHN STREET
6 WALLINGFORD, CT 06492
7 Tuesday, March 17, 2026

8 6:00 P.M.

9 **MINUTES**

10
11 **PRESENT:** Chairman Robert Beaumont; Commissioners Dr. Joel Rinebold and Laurence
12 Zabrowski; Director Richard Hendershot; Electric Division General Manager Jake Arborio;
13 Water and Sewer Divisions General Manager Neil Amwake; Water and Sewer Divisions
14 Business Manager Donald Langenauer; Water and Sewer Divisions Assistant Business Manager
15 Scott Cleary and Acting Recording Secretary Michelle Bracale

16
17 *Absent – Electric Division Business Office Manager Marianne Dill*

18
19 *Members of the Public – None*

20
21 Mr. Beaumont called the Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M., and the pledge of Allegiance was
22 recited.

23
24 **1. Pledge of Allegiance**

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27
28 **2. Annual Reorganization**

29
30 **Motion to Elect Robert Beaumont as Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission**

31
32 **Made by: Dr. Rinebold**

33 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**

34 **Votes: 3 ayes**

35
36 **Motion to Elect Dr. Joel Rinebold as Vice-Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission**

37
38 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**

39 **Seconded by: Mr. Beaumont**

40 **Votes: 2 ayes (Dr. Rinebold abstained from the vote)**

41

42 **Motion to Elect Laurence Zabrowski as Secretary of the Public Utilities Commission**

43

44 **Made by: Dr. Rinebold**

45 **Seconded by: Mr. Beaumont**

46 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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49

50 **3. Consent Agenda**

51

52 **a. Consider and Approve Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2026**

53 **b. Consider and Approve Special Meeting Minutes (Budget Workshop) of February 25,**
54 **2026**

55

56 **Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda**

57

58 **Made by: Dr. Rinebold**

59 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**

60 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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

65

66 None

67

68

69

70 **5. Discussion and Action: Approval of the Director's Report for the Month of**
71 **February 2026**

72

73 Dr. Rinebold referenced Item No. 5-12 and Item No. 5-13 in regard to the 36W Feeder and
74 commented that the poles look largely straight which separates WED from other utility
75 companies.

76

77 Dr. Rinebold questioned what does the schedule look like?

78

79 Mr. Arborio stated that the wires have been installed and the WED will need to splice them in
80 and re-slack them. The wire will then need to be energized and the primary and secondary
81 customers will have to be cut over to the new wire. This should be done in mid-April. PURA
82 mandates the pole removals within eighteen months on secondary roadways and 24 months on
83 tertiary roadways. Mr. Arborio also noted that this could only be done once the communication
84 companies shift their facilities to the new poles and that approximately 50% of the poles are
85 owned and maintained by Frontier, now Verizon.

86

87 Dr. Rinebold referenced Item No. 5-13 PLM Comprehensive Analysis and questioned what is
88 the scope of the work?

89
90 Mr. Arborio stated that the ask for PLM was two-fold. PLM was asked to solve the North
91 Wallingford issue with the load growth and then to solve the load growth generally as well as
92 where WED stands today systemically. WED provided PLM five years of load data along with
93 customer sizing information for the next four years. PLM's plan is to give the WED a short-term
94 plan and then come up with a long-term solution.

95
96 Dr. Rinebold questioned what the PUC is supposed to do with the PLM Comprehensive
97 Analysis.

98
99 Mr. Hendershot stated that once the WED has the information, they can give this to the PUC to
100 review and discuss.

101
102 Dr. Rinebold stated that he would like the PUC to be informed if PLM does find a need for
103 significant expansions.

104
105 There was further discussion regarding load growth.

106
107 Dr. Rinebold questioned what is pricing going to look like for natural gas?

108
109 Mr. Hendershot stated that natural gas is its own commodity. It is all going to come down to
110 counter-parties perception of the risk of serving around the clock load which includes the winter
111 months of December, January and February.

112
113 Dr. Rinebold referenced Item No. 5-106 Alarms, Trouble Calls and Emergencies and stated that
114 he is aware Masonic Hospital is responsible for their sanitary sewer lateral backup.

115
116 Mr. Amwake stated that this is a cross country public sanitary sewer and that this was just
117 miscommunication from the field staff to office staff (related to the pipe being a sanitary sewer
118 lateral). The backup was roots and rags and was found by the staff during proactive preventative
119 maintenance of the sanitary sewer.

120
121 Dr. Rinebold questioned when can the PUC take a look at the Headworks Fine Screens Project at
122 the WPCF?

123
124 Mr. Amwake stated that substantial onsite construction has not yet been completed. The PUC
125 will be invited for a tour of the Headworks Fine Screens Project once there is more to see,
126 looking at the Fall.

127
128 **Motion to Approve the Director's Report for the Month of February 2026**

129
130 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**

131 **Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold**

132 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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6. Discussion and Possible Action: Approval of Electric Division Budget

Mr. Hendershot stated that this is the budget that the PUC reviewed at the Workshop with Jake’s revised memorandum dated February 27, 2026. The revisions are updated Wholesale Power Supply projections from ENE. The memorandum also includes the last iterations from Town Hall in regard to pension, health insurance, etc.

Mr. Beaumont pointed out that the purchased power has gone up \$1,700,000.00 from what it had been last week. The account is now \$2,674,389.00 vs. last week’s amount of about \$900,000.00.

Mr. Beaumont noted that Account 362 – (Distribution) Station Equipment decreased by \$256,879.00 or 42.75%. Mr. Arborio explained that the decrease was due to the completion of capital work and the shift to regulatory compliance related relay testing for next fiscal year.

Mr. Zabrowski questioned when does the budget go in front of the Town Council?

Mr. Hendershot stated that the budget goes to the Mayor by the end of the week and it has not yet been determined when the schedule for Town Council budget reviews.

Mr. Amwake stated that the Mayor needs to publish all budgets including the tax and the utilities by April 1, 2026. The Town Council will then set the workshop for mid to end of April.

Motion to Approve the Electric Division Budget as presented

Made by: Mr. Zabrowski

Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold

Votes: 3 ayes

Public Question and Answer Period

None

Public Question and Answer Period Closed

7. Discussion and Action: Resolution – Leo Talbot

Mr. Amwake stated that Mr. Talbot has been with the Town of Wallingford Sewer Division for more than 29 years. Mr. Talbot’s years of experience and skills have allowed him to contribute to the Division as he performed his duties as an Electrical Technician.

179 Mr. Amwake stated that Mr. Talbot will be missed.
180

181 Mr. Zabrowski commented that it is unfortunate Mr. Talbot is retiring.
182

183 **Motion to Approve the Resolution of Leo Talbot**
184

185 **Made by: Dr. Rinebold**

186 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**

187 **Votes: 3 ayes**
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191 **8. Discussion and Possible Action: Approval of Water Division Budget**
192

193 Mr. Langenauer stated that since the prior PUC Budget Workshop held on February 25, 2026,
194 the following changes have been made to the proposed WWD FY 2026-27 budget:
195

- 196 • Account #43100926 – Employee Pension & Benefit Expenses were reduced by
197 \$107,034.00. This was the result of final expenses for healthcare and pension expenses
198 which were lower than originally anticipated.
- 199 • Account #43100403 – Depreciation Expense was increased by \$7,500.00 due to the
200 increase in capital additions of \$75,000.00 as a result of the Kubota tractor noted in the
201 following bullet.
- 202 • Account #43300396 – Power Operated Equipment, an additional re-request of capital for
203 a Kubota Tractor with trade-in in the amount of \$75,000.00 which had been inadvertently
204 budgeted for FY 2027-2028 was added to the upcoming fiscal year 2026-2027.
205

206 Mr. Langenauer stated that overall, the net change is a reduction in the amount of money that is
207 being pulled from Retained Earnings which is \$32,000.00 less than what was provided at the
208 budget workshop. The Appropriation to Cash is now \$197,028.00.
209

210 **Motion to Approve the Water Division Budget as presented**
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212 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**

213 **Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold**

214 **Votes: 3 ayes**
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218 **9. Discussion and Possible Action: Approval of Sewer Division Budget**
219

220 Mr. Langenauer stated that since the prior PUC Budget Workshop held on February 25, 2026,
221 the following changes have been made to the proposed WSD FY 2026-27 budget:
222

- 223 • The Budget Summary Regular Bond Payment line item was increased by \$100,000.00
224 due to the recent receipt of the bond amortization schedule for the I-91 Pump Station
225 Project. The long-term current debt schedule was also updated to reflect this addition.
- 226 • Account #46100652 – Maintenance of Treatment Equipment Expense was increased by
227 \$15,000.00 as a result of a spreadsheet formula error that was identified.
- 228 • Account #46100902 – Meter Reading Expenses were decreased by \$38,565.00 due to an
229 identified error in the spreadsheet.
- 230 • Account #46100926 – Employee Pension & Benefit Expenses were reduced by
231 \$69,091.00. This was the result of final expenses for healthcare and pension expenses
232 which were lower than originally anticipated.
- 233 • Account #46100928 – Regulatory Commission Expense was reduced by \$44,609.00 as
234 an actual value per nitrogen credit (unit cost) for the upcoming fiscal year has been
235 obtained.
- 236 • Account #46100421- Miscellaneous Operating Income was increased by \$84,500.00 to
237 reflect the return to income of the unamortized premium associated with the I-91 Pump
238 Station project.

239
240 Mr. Langenauer stated that the net impact on the Appropriation from Cash is reduced by
241 \$37,000.00. The Appropriation from Cash is now \$706,531.00.

242
243 **Motion to Approve the Sewer Division Budget as presented**

244
245 **Made by: Dr. Rinebold**

246 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**

247 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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250

251 **10. Discussion and Possible Action: Bid Waiver – Sewer Division – Purchase of a**
252 **CCTV Truck via State Contract Consortium**

253

254 Mr. Amwake stated that this has been discussed with the PUC for the prior two fiscal years as
255 part of the budget adoption process. In FY 2024-25 \$200,000.00 was funded for the purchase of
256 a new CCTV truck. There was another \$75,000.00 that was funded in FY 2025-26 and the
257 budget that was just voted on included another \$7,500.00 in FY 2026-27. The CCTV truck is an
258 important piece of equipment for the WSD. The CCTV truck uses a waterproof camera attached
259 to a small tractor or rover (like a remote-controlled car) that is connected to a flexible cable,
260 providing a live video feed of the interior of sanitary sewer pipes or storm drains. This CCTV
261 equipment is essential for establishing a preventative maintenance program for the sanitary sewer
262 collection system including identifying and correcting inflow and infiltration issues, proactivity
263 addressing (potential) pipe failures and responding to blockages or other emergencies. Pipe
264 failures may include cracks in pipes and manholes, collapsed pipes, and blockages caused by
265 root intrusion or other objects (wipes, towels, etc.). Having the ability to monitor the sanitary
266 sewer system infrastructure is essential to the continued success of the WSD as this technology
267 helps identify precise problem locations for accurate repairs and assess pipe conditions for
268 maintenance and future capital planning.

269
270 The current camera and tractor equipment that the WSD is operating has become obsolete. It is
271 recognized that the Sewer Division could replace the camera and tractor along with associated
272 components at an estimated cost of \$125,000.00+ and put this equipment in a vehicle that is 9+
273 years old recognizing that modifications (interior workspaces, electrical wiring, HVAC, etc..) to
274 the existing vehicle may be required to accept the new equipment. In this scenario, the WSD
275 would then be reliant on a truck 9+ years old, and if something were to happen to the vehicle
276 then all the equipment would need to be removed and placed in a new vehicle, most likely again
277 requiring modifications to accept CCTV components that were previously purchased. As such,
278 the Sewer Division is recommending the purchase of a new CCTV truck with integrated
279 workspaces along with a camera, tractor and accessories.

280
281 The CCTV truck cost via the Sourcewell pricing is \$299,198.00 minus \$20,000.00 for the trade
282 in of the existing CCTV truck for a net cost of \$279,198.00. Sourcewell contracts are
283 competitively solicited, cooperative purchasing agreements for government, education, and
284 nonprofit entities allowing the Town to bypass traditional bidding, leveraging national volume
285 pricing on equipment, supplies, and services. The Sourcewell pricing for the CCTV truck is a
286 4% reduction from the list price.

287
288 This is a bid waiver because the WSD is not putting this out to competitively bid as the WSD
289 wants to use Sourcewell. Associated with Sourcewell pricing is C.N. Wood Co., Inc., of North
290 Haven which is located only 11 miles or 20 minutes from WSD. The current CCTV truck
291 manufacturer is located in Georgia. Having a local business that is competent in performing in-
292 depth repairs on WSD equipment is beneficial from an operational perspective as it reduces
293 downtime and it frees up more time for operational work when equipment issues arise.

294
295 Mr. Hendershot questioned if Mr. Amwake's memorandum mentions the Purchasing Bureau?

296
297 Mr. Amwake stated that it does not.

298
299 Mr. Hendershot questioned if they are aware and support this process?

300
301 Mr. Amwake stated they are aware of it. The Comptroller would not allow the Purchasing Agent
302 to endorse this.

303
304 Mr. Zabrowski questioned why?

305
306 Mr. Amwake stated that this is a question for the Comptroller. The Purchasing Agent is aware of
307 the process and the WSD asked for an endorsement. The Purchasing Agent was not allowed to
308 endorse this by his direct supervisor.

309
310 Dr. Rinebold questioned but they would accept our motion approval as an endorsement to move
311 this before the Town?

312
313 Mr. Amwake stated that is correct.

314

315 **Motion to Endorse a Bid Waiver for the Sewer Division to purchase a CCTV Truck via**
316 **Sourcewell pricing from the C.N. Wood Co., Inc. of North Haven, CT**

317

318 **Made by: Dr. Rinebold**

319 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**

320 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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323

324 **11. Discussion and Possible Action: Approval of PUC Budget**

325

326 Mr. Hendershot stated that there has been no change in the budget since what was provided and
327 reviewed at the Workshop.

328

329 **Motion to Approve the PUC Budget as presented**

330

331 **Made by: Dr. Rinebold**

332 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**

333 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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337 **Committee Reports/Correspondence**

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341 **ADJOURNMENT**

342

343 **Motion to Adjourn**

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345 **Made by: Dr. Rinebold**

346 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**

347 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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351 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:06 p.m.

352

353 Respectfully submitted,

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355 

356

357 Michelle Bracale

358 Acting Recording Secretary

Respectfully submitted,



Laurence J. Zabrowski
Secretary