

**APPROVED**

5/19/26

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

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

6:00 P.M.

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Robert Beaumont; Commissioners Dr. Joel Rinebold (via teleconference) 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 and Acting Recording Secretary Michelle Bracale

*Absent – None*

*Members of the Public – Mandy Miranda – Director of Youth and Social Services, 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 March 17, 2026
- b. Consider and Approve Budget Amendment – Sewer Division – FY 2025/26 – Miscellaneous General Expenses

**Motion to Approve Item 2a of the Consent Agenda**

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

42 **3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – Item 2b**

43  
44 b. Consider and Approve Budget Amendment – Sewer Division – FY 2025/26 –  
45 Miscellaneous General Expenses

46  
47 Mr. Beaumont stated that the reason the WSD is requesting more money for this particular  
48 account is because of all the advertising that has been done with respect to job openings and  
49 legal notice advertising (public bid notices for goods and services) that were significantly more  
50 than what had been anticipated from the beginning of the fiscal year. The town requires the WSD  
51 to advertise in print media via the Record Journal. The Record Journal is less expensive in their  
52 advertising rates when compared to the New Haven Register or Hartford Courant.

53  
54 Mr. Beaumont commented that it would be easier if the Divisions were able to also use LinkedIn,  
55 ZipRecruiter and various other websites to post job openings. At this time HR does not have the  
56 ability to use these websites.

57  
58 Dr. Rinebold stated that he has heard Mr. Beaumont’s concerns and he shares the same concerns.

59  
60 **Motion to Approve a Budget Amendment – Sewer Division – FY 2025/26 to increase**  
61 **Account 46100930 – Miscellaneous Expenses by \$6,500.00 from Retained Earnings.**

62  
63 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**

64 **Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold**

65 **Votes: 3 ayes**  
66  
67  
68

69 **4. Discussion and Action: Approval of the Director’s Report for the Month of**  
70 **March 2026**

71  
72 Dr. Rinebold pointed out that there will be significant new loads coming into the town over the  
73 next two to three years with an excess of 30 MW. Dr. Rinebold commented that he is very  
74 appreciative of our director for keeping their eye on this.

75  
76 Dr. Rinebold commented that he is glad to see the WED is aware of the volatile pricing for the  
77 supply of gas and electric and that the WED is managing this through the WED’s hedging  
78 policy.

79  
80 Mr. Beaumont commented that at one point the gas prices have been significantly higher but they  
81 have now gone down under \$3.00.

82  
83 **Motion to Approve the Director’s Report for the Month of March 2026**

84  
85 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**

86 **Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold**

87 **Votes: 3 ayes**

88 **Public Question and Answer Period**

89

90 Mr. Comerford questioned if the Water and Sewer Divisions were running efficiently as  
91 possible?

92

93 Mr. Amwake stated that the question is vague but that is correct.

94

95 Mr. Comerford questioned if the WSD looked to see if anything could be trimmed from the  
96 budget?

97

98 Mr. Amwake stated that the WWSD budgets for what is needed. The WWSD never fluffs or  
99 puts in anything extra in the budget expecting a cut from the PUC, the Mayor or the Town  
100 Council.

101

102 Mr. Comerford referenced the contracted employees that are on the road and questioned what  
103 time does the staff punch in, what their day consists of, and what time is their break?

104

105 Mr. Amwake stated that the hours for the operating staff for the Wallingford Water and Sewer  
106 Divisions are 7:00 am to 3:30 pm per the Collective Bargaining Agreement. The staff is  
107 permitted a coffee break in the morning, in the afternoon and a one-half hour unpaid lunch.

108

109 Mr. Comerford questioned what is a coffee break?

110

111 Mr. Amwake stated a 15-minute mid-morning break.

112

113 Mr. Comerford questioned if there is GPS tracking in the vehicles?

114

115 Mr. Amwake stated that there is not.

116

117 Mr. Comerford questioned is there a reason why not?

118

119 Mr. Amwake stated that is a question for Town Hall.

120

121 Mr. Comerford questioned that as the General Manager of the Water and Sewer Divisions would  
122 you suggest a GPS tracking in the vehicles?

123

124 Mr. Amwake stated that he is not opposed to it, however it has not been presented to him.

125

126 Mr. Hendershot stated that this would be subject to collective bargaining.

127

128 Mr. Comerford stated that he has been going around and videoing these crews for the past year  
129 and a half. Mr. Comerford saw five guys on April 21, 2026 at That's a Wrap Deli & Cafe for an  
130 hour. They were in the blue dump truck with the number 54.

131

132 Mr. Comerford also pointed out that there are chunks of the sidewalk by the stairs and handicap  
133 ramp that need to be repaired at the Electric Division entrance.

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**Public Question and Answer Period Closed**

**5. Discussion and Possible Action: Approval of Wallingford Water and Sewer Divisions Payment Assistance Program**

Mr. Amwake introduced Mandy Miranda, the Director of Youth and Social Services for the Town of Wallingford.

Mr. Amwake stated that about fifteen months ago Mandy Miranda and Kimberly Stein of Y&SS approached the Wallingford Water and Sewer Divisions about developing a payment assistance program for the WWSD customers. The Electric Division currently has a payment assistance program. The WWSD Payment Assistance Program is currently (FY 2025-26) funded at \$7,500.00 from the Water Division and \$7,500.00 from the Sewer Division. The proposed FY 2026-27 is the same for each division. The purpose and intent of the Wallingford Water and Sewer Divisions Payment Assistance Program is to assist single-family, owner-occupied residential property owners with an existing delinquent Water Division and/or Sewer Division balance. The goal of the WWSD Payment Assistance Program is for a customer to reach a zero balance within a six-month or twelve-month timeline with a concurrent signed Payment Agreement.

Mr. Amwake referenced Item No. 5-4 and Item No. 5-5 Payment Assistance Program Framework and stated that this is just a talking points document. Item No. 5-6 and Item No. 5-7 is the draft Payment Agreement Form. Item No. 5-8 is the WWSD Payment Agreement that the PUC previously approved. The payment Assistance Program and the Payment Agreement will go together. Highlights of the WWSD Payment Assistance Program include:

- Must be a Wallingford single-family residential, owner-occupied property with an active residential water and/or sewer account for a period of at least one year and a minimum of four billing cycles.
- Client must have a water and/or sewer account past due balance for at least 91 days in excess of \$500.00.
- Client’s income is at or below 120% of Area Median Income.
- For a Payment Agreement with a six-month term, once the client makes the initial payment plus the first five monthly payments on time and in the amount as stated in the Payment Agreement the Water and/or Sewer Division will make the sixth payment in full up to the maximum.
- For a Payment Agreement with a twelve-month term, once the client makes the initial payment plus the first ten monthly payments on time and in the amount as stated in the Payment Agreement the Water and/or Sewer Division will pay the eleventh and twelfth payments in full up to the maximum.
- At any time should the client miss a payment, submit a payment late or make a payment(s) less than the stated monthly amount per the signed Payment Agreement, the client will forfeit the assistance payments as captured above and will be responsible for

180 making all payments per the Payment Agreement; there will be no future payments made  
181 by the Water and/or Sewer Divisions on behalf of the customer.

- 182 • The maximum matching payment per client will be \$750.00 per division in a twelve-  
183 month period or until the customer's account is current.

184  
185 Mr. Awake stated that the WWSD is requesting PUC approval of the Wallingford Water and  
186 Sewer Divisions Payment Assistance Program as described and captured in the attached  
187 documents.

188  
189 Ms. Miranda stated that she is excited to work with the WWSD and that this has been a long time  
190 in the making. The Y&SS helps with income eligibility and has been doing this for many years.

191  
192 Mr. Beaumont stated that the WED has been doing something similar for many years and it has  
193 worked well.

194  
195 Mr. Zabrowski questioned what happens if the customer stops paying? Will a lien be put on the  
196 property?

197  
198 Mr. Langenauer stated that the WWSD always puts a lien on the property regardless if the  
199 customer is on a payment agreement or not. A lien will be put on the property every year in  
200 March if there is a balance on the account over \$100.00.

201  
202 Dr. Rinebold stated that he is supportive of the program and believes it is a thoughtful approach  
203 to provide assistance to the Wallingford residents.

204  
205 **Motion to Approve the Wallingford Water and Sewer Divisions Payment Assistance**  
206 **Program as described in Items 5-4 and 5-5 of the April 21, 2026 PUC Agenda**

207  
208 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**  
209 **Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold**  
210 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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214 **6. Discussion and Possible Action: Endorsement of a Bid Waiver to Purchase a**  
215 **John Deere 320P Backhoe via State Contract Consortium**

216  
217 Mr. Amwake stated that the WWD utilizes backhoes daily to excavate and backfill trenches for  
218 water main repairs, water service repairs and replacement or repair of hydrants. In addition, the  
219 backhoes are used to load material (stone, sand, common backfill) into WWD trucks as well as  
220 for snow removal at WWD facilities, including pump stations and water storage tanks. The  
221 backhoes are also utilized by the Watershed Crew for various tasks on watershed lands. All  
222 backhoes currently owned and operated by the Water Division, the Department of Public Works  
223 and by the Wallingford Electric Division are John Deere machines. Standardizing equipment  
224 across divisions and departments provides significant operational, safety and financial benefits.  
225 The various implements and attachments used by these divisions and departments are fully

226 interchangeable, including quick-connect forks for unloading and moving palletized materials  
227 and pipes. Department of Public Works often borrows the hydraulic hammer from the Water  
228 Division for breaking up concrete, while the Water Division borrows rear buckets of various  
229 trench widths for the Department of Public Works. This compatibility is a major operational  
230 advantage and allows for efficient sharing of equipment without each division or department  
231 having to purchase their own implements and attachments at additional cost to rate payers or  
232 taxpayers. Maintaining the same backhoe manufacturer ensures uniformity in and familiarity  
233 with control layouts, including switches, parking brakes and differential locks. This consistency  
234 is especially critical during emergency work conducted at night or in low-visibility conditions.  
235 Operators can safely and confidently operate any John Deere machine without hesitation,  
236 significantly reducing safety risks.

237  
238 The cost for the JD 320P backhoe via the National Association of State Procurement Officials  
239 (NASPO) is \$148,319.00. NASPO is a cooperative purchasing program facilitating public  
240 procurement solicitations (RFP) and agreements using a lead-state model. The NASPO pricing  
241 for the John Deere 320P backhoe is a 41% discount off the list price with the W.I. Clark  
242 Company providing an additional John Deere government discount of \$10,500.00. The price  
243 includes a 5-year, 1,000-hour full machine extended warranty. The W.I. Clark Company is the  
244 NASPO John Deere representative for Wallingford with John Deere honoring NASPO pricing  
245 for Connecticut state agencies, higher education institutions and political subdivisions. The  
246 existing John Deere 310D backhoe will be retained by the WWD and assigned to the Watershed  
247 Crew located at the Pistapaug Water Treatment Plant. There was minimal value for the trade in  
248 as such there will be no trade in for this purchase. The WWD is requesting PUC endorsement of  
249 a bid waiver to purchase a John Deere 320P backhoe from the W.I. Clark Company of  
250 Wallingford, Connecticut via NASPO pricing.

251  
252 Dr. Rinebold commented that he is in favor of this motion and likes the idea that the WWD is  
253 using a local company, will be using the NASPO pricing and that the WWD will be receiving a  
254 discount from NASPO.

255  
256 **Motion to Endorse a Bid Waiver to purchase a John Deere 320P Backhoe from the WI**  
257 **Clark Company of Wallingford, CT via NASPO pricing**

258  
259 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**  
260 **Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold**  
261 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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265 **7. Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §1-200(6)(E), §1-**  
266 **210(a), and §1-210(b)(5)(A)(B) and §7-232(a) to discuss Purchased Power**

267  
268 **Motion was made to move into Executive Session at 6:28 p.m. pursuant to Connecticut**  
269 **General Statutes §1-200(6)(E), §1-210(a), and §1-210(b)(5)(A)(B) and §7-232(a) to discuss**  
270 **Purchased Power**

271

272 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**  
273 **Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold**  
274 **Votes: 3 ayes**  
275

276 **Attendance at Executive Session: Chairman Robert Beaumont, Commissioners Dr. Joel**  
277 **Rinebold (teleconference) and Laurence Zabrowski, Director Richard Hendershot, Electric**  
278 **Division General Manager Jake Arborio and Electric Division Business Office Manager**  
279 **Marianne Dill**  
280

281 **Time of Executive Session: 6:28 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.**  
282  
283  
284

285 **8. Discussion and Possible Action: Bid Waiver for Smartest Energy US, LLC**  
286 **as discussed in Executive Session**  
287

288 **Motion to Endorse a Bid Waiver for Smartest Energy US, LLC as discussed in Executive**  
289 **Session**  
290

291 **Made by: Dr. Rinebold**  
292 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**  
293 **Votes: 3 ayes**  
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295  
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297 **Committee Reports/Correspondence**  
298

299 Mr. Hendershot reminded the PUC that on Wednesday, April 29, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. there will be  
300 a Workshop on the Electric Division's Financial Forecast, Cost of Service Study and Retail  
301 Rates.  
302

303 Mr. Beaumont stated that Monday, April 27, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. there will be a Budget Hearing  
304 with the Town Council and the public. This is not a mandatory meeting. Mr. Beaumont stated  
305 that he will attend as backup for the staff.  
306  
307  
308

309 **ADJOURNMENT**  
310

311 **Motion to Adjourn**  
312

313 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**  
314 **Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold**  
315 **Votes: 3 ayes**  
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319 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:51 p.m.

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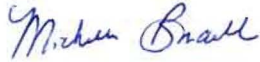
323 Respectfully submitted,

324

325

326 Michelle Bracale

327 Acting Recording Secretary



Respectfully submitted,



Laurence J. Zabrowski

Secretary