APPROVED
11/17/26

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

WALLINGFORD ELECTRIC DIVISION

100 JOHN STREET

WALLINGFORD, CT 06492

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

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 Business Manager Donald Langenauer and Acting Recording Secretary Michelle Bracale

*Absent – Water and Sewer Divisions General Manager Neil Amwake*

*Members of the Public – Jessica Wysocki*

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 October 6, 2026

**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 Action: Approval of the Director's Report – Month of September 2026**

Dr. Rinebold requested an update from Mr. Hendershot in regards to the matters pertaining to ISO rulemaking.

Mr. Hendershot stated that he attended a mini conference/training hosted by NEPPA and presented by Energy New England, as well as a third-party consultant who works for NEPOOL and a representative from MWEEC. Mr. Hendershot learned that things are moving along and that the filings are at FERC to make the changes that the internal market monitor had proposed. Mr. Hendershot stated that this is fast for these entities to get these changes in place.

Mr. Beaumont questioned if they know the date that FERC might act?

Mr. Hendershot stated probably January 1st or later.

Dr. Rinebold requested an update from Mr. Arborio in regards to the addition of a 115-kV circuit breaker at the Wallingford 13M Substation.

Mr. Arborio stated that currently the Wallingford 13M Substation has a contingency rating of 86 MW that is limited by the A1 bus which isolates the 2X and 3X transformers. It has been suggested to install the 13M 8T breaker to split the bus effectively and isolate those two transformers in order to increase the contingency rating of 13M Substation by approximately 36MW. Last FY, the WED ordered a replacement 115-kVcircuit breaker for the Colony 50E Substation due to obsolescence. At that time, the lead time for these breakers was two to three years. In addition to this there will need to be reconstruction done to the distribution bus. This will give the WED a contingency rating increase of about 36 MW and buy the WED some significant time to design, expand and increase the capacity of both North Wallingford and Wallingford Substation. The installation of the breaker that the WED is proposing would need to be done in either case. The total estimated cost is around $5,000,000.00 and is pretty volatile especially with the latest executive orders. If the WED gets the declaratory ruling and goes through Town Council relatively quickly, the duration of the design and construction is a year.

Dr. Rinebold commented that this is a good thoughtful approach and good work.

Mr. Zabrowski commented that he is glad that the WED is looking ahead and getting these out of the way. This is good planning.

**Motion to: Approve the Director's Report for the Month of September 2026**

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

**Public Question and Answer Period**

N/A

**Public Question and Answer Period Closed**

**5. Discussion and Possible Action: Bid Waiver Request – Electric Division – E-J Electric Installation Co.**

Mr. Arborio stated that the WED is seeking the PUC to endorse a bid waiver to allow the Division to utilize E-J Electric Installation Co. of Wallingford, CT. The WED is in the process of creating an emergency response plan and at present, its current model is to utilize the NEPPA mutual assistance portal to contact participating utilities in the event of a storm or any other systemic need for utility construction activities. During these times, it is common for the surrounding utilities to be burdened with damage as well, thus straining their staffing and hindering their ability to assist when the WED needs it most. To provide flexibility and diversity in times of need, the WED requests a bid-waiver with E-J Electric Co. for the remainder of the fiscal year. E-J Electric currently resides in Wallingford and has performed work within the Wallingford Electric system. They have been in business since the twenties and are the ninth largest contractor in the company. It was noted that it is the same situation with McPhee Electric, Ltd. for item #6 whereas the WED is looking to allow McPhee Electric, Ltd. to provide services in times of need for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Mr. Hendershot stated that realistically, what happens in events like these are if the systems have contractors on the property and the other systems do not need them, they will release them to go wherever they may go. The WED typically does not have contractors on the system. The WED would like to put something in place so the WED can have a relationship with these firms and get these resources when they are needed. Mr. Hendershot noted the actual process for the PUC is to endorse the request for a bid waiver not to approve the bid waiver as the Town Council does that.

**Motion to: Endorse a Bid Waiver to allow E-J Electric Installation Co. to perform work in compliance with the Wallingford Electric Division Emergency Response Plan if and as needed for the remainder of the fiscal year.**

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

**6. Discussion and Possible Action: Bid Waiver Request – Electric Division – McPhee Electric Ltd.**

**Motion to: Endorse a Bid Waiver to allow McPhee Electric Ltd. to perform work in compliance with the Wallingford Electric Division Emergency Response Plan if and as needed for the remainder of the fiscal year**

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

**7. Discussion and Possible Action: Bid Waiver Request – Electric Division – AT&T Cellular Plan**

Mr. Arborio stated that periodically, the WED evaluates its recurring mobile phone plan to ensure that it receives the most cost-effective solution. In addition to the cellular component, it was discovered that the copper phone line within the 100 John Street facility was not going to be supported, which feeds the WED's fax lines. This will now need to be transitioned to a cellular option as well. An analysis was carried out between AT&T, Verizon and the WED's current provider, T-Mobile. It was found that including the on-site requirements, AT&T was the least costly supplier who could provide service meeting the WED's requirements. In addition, AT&T has strong emergency/outage support capabilities including temporary loaner phones, aerial signal support and vehicle-based signal booster units should a widespread power outage occur. Frontier who is now Verizon, is no longer offering copper lines to their customers. While there will be an initial cost incurred to transition to the new hardware, ROI will be reflected within 11.2 months. This waiver shall replace the existing T-Mobile bid waiver once all charges have been paid. This will get the WED 25 iPhones, 15 iPads and a signal booster for the building.

Mr. Hendershot questioned if this has been reviewed with the Purchasing Bureau?

Mr. Arborio responded absolutely.

Dr. Rinebold stated that the analysis looks good and that he is very supportive of low cost with the company that can meet the WED's needs. Dr. Rinebold questioned how will the WED know if these numbers will be valid going into the future? Are these hard prices?

Mr. Arborio stated that these are hard the prices that came from them directly.

There was some discussion and clarification by Mr. Hendershot in regard to the above given to the member of the public in attendance.

**Motion to Endorse a Bid Waiver for AT&T Cellular Services provided they are the lowest cost and can meet Wallingford Electric Division's technical requirements.**

**Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**

**Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold**
**Votes: 3 ayes**

**Committee Reports/Correspondence**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to Adjourn**

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Bracale
Acting Recording Secretary

Respectfully submitted,

Laurence J. Zabrowski
Secretary