

1 **DRAFT**

2 **PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

3 **WALLINGFORD ELECTRIC DIVISION**

4 100 JOHN STREET

5 WALLINGFORD, CT

6 Tuesday, March 3, 2020

7 6:30 P.M.

8 **MINUTES**

9 **PRESENT:** Chairman Robert Beaumont; Commissioners Patrick Birney (arrived 6:34 p.m.)
10 and Joel Rinebold; Director Richard Hendershot; Electric Division General Manager Tony
11 Buccheri, Office Manager Tom Sullivan; Water and Sewer Divisions General Manager Neil
12 Amwake; Office Manager William Phelan; Recording Secretary Bernadette Sorbo

13 Members of the public – Adelheid Koepfer

14 Mr. Beaumont called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M., and the pledge of Allegiance was
15 recited.

16 **1. Pledge of Allegiance**

17
18 **2. Consent Agenda**

- 19 a. Consider and approve Minutes of February 13, 2020
20 b. Consider and approve Minutes of February 18, 2020
21 c. Consider and approve Budget Transfer – Electric – A/C #562 – Transmission
22 Operations Station Expenses
23 d. Consider and approve Budget Transfer – Electric – A/C #570 – Transmission
24 Maintenance Station Equipment

25 **Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.**

26
27 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**

28 **Seconded by: Mr. Beaumont**

29 **Votes: 2 ayes**

30
31 **3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None**

32
33 **Public Question and Answer Period**

34
35 No members of the public present at this time. Public question and answer period closed.
36
37
38

39 **4. Discussion and Action: Electric Division – Budget Amendment – A/C #392 –**
40 **Transportation Equipment**
41

42
43 Mr. Buccheri reviewed the Memo dated February 27, 2020 regarding the Fiscal 2019-2020
44 Budget Appropriation Account 392 – General Plant – Transportation Equipment. He stated that
45 the oldest of the WED line trucks had been taken off of the road due to an inspection failure in
46 the boom. The estimated replacement cost for the boom is in excess of the present value of the
47 truck. WED has obtained bid pricing for a new line truck and the evaluated low bid is
48 \$236,000.00. A third party did another inspection today, March 3, 2020, and the initial
49 information obtained showed that the truck did not have a structural issue, it was more cosmetic.
50 Mr. Buccheri plans on utilizing this vehicle until the replacement arrives.. He recommended that
51 he would like to move forward with the replacement if possible. Mr. Buccheri commented that
52 utilizing the old truck would eliminate the need to rental truck until the new truck arrives. .

53
54 Mr. Rinebold questioned if the WED is looking to trade in the old vehicle? Mr. Buccheri
55 confirmed that the WED will be trading the old truck in.

56
57 Mr. Hendershot questioned if the line truck in question is included in the bid price and is the
58 \$236,000.00 the net of trade in? Mr. Buccheri responded, yes.

59
60 Mr. Hendershot questioned is it fully depreciated? Mr. Buccheri confirmed that the truck is
61 fully depreciated and that the truck is a 2007.

62
63 Mr. Beaumont questioned if the previous repair from Altec had a failure? Mr. Buccheri
64 responded that Altec did not do the repair and that it was a local body shop. Altec quoted us
65 more than the truck was worth to repair it. We brought it to a local shop that is not in the
66 business of selling line trucks. They did the fiber glass gel coat repair.

67
68 Mr. Beaumont questioned what is failing on the truck? Mr. Buccheri stated that it failed Altec's
69 inspection and they won't certify the truck. Mr. Beaumont questioned if it failed in use. Mr.
70 Buccheri indicated that no one got hung up or stuck.

71
72 Mr. Buccheri reiterated the information to Mr. Birney as he arrived later in the discussion.
73

74 **Motion to approve the Budget appropriation for the purpose stated in the memo dated**
75 **February 27, 2020.**

76
77 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

78 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

79 **Votes: 3 ayes**
80
81
82
83
84

85 **5. Discussion: Sewer Rate Workshop**

86
87 Mr. Hendershot stated that Mr. Amwake had prepared a PowerPoint presentation or the meeting.
88 The hard copies of the presentation will be sent out via email on March 4, 2020. Mr. Amwake
89 passed out a rate card with the current water and sewer use charges. A copy of the memo
90 regarding items and services that the Water and Sewer Divisions do not directly charge for was
91 also passed out.

92
93 In addition to those materials, Mr. Phelan passed out the corrected error that was located in the
94 summary pages. The error read total annual costs and has now been corrected to read total
95 quarterly costs.

96
97 Mr. Amwake presented a PowerPoint for the proposed Water and Sewer User Charges.

98
99 The workshop agenda included:

- 100 • Cost of Service Study Approach
- 101 • Historical Water Division Billable Consumption and Sewer Division Billable Usage
- 102 • Historical Sewer Division Rates
- 103 • Number of Sewer Customers by Meter Size and Class
- 104 • Sewer Division Current Commitments (what is driving the proposed rate option model)
- 105 • Proposed Rate Option Model
- 106 • Skipping the Rock Rate Option Model
- 107 • Proposed Sewer Division Basic Service Fee (BSF) for the next four years
- 108 • Proposed Sewer Division Usage Rate (ccf.) for the next four years
- 109 • Projected Quarterly Increase by Meter Size and Class for the years 2020-2021
- 110 • Recommended Changes to Water Division Miscellaneous Charges
- 111 • Recommended Changes to Sewer Division Miscellaneous Charges
- 112 • Next Steps
- 113 • Discussion and Questions

114
115 Mr. Amwake presented a graph that was borrowed from New Gen for the Cost of Service Study.
116 He stated that we looked at our revenue requirements for the full costs of providing the Sanitary
117 Sewer Collection and Treatment Service, Operating & Maintenance Budget, Existing Debt
118 Service, Capital Improvement Plans for the current fiscal year as well as the 5 year CIP and
119 Future Debt Services. When we put all of these together this makes our revenue requirements. In
120 Wallingford we just have a sewer demand. We do not have any line items for peak demands or
121 sewer strength surcharges. The next step is to look at our financial plan. This includes what the
122 revenue increases need to be and if we stay on the current rates what will be the forecasted
123 revenue vs what our revenue requirements are. The last step is the utility pricing which is the
124 proposed final rates, fees and charges.

125
126 Mr. Amwake reviewed the Historical Water Billable Consumption for the Fiscal Year 2001-2020
127 and stated that this continues to decline.

128

129 Mr. Hendershot commented that the qualitative guesses that they have made so far have been
130 correct in that homes have gotten more efficient in their use of water. People are watering lawns
131 less or washing their cars less. The efforts to use less water are real.

132
133 Mr. Amwake reviewed the Historical Sewer Billable Usage for the Fiscal Year 2001-2020 and
134 stated that this is declining. We calculate billable sewer based on 75% of our billable water.

135
136 Mr. Amwake reviewed the Historical Sewer Division Rates. He advised that in the years 2001-
137 2005 we stayed at a flat rate. In 2006 we started to have some increases particularly on the usage
138 rate. Highlighting the usage rates, we have not increased the unit costs per 100 cubic feet since
139 June 1, 2013 and we have not increased our Basic Service Fee particularly for a 5/8-inch meter
140 since June 2012. The statistics show there were seven years without a change to usage rate and 8
141 years without a change to the base service fees.

142
143 Mr. Amwake reviewed the number of sewer customers to each particular sized meter. He then
144 broke the customers down into different classes. These included Single Family Residential, Flat
145 Sewer Single Family, Multi-Family, Commercial, Industrial and Institutional. When looking at
146 all of those classes, 95.7323% of the customers fell into the 5/8-inch meter size. There were only
147 245 total sewer customers with the 1 1/2-inch, 2-inch, 3-inch and 4-inch meter, which constituted
148 less than 2% of all our sewer customers.

149
150 Mr. Amwake reviewed the Sewer Division Current Commitments. These financial commitments
151 included:

- 152
- 153 1. WPCF Upgrades Project – Active Construction. We do have a \$55,799,506 Interim
154 Funding Obligation with the State.
 - 155 2. Planned Capital Projects (5-year CIP).
 - 156 • I-91 Pump Station, Force Main and Durham Road Sewer
 - 157 • Fine Screens at the WPCF Headworks
 - 158 • Solids Handling
 - 159 ○ Dewatering Presses
 - 160 ○ Digester Conversion
 - 161 • Electrical Upgrades
 - 162 • Collection System Lining
 - 163 • North and South Turnpike Sanitary Sewer Upgrades
 - 164 • Vehicles and Trucks
 - 165 • Annual Operating Expenses
 - 166 ○ Labor – Wages and Salaries
 - 167 ○ Overhead, including benefits
 - 168 ○ Materials, parts and equipment
 - 169 ○ Utilities (Electric)
 - 170 ○ Nitrogen credit purchases
 - 171 ○ RBC (Rotating Biological Contactor) Repairs
 - 172 ○ Inflow and Infiltration
- 173

174 Mr. Amwake reviewed the proposed Rate Model for fiscal year 2021-2024. The left graph
175 shows all of our expenses. These are as follows:

- 176
- 177 • Red – Operating Expenses (Excluding Depreciation, Pension Liability Adj. & OPEB
178 Liability Adj.)
- 179 • Green – Cash Funded Capital Projects
- 180 • Black – Current Debt Service & Non-Operating Expenses (very small)
- 181 • Yellow – Phosphorus Debt Service
- 182 • Purple – WPCF Phase II Debt Service (within Phase II there are 6 or 7 sub projects)

183
184 The right graph shows the Projected End of Year Cash Position. These are as follows:

- 185
- 186 • Green – Ending Cash Reserves
- 187 • Red Dotted Line – Minimum Cash Reserve Balance, as calculated and agreed to by the
188 Director of Public Utilities Commission and Sewer Division.

189
190 Mr. Amwake noted that the left column is for the fiscal year 2020, which is the current fiscal
191 year that we are in. The rates that we are looking at for fiscal year 2021-2024 are shown in the
192 dark green. Beyond that are shown in the lighter green at least 5 years out for the 10-year model.

193
194 Mr. Amwake reviewed the usage rates or the costs per ccf. for the Fiscal Year 2021-2024 that are
195 shown in the red boxes. The utility rate (\$/ccf) increase for FY 2020 is 0.0%. There is a
196 proposed 7.5% increase for 2021, 8.0% increase for FY 2022, 11.0% increase for FY 2023 and
197 13.0% increase for 2024. Fiscal Year 2025-2029 are shown in the model but not presented here.
198 Mr. Amwake advised that the Basic Service Fee also increases at this time. But the Base Service
199 Fee goes to items that are needed to just open the doors every morning. A lot of this is being
200 driven by the wage and salaries per the collective bargaining agreements and the benefits. They
201 are modest. The model calculates the Basic Service Fee first and then the usage rate (\$/ccf).
202 charge.

203
204 Mr. Amwake reviewed the graph in regards to Skipping the Rock Model. It is called this
205 because this model is like you skimming a rock along a pond. This model depicts what happens
206 if we match our Ending Cash Reserves to our Minimum Cash Reserve Balance. The utility rate
207 increases 0.0% in Fiscal Years 2020 to 2022. In order to meet our particular debt obligations, we
208 will have a 10.0% increase in FY 2023 and followed by a 36.0% increase in year 2024. Mr.
209 Rinebold commented that rate shock would worry us. Mr. Amwake advised that in this case you
210 can see even right now our ending cash reserve is above our minimum cash balance. We have
211 been able to use cash on hand in order to pay our current obligations. These are year over year
212 increases.

213
214 Mr. Amwake spoke on the Basic Service Fee. It is something New Gen recommended and the
215 Sewer Division supports. Currently we allocate our Basic Service Fee using the 5/8-inch meter
216 as the base unit of 1. The Sewer Division allocates the Basic Service Fee as to how much each
217 meter costs us to purchase.

218
219

220
221

METER SIZE	CURRENT BSF
5/8" meter	1.00
3/4" meter	1.33
1" meter	1.67
1 1/2" meter	3.70
2" meter	5.35
3" meter	7.76
4" meter	15.93

222

223 One of the recommendations that came out of the New Gen study was to use AWWA flow
224 factors based on the relative flow capacity through the different meter sizes. A 2-inch meter can
225 move 8 times more water than a 5/8-inch meter. For comparison, the Basic Service Fee is shown
226 in non-bold and the proposed Basic Service Fee is shown in bold. The non-bold is the existing
227 and the bold is the proposed so you can see the comparison. Focusing in on the 5/8-inch meter
228 we are moving from \$22.28 in FY 2020 to \$23.34 for FY 2021 for the BSF. It is a modest
229 overall increase between fiscal year 2020-2024. A lot of the increase is being driven on bigger
230 meters. This is from the application of the AWWA flow factor. The usage rate shown in ccf. for
231 fiscal rate 2021 to 2024 is \$5.25, \$5.64, \$6.09, \$6.76 and \$7.64. Mr. Birney commented that this
232 is close to a 40% increase over time.

233

234 Mr. Amwake reviewed the projected quarterly increase per meter size per customer class. He
235 focused on the 5/8-inch meter customers particularly the single family residential, flat sewer
236 single family, multi-family residential and commercial customers. These calculations were only
237 taken for the next fiscal year. Looking at the single family residential the number of customers
238 are 9,847. The median increase will be \$5.16 per quarter which is less than \$21.00 per year for
239 fiscal year 2020-2021. There is a decrease being shown in the flat sewer single family. The
240 weighted average median quarterly increase for all 5/8-inch meter customers was \$3.66. What is
241 really driving the average down is the \$17.89 decrease for the flat sewer single family customers.
242 Mr. Amwake pointed out that the one 4-inch meter being shown in the graph is the Wallingford
243 Water Divisions. The 1-1/2, 2 and 3-inch meters are not single family customers. There are a
244 few multi-family customers but really these customers are commercial, industrial and
245 institutional customers. These customers have a need to have meters this big. They have other
246 operating and capital expenses associated with them.

247

248 Mr. Amwake discussed the Sewer Flat Rate Customers. There are 904 customers that account
249 for 7.09% of all of our sewer customers. They can only be a single family residential dwelling,
250 on their own private well but utilize the sanitary sewer collections and treatment systems. If you
251 are commercial, industrial or institutional customer, you cannot be a sewer flat rate customer.
252 We currently charge the BSF plus 1,650 cf. of usage per quarter. This is based on the previous
253 median for 5/8-inch residential customer of 2,200 cf. multiplied by 75%. Based on an analysis
254 conducted as part of the sewer rate study, the current mean water usage for a single family 5/8-
255 inch residential customer with at least 4 quarters of billable data is 1,600 cf..

256

257 Mr. Amwake included in his discussion the Water Miscellaneous Charges. The charges have
258 been updated to reflect current labor, overhead (including benefits), material and equipment
259 costs. If you examine the water installation fee and cost for water service installation (no
260 excavation) on the rate chart we would be losing money. Mr. Amwake advised that the Water
261 Division will no longer excavate and backfill for water services, including temporary and
262 permanent pavement repairs as per the current charges the Water Division does not cover the
263 costs, which benefits only a single, specific customer. The Water Division will now install the
264 tap, run the water service and curb box with the customer responsible for the excavation, backfill
265 and pavement installation.

266
267 Mr. Birney questioned if we will lose revenue on this? Mr. Awake responded that as of now we
268 are losing revenue. Mr. Hendershot responded that fewer dollars will cross our account but there
269 will be fewer expenses behind it. This is an improvement to the bottom line.

270
271 Mr. Amwake advised that currently there are no penalties for tampering with a water meter. As
272 a deterrent we are looking to establish a charge for tampering with a water meter. The Water
273 Division is also recommending the establishment of a protocol and cost for removing and
274 resetting a water meter or turning a water service off and on more than once per calendar year.
275 Please note that there is no consequence (aka charge) for turning water off and on once per year
276 due to lack of payment. What this will diminish is the need to turn water off and on in vacant
277 commercial buildings and residential homes during real estate showings. Other water companies
278 will charge to turn off service and for restitution for lack of payment. Regarding the updated
279 construction permit fees there will be a \$75.00 charge for installation or repair of water services,
280 or repair of water mains and a \$300.00 charge for installation of water main(s) or fire service
281 lines. The internal cost (labor and overhead) currently is \$150.00 minimum to review and
282 execute a permit for the installation or repair of a water services or water mains and to install a
283 water main line that is 300 feet the approximate internal cost is \$3,262.50. We are not looking to
284 capture a 100% percent of our costs but as of now our two fee structures are \$20.00 and \$20.00
285 respectively.

286
287 Mr. Amwake discussed the Sewer Miscellaneous Charges. He recommended an increase to the
288 Septage disposal fee. This is a reflection of the current labor, overhead (including benefits),
289 material and equipment costs. The updated construction permit fees were updated to match
290 permit fees on the water side. There will be a charge of \$75.00 for the installation or repair of
291 sewer laterals and a charge of \$300.00 for installation of sewer main(s).

292
293 The other payment terms and conditions included a \$35.00 fee per transaction for checks
294 returned for insufficient funds. This charge is for the staff time (labor and overhead) to process.
295 When a check bounces there is a lot involved to rectify the situation. The Electric Division and
296 the Town charges for insufficient funds. Mr. Beaumont commented that to his knowledge this
297 charge is not higher than other companies. There is also an \$80.00 charge for conducting a final
298 meter read and/or inspection and the issuance of a final water and/or sewer bill. This is due to
299 staff time (labor and overhead) and equipment (vehicle) to process and prepare this special
300 request. Mr. Amwake wanted to remind everyone that the payments are due on the last calendar
301 day of each month. If the last day of the months falls on a weekend or holiday customers have
302 by the end of the next business day.

303
304 Mr. Amwake thanked and acknowledged William Phelan, Larry Regan, Jay Pawlowski, Erik
305 Krueger and Pat Crabtree.

306
307 Mr. Phelan circled back on the question in regards to revenue loss. He advised that he did an
308 analysis over the last three years and we have averaged approximately \$17,000 in revenues for
309 service installations. He did not do the calculation on the expense side but he determined that
310 the Water Division will generate revenue as we will still install service taps and the
311 accompanying water services. It won't be at \$17,000 it may be \$8,000 or \$9,000 and there will
312 be a revenue loss in that particular area.

313
314 Mr. Amwake advised the PUC on the next steps of the rate process. On March 17, 2020 at 6:30
315 p.m. we will present the Final (Updated) Proposed Rates to the PUC. At this meeting the PUC
316 will set the date for the Public Hearing. The suggested date is April 7, 2020, 6:30 p.m. at the
317 HUBCAP. Then on April 21, 2020 the PUC meets to take a formal vote to approve, modify or
318 disapprove the charges as put forward. From this date (March 3, 2020) we will still have seven
319 to nine weeks to massage these rates if there are any questions at the March 17th meeting as well
320 as the April 7th meeting. July 1, 2020 will be the effective date of New Rates and Charges for
321 Bills Rendered on or after July 1, 2020 following the Town's 21-day Appeal Period. The
322 Department of Law has already reviewed our public hearing notice that needs to get put into the
323 paper twice.

324
325 Mr. Rinebold questioned on the customer charges for repair to our equipment. On page 6 there is
326 a charge shown for replacement repair damage to our meters. What is the theory behind the
327 customer if we own the meters and it breaks? Mr. Amwake replied most of the damaged meters
328 are frozen meters. The customer has the responsibility to protect that meter, either with minimal
329 heat in a basement, heat tape, ect. Mr. Rinebold commented that he was thinking mechanically
330 frozen but Mr. Amwake is speaking on thermal freezing. Mr. Amwake advised that if you think
331 you have a frozen meter the meter men will go out and inspect the meter. If the meter has not
332 burst and you possibly have a frozen pipe upstream or downstream of the water meter, the
333 approach of the Water Division is to provide guidance and instructions to the homeowner on
334 how they can thaw it. We don't charge for this service. If the meter is thermally broken, we will
335 charge the customer for this because it wasn't properly cared for. Mr. Rinebold questioned what
336 if the meter just fails out of no fault of the customer? Mr. Phelan responded we would replace it
337 as this absolutely happens. We have had two meters fail over the last 8 months that were not
338 frozen meters. When this happens it would be at no cost to the customers to replace the meter.

339
340 Mr. Rinebold questioned again on page 6 regarding the construction permit fees. Does this mean
341 installation or repair, specifically repairs? Mr. Amwake responded that there is a cost to issue
342 the permit, inspect the work and do sketches for the files maintained at the Water and Sewer
343 Divisions.. Mr. Rinbold questioned what was meant by repairs? Mr. Phelan responded for any
344 repair that is made on a water lateral or a sewer lateral a permit is issued because we want to
345 know what the customer is doing. When the repair is being done we then send an inspector out
346 to make sure this is done correctly and according to our standards. With that being said we are
347 also drawing some sketches to come back to the office with so that we have some knowledge of
348 when the repair was made, what was done and who the repair company is. This is the efforts we

349 put in for a repair or installation. Mr. Rinebold questioned this is a customer or customer
350 contractor who wants to repair a line and we want to charge to verify that this was undertaken
351 properly within standards and specifications? Mr. Amwake confirmed that this is correct. Mr.
352 Hendershot responded it is our version of a building permit.

353
354 There was a discussion on the graph and escalating quarterly uses over the next ten years. Mr.
355 Phelan spoke on the model and rates. He advised that this should be looked at more than 10
356 years. Looking at it today this is our best guess of what we can expect over the next 10 years.
357 All the capital improvement projects we are going to undertake, the I&I project and the operating
358 expense increases. All of these things could change. This needs to be looked at every year to
359 determine whether or not these rates are applicable at that point and time. This is simply a model
360 of an estimate based on what we know now. The model is predicting this to show an increase in
361 the Basic Service fee and usage rate. Mr. Phelan cannot confirm that this will happen but the
362 model is predicting this to happen. As of now everything is staying the same. We may get relief
363 in denitrification credit costs and labor costs. This model assumes a 2% labor increase year after
364 year. We have made assumptions by what we know. The future capital projects were not
365 included in the 2% interest rate; these were projected out at 3.5% increase per year. Mr.
366 Rinebold stated that we will hear from the public on the concerns but he is concerned about the
367 increase. It appears as though the majority of our customers are the 5/8-inch meter and is not
368 excessive. And considering the commercial and industrial meters was higher but that
369 represented a smaller portion of their bill. Mr. Rinebold is optimistic that the rate design
370 presented will be met by the public as being reasonable. Mr. Hendershot commented on pages 5-
371 14, 5-15 and 5-16. He stated that the charts created combined sewer costs with the associated
372 water costs. The key point on page 5-15 in regards to the 5/8-inch customer, the quarterly
373 change is \$5.74, \$6.44, \$9.00 and then \$12.31 for FY 21 to FY 24 respectively. Is this for the
374 combined cost for both services? Mr. Phelan stated that this is correct. Mr. Rinebold requested
375 that during the presentation to the public that Mr. Amwake be extra diligent in showing the costs
376 rather than the percent's. He would like if they can show what a normal 5/8-inch regular
377 customer pays now with combined water and sewer and why the rates are increasing. If he was a
378 customer, he would question why are rates going up and what is going to be the size of my
379 check? Mr. Phelan commented that he likes to leave percentages out when he is speaking to the
380 public with respect to changes and rates. He explained that this is an undervalued commodity
381 and it doesn't necessarily justify the public outcry regarding the rate increase. Mr. Hendershot
382 commented that Mr. Phelan is correct in saying that this is an undervalued commodity.

383
384 The Commission had a conversation on the date April 7, 2020 for the Public Hearing. Mr.
385 Birney stated that he will be out of town on the 7th and will be back on the 9th. He questioned if
386 they could move this meeting to the 6th instead as he would like to attend. The Commission went
387 through the calendar of dates to accommodate Mr. Birney's schedule. Mr. Amwake commented
388 that we do have two weeks of float time built into the end of the rate adoption schedule. Mr.
389 Rinebold questioned if we can change the date to the 14th instead? Ms. Koepfer stated that this is
390 school vacation. They discussed moving the date to the 21st but noted that this would make for a
391 tight schedule. The Committee agreed to change the new public hearing date to April 14, 2020.
392 Mr. Amwake advised the dates will be as follows:

- 393
394
- April 9th will be the Towns Public Budget Hearing

- 395 • April 14th will be the proposed Public Hearing for Water and Sewer Rates
396 • April 16th will be the Public Utilities Budget Workshop with the Town Counsel
397

398 Mr. Birney questioned on the Public Question and Answer. Mr. Beaumont advised that the
399 Public Question and Answer was opened up at 6:30 p.m. and was closed as at that time there was
400 no public members present. He stated that if there are any questions at this time the public is
401 welcomed to ask. Ms. Koepfer apologized as she did not see the time.
402

403 Ms. Koepfer questioned on the numbers for the Underground Electric Lines associated with
404 Wallingford Pedestrian Connectivity Improvement Study on North and South Colony Road. She
405 acknowledged that this is a costly effort but wanted to know if there will there be any savings
406 regarding maintenance. Mr. Hendershot responded that there is not. This is not a treed area.
407 Except for vehicles striking poles there is really no unusual costs for overhead line facilities
408 therefore there would be no costs avoided by placing the lines underground other than the
409 maintenance of the poles. The poles may not even be our poles; these poles may belong to the
410 phone company. Ms. Koepfer stated that she lived in a treed area. Would it be different if they
411 had to pay for the cost of tree trimming? Mr. Hendershot responded tree trimming is not free.
412 The Electric Division budgets about \$500,000.00 a year for tree trimming but it does 25% of our
413 system. The whole system can be trimmed for approximately \$2,000,000.00. This amount
414 includes all of Wallingford and all of the roads on which our lines run into North Branford. Mr.
415 Beaumont stated that we do a quarter of the system each year, so over the course of four years
416 the whole system is completed. Mr. Hendershot commented that underground lines are more
417 expensive and time consuming to work on when compared to overhead lines as these lines are
418 difficult to get at. Underground lines would need to be dug out to fix a problem. Overhead lines
419 you can see the issue and go up to fix the problem. Mr. Hendershot commented that he does not
420 believe there will be appreciable improvement in reliability by placing the lines underground.
421

422 **ADJOURNMENT**

423
424 **Motion to adjourn at approximately 8:14 p.m.**

425 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

426 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

427 **Votes: 3 ayes**

428

429 Respectfully submitted,

430

431

432

433 Bernadette Sorbo
434 Recording Secretary

435

436

437

438

439

440

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Rinebold
Secretary

441
442