

1 **DRAFT**

2 PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
3 WALLINGFORD ELECTRIC DIVISION
4 100 JOHN STREET
5 WALLINGFORD, CT

6 Tuesday, March 17, 2020

7 6:30 P.M.

8 **MINUTES**

Approved
4/21/20

TOWN OF
WALLINGFORD

MAR 23 2020

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES

9 **PRESENT:** Chairman Robert Beaumont; Commissioners Patrick Birney and Joel Rinebold;
10 Director Richard Hendershot; Electric Division General Manager Tony Buccheri, Office Manager
11 Tom Sullivan; Water and Sewer Divisions General Manager Neil Amwake; Office Manager
12 William Phelan; Comptroller for the Town James Bowes; Recording Secretary Bernadette Sorbo

13 Members of the public – none

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 **2. Consent Agenda**

- 18 a. Consider and approve Minutes of March 3, 2020

19 **Motion to approve the Consent Agenda:**

20 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

21 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

22 **Votes: 3 ayes**

23 **3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None**

24 **4. Discussion and Action: Approval of Director's Report for the Month of**
25 **February 2020**

26
27 Mr. Hendershot referenced the February 2020 Directors Report and asked if there were any
28 questions.

29
30 Mr. Beaumont stated that the life of solar is typically good for 12-14% of the time. He is
31 concerned with getting energy. He stated that he knows it is controllable switching.

32
33 Mr. Buccheri stated that the way this was designed the energy will never leave the system. It is
34 absorbed by the system. It will never back feed through the transformers into the transmission.
35 It will all be handled through settlement metering. When there was a 10 MW connection there
36 was a risk of back feed. The solution would be to monitor the system and determine when it
37
38
39

40 will be needed to do temporary switching. With the reduction from 10 MW to 4.999 MW there
41 should be no issue but it will continue to be monitored.

42
43 Mr. Beaumont commented on the street light replacements being one of the most productive
44 months since October.

45
46 Mr. Beaumont commented on the responses to the Water Division RFQ. He believes that this
47 may be a good outcome. Mr. Amwake stated that there is a lot to read and that there is now a
48 page limit. Even with the page limit people are still maximizing.

49
50 Mr. Beaumont commented on the Water Division Metrics. He stated that the water production
51 for January totaled 80.2 – million gallons, which was a decrease of 17.5% from February 2019.

52
53 **Motion to approve the Director's Report**

54 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

55 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

56 **Votes: 3 ayes**

57
58 **5. Discussion and Action: Electric Division - Approval of the Electrical**
59 **Division Budget – 2020 -2021**

60
61 Mr. Sullivan commented that there will be a revision incorporated into the Mayor's proposal. It
62 will be a change to the interest rates. Mr. Bowes commented that there is a reduction to the
63 interest rate.

64
65 **Motion to approve the Electric Division Budget 2020-2021**

66 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

67 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

68 **Votes: 3 ayes**

69
70 **6. Discussion: Update on John Street Renovations**

71
72 Mr. Buccheri presented a PowerPoint on the proposed renovations for the Wallingford Electric
73 Division. The presentation is attached for review.

74
75 The Agenda included:

- 76 • Reviewing changes from the existing layout
- 77 • Discuss the needs
- 78 • Discuss stages of construction
- 79 • Discuss budgetary estimated and next steps

80
81 Mr. Rinebold questioned if the copy room is for customer copies or for the whole building. Mr.
82 Buccheri responded that the copy room in the customer service area will be for the customers.

83
84 Mr. Birney questioned on the plans for construction. Mr. Buccheri responded that this will
85 happen in phases. The phases will be as follows:

- 86 • Preparing the garage bay area for office space
- 87 • Move business office (accountant and account clerks) to new garage bay office area

- 88
- Build the new customer service area and move the old customer service area over to new location
 - Turn old customer service area into the conference room (Pending approval from Mr. Amwake, PUC meetings to be held next door until this is completed)
- 89
90
91
92

93 Mr. Birney questioned on the timeline. Mr. Buccheri estimated about four to five years. It is
94 something that will need to be done in phases as this is not something that will happen
95 overnight.

96
97 Mr. Hendershot asked will this come from the 391 account? Mr. Sullivan responded the 390
98 account.

99
100 Mr. Rinebold requested for more information on the pricing of \$1.9M to 2.9M and why is it
101 needed as these will be questions asked. He stated that he has these characterized as security,
102 customer privacy and utilization of unused space.

103
104 Mr. Rinebold questioned on how long the layout has been this way. Mr. Hendershot
105 commented that the layout has been this way since 2000. Mr. Rinebold commented that the
106 existing term of this building lasted twenty years before it has been rendered obsolete due to
107 security requirements.

108
109 Mr. Rinebold questioned how much is needed as to how much is wanted. Mr. Buccheri
110 commented that all of the phases listed above are all needed. He had not put anything into the
111 phase that was not needed.

112

113 **Public Question and Answer Period**

114
115 No members of the public present. Public question and answer period closed.

116

117 **7. Discussion and Action: Water Division – Updates and Revisions for**

118 **Proposed Water and Sewer Rate Charges for FY 21 24**

119
120 Mr. Awake reviewed the memo dated March 11, 2020. He advised that the updates to the rates
121 are very minor. The revisions are as follows:

- Updated water meter installation fees based on a review and refinement of materials and appurtenances that are required, or not needed, for installation of a water meter based on each specific meter size.
 - Clarification of miscellaneous charges text, including the addition of the following text, "...as a result of customer action or negligence..." as requested by the Public Utilities Commission at the March 3, 2020 rate workshop.
 - Refinement of the sewer usage rate for FY 23-24 due to interest accrued for the advancement of Clean Water Fund loan monies.
- 122
123
124
125
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127
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129
130

131 Mr. Rinebold questioned if this is what will be used to move forward with at the Public Hearing.
132 Mr. Amwake responded that is correct.

133

134

135

136 **Motion to Advance or Propose Water and Sewer Rates to the Public Hearing**

137 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

138 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

139 **Votes: 3 ayes**

140
141 **8. Discussion and Action: Water Division – Set Date and Time for Public**
142 **Hearing on Proposed Revisions to Water and Sewer Charges**

143
144 **Motion to approve the Public Hearing for Proposed Revisions to Water and Sewer**
145 **Charges on April 14, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. at the Library Community Room**

146 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

147 **Seconded by: Rinebold**

148 **Votes: 3 ayes**

149
150 **9. Discussion: WPCF Upgrades Project**

151
152 Mr. Amwake reviewed the logistics. The third party review of shop drawings associated with
153 specific building elements (fire alarm, fire sprinkler, etc.) for the Town Building Department and
154 Fire Marshal is going slower than anticipated though we continue to reach out to the reviewer.

155
156 Mr. Amwake reviewed the building and facility construction. He stated that the west wall of the
157 Anaerobic Basin has been poured. The three elevated walkways across the Anaerobic Basin
158 have been formed and poured as well.

159
160 All of the reinforcing steel at the Intermediate Pump Station has been placed with the concrete
161 forms installed. The lower concrete walls have been poured. Next is to pour the midlevel deck
162 and the upper concrete walls at the IPS.

163
164 The entire base slab reinforcing steel has been installed at the Tertiary Phosphorous Building
165 and approximately 75% of the concrete for the base slab has been poured. The Contractor is
166 constructing the forms for the elevated floor slab at the southern end of the Tertiary
167 Phosphorous Building.

168
169 All of the base slab reinforcing steel is installed at the UV Disinfection/Post Aeration Building
170 and the entire base slab is poured. The Contractor is currently constructing the forms for the
171 UV base slab.

172
173 Mr. Beaumont questioned on how far along the project is. Mr. Amwake responded about 17 to
174 18%.

175
176 Mr. Rinebold questioned the costs for the small change orders in regards to the UV system. Mr.
177 Amwake advised that Mr. Nickerson has not billed for those yet. There will be change orders
178 and there will be price changes.

179
180 **10. Discussion and Action: Water Division – Approval of the Water Division**
181 **Budget – 2020-2021**

182
183 Mr. Beaumont noted the decrease in dividend interest income.

184 Mr. Phelan advised that at the first budget presentation to the PUC the interest rate was based
185 on the current fiscal year's interest rate. Information from the Comptroller was received with
186 reference to the percentage to use in the next fiscal year budget. This was updated however
187 there will be another correction to the interest dividend rate based on current financial markets.
188

189 Mr. Beaumont commented that the bulk of changes are the result of insurance and benefits.
190 Mr. Phelan responded that this is correct.
191

192 **Motion to approve the Water Division Budget 2020-2021**

193 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

194 **Seconded by: Rinebold**

195 **Votes: 3 ayes**
196

197 **11. Discussion and Action: Sewer Division – Approval of the Sewer Division**
198 **Budget – 2020-2021**
199

200 Mr. Beaumont commented that nothing unusual is noted with the exception for the out years
201 that lists an extra 250k going into account 343 in years 21-22, 22-23, 23-24 and 24-25 vs the
202 last time they were reviewed.
203

204 Mr. Phelan advised that there was a revision to the five-year capital to reflect what was
205 included in the sewer rate model at this point and time.
206

207 **Motion to approve the Sewer Division Budget 2020-2021**

208 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

209 **Seconded by: Rinebold**

210 **Votes: 3 ayes**
211

212 **12. Discussion and Action: PUC – Approval of the PUC Budget – 2020-2021**
213

214 Mr. Beaumont noted that there were no revisions to this from what was previously reviewed.
215

216 **Motion to approve the PUC Budget 2020-2021**

217 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

218 **Seconded by: Rinebold**

219 **Votes: 3 ayes**
220

221 **Correspondence**
222

223 Mr. Hendershot provided the PUC with copies of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation
224 Specialist Annual Report. This was transmitted to the Chair and Vice Chairman of the
225 Connecticut Energy Efficiency Board on March 11, 2020.
226
227
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232 **ADJOURNMENT**

233

234 **Motion to adjourn**

235 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

236 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

237 **Votes: 3 ayes**

238

239 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:43 p.m.

240 Respectfully submitted,

241

242

243

244 Bernadette Sorbo


245 Recording Secretary

246

247

248

Respectfully submitted,


Joel Rinebold
Secretary