

1 **DRAFT**

2 **PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**
3 **WALLINGFORD ELECTRIC DIVISION**

4 100 JOHN STREET

5 WALLINGFORD, CT

6 Tuesday, December 15, 2020

7 6:30 P.M.

8 **MINUTES**

TOWN OF
WALLINGFORD

DEC 21 2021

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES

9 **The meeting was held via teleconference. In attendance were:**

10 Chairman Robert Beaumont (TC); Commissioners Patrick Birney (TC) and Joel Rinebold (TC);
11 Director Richard Hendershot (TC); Electric Division General Manager Tony Buccheri (TC), WED
12 Energy Conservation and Efficiency Specialist Walter Szymanski, Water and Sewer Divisions
13 General Manager Neil Amwake (TC); Water and Sewer Divisions Office Manager Brian Naples
14 (TC); Recording Secretary Bernadette Sorbo (TC).

15 *Members of the public – Adelheid Koepfer*

16 (TC-TELECONFERENCE)

17 Mr. Beaumont called the Meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

18 **1. Pledge of Allegiance**

19
20 **2. Consent Agenda**

- 21 a. Consider and approve meeting Minutes of November 17, 2020

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

23 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

24 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

25 **Votes: 3 ayes**

26
27 **3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None**

28
29 **4. Discussion and Action: Approval of Director's Report for the Month of**
30 **November 2020**

31
32 Mr. Rinebold referenced Item Number 4-2 in regards to Personnel. Mr. Rinebold questioned if the
33 Electric Division was comfortable with the pool of candidates or if there is a problem hiring for
34 the workforce?
35

36 Mr. Hendershot stated that this varies by job. Mr. Hendershot advised that the structure is that of
37 a governmental entity but that is not the source of the talent pool. There are fewer people going
38 into these fields which makes it harder to recruit.

39
40 Mr. Rinebold referenced Item Number 4-38 and questioned the gas spike shown on 10-29-2020
41 and 10-31-2020.

42
43 Mr. Hendershot stated that he was not sure why there was a spike in the gas prices but he will
44 inquire with Energy New England and find out.

45
46 Mr. Birney questioned on when the workshops will be held and when will the PUC be in a position
47 to vote on the new rates? Mr. Birney also questioned if the time frame is too compressed with the
48 ongoing pandemic?

49
50 Mr. Hendershot stated the time frame for the workshops should be held in February or March,
51 2021. Mr. Hendershot advised that all the pieces should come together for July 1, 2021 and that
52 there is a lot to do between now and then. This is more of a sterile analysis and that there does not
53 need to be a lot of face to face time with the consultant.

54
55 Mr. Birney asked if this is the same expert that was used from a few years ago?

56
57 Mr. Hendershot stated no and that when this project was put out for bid there was a clause added
58 stating that this needed a fresh set of eyes.

59
60 Mr. Birney asked for an update on the pad mount transformers inspections.

61
62 Mr. Buccheri stated that he would check back on the budget amendment. Mr. Buccheri stated that
63 this had to go out to bid before the amendment could be finalized as he wanted to include the bid
64 pricing. The distribution technician is responsible for the Call Before You Dig requests. The
65 technician performed inspections on the pad mount equipment. The inspections found corrosion
66 issues, obsolete equipment, weeping and leaking. The goal is to finish the replacements before
67 there is a catastrophic failure. The replacements have been prioritized based on leaking and
68 corrosion issues. The priority list is about 29 units and the inspections are approximately 75%
69 complete.

70
71 Mr. Birney questioned when the LED streetlight transition will be completed?

72
73 Mr. Buccheri stated that the Electric Division is currently three years into the program and that the
74 Electric Division was six months behind due to equipment delivery. The program was intended to
75 be a four-year program. Within the next nine months the Electric Division should be wrapping
76 the program up.

77
78 Mr. Birney reviewed the first quarter numbers in regards to the Water and Sewer Divisions for
79 September and noticed that the budget numbers were annualized. Mr. Birney questioned if the
80 budget can be sent for the quarter instead of the annual?

81

82 Mr. Amwake advised that he can check with regards to revising the data for the operating side of
83 the budget.

84

85 **Motion to Approve the Director's Report for the Month of November 2020**

86 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

87 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

88 **Votes: 3 ayes**

89

90 **5. Discussion and Action: Budget Amendment – Water – O/S Services Employed**

91

92 Mr. Amwake advised that this is a Budget Amendment for the Water Division to conduct a risk
93 and resilience assessment, and prepare an emergency response plan in accordance with the
94 requirements of the America's Water Infrastructure Act. The Water Division was notified about
95 the requirements subsequent to the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget being adopted. The Course of
96 action was to go forward with classic Part A (qualifications) and Part B (pricing) bid solicitation.

97

98 This project is being assigned to Account # 43100923 (Outside Services Employed) as this is not
99 assigned to a specific operating or capital project. Wallingford Water Division is not the only
100 water utility in this position. The deadline for the risk and resilience assessment is June 30, 2021
101 and the emergency response plan is December 31, 2021. The budget amendment amount that is
102 being requested for the PUC's approval is \$42,900 which represents a bid cost of \$38,970 plus a
103 10% contingency.

104

105 Mr. Hendershot questioned on the requirements for the act. Does the study have to be completed
106 this year or next year?

107

108 Mr. Amwake stated that the risk and resilience assessment is June 30, 2021 and the emergency
109 response plan is December 31, 2021.

110

111 Mr. Rinebold stated that this provides direct value and is a good investment.

112

113 Mr. Birney stated that he echoes Mr. Rinebold's comments.

114

115 Mr. Birney questioned what the Raw Score is for Item Number 5-4?

116

117 Mr. Amwake stated that the Raw Score is a grading criteria. There is a three-person review team.
118 The review team reviews and scores each proposal individually to come up with a group score.
119 The technical score is made up by dividing the raw score by the highest raw score (84.2) with a
120 maximum technical score of 50 points. This is a ratio on the highest score. The cost is a ratio with
121 the denominator being the lowest cost. If you have the highest Raw Score and the lowest cost
122 score, then you max out at 100 Points.

123

124

125 **Motion to approve a Budget Amendment increasing Account #43100923 – Outside Services**
126 **Employed in the amount of \$42,900 which represents a bid cost of \$38,970 plus a 10%**

127 **contingency by a corresponding increase in the Appropriation from Cash in the Source of**
128 **Funds section of the budget**

129 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

130 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

131 **Votes: 3 ayes**

132

133 **Public Question and Answer Period**

134

135 Ms. Adelheid Koepfer thanked the Divisions and Staff for the great work and for keeping the
136 electricity and water running in the turbulent year.

137

138 **Public Question and Answer Period Closed**

139

140 **6. Discussion and Action: Budget Amendment – Sewer – Communication**
141 **Equipment**

142

143 Mr. Amwake advised that this is a Budget Amendment for the wastewater pump station SCADA
144 project. The Wallingford Sewer Division has twelve wastewater pump stations in the sanitary
145 sewer collection system. Currently none of these pump stations have SCADA at them. Essentially
146 the Division is running these twelve pump stations blind. The Wallingford Sewer Division does
147 not know the flow rate or if there is an alarm at the station a staff member needs to be sent out to
148 investigate and evaluate the cause of the alarm before the staff can determine how to respond to
149 the issue. The project was initiated in budget year 2012-2013. The specifications and drawings
150 were completed, and sent out to bid. Five bids were received, with the total base bid price ranging
151 from \$580,201.50 to \$765,571.50; a difference of \$185,370.50 between the low bid and the high
152 bid. The proposed budget amendment would be to move \$251,000 from retained earnings to the
153 wastewater pump station SCADA project capital line item (Account #46300397, Communication
154 Equipment). This appropriation from Retained Earnings is being requested against a future (in
155 approximately six months) appropriation to Retained Earnings of the remaining WPCF design
156 appropriation of approximately \$550,000; cognizant of any minor design expenses between now
157 and the end of the current fiscal year.

158

159 Mr. Amwake reviewed the benefits of installing SCADA at the twelve wastewater pump stations
160 with the PUC. These included:

161

162 **Wastewater Pump Station Operation**

- 163 • Calculate flows through each wastewater pump station
- 164 • Date acquisition concerning operation of the pumps
- 165 • Is a pump losing efficiency, and therefore running more hours or harder leading to
166 increased wear and tear
- 167 • Currently, staff does not know the issue causing an alarm until they arrive at the wastewater
168 pump station
- 169 • Add issue specific alarms for pump failure, high wet well
- 170 • Add additional alarms at each pump station for flooded building, smoke detection and an
171 entry alarm

172

173 **Connectivity with Tertiary Phosphorus Treatment at the WPCF**

174 The WPCF will be receiving flow data from the pump stations early so that wastewater treatment
175 plant staff and processes can better react to increased flows during wet weather conditions.

176 • This will allow the WPCF to adjust the primary and secondary treatment processes to
177 improve Phosphorus removal and also Nitrogen removal. Chemicals will be added to increase
178 settleability upstream of the tertiary phosphorus process which will help in tertiary phosphorus
179 removal by not overloading the ACTIFLO process

180 • The WPCF will typically be operating one tertiary phosphorus removal (ACTIFLO) train
181 and starting the second train only when there are high wastewater flows. The ACTIFLO process
182 itself requires start-up time prior to being fully operational. The pump station flow data received
183 ahead of time will allow the plant staff to get the ACTIFLO system fully operational ahead of high
184 flows so permit requirements can be met

185

186 Mr. Rinebold asked what happens with the leftover \$550,000 AECOM design funds if this does
187 not go?

188

189 Mr. Amwake advised that the leftover funds will go back into Retained Earnings

190

191 Mr. Rinebold asked how much is theoretical and how much will turn into real time operations that
192 will save money? Is it needed for public health and safety?

193

194 Mr. Amwake advised that this is a good project. Mr. Amwake stated that he is not in a position to
195 assign a dollar value for chemicals saved and labor reduced. This was a Legacy program that Mr.
196 Amwake inherited.

197

198 Mr. Rinebold questioned with SCADA, would you still need to send out personnel to check the
199 system if alarmed?

200

201 Mr. Amwake advised that the personnel would need to become familiar with what the alarm is and
202 then decide how important the alarm is. Is it high level alarm where something has gone wrong
203 or simply just a sensor alarm where it can wait until next shift?

204

205 Mr. Rinebold asked if there is a different communication technology that is effective to monitor
206 the system that would be more of a cost savings?

207

208 Mr. Amwake stated that he spoke with Mr. Sullivan, Sewer Division Superintendent, about going
209 with other technologies including cellular or hardwired and the response was that both of these
210 options would be more expensive: particularly, at each of the twelve pump stations as well as at
211 the wastewater treatment plant.

212

213 The proposed budget amendment is a recommendation from the Sewer Division and the Division
214 will abide by the vote of the PUC.

215 Mr. Birney questioned why can't this be done as part of our budget process in 2021?

216

217 Mr. Amwake advised that this certainly can wait. Mr. Amwake noted that the bids will expire and
218 therefore the bids can go up or the bids can get tighter. The Division can wait for the fiscal year
219 2022.

220
221 Mr. Rinebold advised that he is inclined to wait. Mr. Rinebold voiced his concerns on bad timing
222 and another ramp of costs for the customers.

223
224 Mr. Hendershot questioned if the proposed funds are already included in the Sewer Division
225 budget, specifically the rate study and analysis, and the adopted Sewer Division rates?

226
227 Mr. Amwake stated that the low bid was \$580,000 and a contingency was added to that to arrive
228 at the requested budget amendment of \$251,000 noting that there are existing funds remaining
229 from the original appropriation in FY 2012-2013..

230
231 **Motion to deny the Budget Amendment without prejudice and take the matter up at a future**
232 **date**

233 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

234 **Seconded by: Rinebold**

235 **Votes: 2 ayes; Mr. Beaumont – Nay**

236
237 **7. Discussion: WPCF Upgrades Project Update**
238

239 At the Tertiary Phosphorous Building the formwork and support system for the concrete roof slab
240 and beams have been removed. The contractor is currently performing rubbing (finishing) of the
241 concrete. The area surrounding the TPB has been backfilled for ease of equipment and people
242 movement.

243
244 At the UV Disinfection/Post Aeration Building the concrete equipment pads in the UV Building
245 for the electrical components and the PA blowers are complete. UV equipment and PA blowers
246 (in their wooden shipping boxes) have been placed in the UV building for future installation. The
247 UV equipment is expected to be installed within the next month.

248
249 At the Emergency Generator Building, the masonry subcontractor has completed installation of
250 the block walls for the EGB. The next step will be to install the roofing trusses followed by
251 installation of the exterior brick.

252
253 At the Secondary Pump Station, the concrete for the base slab is complete. The contractor is
254 currently pouring the concrete for the wall in sections.

255
256 Along Main Street the installation of the permanent RBC electrical duct bank continues. This
257 work is approximately 90% complete at this time.

258
259 Construction Contract Payment Applications – C. H. Nickerson

260	Original Contract Sum	\$45,507,000.00	
261	Net Change by Change Orders	<u>\$28,457.86</u>	
262	Contract Sum to Date	\$45,535,457.86	As of November 15, 2020

263		
264	Construction Contract Schedule	
265	Original Completion Date	February 10, 2022
266	Net Change Schedule Days	<u> 0</u>
267	Contract Completion Date	February 10, 2022

268

269 **8. Discussion and Action: Electric Division - Toyota Oakdale Theatre – Late**
270 **Charges**

271

272 No one present to speak on behalf of the Toyota Oakdale Theatre. Item tabled to the meeting of
273 January 19, 2021.

274

275 **Motion to Table for January 19, 2021**

276 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

277 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

278 **Votes: 3 ayes**

279

280 **9. Discussion and Action: Electric Division - Resolution – Boehler**

281

282 Mr. Beaumont stated that Mr. Boehler started his career with the Electric Division at the Pierce
283 Power Plant on East Street, then moved to the John Street location after the closing of the plant.
284 Mr. Beaumont commented that Mr. Boehler is very likeable, knowledgeable and has been a big
285 help in many respects.

286

287 Mr. Buccheri stated that Mr. Boehler was an asset to the organization and will be sorely missed.

288

289 **Motion to approve the Resolution**

290 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

291 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

292 **Votes: 3 ayes**

293

294 **10. Discussion and Action: Electric Division - Resolution – Kozma**

295

296 Mr. Buccheri stated that Mr. Kozma will be missed. Mr. Kozma worked for the Town of
297 Wallingford for over 37 years. Mr. Kozma started with the Town back in 1983 with the Water
298 Division, moving over to Electric in 2002 to finish out his career.

299

300 **Motion to approve the Resolution**

301 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

302 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

303 **Votes: 3 ayes**

304

305 **11. Discussion and Action: Budget Amendment – Account #353 – Transmission**
306 **Station Equipment**

307

308 Mr. Buccheri referenced the memorandum dated December 8, 2020 regarding fiscal year 2020-
309 2021 Budget Amendment to increase account #353 – Transmission Station Equipment in the
310 amount of \$146,000. This account covers capital expenditures incurred by the Electric Division
311 for transmission line and substation projects. The Electric Division is working with EverSource
312 on NPCC Directory 1 compliance projects. These compliance projects take months of engineering
313 and planning. The Electric Division is planning to complete three-line relay replacement projects
314 with EverSource this year. An analogues estimate was not available to Electric Division staff
315 when the fiscal 2020-2021 budget was prepared. The Electric Division estimated \$120,000 for
316 this work in fiscal 2020-2021 knowing there was also \$149,000 in capital carry forward funds
317 available.

318
319 **Motion to approve the Budget Amendment – Account #353 – Transmission Station**
320 **Equipment**

321 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

322 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

323 **Votes: 3 ayes**

324

325 **12. Discussion and Action: Budget Amendment – Account #368 – Distribution Line**
326 **Transformers**

327

328 Mr. Buccheri reviewed the memorandum dated December 8, 2020 regarding a Budget Amendment
329 to increase Account #368 – Distribution Line Transformers in the amount of \$320,000. This
330 account covers capital expenditures incurred by the Electric Division for overhead and
331 underground distribution line transformers. The Electric Division has conducted inspections of its
332 pad-mounted transformer assets and has identified 29 locations that are in need of replacement to
333 ensure the distribution system remains safe and reliable. The Electric Division has also increased
334 pole replacements due to aging and is in need of additional pole mounted transformers. The
335 estimated material costs by transformer type are as follows:

336

337 Single phase pad-mounted transformers: \$101,000

338 Three phase pad-mounted transformers: \$193,000

339 Pole mounted transformers: \$26,000

340 Total \$320,000

341

342 Mr. Rinebold asked how much is related to the cooling oil leakage for the second phase and third
343 phase?

344

345 Mr. Buccheri advised that the Division is seeing weeping and that he will need to get back to Mr.
346 Rinebold on the exact amounts.

347

348 Mr. Beaumont questioned on the life expectancy of the pad mounts?

349

350 Mr. Buccheri advised that these can last up to 40 years depending on where they are and what they
351 are exposed to.

352

353 **Motion to approve the Budget Amendment – Account #368 – Distribution Line**
354 **Transformers**
355 **Made by: Mr. Birney**
356 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**
357 **Votes: 3 ayes**
358

359 **13. Discussion: WED C&I Energy Efficiency Incentive Program**
360

361 Mr. Szymanski referenced the memo dated December 8, 2020 to the PUC in regards to the
362 Commercial and Industrial Incentive Applications. Mr. Szymanski questioned the PUC if they
363 had any questions or issues on the format that was included for review.
364

365 Mr. Hendershot commented that this item was just to make PUC aware of the enhancements to the
366 applications.
367

368 Mr. Rinebold questioned what the need was for this? Was it to firm up commitment for the
369 customer to follow through?
370

371 Mr. Szymanski stated that this is to have the agreement in writing and to have the customer
372 understand they are signing over the incentive and put the signature in the appropriate place.
373

374 **No Action Taken**
375

376 **14. Discussion and Action: SmartCharge Agreement**
377

378 Mr. Hendershot spoke on the memorandum dated December 8, 2020 in regards to the smartcharge
379 rewards utilities agreement. The agreement will enable the WED to procure from GeoTab and its
380 subordinate Division, FleetCarma, hardware and data management services by which the WED
381 can analyze and study the charging behaviors of participating WED customers with plug-in electric
382 or hybrid automobiles. The resulting analysis of charging behavior will guide the development of
383 programs and possible incentives to help ensure that the customer automobile charging behaviors
384 are not detrimental to the operation of the WED's electric system The agreement has been
385 reviewed and approved by the law department. And Mr. Hendershot advised that he is now seeking
386 the PUC's approval to execute the agreement.
387

388 Mr. Birney questioned on Sections:

389 **6.6 – Intellectual Property Infringement Claims and Section 13.3 – Choice of Law.** Mr. Birney
390 requested that Mr. Hendershot check back with the legal department on these issues to be sure that
391 FleetCarma does not have authority for unauthorized utilization of third party intellectual property
392 and that the State of CT should be the location of any litigation using CT law not NY. Mr. Birney
393 stated that he will send Mr. Hendershot an email in regards to the two issues raised with the exact
394 language to check back with the legal department on.
395

396 Mr. Birney questioned how long after contract is signed before it becomes effective?
397

398 Mr. Szymanski stated that he was hoping to reach out to limited customers by the beginning of
399 next year through a bill insert or newspaper.

400
401 Mr. Birney is supportive of the agreement.

402
403 Mr. Rinebold had the same concern as Mr. Birney in regards to the NY law. Mr. Rinebold stated
404 that he would like more of a preamble language added to the contract that identifies the purpose,
405 objectives and outcome.

406
407 **No Action Taken**

408
409 **15. Discussion: Voluntary Residential Green Energy Program**

410
411 Mr. Hendershot provided the Commissions with an update on the Voluntary Residential Green
412 Energy Program. Mr. Hendershot noted that the Electrical Division is not subject to any renewable
413 portfolio standards. Also, ENE estimates that the WED's existing portfolio of energy purchases
414 is already approximately 13% derived from renewable (non-carbon producing and non-nuclear)
415 generation sources.

416
417 Mr. Rinebold questioned is there an option to purchase REC's? Class One REC's?

418
419 Mr. Hendershot responded that purchasing REC's can be done.

420
421 Mr. Birney has not fully reviewed the memorandum and Mr. Birney stated that he will get back to
422 Mr. Hendershot with any additional comments.

423
424 **16. Discussion and Possible Action: 2021 Meeting Schedule**

425 Mr. Beaumont reviewed the memorandum in regards to the 2021 Schedule of Meetings.

426
427 Mr. Hendershot stated that this schedule addresses all of the issues that were brought up in the
428 prior meetings.

429
430 **Motion to approve the 2021 PUC Meeting Schedule**

431 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

432 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

433 **Votes: 3 ayes**

434
435 **No Correspondence/Committee Reports**

436
437 **ADJOURNMENT**

438
439
440 **Motion to adjourn**

441 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

442 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

443 **Votes: 3 ayes**

444
445
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457

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,

Bernadette Sorbo
Recording Secretary

Joel M. Rinebold
Secretary