

1 **DRAFT**

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

4 100 JOHN STREET  
5 WALLINGFORD, CT

6 Tuesday, February 16, 2021

7 6:30 P.M.

8 **MINUTES**

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

11 Chairman Robert Beaumont (TC); Commissioners Patrick Birney (TC) and Joel Rinebold (TC); Director  
12 Richard Hendershot (TC); Electric Division General Manager Tony Buccheri (TC), Water and Sewer  
13 Divisions General Manager Neil Amwake (TC), Water and Sewer Divisions Business Manager Brian  
14 Naples (TC), Recording Secretary Bernadette Sorbo (TC).

15 (TC-TELECONFERENCE)

16 *Members of the public – Adelheid Koepfer and Steve Gale*

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

18  
19 **1. Pledge of Allegiance**

20  
21 **2. Consent Agenda**

- 22 a. Consider and Approve Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2021

23  
24 **Motion to approve the Consent Agenda**

25 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

26 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

27 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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29  
30 **3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None**

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32  
33 **4. Discussion and Action: Approval of Director's Report for the Month of January 2021.**

34  
35 Mr. Rinebold referenced Item No. 4-3, Water Main Replacements and asked for a summary on the  
36 Contract 37 materials.

37 Mr. Hendershot stated that this was his paraphrasing and summary from Mr. Amwake's monthly reports  
38 on referencing design drawings, specifications and bid document for water main replacement Contract  
39 No. 37.

40 Mr. Birney asked for an update on the retail Costs of Survey Study in regards to being on track for the  
41 first pass at draft rates that are due on February 28, 2021?

42 Mr. Buccheri stated that he and Mr. Naples met with the rate consultant. Based off of the last meeting the  
43 rate consultant feels confident that they will have the draft rates by February 28, 2021 and will be able to  
44 share these with the PUC.

45 Mr. Birney questioned when the workshops will be held for the draft rates?

46 Mr. Hendershot stated that if the schedule holds it should be sometime in March.

47 Mr. Birney referenced the Wholesale Power Supply Summary and questioned on the analysis of the  
48 existing Pierce Project?

49 Mr. Hendershot stated that he just received an updated analysis from Mr. Kieny. Mr. Hendershot advised  
50 that he has not had the chance to review. Mr. Hendershot stated that he will put this on a meeting agenda  
51 to discuss within the next few meetings.

52 Mr. Birney mentioned that perhaps this could be spoken about in an executive session?

53 Mr. Hendershot stated that he is exploring this option with the Law Department.

54

55 **Motion to approve the Director's Report for the Month of January 2021**

56

57 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

58 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

59 **Votes: 3 ayes**

60

61 **Public Question and Answer Period**

62

63 Ms. Koepfer questioned if there is an update on the EV Charging Data Pilots and an update on the open  
64 position for the Energy Efficiency Specialist?

65 Mr. Hendershot stated that there is a complete final draft of the agreement regarding the Electric Vehicle  
66 Data Monitoring Pilot and this will be brought to the PUC hopefully at the next meeting. As for the open  
67 position, interviews were completed today and a preferred candidate was identified. Mr. Buccheri will  
68 handle the administrative process with Human Resources to formalize and bring the candidate on board.

69 Ms. Koepfer inquired if the audio recordings could be made available on the town website for the  
70 upcoming workshops as discussed in the November PUC meeting.

71 Mr. Hendershot stated that he recalls the discussion and that he will explore the option with Government  
72 TV.

73 Mr. Gale spoke on the power issues in Texas. Mr. Gale questioned if this could happen to Wallingford  
74 and how can the Town be protected from this happening?

75 Mr. Hendershot stated that in theory this could happen but is very unlikely. Mr. Hendershot has done  
76 reading on this issue and stated that this is just a series of unfortunate events. Some of the events that are  
77 contributing to this are:

- 78
- Record breaking cold temperatures

- 79 • The equipment for moving gas through the pipelines are not intended to operate in temperatures  
80 such as this.  
81 • The ability to convey sufficient natural gas to the gas fired power plants inside Texas.  
82 • The Texas wholesale grid is only for the State of Texas. Texas stands outside of the Federal  
83 Jurisdiction because there is no interstate commerce going on.

84 Mr. Beaumont noted that Wallingford has an advantage that if something happens to the grid the first two  
85 units at LS Power would be able to keep our system running assuming that there is natural gas available  
86 in the pipelines. Wallingford could operate in “Island Mode” if needed.

87 Mr. Gale questioned why does Frontier own some of the poles in Wallingford?

88 Mr. Hendershot advised that this is a matter of when the town was being developed and which entity got  
89 there first to install the poles. It is technically joint ownership. Jurisdiction identifies the entity that is  
90 responsible for the pole.

91

92 **Public Question and Answer Period Closed**

93

94 **5. Discussion and Action: Resolution – Walsh**

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96 Mr. Amwake advised that Mr. Walsh retired on February 5, 2021 and was an employee for the Town of  
97 Wallingford Sewer Division for 29 years. Mr. Amwake stated that the resolution captured Mr. Walsh very  
98 well. Mr. Walsh is known for his quick wit, sarcasm, and his plethora of random knowledge. Mr.  
99 Amwake wishes Mr. Walsh all the best in his retirement and in his next ventures.

100

101 **Motion to approve the Resolution**

102

103 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

104 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

105 **Votes: 3 ayes**

106

107 **6. Discussion: WPCF Upgrades Project Update**

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109 Mr. Amwake updated the Commission on the status of construction. The Contractor continues to progress  
110 with the excavation and sheeting installation for the two additional secondary settling tanks.

111

112 At the Secondary Pump Station, the Contractor has formed and installed the reinforcing steel for the grade  
113 level deck. The next step will be to pour the concrete for the floor. Three of the fifteen columns between  
114 the grade level deck and the roof have been formed and poured.

115

116 At the Tertiary Phosphorous Building, the Contractor has completed rubbing the concrete. The  
117 Installation of the 36-inch influent pipe and the 30-inch bypass pipe are complete. The installation of the  
118 42-inch effluent pipe is ongoing. The construction of the parapet wall is complete. The slide gates and  
119 stop log frames at the TPB influent box have been installed. The Slide gates for the Actiflo treatment  
120 trains are in process of being installed. Approximately one-half of the floor fill on the lower level has  
121 been poured. A ‘tent’ has been installed along the south and east walls of the TPB, with installation of a  
122 temperature “tent” along the north and west walls on going. This will allow the masonry subcontractor to  
123 heat the space for installation of the exterior block walls and brick. The masons have begun installation  
124 of the CMU walls on the south and east walls of the TPB.

125

126 At the UV Disinfection/Post Aeration Building, the UV equipment has been installed. The installation of  
127 the motor control center (MCC) for the UV and PA operations is complete. The electricians are currently  
128 installing conduit and wiring for the UV/PA building.

129

130 At the Emergency Generator Building, the brickwork has been completed and washed.

131

132 At the Existing Personnel Electrical Building, the temporary standby generators have been connected.  
133 The prior standby generator has been removed, and an interior wall has been demolished to make room  
134 for the new electrical panels.

135

136 Construction Contract Payment Applications – C. H. Nickerson

137 Original Contract Sum \$45,507,000.00

138 Net Change by Change Orders \$105,869.36

139 Contract Sum to Date \$45,612,869.36 As of January 15, 2021

140 Construction Contract Schedule

141 Original Completion Date February 10, 2022

142 Net Change Schedule Days 0

143 Contract Completion Date February 10, 2022

144

#### 145 **No Correspondence/Committee Reports**

146

147 Mr. Hendershot thanked both general managers, and particularly Brian Naples, for the efforts to complete  
148 and produce the draft budgets for fiscal year 2021-2022 that will be discussed on Thursday, February 18,  
149 2021.

#### 150 **ADJOURNMENT**

##### 151 **Motion to Adjourn**

152 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

153 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

154 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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156 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:12 P.M.

157

158 Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,

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161

162 Bernadette Sorbo  
163 Recording Secretary

Joel Rinebold  
Secretary

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