

Approved
5/4/21

1 DRAFT

2 PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

3 WALLINGFORD WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

4 155 JOHN STREET

5 WALLINGFORD, CT

6 Tuesday, April 20, 2021

7 6:30 P.M.

8 MINUTES

TOWN OF
WALLINGFORD

APR 26 2021

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES

10

11 **PRESENT:** Chairman Robert Beaumont; Commissioners Patrick Birney and Joel Rinebold;
12 Director Richard Hendershot; Electric Division General Manager Tony Buccheri; Electric
13 Division Business Office Manager Marianne Dill; Water and Sewer Divisions General Manager
14 Neil Amwake; Water and Sewer Divisions Business Manager Brian Naples; Recording Secretary
15 Bernadette Sorbo

16 *Members of the public – Adelheid Koepfer*

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

19 **1. Pledge of Allegiance**

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21 **2. ANNUAL REORGANIZATION**

22 **Discussion and Action: PUC – Annual Election/Reorganization**

23

24 **Motion to Elect Mr. Robert Beaumont as Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission:**

25

26 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

27 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

28 **Votes: 3 ayes**

29

30 **Motion to Elect Mr. Patrick Birney as Vice-Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission:**

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32 **Made by: Mr. Beaumont**

33 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

34 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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36 **Motion to Elect Mr. Joel Rinebold as Secretary of the Public Utilities Commission:**

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38 **Made by: Mr. Birney**
39 **Seconded by: Mr. Beaumont**
40 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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3. Consent Agenda

- a. Consider and approve Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021
- b. Consider and approve Workshop Minutes of March 29, 2021

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

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48 **Made by: Mr. Birney**
49 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**
50 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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4. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None

5. Discussion and Action: Approval of Director’s Report for the Month of March 2021

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Mr. Birney requested the Utilities Division to give an update on personnel issues.

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Mr. Buccheri gave an update on the Electric Division. Mr. Buccheri stated that the Chief Engineer position has been filled. The Energy Conservation Specialist as well as the Business Office Manger started on April 19, 2021. Mr. Buccheri advised that there are scheduled interviews for the position of the Assistant Business Office Manager. The offer for Account Clerk is being drafted and is expected to start in May. There are conditional offers out for the Distribution Technician and System Operator. There is a new vacancy for the position of Maintenance Electrician. This job has been posted and scheduled to be taken down next week.

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Mr. Buccheri introduced the new Business Office Manager, Marianne Dill, to the PUC. Mr. Buccheri stated that Ms. Dill came from EthosEnergy Accessories & Components, LLC and has experience as a Finance Manager.

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Mr. Amwake gave an update on the Water Division. Mr. Amwake stated that there is currently a vacancy for the Maintainer I in the Distribution Crew. Last week the Water Division received the certified lists and scheduled interviews for next week. The Division has posted for Senior Operator and Water Treatment/Pumping Operator II. There weren’t any qualified candidates for those positions.

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Mr. Amwake gave an update on the Sewer Division. Mr. Amwake stated that there was a conditional offer extended to the Maintenance Repair Technician I (MRT I) candidate at the end of March. The Division is waiting for the candidate to complete the background checks, drug screening and physical. The Division posted a position for an Attendant II. There were not any qualified operators. It took three weeks for HR to advise that there were no qualified candidates for this position. Due to the Division not being able to fill the position the Division is currently working on building their own staff through Laborers. The Division will work with the Laborers

84 to obtain their State certifications to move up to Attendant I and Attendant II. Mr. Amwake
85 stated that he received the list of qualified candidates for the Assistant Sewer Attendant position.
86 The interviews for this position will be scheduled in the next few weeks.

87

88 Mr. Beaumont questioned if the Electric Division is beginning to see generation come from the
89 WRE Project?

90

91 Mr. Buccheri replied, yes. Mr. Buccheri stated that the metering has not been established with
92 ISO but the operator noted early last week a 200-amp swing on one of the feeders.

93

94 Mr. Birney questioned if there will be a separate Electric Rate Workshop for May or if this will
95 be incorporated into a regular meeting?

96

97 Mr. Hendershot stated that in the past it has been done both ways and that he will leave this up to
98 Mr. Buccheri and staff to coordinate.

99

100 Mr. Birney stated that his preference would be to have this held at one of the first Tuesday's
101 monthly meetings.

102

103 **Motion to approve the Director's Report for the month of March 2021**

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105 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

106 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

107 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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109 **6. Discussion and Possible Action: Request for Donation – Project Graduation**

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111 Mr. Hendershot referenced the letter and memo that was sent out and prepared by Mrs. White.
112 Mr. Hendershot noted that if the Commissions wanted to make a "donation" this year to Project
113 Graduation it would be purely monetary.

114

115 Mr. Buccheri stated that the historic value of in-kind services is roughly \$1,900.00 worth of
116 work.

117

118 **Motion to approve a donation in the amount of \$100.00 to Project Graduation**

119 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

120 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

121 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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123 **7. Discussion: WPCF Upgrades Project**

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125 Mr. Amwake updated the Commission on the focus of construction.

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127 At the Secondary Settling Tanks, Construction of SST 5&6 is on pause while the Contractor,
128 AECOM and the Town continue to evaluate the groundwater conditions.

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130 At the Secondary Pump Station, the Contractor has completed installation of the slide gates in
131 the lower level of the SPS. The concrete for the roof deck has been poured. Shoring between
132 the grade level deck and the roof deck has been removed. The leakage test for the screen
133 channels in the low level has been completed.

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135 At the Tertiary Phosphorous Building, the masonry subcontractor is in the process of installing
136 the brickwork along the south and east walls. The masonry subcontractor is installing CMU
137 along the north wall. Installation of the membrane roof is complete. Installation of the Actiflo
138 equipment has begun. The high pressure plant water pumps and the low pressure plant water
139 pumps have been placed, with interior piping to follow. The eight microsand pumps have been
140 placed.

141
142 At the UV Disinfection/Post Aeration Building, the electricians continue to install conduit and
143 wiring for the UV/PA building.

144
145 At the Emergency Generator Building, the silencer and exhaust system have been installed. The
146 final eElectrical work continues.

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148 At the Existing Personnel Electrical Building, the eElectrical work is ongoing.

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150 At the Site Work, the installation of the electrical duct bank across John Street has been
151 completed. -The transformer vault has been set.

152
153 Construction Contract Payment Applications – C. H. Nickerson
154 Original Contract Sum \$45,507,000.00
155 Net Change by Change Orders \$105,869.36
156 Contract Sum to Date \$45,612,869.36 As of March 15, 2021
157 (No Change from last month)

158 Construction Contract Schedule
159 Original Completion Date February 10, 2022
160 Net Change Schedule Days 0
161 Contract Completion Date February 10, 2022
162 (No Change from last month)

163
164 **Public Question and Answer Period**

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166 Ms. Koepfer questioned if tonight's meeting can be uploaded to the Town's website site?
167

168 Mr. Beaumont responded that based on the discussion from the Mayor this will not happen. The
169 Mayor believes that what the PUC is currently doing is proper.

170
171 Ms. Koepfer questioned if there are any updates on the Voluntary Green Electric Rate or REC
172 program?
173

174 Mr. Hendershot responded not yet.
175

176 Ms. Koepfer stated that the amount of sales on electricity has not changed and questioned if it is
177 just the dollar amount as this was lowered by the CMEEC settlement?

178

179 Mr. Naples advised that the kWh sales have not changed significantly and the revenue impact is
180 the CMEEC credit.

181

182 Ms. Koepfer questioned if the energy efficiency programs make any difference to the sales?

183

184 Mr. Hendershot stated that the energy efficiency programs do reduce sales and that is the intent.

185 Mr. Hendershot noted that it is not affecting the economic health or performance of the Division.

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187 Ms. Koepfer stated that there is no overall energy plan for the town buildings and questioned that
188 each department does their own?

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190 Mr. Hendershot stated that this was correct.

191

192 Mr. Naples stated that a lot of the different departments are listed under the Town Hall's budget
193 so there would not be a separate line item for Electric listed under that particular department.

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195 **ADJOURNMENT**

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197 **Motion to adjourn**

198 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

199 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

200 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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202 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:11 p.m.

203

204 Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,

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207

208 Bernadette Sorbo

Joel Rinebold

209 Recording Secretary

Secretary

