

APPROVED 9/21/2021

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
WALLINGFORD ELECTRIC DIVISION**

100 JOHN STREET

WALLINGFORD, CT

Tuesday, September 7, 2021

6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

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

Members of the public – None

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

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Consent Agenda

- a. Consider and approve Meeting Motion/Minutes of August 17, 2021
- b. Consider and Approve Transfer – Water - Chemicals

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda:

Made by: Mr. Birney

Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold

Votes: 3 ayes

3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None

4. Discussion and Action: Water and Sewer Divisions: Resolution – P. Crabtree

Mr. Amwake stated that Ms. Crabtree has been the Executive Secretary at the Wallingford Water and Sewer Divisions for thirty-one years. Ms. Crabtree took the lead for the implementation and maintenance of the Xeriscape garden. She also did a lot behind the scenes including focusing on

customer service for the water conservation education and sewer Inflow and Infiltration Removal Program. Mr. Amwake and the group will truly miss Ms. Crabtree. Mr. Beaumont stated that he wishes Ms. Crabtree nothing but the best.

Motion to approve the Resolution of Pat Crabtree

Made by: Mr. Birney

Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold

Votes: 3 ayes

5. Discussion and Action: Water and Sewer Divisions: Resolution – G. Makuch

Mr. Amwake stated that Mr. Makuch has been with the Town of Wallingford Water and Sewer Divisions as a Water and Sewer Inspector for twenty-eight years. Mr. Makuch dealt with the customers, homeowners and contractors. Behind the scenes Mr. Makuch was the go to person for his attention to details in enforcing construction standards and regulations from the beginning to the completion of permitted projects.

Mr. Beaumont stated that he did not know Mr. Makuch particularly but always heard positive comments.

Motion to approve the Resolution of Gregory Makuch

Made by: Mr. Birney

Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold

Votes: 3 ayes

6. Discussion and Action: Water Division: Resolution – R. Vanski

Mr. Beaumont stated that Mr. Vanski has been with the Town of Wallingford Water Division for forty-six years. Mr. Vanski was the historian of the Water Division and he was the one who cared about preserving the Water Division History. Mr. Beaumont stated that Mr. Vanski had institutional knowledge and will be sorely missed.

Mr. Amwake stated that Mr. Vanski started off as a Watershed Caretaker and then moved on to the Water Quality Inspector, Pump Station Maintainer, Assistant Superintendent and finally the Superintendent since 1988. Mr. Vanski's knowledge and experience will be a struggle to fill.

Motion to approve the Resolution of Richard Vanski

Made by: Mr. Birney

Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold

Votes: 3 ayes

7. Discussion and Action: Electric Division – Set Date for Public Hearing – Rate 13 – Miscellaneous Charges and Fees

Mr. Buccheri stated that currently when a new customer is to be served via a primary riser it is the customer's responsibility to install the conduit from the pad-mounted transformer to the riser pole including terminating the cable at the transformer and on the pole side. In order to complete this work, the customer must hire a qualified high voltage contractor. Moving forward WED will change the process regarding customers to be served via a 3-phase cable or 1-phase underground 15 kV class cable to a pad-mounted transformer. If the riser pole for the pad-mounted transformer is built under energized 13.8 kV distribution lines, the following will now occur:

- WED will assist the customer's electrical contractor with the attachment of the riser conduit pole and with pulling either the 3-phase or 1-phase underground cable up the riser pole.
- The customer's electrical contractor will make up the cable terminations at the pad-mounted transformer.
- The contractor will provide the cable terminators for WED to install at the riser pole.

Mr. Buccheri stated that WED wanted to put this in place to alleviate the stress on the customers as it is difficult to find a high voltage contractor that is qualified to work under energized primary. WED has come up with a flat fee of \$950.00 to do this work.

Mr. Rinebold questioned, on a 3-phase is this typically used for a subdivision, commercial or industrial work?

Mr. Buccheri responded, yes.

Mr. Rinebold questioned, on the underground connection to 15 kV is this typically for a subdivision?

Mr. Buccheri responded that this can be individual, a home off the road.

Mr. Hendershot stated that the logistics of the layout for some residential jobs dictate the need for a new pad-mount transformer some distance from the pole line and therefore a single phase primary riser is needed.

Mr. Birney questioned, how was the \$950 flat fee formulated?

Mr. Buccheri stated that engineering came up with the number. It was based off of truck time and the average number of time for the crew to complete the work.

Mr. Birney questioned, does the staff have ability to do this without putting stress on the work force?

Mr. Buccheri stated that this does not occur often so it should not stress the work force. Previously, WED has been sent out on the jobs to assist the contractors because they did not have the resources to complete the job.

Motion to set the date and time for the Public Hearing to September 21, 2021 at 6:30 PM

Made by: Mr. Birney

Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold

Votes: 3 ayes

8. Discussion and Action: Electric Division – Approval of Electric Division Write-offs

Ms. Dill stated that each year the write-offs for uncollectible accounts are done. The memo dated September 1, 2021 is in regards to the write-offs as uncollectible accounts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. The uncollectible accounts are broken down into the accounts receivable and miscellaneous receivables.

The account receivables portion consists of:

Bankruptcy	55,295.41
Deceased	6,261.56
Skip Town	10,452.56
Small Balance	32.28
Town Attorney (includes medical)	53,477.81
Internal Collection	<u>47,065.67</u>
	\$172,584.99

The miscellaneous receivables portion consists of:

20-B	14,625.00 (Due to a Bankruptcy)
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Ms. Dill advised that the total write-offs for fiscal year 2020-2021 result in a combined amount of \$187,209.99, which represents 0.003 or 3/10^{ths} of 1% of the annual billing. This year's write off is an increase of \$25,260.00 from last year's amount of \$161,950.00. Ms. Dill noted that the Bankruptcy line includes approximately \$46,000.00 that is attributable to one customer. If not for that one account, there would have been a continuation of the year on year decrease in the annual write-offs.

Motion to approve the write-offs as defined in Item No. 8-1

Made by: Mr. Birney

Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold

Votes: 3 ayes

Correspondence

Mr. Amwake stated that he is looking to set a possible date and time to take a tour of the WPCF Upgrades Project.

Mr. Beaumont questioned if September 21, 2021 at 5:15 PM would work for all parties?

Mr. Amwake stated that would be his preference.

Mr. Beaumont confirmed the tour of the WPCF will be completed on September 21, 2021 at 5:15 PM.

Public Question and Answer

Mr. Beaumont stated that Mrs. White received an email from Mrs. Adelheid Koepfer with questions to be read at the PUC meeting.

Mr. Beaumont read the questions from Mrs. Koepfer.

“How many EV drivers have signed up so far and can you please give an update on the program?”

Mr. Hendershot stated that he circled back with the energy conservationist and efficiency specialist Don Mauritz. Mr. Mauritz provided the latest statistics from Geotab. So far 21 customers have applied, 17 customers have been accepted and 4 have been waitlisted. The four customers that have been waitlisted is due to software incapability. Not every model of car has a data and transmitting unit that works with Geotab’s software.

Mr. Beaumont stated that the second question Mrs. Koepfer had was complex and lengthy, as the question was in regards to solar rays, green rates and things of that nature. Mr. Hendershot stated that he would reach out to Mrs. Koepfer directly via email or telephone to answer those questions.

“Planning and Zoning Commission, after withdrawing their application for amendment of the zoning regulations for IV and IX zones in the spring seems to be working on another application to change the regulations for IV and IX. A good portion of these zones are also in the Water Shed Protection area. As a town water customer I am concerned that an amendment might allow more industrial development and limit protection for the watershed. Can the Water Division give a short update? Your involvement in the process of the Divisions assessment of the proposed amendment regarding for example allowed amount of impervious service and run off required for vegetation and other buffer strategies, ect.

Mr. Amwake stated that the Water Division has provided their views and comments to the Town Engineer and the Town Planner regarding the revisions to the Planning and Zoning Commissions. Mr. Amwake stated at this time he is not privy to comment on the assessment as these were just distributed to the Planning and Zoning Commissions on Friday, September 3, 2021. The proposed amendment and revisions still need to be workshopped and will need to go to the public to comment. The Water Division will continue to monitor the regulation to see where they go.

Public Question and Answer Closed

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn

Made by: Mr. Birney

Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold

Votes: 3 ayes

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,

Bernadette Sorbo
Recording Secretary

Joel Rinebold
Secretary