

1 PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**APPROVED**

2 WALLINGFORD TOWN HALL

3 45 SOUTH MAIN STREET

4 ROOM 315

5 WALLINGFORD, CT 06492

6 Tuesday, October 19, 2021

7 6:30 P.M.

8 **MINUTES**

9  
10 **PRESENT:** Chairman Robert Beaumont; Commissioners Patrick Birney and Joel Rinebold (via  
11 teleconference); Director Richard Hendershot; Electric Division General Manager Tony  
12 Buccheri; Business Office Manager Marianne Dill; Water and Sewer Divisions General Manager  
13 Neil Amwake; Recording Secretary Bernadette Sorbo; Dave Meisinger (CMEEC) and Scott  
14 Hoffmeister (HSEP, LLC)

15 *Absent: Brian Naples*

16 *Members of the public - None*

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**

20 **2. Consent Agenda**

- 21  
22  
23 a. Consider and approve the Special Meeting Minutes of September 14, 2021 –  
24 **Remove**  
25 b. Consider and approve the Meeting Minutes of September 21, 2021 – **Remove**  
26 c. Consider and approve Budget Amendment – Sewer – Property Insurance (SD16)  
27

28 **Motion to approve Consent Item 2c**

29  
30 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

31 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

32 **Votes: 3 aye**

33  
34 **3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda**

- 35  
36 2a. Consider and approve the Special Meeting Minutes of September 14, 2021  
37

38 On the third page wherever \$5.00 is mentioned it should read \$5.00/MWh.  
39

40 **Made by: Rinebold**

41 **Seconded by: Mr. Birney**

42 **Votes: 3 ayes**  
43

44 2b. Consider and approve the Meeting Minutes of September 21, 2021  
45

46 In paragraph 10, where the \$5.00 fee is mentioned, it should read \$5.00/MWh  
47

48 The heading of Item 11 should read Discussion and Possible Action: **Approval of ...**  
49

50 Line 265 should read Town/WED and GotSpace Data Partners, LLC, **subject to non-**  
51 **substantive changes by the Department of Law and the Town Council**  
52

53 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**

54 **Seconded by: Mr. Birney**

55 **Votes: 2 ayes with 1 abstention**  
56

57 **4. Discussion and Action: Approval of Director's Report for the Month of**  
58 **September 2021**  
59

60 Mr. Birney requested a status update from the three Divisions in regards to the status of  
61 employment.  
62

63 Mr. Hendershot stated that all three Divisions remain concerned and experience challenges  
64 filling important positions. There are continual discussions with the Human Resources  
65 Department about the process and efficiency of their efforts in attempt to make the process more  
66 productive.  
67

68 Mr. Amwake stated that there are 68 full time employees in the Water and Sewer Department.  
69 There are currently 13 vacancies before the two divisions factor in vacation, sick, modified/light  
70 duty or long term FMLA. On a daily basis the Divisions are at about 80% staffing.  
71

72 Mr. Buccheri stated that this is similar in the Electric Division. Throughout most of COVID  
73 there were about 11-12 vacancies. There has been progress and as of now there are 4 vacancies  
74 remaining. A lot of the vacancies are due to the staff retiring. As of now the Electric Division is  
75 still struggling with filling the positions for the (2) System Operators and Accountant I. The  
76 Division awaits a candidates list for the vacant Chief Electrician position.  
77

78 Mr. Birney noted Item 4-6 Frontier Communications and stated he is aware that a formal  
79 complaint was filed with PURA. Mr. Birney requested an update on the PURA process and how  
80 it will unfold?  
81

82 Mr. Buccheri stated that WED went up the chain as far as they could with Frontier before the  
83 division notified PURA. There were several issues with Frontier. Some of the issues that the  
84 Division experienced were:

- 85 • Not shifting poles in a timely manner
- 86 • Not showing up to set poles during storms
- 87 • Not showing up to set poles after a pole hit
- 88 • Not removing double wood in a timely manner
- 89 • Fiber contractors attaching to rotted poles
- 90 • Damage to WED underground cables. Two cases were feeds to ornamental lights and  
91 one was a cable feeding transformers that caused an outage. CBYD claims have been  
92 submitted by WED staff for all of these issues.

93 PURA gave Frontier the opportunity to respond to the WED. PURA facilitated a meeting and  
94 asked WED if they would like to be present on the call. WED responded that the division would  
95 like to be present during the call. After that initial call Frontier understood loud and clear as to  
96 where WED was coming from and Frontier has made significant progress since that time. WED  
97 and Frontier have scheduled conference calls to occur every two weeks or so. WED has seen  
98 increased activity in pole replacements, pole shifts, and pole removals since communication has  
99 increased. WED will continue to meet with Frontier to address all priority issues.

100

101 **Motion to approve the Director's Report for the Month of September 2021**

102

103 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

104 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

105 **Votes: 3 ayes**

106

107 **5. Discussion and Possible Action: Interlocal Sanitary Sewer Lateral Connection**  
108 **Agreement for a Single-Family Residence at 1525 Tuttle Avenue, Cheshire**

109

110 Mr. Amwake stated that there is vacant parcel located at the corner of Cook Hill Road and Tuttle  
111 Avenue located in Cheshire. Within Tuttle Avenue fronting this property is a Wallingford Sewer  
112 Division gravity sanitary sewer. The property owner and their Attorney would like to connect to  
113 the WSD sanitary sewer. The Wallingford Sewer Division has no objections the house being  
114 connected to the municipal sanitary sewer system and have indicated such to the Town of  
115 Cheshire. The proposed home is located in the watershed protection district for the South  
116 Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority and as such it would be beneficial to connect the  
117 house to the Wallingford municipal sewer system thereby eliminating a septic system in the  
118 South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority public drinking water supply watershed.  
119 Since this home is outside of the Wallingford Utility Service Area Boundary it is necessary to  
120 execute an agreement between the property owners and the Town of Wallingford, the "Property  
121 Owner Agreement" and also an agreement an agreement between the Town of Cheshire and the  
122 Town of Wallingford, the "Cheshire/Wallingford Agreement." The Sewer Division is requesting  
123 approval from the PUC to enter into the two agreements with the Property Owner and the Town  
124 of Cheshire.

125

126 **Motion to approve the Interlocal Sanitary Sewer Lateral Connection Agreement for a**  
127 **Single-Family Residence at 1525 Tuttle Avenue, Cheshire**

128 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**  
129 **Seconded by: Mr. Birney**  
130 **Votes: 3 ayes**

131

132 **6. Discussion and Action: Waive Article I, Section I – Endorsement of 264**  
133 **Williams Road (Parcel B) Grant Application**

134

135 **Motion to Waive Article I, Section I and add the above referenced endorsement to the**  
136 **agenda**

137

138 **Made by: Mr. Birney**  
139 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**  
140 **Votes: 3 ayes**

141

142 Mr. Amwake stated that Janis Small, Town of Wallingford Corporation Counsel, contacted him  
143 to request that an agenda item be added to this evening's (October 19, 2021) PUC meeting  
144 regarding the PUC's endorsement of the 264 Williams Road State of Connecticut Department of  
145 Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition  
146 Program (OSWA) Grant Application. The Town is submitting an OSWA grant application for  
147 95.281 acres located at 264 Williams Road, Wallingford (referred to as Parcel B on the enclosed  
148 survey map). All of Parcel B lies within the Wallingford watershed. Therefore, the lands of  
149 Parcel B will be classified as Class I watershed land (the portion of the land within 100 feet of  
150 the watercourse) or Class II watershed land after acquisition (the balance of Parcel B).

151 Acquisition of a portion of the 264 Williams Road property will protect this undeveloped  
152 watershed area from environmental degradation and provide water quality purification in its  
153 expansive open and forested areas. Parcel B straddles the Muddy River, tributary to the  
154 MacKenzie Reservoir. The Muddy River flows approximately 2,500 feet (less than one-half  
155 mile) south from the subject property before emptying into the north end of the MacKenzie  
156 Reservoir near Scard Road. MacKenzie Reservoir has the largest watershed of the Town's four  
157 public water supply reservoirs, and the tributary area to MacKenzie Reservoir accounts for  
158 approximately 75% of total watershed area tributary to the Town's reservoir system. The surface  
159 water supply system provides approximately 94% of the public drinking water delivered to  
160 approximately 39,500 residents and businesses in the Town of Wallingford. The watershed  
161 associated with the MacKenzie Reservoir is critical for supplying the Town with an adequate  
162 volume of potable water. Protection of the watershed is one of the Water Division's highest  
163 priorities when it comes to maintaining the source water quality necessary for the Town's public  
164 drinking water supply. Preservation of this property will contribute to the assurance of a clean  
165 and ample public drinking water supply for the residents and businesses of Wallingford into the  
166 future. Please note that public access will be granted to the property for passive recreation  
167 activities, including though not limited to walking, hiking, orienteering, nature photography,  
168 cross country skiing and stream fishing. Active recreational activities, such as biking, hunting  
169 and trapping, horseback riding, and the use of motorized vehicles on the property would be  
170 prohibited. The Wallingford Water Division (WWD) wholeheartedly endorses the DEEP Open  
171 Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program grant application for 264 Williams Road.

172 **Motion for PUC to endorse the Town's Grant Application regarding 264 Williams Road,**  
173 **Parcel B.**

174

175 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

176 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

177 **Votes: 3 ayes**

178

179 **7. Discussion: WPCF Upgrades Project Update**

180

181 Mr. Amwake updated the Commission on the construction of the WPCF Project.

182

183 At the Secondary Settling Tanks, the concrete for the effluent trough has been placed. The  
184 concrete for the gallery extension roof has been placed. The concrete for the elevated sidewalk  
185 between SST5 and SST6 has been placed. SST5 and SST6 each passed the quantitative water  
186 test, with the qualitative water test in process.

187

188 At the Secondary Pump Station, installation of the electrical system for the building continues.  
189 The grating (solid planking) above the channels for the 6-mm screens has been installed.

190

191 At the Tertiary Phosphorous Building, the installation of process piping in the lower level and  
192 upper level continues. Electrical work in the upper level of the TPB is ongoing. The exterior  
193 brick is in the process of being washed to remove extraneous grout, etc. from the surface of the  
194 bricks.

195

196 At the UV Disinfection/Post Aeration Building, the electrical work for the UV system is  
197 complete. The Parshall Flume in the PA effluent channel has been installed. The existing 30+  
198 year old UV disinfection system can now be referred to as the former UV disinfection system  
199 with the conclusion of the disinfection season on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

200

201 At the Existing Personnel Electrical Building, the electrical work is ongoing.

202

203 For site work, the installation of the electrical duct banks west of the SPS is complete.  
204 Installation of the plant drain system piping northwest of the SPS is complete. Installation of the  
205 on-site water main between the pipe gallery and the public water main in John Street is ongoing.

206

207 **Construction Contract Payment Applications – C. H. Nickerson**

208	Original Contract Sum	\$45,507,000.00	
209	Net Change by Change Orders	<u>\$160,715.49</u>	<i>(No Change this Month)</i>
210	Contract Sum to Date	\$45,667,715.49	As of September 15, 2021

211

212

213 **Construction Contract Schedule**

214	Original Completion Date	February 10, 2022	
215	Net Change Schedule Days	<u>7</u>	<i>(No Change this Month)</i>
216	Contract Completion Date	February 17, 2022	As of September 15, 2021

217

218 **Public Question and Answer Period**

219

220 No members of the Public Present

221

222 **Public Question and Answer Period Closed**

223

224

225 **8. Discussion and Possible Action: Reinstatement of Economic Development Rider**  
226 **– Belle Belle Esthetic**

227

228 Mr. Buccheri referenced the memorandum dated September 30, 2021 from Marianne Dill and  
229 stated that the owners of Belle Belle Esthetic applied for and were accepted into the Downtown  
230 Economic Development Rider program on or around July 14, 2021. Mr. Buccheri referenced the  
231 customer account activity and stated that the first payment was made on time but the second  
232 payment was late. The second payment covered the amount due, the late fee and additional  
233 dollars to be used towards the next bill. The August 24, 2021 bill was not delivered (most likely  
234 due to the lack of a mailbox as mentioned in the letter from the customer) and was returned to  
235 the WED. The customer was notified of the delinquency on the Economic Development Rider  
236 and the customer would like to be reinstated.

237

238 Mr. Buccheri recommended the PUC to reinstate the customer and to keep the starting date of  
239 July 2021.

240

241 **Motion to reinstate the Economic Development Rider – Belle Belle Esthetic**

242

243 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

244 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

245 **Votes: 3 ayes**

246

247 **9. Discussion and Action: Budget Amendment – General Plant – Office Furniture**  
248 **& Equipment – A/C 391**

249

250 Mr. Buccheri stated that the budget amendment is for the replacement of meter reading devices.  
251 This had been budgeted before in the previous year. The bid pricing was received and there was  
252 one successful bidder. The Electric Division is looking to award this and procure the bidder this  
253 year. The dollars that were awarded in the previous year were not carried forward and lapsed.  
254 As a result, additional funds are necessary to cover this purchase in the fiscal year 2021-2022.

255

256 **Motion to approve the budget appropriation**

257

258 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

259 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

260 **Votes: 3 ayes**

261

262

263

264 **10. Discussion and Action: Budget Amendment – General Plant – Transportation**  
265 **Equipment – A/C 392**  
266

267 Mr. Buccheri stated that the budget amendment is for the transportation equipment. The funds  
268 are needed for two purposes. WED purchased a 55 ft. bucket truck using 2021 budgeted capital  
269 under PB 19-146. This truck will soon be available for WED to take possession. The pricing  
270 included a credit of \$20,000.00 based on WED trading in Truck 17, a 2014 bucket truck. Due to  
271 macro-economic conditions which have created significant supply chain delays in transportation  
272 materials, WED has deemed it necessary to retain possession of Truck 17. WED is requesting  
273 \$20,000.00 to cover the removal of the credit from the negotiated price of the truck.

274 Additionally, WED is requesting \$6,000.00 for the purchase of a new salt/sand spreader. The  
275 equipment utilized last year is at the end of its useful life and requires replacement. This item  
276 was not included in the original budget prepared in early 2021.  
277

278 **Motion to approve the budget appropriation**  
279

280 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

281 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

282 **Votes: 3 ayes**  
283  
284  
285

286 **11. Discussion and Action: Budget Amendment – Various Accounts – Storms Henri**  
287 **& Ida**  
288

289 Mr. Buccheri stated that this is an amendment to bring in funds that were spent for preparation  
290 and restoration of damages caused by Storm Henri and Storm Ida. WED is currently working  
291 with the State of Connecticut and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to  
292 determine if any of these costs will be reimbursable. However, any reimbursement would be  
293 expected to occur in a future fiscal year and therefore this amendment is needed to cover the  
294 expenses that must be recognized in the current fiscal year. At the time when any FEMA claim  
295 is approved and paid, the Electric Division will record the FEMA payment as non-operating  
296 income in the fiscal year in which the funds are received. Those funds will affect WED's net  
297 income in that fiscal year and therefore return those funds to retained earnings.  
298

299 Mr. Birney advised that he has reached out to WED staff and the Public Utilities Director to state  
300 that moving forward when PUC is faced with this appropriation for purposes of storm restoration  
301 the PUC should on a parallel analyze how much money the WED has spent. This will give the  
302 PUC a snapshot of how much money has been used from retained earnings for purposes of storm  
303 restoration as well as a line item to understand how much WED was reimbursed by FEMA.  
304

305 **Motion to approve the budget appropriation**  
306

307 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

308 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

309 **Votes: 3 ayes**

310 **12. Executive Session pursuant to State of Connecticut General Statutes § 1-225(f),**  
311 **§7-232a, §1-200(6)(E) and §1-210(b)(5)(B) regarding commercially valuable and**  
312 **financial information given in confidence regarding the Pierce Project.**  
313

314 **Motion to go into Executive Session at 7:17 p.m. to discuss commercially valuable and**  
315 **financial information given in confidence regarding the Pierce Project without further**  
316 **motions until a motion to come out of Executive Session**  
317

318 **Made by: Mr. Birney**  
319 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**  
320 **Votes: 3 ayes**  
321

322 **PRESENT:** Chairman Robert Beaumont; Commissioners Patrick Birney and Joel Rinebold (via  
323 teleconference); Director of Public Utilities Richard Hendershot; Electric Division General  
324 Manager Tony Buccheri; Electric Division Business Office Manager Marianne Dill; Town  
325 Attorney Gerald Farrell, Sr., Mayor William Dickinson; Dave Meisinger (CMEEC) and Scott  
326 Hoffmeister (HSEP, LLC)

327  
328 **No Votes or Actions were taken**  
329

330  
331 **ADJOURNMENT**  
332

333  
334 **Motion to adjourn**  
335

336 **Made by: Mr. Birney**  
337 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**  
338 **Votes: 3 ayes**  
339

340  
341 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:00 p.m.  
342

343 Respectfully submitted,  
344   
345 Bernadette Sorbo  
346 Recording Secretary  
347  
348  
349  
350  
351  
352  
353

Respectfully submitted,  
  
Joel Rinebold  
Secretary