

APPROVED

6/21/22

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

WALLINGFORD TOWN HALL

ROOM 315

45 SOUTHMAIN STREET

WALLINGFORD, CT 06492

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

5:00 P.M.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Robert Beaumont; Commissioners Patrick Birney, Joel Rinebold (Arrived at 5:17 PM); Director Richard Hendershot; Electric Division General Manager Tony Buccheri, Business Office Manager Marianne Dill; Water and Sewer Divisions General Manager Neil Amwake; and Acting Recording Secretary Michelle Bracale.

Absent – None

Members of the public – Adelheid Koepfer

Mr. Beaumont called the Meeting to order at 5:03 P.M., and the pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Consent Agenda

- a. Consider and approve meeting Minutes of May 17, 2022
- b. Consider and approve Budget Transfer- FY 2021-2022 - Water – Chemical Expenses for Water Treatment
- c. Consider and approve Budget Transfer - FY 2021-2022 – Water – Stores Equipment
- d. Consider and approve Budget Transfer – FY 2021-2022 – Electric – Transmission – Operation Load Dispatch
- e. Consider and approve Budget Transfer – FY 2021-2022 – Electric – Distribution – Operation Supervision and Engineering
- f. Consider and approve Budget Transfer – FY 2021-2022 – Electric – Distribution – Operation Overhead Line Expenses

- 41 g. Consider and approve Budget Transfer – FY 2021-2022 – Electric – Distribution
42 – Maintenance Supervision and Engineering
43 h. Consider and approve Budget Transfer – FY 2021-2022 – Electric – Admin. and
44 General – Customer Records and Collection Expenses
45 i. Consider and approve Budget Transfer – FY 2021-2022 – Electric – Admin. and
46 General – Maintenance of General Plant
47 j. Consider and approve Budget Transfer – FY 2021-2022 – Electric – Distribution
48 – Poles, Towers, and Fixtures
49 k. Consider and approve Budget Transfer – FY 2021-2022 – Electric – Distribution
50 – Overhead Conductors
51 l. Consider and approve Budget Transfer – FY 2021-2022 – Electric – Distribution
52 – Leased Property on Customer Premises
53 m. Consider and approve Budget Transfer – FY 2021-2022 – Electric – Distribution
54 Plant – Street Lighting and Signal System
55

56 **Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda – Removing Items 2k and 2m.**

57
58 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

59 **Seconded by: Mr. Beaumont**

60 **Votes: 2 ayes**
61
62

63 **3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda.**

64
65 **2k. Consider and approve Budget Transfer – FY 2021-2022 – Electric –**
66 **Distribution – Overhead Conductors**

67
68 **2m. Consider and approve Budget Transfer – FY 2021-2022 – Electric –**
69 **Distribution Plant – Street Lighting and Signal System**
70

71 Mr. Birney questioned Mr. Buccheri regarding the dollar amounts, requesting an explanation of
72 the budget process and the cause requiring us to move money now for both items removed from
73 the Consent Agenda, as well as how this may impact next year's budget.
74

75 Mr. Buccheri stated that when the budget is built, it is based on the information that we have at
76 that time as well as the information on the materials that we plan to order and receive. He also
77 stated that we budget labor to the account items and depending on what we do, the labor
78 sometimes needs to be shifted to the correct places. Item 2k and 2m were both based on working
79 with material that we had on hand. As of now, the lead times on many materials is much longer
80 than expected. Item 2k is a project that we had intended to do and had materials on hand and it
81 was completed in substitution of replacing pad-mounted transformers which we did not have.
82

83 For item 2m, regarding street lights; last year we placed a large order and did not receive the
84 lights when intended, due to the long lead times. We had a back log of lights that needed to be
85 replaced, when they were received, they were replaced and we are currently waiting for more to
86 be received.

87

88 Mr. Birney questioned whether Mr. Buccheri believes that next year will possibly be the same?

89

90 Mr. Buccheri stated that it could possibly be worse as we have received bids on materials from
91 vendors who are stating that they are taking exception to holding their prices due to the volatility
92 of the market (especially metals) as well as delivery times because they are at the mercy of the
93 commodities that they need to build our equipment. This, historically, is not something we've
94 seen before. Historically, we have received a bid and the price is firm, it is awarded within 30
95 days, then the material is usually received within 7-8 months, however now, we are receiving
96 transformer bids at a 300% increase in price over the last 3 years and lead times from 7 months
97 to 432 days (which is well over a year). Mr. Buccheri plans to discuss this with the Purchasing
98 Bureau. He stated that we are planning as best we can. We have received presentations from
99 vendors as to what is causing this and it is basically the "perfect storm" and we are unfortunately
100 at their mercy. Most utilities are harvesting their equipment at this point. We normally would
101 take down a transformer that was aged out and scrap it. Now, we're testing it, and if it is good,
102 we're keeping it. That way, if we get hit with a storm, we have equipment to use.

103

104

105 Mr. Beaumont stated that he understands that lead times in all markets at this point are way out.

106

107 Mr. Birney noted that with reasons outlined in the agenda and on the record he would like to
108 make a motion to approve items 2k and 2m at this time.

109

110 **Motion to: Approve Items 2k and 2m on the Consent Agenda.**

111

112 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

113 **Seconded by: Mr. Beaumont**

114 **Votes: 2 ayes**

115

116

117

118 **4. Public Question and Answer Period**

119

120 Ms. Koepfer questioned if there was any update or progress regarding the Voluntary Green
121 Electric Rate?

122

123 Mr. Hendershot stated there was not.

124

125 Ms. Koepfer asked if it was still in the works? Or off the table?

126

127 Mr. Hendershot stated that he has nothing new to report.

128

129 Ms. Koepfer asked if there were any chances that will change in the future?

130

131 Mr. Hendershot replied "perhaps, I'm not sure", which is the best answer he could give at this
132 time.

133
134 Ms. Koepfer stated her other question is to the Water Division. She asked if Mr. Amwake was
135 aware of the new application to the Inland Wetland and Watercourses Commission for 5
136 Research Parkway, and she is curious how far you are involved in it and what the Water
137 Division's standpoint is? Mr. Amwake stated the Water and Sewer Divisions comment only on
138 the technical aspects of the application. The Engineering Section takes the lead on behalf of the
139 Water and Sewer Divisions. The Water Division will look at the application during
140 Inland/Wetlands and then again for the Planning and Zoning Commissions. Ms. Koepfer stated
141 that it looks like there is some work planned between the southern and northern half of the
142 property? Mr. Amwake stated that we could follow up on that but it would be the same
143 methodology as we did for prior applications for the referenced parcel. The Engineering Section
144 provides comments to either the town environmental planner or the town planner and then they
145 roll those peer review comments forward into other comments they receive.

146
147 Ms. Koepfer said the reason for her question was because she was interested in the Muddy River
148 watershed. She stated that even though Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission
149 approved the first two versions, and this one is smaller, she thinks it will pose quite a risk to the
150 Muddy River. She was curious on Mr. Amwake's standpoint, and what he thinks about this kind
151 of project having a huge area so close to the watercourse? Mr. Amwake stated that the role of
152 Water and Sewer Division is to provide technical comments based on either the aquifer
153 protection district, the watershed protection district, as well as our technical regulations. We
154 don't comment on anything other than that. We just look at the technical standards.

155
156 Ms. Koepfer mentioned that the task of the Water Division, as far as she understands is also
157 protection of the public drinking supply. Mr. Amwake stated that is correct however, the Inland
158 Wetlands and Watercourses Commission and Town Planning and Zoning Commission are the
159 regulatory authorities for land applications.

160
161 Mr. Beaumont stated that if there were no further questions, he will call the end to the question
162 and answer period.

163
164 **5. Executive Session pursuant to §1-200(6)(D) of the Connecticut General Statutes**
165 **with respect to purchase, sale and/or leasing of property.**

166 **Motion was made to move into Executive Session at 5:15 pursuant to §1-200(6)(D) of the**
167 **Connecticut General Statutes with respect to purchase, sale and/or leasing of property.**

168

169 **Made by: Beaumont**

170 **Seconded by: Birney**

171 **Votes: 2 ayes.**

172

173

174 Attendance at Executive Session: Chairman Robert Beaumont, Commissioners Patrick Birney
175 and Joel Rinebold; Director Richard Hendershot, Electric Division General Manager Tony
176 Buccheri, Electric Division Business Office Manager Marianne Dill

177

178 **Executive Session ended at 5:37 pursuant to §1-200(6)(D) of the Connecticut General**
179 **Statutes with respect to purchase, sale and/or leasing of property.**

180

181 **6. Executive Session pursuant to State of Connecticut General Statutes §1-**
182 **200(6)(A), §1-210(b)(2), and §1-225(f) to discuss the evaluation and performance**
183 **of the Director of Public Utilities**

184

185 **Motion was made to move into Executive Session at 5:38 p.m. pursuant to State of**
186 **Connecticut General Statutes §1-200(6)(A), §1-210(b)(2), and §1-225(f) to discuss the**
187 **evaluation and performance of the Director of Public Utilities**

188

189 **Made by: Mr. Birney**
190 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**
191 **Votes: 3 ayes**

192

193 Attendance at Executive Session: Chairman Robert Beaumont; Commissioners Patrick
194 Birney and Joel Rinebold; Director Richard Hendershot

195

196 Time of Executive Session: 5:38 p.m. – 6:13 p.m.

197

198

199 **ADJOURNMENT**

200

201 **Motion to adjourn**
202 **Made by: Mr. Birney**
203 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**
204 **Votes: 3 ayes**

205

206 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:14 p.m.

207

208 Respectfully submitted,

209

210 

211

212 Michelle Bracale
213 Recording Secretary

Respectfully submitted,



Joel Rinebold
Secretary