

APPROVED

9/19/23

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
WALLINGFORD ELECTRIC DIVISION

100 JOHN STREET
WALLINGFORD, CT 06492

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Robert Beaumont; Commissioners Joel Rinebold and Laurence Zabrowski; Director Richard Hendershot; Electric Division General Manager Jake Arborio; Electric Division Business Office Manager Marianne Dill; Water and Sewer Divisions General Manager Neil Amwake; Water and Sewer Divisions Business Manager Donald Langenauer and Recording Secretary Bernadette Sorbo

Absent – None

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 Minutes of August 22, 2023
- b. Consider and Approve Budget Amendment – FY 2023 – 2024 – Sewer Division – Outside Services Employed

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda

Made by: Mr. Zabrowski

Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold

Votes: 3 ayes

3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

43 **4. Discussion and Possible Action: Budget Transfer – Water Division – FY 2022 -**
44 **2023 – Maintenance of Services**

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46 Mr. Langenauer stated that the Water Division has a formula that they use to budget for the labor
47 in the Maintenance category. There are three different GL's in this category. In the beginning of
48 the year, the Water Division prepares their budget based on historical information but cannot be
49 completely sure of where the Division is going to spend their time. In FY 2022-23 the Water
50 Department spent significantly more time than expected in Maintenance of Services labor and as
51 such the Water Division was short \$138,500.00 in that account. However, the funds were
52 available in the in the Maintenance of Mains account. Therefore, the Water Division is
53 requesting to transfer \$138,500.00 from Maintenance of Transmission and Distribution Mains to
54 Maintenance of Services. This budget transfer is requested due to higher than projected
55 Maintenance of Services labor, overtime labor, and associated benefit expenses which
56 respectively resulted in a lower than projected amount of labor, overtime labor and associated
57 benefit expenses in the Maintenance of Transmission and Distribution of Mains Account.
58 Specifically, the Water Division staff spent many hours compiling a lead service line inventory
59 that identified materials used to construct and repair all water service lines connected to the
60 Wallingford Water Distribution system. The lead service line inventory must be submitted to the
61 Department of Public Health Drinking Water Section no later than October 16, 2024 as
62 stipulated in the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations: Lead and Copper Rule
63 Revisions became effective on December 16, 2021. As part of the Lead Service Line inventory
64 effort, staff has reviewed and cataloged approximately 13,200 water service cards for all services
65 in the Distribution System utilizing a material inventory template (spreadsheet) disseminated by
66 the Department of Public Health. In addition, the Water Division Distribution Crew inspected
67 and performed a greater quantity of curb box preventative maintenance activities in FY 2022-
68 2023 than projected for the fiscal year.

69
70 Mr. Zabrowski questioned if lead is found and needs to be remediated would the Division be
71 responsible to pay or would there be a grant for this?

72
73 Mr. Amwake stated that he believes the Division would have to pay for this as Wallingford is not
74 an economically distressed community.

75
76 **Motion to Approve the Budget Transfer – Water Division – FY 2022 -2023 – Maintenance**
77 **of Services**

78
79 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**

80 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

81 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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83
84
85 **Public Question and Answer Period**

86
87 **None – No Members of the Public Present**

88

89 **Public Question and Answer Period Closed**

90

91 **5. Discussion and Possible Action: Wallace Park Improvements**

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93 Mr. Hendershot referenced the memo dated August 31, 2023 and stated that there was a
94 misunderstanding in regards to the letter that was sent from Wallingford Parks and Recreation to
95 the PUC. The letter dated August 8, 2023 in Re: Wallace Park Improvements was sent to Mr.
96 Hendershot but did not get sent to the PUC for review. Therefore, Mr. Hendershot has included
97 this on the agenda for approval; subject to the Wallingford Parks and Recreation providing a
98 sample of the exact planter being purposed to test fit and provide comments.

99

100 Mr. Arborio stated that the Wallingford Parks and Recreation noted that the planters are similar
101 to the planters that were installed uptown. Wallingford Parks and Recreation did not say that the
102 planters were exactly the same as the planters that were installed uptown therefore the WED
103 would like to see a sample of the planter for review.

104

105 **Motion to Approve the Pole Planters subject to Staff discretion in regards to loading, wear**
106 **and tear, and receipt of a sample Planter for review**

107

108 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**

109 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**

110 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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114 **6. Discussion and Possible Action: Write-offs Uncollectible Accounts – FY Ending**
115 **6/30/23**

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117 Mr. Beaumont complimented Mrs. Dill on the nice job in Re: Write-offs Uncollectible Accounts
118 – Fiscal Year Ending 6-30-2023.

119

120 Mr. Rinebold inquired about the collections for customers that have moved out of state and
121 questioned if the town attorney would have to retain outside counsel to pursue legal action?

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123 Mrs. Dill stated that is correct. The Wallingford Town Attorney can only practice law in the
124 State of Connecticut. Upon researching, it was found that if someone moved outside of
125 Connecticut, the Town would need to retain counsel that was licensed to practice law in the state
126 that they were living in.

127

128 **Motion to Approve the Write-offs Uncollectible Accounts in the amount of \$220,055.27**

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130 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**

131 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**

132 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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7. Discussion Only: Quarterly Rate Comparison

Mr. Rinebold thanked Ms. Dill for doing the comparison and stated that the bottom line comparison is highly valuable for people to understand what they are paying and what other utilities provide for comparative services.

Mr. Beaumont complimented Ms. Dill for the great job and stated that he appreciated her contributions.

No Action

8. Committee Reports

Mr. Hendershot requested the PUC reach out to him directly to set up a time to speak over the phone regarding staffing and the challenges the Department of Public Utilities is facing.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn

Made by: Mr. Rinebold
Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski
Votes: 3 ayes

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Bracale for
Bernadette Sorbo

Recording Secretary

Respectfully submitted,

Laurence Zabrowski/mb
Laurence J. Zabrowski

Secretary