

APPROVED

11/21/23

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
WALLINGFORD ELECTRIC DIVISION

100 JOHN STREET

WALLINGFORD, CT 06492

Wednesday, November 8, 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; and Recording Secretary Bernadette Sorbo

Absent – Water and Sewer Divisions Business Manager Donald Langenauer

Members of the public – Evelyn Ardito and Gerald Farrell, Sr.

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 October 17, 2023

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda

Made by: Mr. Zabrowski

Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold

Votes: 3 ayes

3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

None

43 **4. Discussion and Possible Action: Customer Appeal – Ardito – High Consumption**
44

45 Ms. Ardito stated that she is attending the meeting because she feels there is a discrepancy on her
46 water and sewer bill and does not understand how her bill is so high. Her water and sewer bill
47 since she has lived in this home has always been under \$200.00. Ms. Ardito lives in the home by
48 herself. Her home is a small house located on Christian Street. The home has a kitchen,
49 bathroom, living room and one bedroom. Ms. Ardito purchased new bushes in June and installed
50 small soakers to water the bushes for two weeks.

51
52 Mr. Amwake stated that the PUC has received an extensive package regarding this issue.
53 Sequentially, the Water and Sewer Divisions reached out to the customer and the Water Division
54 did go out to the residence to investigate the entire property. The Water Meter Technician did
55 not identify any leaks or unusual occurrences. There was also no sign of any water damage
56 anywhere on the property. The water meter installed at the residence was kept in place to see if
57 the consumption would return to normal. In this case the consumption did return to normal
58 therefore the water meter was exchanged and tested. The test results were as follows:

- 59 • At 1/4 GPM the meter was 8% slow
- 60 • At 2 GPM the meter was 100% accurate
- 61 • At 15 GPM the meter was 100% accurate

62
63
64 Mr. Zabrowski questioned if a swimming pool was filled?

65
66 Ms. Ardito stated no.

67
68 Mr. Rinebold questioned what does the technician's think? What is their explanation for the bill
69 changing from \$108.00 to 1,800.00?

70
71 Mr. Amwake stated that the meter tested out. A Clerk Typist from the Water and Sewer
72 Divisions reached out to Ms. Ardito on July 21, 2023 to proactively inform her of a recent high
73 bill. Looking at the data from July 28th, August 14th and August 29th the consumption did return
74 to normal after Ms. Ardito was notified of the high consumption.

75
76 Mr. Rinebold questioned the water was being used and it was not a meter problem?

77
78 Mr. Amwake responded, correct.

79
80 There were further discussions in regards to possibly what could have happened that increased
81 the water and sewer bill so much.

82
83 Mr. Amwake stated that there is a recommendation for Ms. Ardito to enter into a payment plan
84 with the Water and Sewer Divisions concerning the August 1, 2023 water and sewer bill of
85 \$1,837.42. The payment plan shall be a minimum monthly payment of \$80.00 with no interest
86 for 24 months for the balance of the August 1, 2023 bill amount provided that the full amount of
87 \$1,837.42 is paid by December 31, 2025; and Ms. Ardito remains current with future water and
88 sewer bills.

89
90 **Motion to Enter into the payment plan as stated in the memo dated November 1, 2023.**

91
92 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**
93 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**
94 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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96
97
98 **5. Discussion and Possible Action: Bid Waiver Request – Water Division –**
99 **Rotating Biological Contactors Evaluation and Repair**

100
101 Mr. Amwake stated that the Wallingford Water Pollution Control Facility is a unique treatment
102 facility which includes 56 fixed-film Rotating Biological Contactors (RBCs). The Wallingford
103 RBCs are approximately 10 feet in diameter and 25 feet long. Each RBC shaft is 7 inches in
104 diameter. There are 8 trains of RBCs with 7 RBCs in each treatment train for a total of
105 8,640,000 square feet of media to support microbial biofilm.

106
107 The ends of the RBC shafts tend to score and get dinged (for lack of a better term) occasionally.
108 What needs to be done is lathe (cut) the RBC shafts down and sleeve them. Due to the length,
109 diameter and weight of the RBC shafts as well as the size of the bearings and pillow blocks the
110 work will need to be completed in place; these are not items that are shipped out for repair.

111
112 Following much research, communication and coordination, the Wallingford Sewer Division has
113 identified In-Place Machining Company, located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as having the
114 specialized equipment and skilled technicians to perform an on-site evaluation of the RBCs,
115 including the shafts, and execute any required repairs. In addition, any identified repair work
116 will not commence until pricing is approved to complete the repairs. As such, the Wallingford
117 Sewer Division is approaching the RBC repair task as a two-step process with two purchase
118 orders being issued to the vendor: an on-site evaluation with a cost estimate to complete any
119 repairs (one purchase order), and the RBC repairs themselves (a separate purchase order).

120
121 The Sewer Division is requesting PUC approval of a bid waiver for In-Place Machining
122 Company of Milwaukee, Wisconsin to conduct an on-site evaluation and perform the necessary
123 specialty repairs to the Rotating Biological Contactor drives, bearings, pillow blocks, shafts and
124 motors, with the repairs being performed on site at the Wallingford WPCF. Funds are available
125 in the Sewer Division's current operating budget. The adopted FY 2023-24 Wallingford Sewer
126 Division operating budget includes funding of \$150,000.00 for maintenance and repairs to RBC
127 drives and bearings, and funding of \$250,000.00 for RBC shaft and motor repairs. Per the
128 "Facility Plan for the Wallingford Water Pollution Control Facility" the construction cost
129 estimate to replace the existing RBCs with an Activated Sludge Process is \$51,466,900.00.

130
131 Mr. Rinebold questioned if Mr. Amwake would come back to the PUC for approval once the
132 estimates are received?

133

134 Mr. Amwake stated that the Sewer Division leadership would use their best judgment based on
135 their professional knowledge.

136

137 **Motion to Approve a Bid Waiver for In- Place Machining Company of Milwaukee,**
138 **Wisconsin to conduct an on-site evaluation and perform specialty repairs**

139

140 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**

141 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**

142 **Votes: 3 ayes**

143

144

145

146 **Public Question and Answer Period**

147

148 **None**

149

150 **Public Question and Answer Period Closed**

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152

153

154 **6. Discussion and Possible Action: Modification to Utility Communication's**
155 **2023/2024 Fiscal Year Electric Division Bid Waiver**

156

157 Mr. Arborio stated that he is looking to modify the existing bid waiver with Utility
158 Communications. The purpose of this is to provide services and parts related to the repair and
159 maintenance of the Electric Division's 2-way radio communication and video surveillance
160 systems. Following an additional review of the WED property and the three WED owned
161 substations, it was determined that additional cameras are necessary. In order to maintain
162 compatibility with the recently procured camera hardware and newly installed firmware, it is
163 necessary to include the procurement of additional cameras and associated hardware within the
164 existing bid waiver. The bid came back at \$41,757.00 to provide an initial scope of work which
165 included the replacement of an antiquated/failing server and replacement of cameras. It was later
166 determined through a propagation study that was done by Utility Communications that additional
167 cameras were required at both the WED's substations and at the WED facility located at 100
168 John Street. The WED requested Utility Communications to provide an additional estimate to
169 include a comprehensive installation with the purchase of the new server and subsequent
170 software. With the existing bid waiver language written as it is the WED is unable to add to the
171 scope of work. The materials have already been ordered and are at Utility Communications
172 awaiting installation. A temporary hold has been put on this. The WED is requesting a
173 modification to the Bid Waiver to include the installation of new cameras in new locations. The
174 increased total amount for the WED is \$80,817.94, which is an increase of \$39,060.94.
175 Approximately 93%.

176

177 **Motion to Modify the Existing Bid Waiver with Utility Communications to include**
178 **provisions of new security cameras and associated hardware.**

179

180 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**
181 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**
182 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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186 **7. Committee Reports/Correspondence**
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188 Mr. Hendershot advised the PUC that it is coming to that time of year to think about selling the
189 Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) if the PUC wishes to do so. Energy New England is
190 looking to line up possible purchasers. It was communicated to Mr. Hendershot that the price is
191 \$3.50 a REC with the total price to sell around \$80,000.00.

192
193 Mr. Hendershot reminded the PUC that the schedule for next year PUC meetings will be
194 changing. The PUC meeting times will be changed from 6:30 PM to 6:00 PM. Michelle Bracale
195 will start the meetings and Bernadette Sorbo will take over by 6:30 PM. Also, when there are
196 Monday holidays the meetings will be moved to Wednesdays.

197
198 Mr. Rinebold stated that he is fine with the changes to the extent that Mr. Hendershot has lined
199 up all of the people to provide acceptable minutes and recordings of the meetings.
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201

202
203 **ADJOURNMENT**
204

205 **Motion to Adjourn**
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207 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**
208 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**
209 **Votes: 3 ayes**

210
211 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:26 p.m.
212
213
214

215 Respectfully submitted,
216

217 *Michelle Bracale for*
218

219 Bernadette Sorbo
220 Recording Secretary
221

Respectfully submitted,

Laurence Zabrowski/mb

Laurence J. Zabrowski
Secretary