

APPROVED

2/6/24

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
WALLINGFORD ELECTRIC DIVISION

100 JOHN STREET

WALLINGFORD, CT 06492

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Robert Beaumont (via teleconference); Commissioners Joel Rinebold and Laurence Zabrowski; Director Richard Hendershot; Electric Division General Manager Jake Arborio; Electric Division Assistant Office Manager Jeff Tierney; Water and Sewer Divisions General Manager Neil Amwake; Water and Sewer Divisions Business Manager Donald Langenauer; Town of Wallingford Risk Manager Kurt Treiber; and Acting Recording Secretary Michelle Bracale

Absent – Electric Division Business Office Manager Marianne Dill

Members of the Public – Attorney Joe Passaretti for the Risk Department

Mr. Beaumont called the Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M., and the pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Consent Agenda

- a. Consider and Approve Meeting Minutes of January 2, 2024

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda

Made by: Mr. Zabrowski

Seconded by: Mr. Beaumont

Votes: 3 ayes

3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

None

43 **4. Discussion and Action: Approval of the Director's Report for the Month of**
44 **December 2023**

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46 Mr. Hendershot provided the PUC with a revised monthly report card from Energy New England
47 and noted that there were corrections to the November Wholesale Power Supply. The revisions
48 are highlighted in the revised monthly report. Mr. Hendershot referenced Item No. 4-3, Average
49 Cost for total volume = \$60.84 and stated this should read \$60.83 for November's Total Energy
50 Cost per MWH. Mr. Hendershot advised that Craig Kieny reviewed and made corrections to the
51 report as well. This corrected report has not been handed out yet but once Mr. Hendershot
52 receives the report he will distribute and update the Director's Report accordingly.

53
54 Mr. Hendershot noted that Mr. Rinebold emailed over questions for the Division to be reviewed
55 with the General Managers prior to the meeting. Mr. Hendershot read the questions from the
56 email.

- 57
58 1. Item No. 4-1 regarding the issues to review with Wallingford's delegation in Hartford.

59
60 Mr. Hendershot stated that this has not been handed to the delegation yet. The meeting is not
61 until January 26, 2024 and will be hosted by the Mayor. Mr. Hendershot emailed a copy to the
62 PUC of what the Divisions provided to the Mayor's office to be included in the briefing package.

- 63
64 2. Item No. 4-2 regarding personnel. Will hiring be a challenge? Is the WED making any
65 inner roads with local boards of Education encouraging technical work for pipeline
66 programs?

67
68 Mr. Hendershot stated not that he is aware of.

69
70 Mr. Arborio stated that he gave a presentation to Platt Technical High School in Meriden last
71 year. Unfortunately, they did not offer any programs that correlate to what the WED needs. Mr.
72 Arborio also reached out to Human Resources to look at other colleges for younger engineers
73 and interns. Human Resources is looking further into this.

74
75 Mr. Amwake stated that both the Water Division and Sewer Division reached out to the
76 Wallingford School Systems. The Sewer Division offers a plant tour. The Water Division offers
77 a one-day job shadow opportunity as well as an opportunity to sign up for a one on one or small
78 group tour. This was offered to students at Sheehan and Lyman Hall High Schools.

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80 There was further discussion on personnel and hiring.

- 81
82 3. Item No. 4-4 regarding Nitrogen.

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84 Mr. Amwake stated that this is a function of rainfall volume, inflow, infiltration and WSD has a
85 fixed carbon supply. There was a lot of rain and the colder wastewater influent temperature does
86 not help.

87

88 There was further discussion in regards to the average daily flow, pounds per day and the
89 capacity of the plant.

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91 4. Item No. 4-14 regarding Mystic and Everett

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93 Mr. Hendershot stated that the Cost of Service Agreement expires May 31, 2024 and that there
94 are no plans to continue the COSA.

95

96 **Motion to Approve the Director's Report for the Month of December 2023**

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98 **Made by: Mr. Beaumont**

99 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**

100 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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104 **Public Question and Answer Period**

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106 Attorney Joe Passaretti noted that every high school in town has a requirement of 30 community
107 service hours in order to graduate and questioned is there a way to merge the requirement with
108 something interesting and challenging that can give the students an opportunity to expose
109 themselves in something they may not have otherwise been interested in?

110

111 Mr. Rinebold commented that this is a great suggestion and that the staff will follow up.

112

113 **Public Question and Answer Period Closed**

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117 **5. Discussion and Possible Action: Budget Appropriation – FY 2023/2024 –**
118 **Distribution – Meters**

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120 Mr. Arborio stated that the WED is seeking an additional \$125,000.00 in Account 370-
121 Distribution – Meters to purchase approximately 2,400 electric meters. The WED is in the
122 process of replacing mechanical meters with Automated Meter Reading meters. The Division
123 started this replacement process over ten years ago. Now that the WED is adequately staffed
124 with qualified Meter Technicians, the WED would like to complete this endeavor in the next 18
125 months. Staff feels that it is reasonable to expect the meter technicians to install between 300 and
126 400 meters per month. The benefits of accelerating this process include safety and efficiency.
127 There are currently meters in the field which need to be read manually. Some portion of these
128 remaining meters are located in customers' back yards. AMR meters can be read from the meter
129 reading vehicles reducing trip and fall hazards, animal/pest encounters, and apprehension with
130 respect to entering an unfamiliar property.

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132 Mr. Zabrowski stated that he likes this idea and that the WED did a great job with this project.

133 The safety and efficiency is definitely an improvement.

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Motion to Approve the Budget Appropriation – FY 2023/2024 – Distribution - Meters

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

6. Discussion and Possible Action: Extension of the DEDR Program

Mr. Arborio stated that the WED is looking to extend the DEDR (Downtown Economic Development Rider) Program that expired on December 31, 2023. WED is looking to extend the program as originally designed and is not looking to change the footprint. The footprint was identified by Zoning. Last year WED provided an average of \$20,000.00 for the fiscal year and average around 23 customers. Mr. Arborio has spoken with Economic Development and they agree it is a good program.

Motion to Extend the DEDR Program without any changes

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

7. Discussion and Action: Resolution – Daniel A. Sullivan

Mr. Amwake stated that Mr. Sullivan is retiring from the Sewer Division after 20 years of dedicated service. Mr. Sullivan began with the Sewer Division as an Attendant III and moved to Assistant Superintendent and is now retiring as the WSD Superintendent. Mr. Sullivan brought a wealth of knowledge and skills to the WSD and these will be missed.

Mr. Beaumont stated that Mr. Sullivan was always looking for better ways to do things and in turn ended up saving the WSD money in addition to doing a better job.

Mr. Rinebold stated that Mr. Sullivan is a good man and definitely will be missed.

Motion to Approve the Resolution for Daniel A. Sullivan

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

180 **8. Executive Session pursuant to State of Connecticut General Statutes § 1-**
181 **200(6)(B) and § 1-225(f) to discuss pending litigation with respect to Workers'**
182 **Compensation claim settlement in the case of Leonard Thomas vs. Town of**
183 **Wallingford**

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185 **Motion was made to move into Executive Session at 6:35 p.m. pursuant to State of**
186 **Connecticut General Statutes § 1-200(6)(B) and § 1-225(f) to discuss pending litigation with**
187 **respect to Workers' Compensation claim settlement in the case of Leonard Thomas vs.**
188 **Town of Wallingford**

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190 **Made by: Mr. Beaumont**
191 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**
192 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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194 **Attendance at Executive Session:** Chairman Robert Beaumont (via teleconference);
195 Commissioners Joel Rinebold and Laurence Zabrowski; Director Richard Hendershot; Water and
196 Sewer Divisions General Manager Neil Amwake; Attorney Joe Passaretti and Risk Manager
197 Kurt Treiber

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199 **Time of Executive Session: 6:35 p.m. to 6:50 p.m.**

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201 **No Motions or Agreements were made**

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205 **9. Discussion and Action: Pending Litigation with respect to Workers'**
206 **Compensation claim settlement in the case of Leonard Thomas vs. Town of**
207 **Wallingford**

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209 **Motion to Approve the Settlement as discussed in Executive Session**

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211 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**
212 **Seconded by: Mr. Beaumont**
213 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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217 **Committee Reports/Correspondence**

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219 **None**

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223 **ADJOURNMENT**

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Motion to Adjourn

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227 **Made by: Mr. Beaumont**

228 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**

229 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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231 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:51 p.m.

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233 Respectfully submitted,

234

235 *Michelle Bracale*

236

237 Michelle Bracale

238 Acting Recording Secretary

Respectfully submitted,

Laurence Zabrowski /mb

Laurence J. Zabrowski

Secretary