

APPROVED

4/2/24

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
WALLINGFORD ELECTRIC DIVISION

100 JOHN STREET

WALLINGFORD, CT 06492

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

6:00 P.M.

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Robert Beaumont; Commissioners Joel Rinebold (via teleconference) and Laurence Zabrowski; Director Richard Hendershot; Water and Sewer Divisions General Manager Neil Amwake; Water and Sewer Divisions Business Manager Donald Langenauer; Electric Division General Manager Jake Arborio; Electric Division Business Office Manager Marianne Dill and Acting Recording Secretary Michelle Bracale

*Absent – None*

*Members of the Public – None*

Mr. Beaumont called the Meeting to order at 6:03 P.M., and the pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

**2. Annual Reorganization**

**Motion to Elect Robert Beaumont as Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission**

**Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**

**Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

**Votes: 3 ayes**

**Motion to Elect Joel Rinebold as Vice-Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission**

**Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**

**Seconded by: Mr. Beaumont**

**Votes: 3 ayes**

**Motion to Elect Laurence Zabrowski as Secretary of the Public Utilities Commission**

43 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**  
44 **Seconded by: Mr. Beaumont**  
45 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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47  
48

49 **3. Consent Agenda**

50  
51  
52  
53

- a. Consider and Approve Minutes of Special Meeting – February 28, 2024
- b. Consider and Approve Minutes of Water Division Rate Workshop – March 4, 2024

54 **Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda**

55  
56 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**  
57 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**  
58 **Votes: 3 ayes**

59  
60  
61

62 **4. Items Removed from Consent Agenda**

63  
64 **None**

65  
66  
67

68 **5. Discussion and Action: Approval of the Director’s Report for the Month of**  
69 **February 2024**

70  
71 **Motion to Approve the Director’s Report for the Month of February 2024**

72  
73 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**  
74 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**  
75 **Votes: 3 ayes**

76  
77  
78

79 **Public Question and Answer Period**

80  
81 **None - No Members Present**

82  
83 **Public Question and Answer Period Closed**

84  
85  
86

87 **6. Discussion and Possible Action: Approval of Electric Division Budget**

88

89 Mr. Zabrowski commented that the report was very transparent and very good.

90

91 Mr. Beaumont complimented Ms. Dill on the great work and stated he appreciated all of her hard  
92 work.

93

94 Mr. Rinebold stated that this well prepared, well documented and he was very pleased with the  
95 information.

96

97 **Motion to Approve the Electric Division Budget**

98

99 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**

100 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**

101 **Votes: 3 ayes**

102

103

104

105 **7. Discussion and Action: Resolution – Alex Boutsoulis**

106

107 Mr. Beaumont stated that Mr. Boutsoulis has been with the town for three years and has done a  
108 great job in those number of years.

109

110 Mr. Arborio stated Mr. Boutsoulis has been remarkable. He has completed a lot of tasks that  
111 needed to be done and has put the WED in a good spot for the upcoming years.

112

113 **Motion to Approve the Resolution for Alex Boutsoulis**

114

115 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**

116 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

117 **Votes: 3 ayes**

118

119

120

121 **8. Discussion and Action: Resolution – Patricia Camera**

122

123 Mr. Beaumont stated that Ms. Camera has been with the WED for thirty-eight years and has been  
124 a big help to a lot of people.

125

126 **Motion to Approve the Resolution for Patricia Camera**

127

128 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**

129 **Seconded by: Mr. Beaumont**

130 **Votes: 3 ayes**

131

132

133

134 **9. Discussion Only – Quarterly Rate Comparison**

135 Mr. Hendershot stated that Mr. Rinebold requested the WED to start this rate comparison and  
136 Ms. Dill has maintained it.

137  
138 Mr. Rinebold commented that he appreciates all of the effort that was put into the comparison.  
139

140 Mr. Zabrowski stated that this is a good tool for the PUC.  
141  
142  
143

#### 144 **10. Discussion and Possible Action: Approval of Water Division Budget**

145  
146 Mr. Beaumont noted that the health insurance expenses were reduced from a 15.0% increase to a  
147 14.0% increase reducing the total healthcare costs by \$11,591.00.  
148

#### 149 **Motion to Approve the Water Division Budget**

150  
151 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**  
152 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**  
153 **Votes: 3 ayes**  
154  
155  
156

#### 157 **11. Discussion and Possible Action: Approval of Sewer Division Budget**

158  
159 Mr. Beaumont noted that the only monetary change was the healthcare costs. All other changes  
160 were just in regards to the explanation or description of items.  
161

#### 162 **Motion to Approve the Sewer Division Budget**

163  
164 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**  
165 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**  
166 **Votes: 3 ayes**  
167  
168  
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#### 170 **12. Discussion and Action: Set Date of April 16, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 315 at** 171 **Town Hall for Public Hearing on Water Rates**

172  
173 **Motion to Set the Date of the Public Hearing on Water Rates for April 16, 2024 at 6:00**  
174 **p.m. in Room 315 at Town Hall**  
175

176 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**  
177 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**  
178 **Votes: 3 ayes**  
179  
180

181 **13. Discussion and Possible Action: Budget Amendment – Water Division – FY**  
182 **2023/2024 – Maintenance of Water Treatment Equipment**  
183

184 Mr. Amwake stated that a problem with Backwash Pump No. 2 was discovered at the Pistapaug  
185 Water Treatment Plant (PWTP). This pump has little or no output when running. Wallingford  
186 Water Division crews adjusted the impeller to improve efficiency however this attempt was  
187 unsuccessful as the pump output did not increase and the pump became noisy. Division crews  
188 then removed the motor which drives this pump as a means to troubleshoot the problem, and the  
189 motor does not appear to be the cause of the issue. The problem lies with the pump, which must  
190 be removed from service and rebuilt off-site. This pump is critical to the operation of the  
191 Pistapaug Water Treatment Plant as it provides water to backwash the filters. The estimate to  
192 remove, overhaul, test, re-install and start up Backwash Pump No. 2 is \$36,880.00. This  
193 estimate does not include replacement of columns (housing), bowls, impellers and spiders which  
194 are integral for pump operation. As such, a twenty-five percent contingency for replacement of  
195 these parts is requested for a total of \$46,100.00. As a comparison, the cost to remove, procure,  
196 install and startup a new backwash pump assembly is approximately \$111,042.00. The new  
197 pump also has a 27-week lead time, whereas the existing pump can be rebuilt in a shorter  
198 timeframe.  
199

200 Mr. Rinebold commented that this is needed and complimented Mr. Amwake and staff for  
201 maximizing the resources by reusing the existing pump to fix the problem rather than discarding  
202 and buying a new pump.  
203

204 **Motion to Approve the Budget Amendment – Water Division – FY 2023/2024 –**  
205 **Maintenance of Water Treatment Equipment**  
206

207 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**  
208 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**  
209 **Votes: 3 ayes**  
210  
211  
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213 **14. Discussion and Possible Action: Approval of PUC Budget**  
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215 **Motion to Approve the PUC Budget**  
216

217 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**  
218 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**  
219 **Votes: 3 ayes**  
220  
221  
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223 **Committee Reports/Correspondence**  
224

225 Mr. Hendershot reminded the PUC of the upcoming workshop on Thursday, March 21, 2024 at  
226 HUBCAP with the Commission coinciding with the Energy Risk Management Oversight  
227 Committee.

228  
229  
230

231 **ADJOURNMENT**

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233 **Motion to Adjourn**

234

235 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**

236 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

237 **Votes: 3 ayes**

238

239 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:33 p.m.

240

241 Respectfully submitted,

242

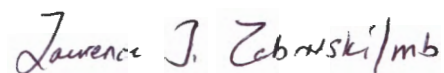
243 

244

245 Michelle Bracale

246 Acting Recording Secretary

Respectfully submitted,



Laurence J. Zabrowski

Secretary