

APPROVED

2/4/25

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
WALLINGFORD ELECTRIC DIVISION
100 JOHN STREET
WALLINGFORD, CT 06492

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Robert Beaumont; Commissioners Dr. 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 Acting Recording Secretary Michelle Bracale

Absent – None

Members of the Public – None

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 7, 2025
- b. Consider and Approve Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2025

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda

Made by: Dr. Rinebold

Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski

Votes: 3 ayes

3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 2/5/25
AT 11:30 am AND RECEIVED BY
Kristen Parze TOWN CLERK

42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87

None

4. Discussion and Action: Approval of the Director’s Report for the Month of December 2024

Dr. Rinebold referenced Page No. 4-15 New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) and commented that the New England Clean Energy Connect with the capability to deliver 1,200 MW of electricity into New England from Hydro-Quebec starting in August 2026 is going to be significant.

Mr. Beaumont questioned where is this going through?

Dr. Rinebold stated it is going into Maine.

Mr. Beaumont referenced Page No. 4-2 and questioned if there have been any changes in regards to the vacancy position for Chief Maintainer, Distribution Crew?

Mr. Amwake stated that the Union still needs to sign off on the updated job description but is hoping to have this at the Town Council Meeting on January 28, 2025. Mr. Amwake noted that the Human Resources Department controls this process.

Motion to Approve the Director’s Report for the Month of December 2024

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

Public Question and Answer Period

None - No Members Present

Public Question and Answer Period Closed

5. Discussion and Possible Action: Budget Amendment – Water Division – FY 2024/2025 – Liability Insurance

Item Removed from Agenda

88 **6. Discussion and Possible Action: Piloting of Dewatering Processes – Budget**
89 **Amendment and Bid Waiver Concerning an update to the Solids Handling**
90 **Improvement Section (Chapter 5) of the “Facility Plan for the Wallingford**
91 **Water Pollution Control Facility”**
92

93 Mr. Amwake stated that the WSD is in the midst of the Solids Handling Complex update.
94 Previously the PUC endorsed a bid waiver for AECOM to provide an update to the solids
95 handling section of the November, 2018 “Facility Plan for the Wallingford Water Pollution
96 Control Facility” (dated November 2, 2018) at the April 2, 2024 PUC meeting by a vote of 3
97 yeas and 0 nays. The Wallingford Town Council approved the bid waiver request at their April
98 23, 2024 meeting by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays.
99

100 There have been no significant capital expenditures put towards the Solids Handling Complex
101 since it was constructed and rehabilitated between 1987 and 1989. It is a very corrosive
102 environment. The updated Solids Handling Improvements Section (Chapter 5) of the Facility
103 Plan will include, though not be limited to, an evaluation and condition assessment of solids
104 handling equipment and processes and a review of solids handling options, including: 1)
105 maintaining and rehabilitating the existing anaerobic digestion equipment and process, 2)
106 eliminating the anaerobic digestion process and dewatering the sludge to approximately 20%
107 solids for transportation and disposal offsite, or 3) eliminating the anaerobic digestion process
108 and thickening the sludge to approximately 6% solids for transportation and disposal offsite.
109

110 The transportation and disposal market does not support thickening the sludge to approximately
111 6%. In addition, the sludge transportation and disposal market is moving towards a minimum
112 requirement of 20% solids (with a preferred 22% solids) versus the current requirement of the
113 18% solids for dewatered sludge. As of now the existing belt filter presses are achieving 16% to
114 18% solids and will not be sufficient. The belt filter presses will not be considered sufficient
115 whether the WSD keeps anaerobic digestion or whether the WSD eliminates aerobic digestion.
116

117 Therefore, AECOM is recommending and the WSD concurs, the piloting of two types of screw
118 presses to verify that the technologies available for sludge dewatering will be available to meet
119 the new disposal criteria. The existing agreement with AECOM did not mention piloting
120 therefore the WSD is requesting PUC endorsement of the following:
121

- 122 1. A modification to the existing bid waiver, to include piloting of select screw presses so
123 that AECOM can provide a more thorough and comprehensive update to the solids
124 handling improvement section of the November, 2018 “Facility Plan for the Wallingford
125 Water Pollution Control Facility” via existing funding in the WPCF Upgrades Project
126 design phase budget.
- 127 2. A bid waiver for FKC, Co. of Port Angeles, WA and for PWTech of Rosedale, MD to
128 each provide trailer mounted screw presses, staff and in-house sampling and laboratory
129 testing for screw press piloting.
- 130 3. A FY 2024-2025 budget amendment to Increase Account #46300331 – Treatment Plant
131 Structures and Improvements (Solids Handling Complex Update) by \$142,500.00 for the
132 screw presses piloting as part of the update to the Solids Handling Improvements Section
133 (Chapter 5) of the Facility Plan. Funds for this purpose will be will be available to the

134 capital budget through a corresponding increase to the Appropriation from Cash in the
135 Source of Funds section of the Water Division budget.

136

137 Mr. Amwake stated that the WSD would like to conduct the piloting for one-week period prior to
138 April 1st before the tertiary phosphate season and then one week after April 1st once tertiary
139 phosphate season starts. The goal is to straddle the April 1st date by two weeks.

140

141 Mr. Zabrowski questioned what precipitated the change on the waste sludge?

142

143 Mr. Amwake responded that it is being driven by the wastewater sludge transportation and
144 disposal market. Too much liquid is not good for transportation or incineration.

145

146 Mr. Amwake referenced page 4 of the memo **BID WAIVER TO PREPARE AN UPDATE TO**
147 **THE SOLIDS HANDLING IMPROVEMENT SECTION (CHAPTER 5) OF THE**
148 **“FACILITY PLAN FOR THE WALLINGFORD WATER POLLUTION CONTROL**
149 **FACILITY”** and stated that the total present worth to maintain anaerobic digestion is
150 \$18,502,000.00 and the total present worth for elimination of digestion is \$11,692,000.00. This is
151 present value for 2024.

152

153 Dr. Rinebold commented that it does seem like a lot of money but the WSD would risk more if
154 they didn't have all of the information to test and pilot. The WSD should stay with AECOM and
155 he believes the piloting is justified.

156

157 **Motion to Endorse a modification to the existing bid waiver with AECOM, to include**
158 **piloting of select screw presses so that AECOM can provide a more thorough and**
159 **comprehensive update to the solids handling improvement section of the November, 2018**
160 **“Facility Plan for the Wallingford Water Pollution Control Facility” (dated November 2,**
161 **2018) via existing funding in the WPCF Upgrades Project design phase budget**

162

163 **Made by: Dr. Rinebold**

164 **Seconded by: Mr. Beaumont**

165 **Votes: 3 ayes**

166

167 Dr. Rinebold questioned where did these two companies come from?

168

169 Mr. Amwake stated these came over from AECOM. These were the top two firms based on
170 current available sludge data.

171

172 There was a long-detailed discussion on the options of not endorsing the bid waiver and consider
173 going out to open bids to have other companies come in as well as the technology and the pilot.

174

175 Dr. Rinebold noted that this was not an easy decision as this is a lot of money, looking at long
176 time processes early and saving the rate payers from looking at minimizing risks.

177

178 **Motion to Endorse a bid waiver for FKC, Co. of Port Angeles, WA and for PWTech of**
179 **Rosedale, MD to each provide trailer mounted screw presses, staff and in-house sampling**
180 **and laboratory testing for screw press piloting**
181

182

183

184 **Made by: Dr. Rinebold**

185 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**

186 **Votes: 3 ayes**
187

188

189 **Motion to Approve a Budget Amendment for the Sewer Division – FY 2024/2025 to**
190 **increase Account #46300331 – Treatment Plant Structures and Improvements (Solids**
191 **Handling Complex Update) by \$142,500.00 for the screw press piloting as part of the**
192 **update to the Solids Handling Improvements Section (Chapter 5) of the Facility Plan**
193

194 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**

195 **Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold**

196 **Votes: 3 ayes**
197

198

199

200 **7. Discussion Only: Rate Comparison**

201

202 Mrs. Dill stated that the WED staff prepared a comparison of monthly residential electric rates of
203 the investor owned and municipal utilities in Connecticut. After all of the data was pulled in
204 Groton Utilities currently has the lowest residential rates in the state at this point. The monthly
205 bill for a 750 kWh residential customer is \$128.96 versus \$129.54 for a 750 kWh residential
206 customer in Wallingford. However, Groton utilities has a rate increase scheduled for April 1,
207 2025 which will increase the monthly bill for a 750 kWh residential customer to \$130.70. Since
208 the last study, Eversource has gone up \$19.68, UI \$36.15 and Norwich \$5.86. The January, 2025
209 Residential Rates Chart referenced in Item No. 7-2 does reflect these increases.
210

211 Dr. Rinebold thanked and complimented Mrs. Dill for the well-done report.
212

213

214

215

216

217 **Motion was made to move into Executive Session at 6:54 p.m. pursuant to State of**
218 **Connecticut General Statutes §1-200(6)(E), §1-200, §1-210(b)(5)(B) and §7-232a to discuss**
219 **Power Supply Agreements**
220

221 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**

222 **Seconded by: Dr. Rinebold**

223 **Votes: 3 ayes**

224
225
226
227
228
229
230
231
232
233
234
235
236
237
238
239
240
241
242
243
244
245
246
247
248
249
250
251
252
253
254
255
256
257
258
259
260
261
262
263

Attendance at Executive Session: Chairman Robert Beaumont; Commissioners Dr. Joel Rinebold and Laurence Zabrowski; Director Richard Hendershot; Electric Division General Manager Jake Arborio and Electric Division Business Office Manager Marianne Dill

Time of Executive Session: 6:54 p.m. to 8:01 p.m.

9. Discussion and Possible Action: Power Supply Agreements as discussed in Executive Session pursuant to State of Connecticut General Statutes §1-200(6)(E), §1-200, §1-210(b)(5)(B) and §7-232a to discuss Power Supply Agreements

Motion to Endorse the purchase power agreements with Brookfield Renewable Partners L.P. (Pontook Operating Limited Partnership and Brookfield White Pine Hydro LLC) subject to Town Council approval

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Bracale
Acting Recording Secretary

Respectfully submitted,



Laurence J. Zabrowski
Secretary