

Approved
6/15/21

DRAFT

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

WALLINGFORD TOWN HALL

ROOM 315

45 SOUTH MAIN STREET

WALLINGFORD, CT

Tuesday, June 1, 2021

6:30 P.M.

**TOWN OF
WALLINGFORD**

JUN 7 2021

**DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Robert Beaumont; Commissioners Patrick Birney and Joel Rinebold; Director Richard Hendershot; Electric Division General Manager Tony Buccheri; Business Office Manager Marianne Dill; Recording Secretary Bernadette Sorbo

Excused Absence: Water and Sewer Divisions General Manager Neil Amwake; Water and Sewer Divisions Business Manager Brian Naples

Members of the public – none

Mr. Birney 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 May 18, 2021

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda:

Made by: Mr. Birney

Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold

Votes: 3 ayes

3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None

37 **4. Discussion and Possible Action: Electric Division: Customer Appeal – Rojas –**
38 **Deposit**

39
40 Mr. Buccheri referenced the memo dated May 26, 2021. Mr. Buccheri stated that Mr. Rojas sent
41 in a letter requesting his customer deposit be returned. Mr. Rojas moved to Wallingford a little
42 over a year ago when he purchased his home. There was an issue with the initial deposit check
43 which was corrected when the customer was made aware that a return check fee of \$40.00 was
44 applied to the account in May of 2020. Since May 2020, Mr. Rojas has missed a payment that
45 was due on January 8, 2021, and was short \$0.01 on a payment that was due on February 9,
46 2021. Per the Customer Deposit Policy, Mr. Rojas will not be eligible to receive his deposit back
47 until March 2022. Therefore, per Mr. Rojas' request, the matter is being placed on the June 1,
48 2021 agenda of the PUC for their review and possible action.

49
50 Mr. Beaumont stated that the bills have to be made on time. The Customer Deposit Policy is in
51 place for a reason and should be adhered to.

52
53 **No Action Taken**

54
55
56
57 **5. Discussion and Action: Electric Division: Transfer – A/C 390 – General Plant –**
58 **Structures & Improvements to A/C 3873 – Distribution Plant – Street Lighting**
59 **& Signal**

60
61 Mr. Buccheri stated that this is a request for a budget transfer in fiscal year 2020-2021 in the
62 amount of \$70,000.00 to Account 373 Distribution Plant – Street Lighting- Signal System. This
63 account reflects the labor, material costs and overheads for new lighting installations on public
64 streets and the replacement of existing high pressure sodium (HPS) lights with LED light
65 fixtures. The Electric Division previously completed an audit of street lights and private lights to
66 identify those lights that were in need of repair. Consistent with the Electric Division's LED
67 replacement program, each of the HPS lights in need of repair will be replaced by an LED
68 fixture. As a matter of public safety, the WED has been proactive in the replacement of street
69 lighting as opposed to always waiting for notification of failed lighting. Mr. Buccheri advised
70 that the funds are available from Account 390 – General Plant – Structures and Improvements.
71 A review of the activity and the plans for the balance of the year show that these amounts will be
72 unexpended and available for transfer.

73
74 **Motion to approve the Transfer – A/C 390 – General Plant – Structures & Improvements**
75 **to A/C 3873 – Distribution Plant – Street Lighting & Signal**

76
77 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

78 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

79 **Votes: 3 ayes**
80
81
82

83 **6. Discussion and Action: Electric Division – Resolution – Gessner**

84
85 Mr. Beaumont stated that Mr. Gessner has over 34 years of service with the Town of
86 Wallingford Electric Division. Mr. Gessner started his WED career at the Pierce Power Plant on
87 East Street and then when the plant was decommissioned, he moved to Sys Ops on John Street.
88 Mr. Beaumont stated that Mr. Gessner will be missed.

89
90 Mr. Beaumont questioned, when is Mr. Gessner's last day?

91
92 Mr. Buccheri stated that it should be late July- early August.

93
94 **Motion to approve the Resolution of Gessner**

95
96 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

97 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

98 **Votes: 3 ayes**

99
100 **Public Question and Answer**

101
102 Mr. Beaumont stated that Ms. Adelheid Koepfer sent over an email to Mrs. White on June 1,
103 2021 with some questions to be read and answered to at the PUC meeting.

104
105 Ms. Koepfer questioned, with the Electric Rates being set can you give an update to the
106 Voluntary Green Rate?

107
108 Mr. Hendershot stated that the struggle he is having is that the Commissions has made it clear
109 that they prefer that this not be done merely via purchasing REC's. The Commissions would
110 like to find a properly structured real Renewable Energy Source that can be married up with a
111 program such as this and not create any spillover where there would be costs associated with that
112 renewable energy purchase that might work its way into the overall portfolio. Mr. Hendershot
113 advised that the problem is definable but he has not achieved a solution yet.

114
115 Ms. Koepfer questioned, has the town council considered the possibility of hosting data centers
116 in the near future and what would this mean for the Electric Division? The developer gave an
117 estimate of 32 MW power consumption per site, how will this additional 64 MW affect the total
118 amount of procured and hedged power?

119
120 Mr. Hendershot stated that in the way that Ms. Koepfer worded her question, not at all. The
121 concept of how the development would be served would be hourly market power so there would
122 be no need for the Electric Division to do any hedging, because the agreement would be
123 structured in a way where this development which would take service directly off of the
124 transmission system would be served by the hourly market cost of energy.

125
126 Ms. Koepfer questioned, the developer also stated that his client would usually aim to procure
127 power from WED as much as possible. An emergency generation onsite would cost more for

128 them. How would this affect available power for residents and others during emergency
129 situations?
130

131 Mr. Hendershot stated not at all. The division in this development is not connected to our
132 distribution system so there is no impact on when they do or don't use power. Their own
133 decisions to site or not site emergency generation would be for their own purposes and
134 assurances. If the power was interrupted for any reason they can turn on their generators and
135 restore electricity to their site. Mr. Hendershot stated that they will also likely be using these
136 generators for peak shaving to reduce their peak demand and the cost structure associated
137 therewith.
138

139 Ms. Koepfer questioned, the developer stated that there is no upgrade necessary on WED site,
140 can you confirm that assessment even with such a large consumption?
141

142 Mr. Hendershot stated yes for the reasons stated above.
143

144 Ms. Koepfer questioned, would the American Rescue Plan Act explicitly be making investments
145 in water and sewer infrastructure as well as premium pay for essential workers etc.? There is an
146 eligible expense under the coronavirus state and local fiscal recovery funds. Does the Water and
147 Sewer Divisions plan to apply for those funds to support upkeep and updates on our water
148 infrastructure treatment facility?
149

150 Mr. Hendershot stated that information about this was just sent to the Water and Sewer Division
151 General Manager late in the day on the 28th of May. The Mayor's office is aware of this as well.
152 The Water and Sewer Division will need time to look into this and process the information.
153

154 **Public Question and Answer Closed**
155
156
157

158 **ADJOURNMENT**
159

160 **Motion to adjourn**

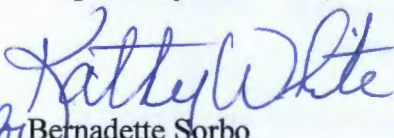
161 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

162 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

163 **Votes: 3 ayes**
164

165 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:49 p.m.
166

167 Respectfully submitted,
168

169 
170
171 Bernadette Sorbo
172 Recording Secretary

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Rinebold
Secretary