

1 **DRAFT**

2 PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

3 WALLINGFORD TOWN HALL

4 ROOM 315

5 45 SOUTH MAIN STREET

6 WALLINGFORD, CT

7 Tuesday, July 20, 2021

8 6:30 P.M.

9 **MINUTES**

TOWN OF  
WALLINGFORD

JUL 26 2021

DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC UTILITIES

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11 **PRESENT:** Chairman Robert Beaumont; Commissioners Patrick Birney (attended via  
12 teleconference) and Joel Rinebold; Director Richard Hendershot; Water and Sewer Divisions  
13 General Manager Neil Amwake; Water and Sewer Divisions Business Manager Brian Naples;  
14 Business Office Manager Marianne Dill; Recording Secretary Bernadette Sorbo

15 *Absent - Electric Division General Manager Tony Buccheri*

16 *Members of the public – Alexander Hentz*

17 Mr. Birney called the Meeting to order at 6:30 P.M., and the pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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19 **1. Pledge of Allegiance**

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23 **2. Consent Agenda**

- 24 a. Consider and approve Minutes of June 15, 2021

25  
26 **Motion to approve the Consent Agenda:**

27  
28 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**

29 **Seconded by: Mr. Birney**

30 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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34 **3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None**

37 **4. Discussion and Action: Approval of Director's Report for the Month of June**  
38 **2021**

39  
40 Mr. Beaumont referenced Item No. 4-1 Pad-Mounted Transformers. Mr. Beaumont questioned  
41 that the WED will likely soon seek a budget amendment to allow for the allocation of funds for a  
42 purchase order to secure transformers for fiscal year 2023?

43  
44 Mr. Hendershot advised that this is correct as the WED is currently in FY22. The manufactures  
45 are stating that the lead times are out a year.

46  
47 **Motion to approve the Director's Report for the Month of June 2021**

48  
49 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**  
50 **Seconded by: Mr. Birney**  
51 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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55 **5. Discussion and Action: Electric Division: Budget Transfer – Miscellaneous**  
56 **Distribution/Software Maintenance**

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58 Mr. Hendershot referenced the Memo from Ms. Dill to Mr. Buccheri dated July 14, 2021 in  
59 regards to the FY21-22 Budget Transfer. Account 588 – Distribution – Operations Misc.  
60 Distribution is an account that includes labor, overhead and materials used in distribution system  
61 operation and expenses not provided for elsewhere. A review of purchase requisitions year to  
62 date along with projections for the balance of the fiscal year, indicate that additional funds will  
63 be needed. This budget is needed for ongoing Milsoft Systems monthly maintenance fees that  
64 are budgeted annually. The dollars were removed in error during the preparation of the fiscal  
65 year 2022 Budget. Funds are available for this transfer from 586 – Distribution – Operations  
66 Meter Expenses where payroll costs to be incurred will be less than expected due to the number  
67 of vacant positions and the part time position that was budgeted but will not be utilized this fiscal  
68 year.

69  
70 **Motion to approve the Budget Transfer of \$38,000.00 from Account 586 into Account 588**

71  
72 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**  
73 **Seconded by: Mr. Birney**  
74 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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78 **6. Discussion and Possible Action: Electric Division – Guillen – Private Light**

79  
80 Mr. Beaumont referenced the Memo from Mr. Buccheri dated July 12, 2021. Mr. Beaumont  
81 advised that the action for tonight is approval from the PUC to issue a refund in the amount of  
82 \$6,020.10 to East Side LLC.



83 Mr. Rinebold questioned if the Electric Division should wait until they receive the \$6,020.10  
84 from Allendale for the reimbursement of the private light that was billed to and paid by East Side  
85 LLC?  
86

87 Mr. Hendershot advised that the Electric Division has already received payment in full from  
88 Allendale Associates.  
89

90 **Motion to issue the refund of \$6,020.10 to East Side LLC**  
91

92 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**

93 **Seconded by: Mr. Birney**

94 **Votes: 3 ayes**  
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98 **7. Discussion and Action: Water Division – Budget Transfer – Liability Insurance**

99 Mr. Beaumont referenced the memo from Mr. Naples dated July 14, 2021 in regards to the  
100 Budget Transfer – Liability Insurance.  
101

102 Mr. Naples stated that for the Wallingford Water Division's adopted FY21-22 budget, the Water  
103 Division's umbrella policy was incorrectly budgeted as property insurance (Account #431-  
104 00924). This umbrella policy should have been budgeted as liability insurance (Account #431-  
105 00925). Therefore, the Wallingford Water Division recommends that the PUC amend the FY21-  
106 22 Water Division budget by reducing operating Account #431-00924 – Property Insurance by  
107 \$6,000.00 and increasing operating Account #431-00925 – Injuries and Damages by \$6,000.00.  
108

109 **Motion to amend the FY21-22 Water Division budget by reducing operating Account #431-  
110 00924 – Property Insurance by \$6,000.00 and increasing operating Account #431-00925 –  
111 Injuries and Damages by \$6,000.00**  
112

113 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**

114 **Seconded by: Mr. Birney**

115 **Votes: 3 ayes**  
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119 **8. Discussion and Action: Water Division – Resolution – Richard Draghi**  
120

121 Mr. Amwake stated that Mr. Draghi was with the Town of Wallingford Water Division for 38  
122 years. Mr. Draghi started as a Maintainer I and then moved on to a Maintainer II and Watershed  
123 Caretaker. Mr. Draghi always made himself available for emergency work, watershed patrols  
124 and has always been a team player.  
125

126 **Motion to approve the Resolution for Richard Draghi**  
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129 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**  
130 **Seconded by: Mr. Birney**  
131 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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### 9. WPCF Upgrades Project Update

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Mr. Amwake updated the Commission on the construction of the WPCF Project.

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At the Secondary Settling Tanks, the formwork and reinforcing steel is complete for the base slab. The entire base slab concrete has been poured. The contractors arrive at 4:00 AM to begin work. The trucks arrive at 5:30 am to begin pouring and finish pouring by 10:00 AM. The formwork and reinforcing steel for the walls is currently being placed. Four of the wall sections have been poured to date.

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At the Secondary Pump Station, piping in the lower level for the downstream side of the pumps is complete. Concrete Masonry Unit (CMU) block work for the exterior walls is complete, with installation of the brickwork ongoing. This should be completed this week.

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At the Tertiary Phosphorous Building, the installation of process piping in the lower level is ongoing. Approximately 85% of the Actiflo equipment has been installed. The hydro cyclones have been delivered and installed. The contractor is currently installing the stainless steel piping for the microsand system. Electrical work in the lower level of the TPB is ongoing.

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At the UV Disinfection/Post Aeration Building, the contractor has installed a portion of the stainless steel air piping, along with piping for the plant water systems. The electricians continue to install conduit and wiring for the UV/PA building.

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At the Existing Personnel Electrical Building, the Electrical work is ongoing. Masonry work for the new people doors on the North and East sides of the PEB is ongoing.

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At the Site Work, the installation of the duct bank along the High Road in front of the Emergency Generator Building continues. Excavation for the plant water, return activated sludge piping, electrical duct banks and potable water service between the pipe gallery near the fuel island and the TPB continues.

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#### Construction Contract Payment Applications – C. H. Nickerson

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Original Contract Sum	\$45,507,000.00	
Net Change by Change Orders	<u>\$160,715.49</u>	(.3532% of the original contract value)
Contract Sum to Date	\$45,667,715.49	As of June 15, 2021

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175	Construction Contract Schedule	
176	Original Completion Date	February 10, 2022
177	Net Change Schedule Days	<u>7</u>
178	Contract Completion Date	February 17, 2022

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180 Construction is currently at 75% build

181  
182 Mr. Birney requested an update on the possible change orders for the settling tanks.

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184 Mr. Amwake stated that there has been preliminary discussions but at this time C.H. Nickerson  
185 has not put forth a formal request for a change order either dealing with time and/or additional  
186 funding.

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190 **Correspondence**

191  
192 Mr. Hendershot advised that the meeting locations would need to be addressed moving forward.  
193 After August the Town Hall may not be available to hold the PUC meetings in. Mr. Hendershot  
194 stated that he wanted to poll the PUC to see if they would consider moving the meetings back to  
195 the Electric Division Conference Room in September.

196  
197 Mr. Beaumont and Mr. Rinebold stated that they have no problem moving back to the Electric  
198 Division for future meetings.

199  
200 Mr. Birney advised that he maintains his position to keep the PUC meetings at the Town Hall.  
201 Mr. Birney stated that he is disappointed that there has not been an effort based on the  
202 conversations that were held on and off the record that the Town Hall has not been reserved  
203 through the end of the year.

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207 **Public Question and Answer**

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209 Mr. Hentz questioned if the Mayor has to approve any type of funding or any type of privilege to  
210 do anything in the Town? Does the public have to ask the Mayor to fund certain projects?

211  
212 Mr. Hendershot stated that here within the PUC, the utilities are fully funded by themselves. The  
213 Charter reads that the Town Counsel is the body that approves all budgets. Anytime that the  
214 utilities have a need to modify the budgets on an ongoing basis, the PUC requires Town Council  
215 approval of that action.

216  
217 Mr. Hentz questioned if the public can donate money to the budget?

218  
219 Mr. Hendershot stated he cannot answer that question as he is the Director for the Utilities.

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221 Mr. Beaumont stated that any donation has to be accepted or approved by the Town Counsel.

222  
223 Mr. Hentz questioned if there is a way to find out the numbers in the budget?

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225 Mr. Hendershot stated yes, the budget is a public document.

226  
227 Mr. Beaumont stated that Ms. Koepfer sent over questions to Mrs. White for the PUC to answer.  
228 Mr. Beaumont read the first part of the memo that was sent over from Ms. Koepfer.

229  
230 “As I will not be able to attend the meeting may I ask that you please forward the following  
231 questions to the Commissioners and Mr. Hendershot for the Public Q&A. Is there an update on  
232 the Voluntary Green Electric Rate? Can you please give some more details about what a  
233 “properly” structured renewable energy source (referenced from the minute’s page 6, line 110)?  
234 Would you consider local sources like landfills, solar arrays, distributor generation, local  
235 YMCA, public libraries, public police stations or any of the school buildings?”

236  
237 Mr. Hendershot stated that what he has said previously about the Voluntary Green Rate for  
238 Residential Customers is that the Commissions would like to see the Green Rate based off of the  
239 actual renewable energy source and not just buying renewable energy credits. Mr. Hendershot  
240 advised that the challenge he is facing is finding a project or projects with firm pricing as an  
241 appropriate size to closely match the likely energy that would be required by customer’s that  
242 would sign up for the program. The Commissions also indicated that they would frown on  
243 something that resulted in a lot of extra costs to all of the other rate payers. Mr. Hendershot is  
244 struggling with the matching of the resources to the load. Mr. Hendershot referred back to Ms.  
245 Koepfer’s suggestion about using other local sources and stated that what is being purposed is  
246 quite complex. Mr. Hendershot stated that if there was a purchase power agreement with a series  
247 of small solar arrays scattered about town, the division would then add up that energy and this  
248 would be the energy that would be available for this Voluntary Project. It may or may not be  
249 enough and then the division would be right back to the same issue.

250  
251 Mr. Beaumont read the second question from Ms. Koepfer. “How can the Electric, Water and  
252 Sewer Division assist with the most energy efficient design for the new police station. As this  
253 new station should serve our police for the next thirty years, I strongly suggest that the highest  
254 energy efficiency resilience against extreme weather remain a main part of the planning process.  
255 Besides the WED rebates and incentives how can the department support the police building  
256 steering committee and planning for a high performing and overall energy building that can  
257 deliver better working conditions for staff as well as save on energy costs from the police  
258 department, the town and ultimately the rate/tax payers.

259  
260 Mr. Hendershot stated that the Wallingford Electric, Water and Sewer Divisions stand ready for  
261 any questions that the steering committee may have. Mr. Hendershot anticipates that the Police  
262 Department would want the greatest energy efficiency that was economical and should be  
263 planning for that.

264  
265 Mr. Beaumont stated that the Divisions could not jump into this matter if they were not invited.

266 Mr. Hendershot stated that the Electric Division does not have new building programs but might  
267 be able to address some equipment purchases. The Division may be able to help out with the  
268 cost difference.

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270 **Public Question and Answer**

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274 **ADJOURNMENT**

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276 **Motion to adjourn**

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278 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**

279 **Seconded by: Mr. Birney**

280 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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282 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:16 p.m.

283

284 Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,

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288 Bernadette Sorbo  
289 Recording Secretary

Joel Rinebold  
Secretary