

APPROVED

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
WALLINGFORD ELECTRIC DIVISION
100 JOHN STREET
WALLINGFORD, CT 06492
Tuesday, December 21, 2021
6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Commissioners Patrick Birney and Joel Rinebold; Water and Sewer Divisions General Manager Neil Amwake; Water and Sewer Divisions Office Manager Brian Naples; Electric Division General Manager Tony Buccheri; Electric Division Business Manager Marianne Dill; Attorney Gerald E. Farrell, Sr., Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. and Executive Secretary Michelle Bracale acting as Recording Secretary

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Lauren Takores (Record-Journal)

ABSENT: Chairman Robert Beaumont, Director Richard Hendershot, Bernadette Sorbo

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 the Meeting Minutes of December 7, 2021

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Items

Made by: Mr. Rinebold

Seconded by: Mr. Birney

Votes: 2 ayes

3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

4. Discussion and Action: Approval of the Director's Report for the Month of November

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Mr. Buccheri stated that Rick Hendershot has prepared the report and that Water and Sewer General Manager Mr. Amwake and himself can add input from their reports. If either of the commissioners have questions, they would be entertained by Mr. Awake or Mr. Buccheri.

Mr. Rinebold stated that he had some technical conversations and that he's satisfied with where we're at right now.

Mr. Birney began with Electric and then stated that he would then move to Water and Sewer. Asking for a report on any personnel issues, concerns, etc.

Mr. Buccheri stated that at this point the Electric Division has five vacancies and that there is an opening for a System Operator. He stated that they are also looking for an Accountant I. The former Assistant Office Manager's last day was last Friday, December 17, 2021. Electric is in the process of posting for that position as well. There are also two positions open in the Substation Maintenance group; one Maintenance Electrician and one Chief Maintenance Electrician.

Mr. Amwake stated that, on a positive note, they have promoted Jay Pawlowski from the Assistant Superintendent to Water Superintendent effective December 26, 2021. With that, there is a vacancy for Watershed Caretaker with the Watershed Crew. There are four full time openings at the Pistapaug Pond Water Treatment Plant. We have postings out for both the Junior Operator as well as the Senior Operator. There is a bit of frustration with the Water/Sewer Inspector as the posting closed October 5, after the Authorization for Employment was submitted in August 2021. Human Resources informed Mr. Amwake that the oral panel will not be until early January 2022. Even after the oral panel, there is a wait for the certified list, then to conduct interviews, give an offer, then background checks, drug and alcohol screening, physical and then bringing the candidate on board. So, they are looking at a seven or eight month vacancy for that position. The Sewer Division is in a good position right now.

Motion to approve the Director's Report for the month of November

Made by: Rinebold

Seconded by: Birney

Votes: 2 ayes

Mr. Birney then moved on to the next order of business;

5. WPCF Upgrades Project.

Mr. Amwake stated that at Secondary Settling Tanks 5 and 6 the contractor is performing rubbing of the interior concrete. The influent baffles for the new Secondary Settling Tanks 5 and 6 have been installed.

81 What that does is when flow comes into the tanks, we spread it across the full width of the tanks,
82 because you do not want the flow channelized. The south side of the excavation is approximately
83 threequarters backfilled. The masons are installing the exterior brick for the electrical building on top of
84 the Secondary Gallery extension roof. Construction of the interior block walls is ongoing. And
85 installation of the steel roofing deck and joists for the Electrical Building is progressing as well. As for
86 the Secondary Pump Station, installation of the electrical system for the building continues, including
87 wiring for the fire alarms and emergency lighting. , The SPS pumps themselves have been energized
88 and in the last month they have been tested as well. Installation of the floats for the pumps has been
89 completed. As a reminder there are five pumps: two large, two medium and one small. The floats will
90 allow the SPS to automatically turn on the number and size of the pumps we need depending on the flow
91 through the wastewater treatment plant. At the Tertiary Phosphorus Building (TPB) installation of the
92 process piping on the lower and upper levels is substantially complete. Kruger was onsite to verify
93 installation of the Actiflo system and conduct the dry and wet inspections of the tertiary phosphorus
94 treatment system.

95
96 Mr. Birney commented that it's all coming together now. He questioned if the tertiary phosphorus
97 building is the building with the sand and Mr. Amwake stated that it was. Mr. Amwake also stated that
98 the dry and wet inspections of the phosphorus system is inspected before the system is put into
99 operation. The piping has all been tested with clean water at this point, looking for leaks, making sure
100 everything is sealed tight before the performance testing begins later this winter. The building
101 grounding system has been installed as well.

102
103 Mr. Birney questioned if the five pumps have been tested when he had been through there on December
104 10th to which Mr. Amwake stated that they were in the process. The indication was when you looked at
105 the post aeration tank and it was filled with that water, we were in the process of doing it then.

106
107 At the UV Post Aeration Building, the UV disinfection system was inspected by Trojan, the
108 manufacturer and the commissioning of the UV equipment is complete. That equipment is basically just
109 in a hold pattern until it is turned on. The electric work continues at the Personnel Electric Building.
110 Concerning the site work, the natural gas piping has been installed and gas service provided to the
111 Secondary Pump Station, the Tertiary Phosphorus Building and the UV/PA building as well. The top
112 for the effluent junction chamber adjacent to the UV/PA building has been set. The contractor is
113 replacing a portion of the plant drain pump station discharge pipe, which goes to the head of the Primary
114 Settling Tanks. The reason for this work is that a portion of the former plant drain discharge piping was
115 in conflict with Secondary Settling Tank 6. Mr. Amwake asked if there were any questions on where he
116 stands on the construction or process.

117
118 Mr. Rinebold stated that he appreciated the tour that was given a few days ago.

119

120 Mr. Birney mentioned that Mr. Amwake had mentioned on the tour that the masons had been working
121 during that time and was wondering if that has kept going.

122

123 Mr. Amwake stated yes. It was unfortunate because when there was warm weather last week, there was
124 also some precipitation, so they are using some heated blankets to keep the work going. He is hoping it
125 will be finished in the next week or so. There is only about two vertical feet left.

126

127 Mr. Amwake then began looking at the financials, stating there is no change from the last month. The
128 contract is up to date at \$45,667,715.49 (about 1/3 of 1%). The construction contract schedule, no
129 change as of November 15. There is a change order for a time extension in process. The tertiary
130 phosphorus treatment needs to be (per the DEP and town's directive) up and running by April 1. The
131 tertiary phosphorus treatment system will be up and running at that point. He then asked if there were
132 any questions on financials or schedules.

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134 Mr. Rinebold stated that he was all set.

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137 **6. Discussion and Possible Action: Power Cost Adjustment: January 2022 – June 2022**

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139 Mr. Buccheri made sure everyone had a copy of the memo given by Marianne Dill to Mr. Buccheri
140 regarding the PCA calculation for January 2022 through June 2022. New opportunities rate 12 power
141 cost adjustment to determine any under or over collection of cost for our customers and then incorporate
142 that into the PCA calculation. That result for the prior period reconciliation is at under collection in the
143 amount of \$443,976.00. In accordance with number 12, revised power cost adjustment value must be
144 completed to be effective January 2022. The next paragraph goes on to describe what the under
145 collection is and then the forecast for the next six months. It shows in total is a total result PCA charge
146 of .0124 per kWh for WED customers and for Northford customers adjusted for the taxes it's .015452
147 per kWh. Then we talk about our cash position as of September 30, 2021. Where that stands at slightly
148 north of 28 million, with a minimum cash requirement slightly more than 21 million, which results in
149 slightly more than 7 million dollars. The projected zero part p if we were looking for zero costs would
150 be .288, and the projected costs on the 50%, PCA would be roughly 1.64 million.

151

152 Mr. Rinebold asked for help in understanding the numbers here with the 50% PCA greater .0062 that
153 would have cost about 1.6 million and with the surplus above minimum would be used up in about four
154 years?

155

156 Ms. Dill responded the 7.3 if we use to go forward for a period of four years, it would be flashing the 1.6
157 for six months.

158

159 Mr. Rinebold responded that he was trying to understand if we have cash in excess over minimum,
160 what's the duration of that excess?
161
162 Mr. Buccheri asked if we were to remain at a PCA of .62?
163
164 Mr. Rinebold said yes, that is the question.
165
166 Ms. Dill stated that it would be over two years.
167
168 Mr. Rinebold stated that this would be a reasonably effective way to pull down the excess over
169 minimum cash reserves while still protecting the financial integrity of the system.
170
171 Mr. Birney mentioned that there was some discussion in one of the memos about the CMEEC
172 settlement. He wanted to be re-educated on how that impacts the analysis of the PCA for the next six
173 months.
174
175 Mr. Buccheri pointed out that he was referencing the memo from Ms. Dill on the second to last
176 paragraph. He stated that was for the settlement.
177
178 Mr. Birney stated he had a separate question for that, but he thought there was a line about the CMEEC
179 settlement over the last year. How does that relate to the calculation?
180
181 Mr. Buccheri stated that goes away in the next week. The CMEEC settlement is done in December at
182 which point we have given back all of the 3.765 million.
183
184 Mr. Birney then questioned how does that impact the PCA adjustment, if at all?
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186 Ms. Dill replied that it does not impact the PCA adjustment, it just impacts the delta in the comparison
187 of the net bill for December vs. January.
188
189 Mr. Buccheri stated that for example, for the average 750 kilowatt hour a month residential customer, it
190 shows the impact come January.
191
192 Mr. Birney stated the second question does relate to what Mr. Buccheri just talked about. The Pierce
193 Plant scheduled maintenance. He was not sure what exactly that line item is.
194
195 Mr. Buccheri informed that there was maintenance that was performed in October. The maintenance of
196 it was scheduled as budgeted as far as waiver goes for the past two years and move forward. It is
197 recommended maintenance that is done after a certain amount of operations. There is two numbers
198 mentioned, 400 and 600 and CMEEC opted to wait the 600, which they hit this year, but they don't

199 budget for the potential materials required. They did not budget for the potential material required
200 during that inspection. That is what we're seeing here is the materials that were taken out of inventory
201 and expensed during that.

202

203 Mr. Birney questioned that under Rate 12 is an automatic line item for the PCA?

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205 Mr. Buccheri and Ms. Dill responded that is correct.

206

207 Mr. Birney stated he had no further questions.

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209 **Motion to set the PCA at 50% of value for the next 6 months at .006200 kWh for the period**
210 **ending June 30, 2022.**

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212 **Made by: Rinebold**

213 **Seconded by: Birney**

214 **Votes: 2 ayes**

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216 **7. Executive Session pursuant to CT § 1-225(f), §1-200 (6)(D), (E), §1-210(b)(5)(B) and §7-**
217 **232a to discuss the Pierce Property lease.**

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219 **Motion was made to move into Executive Session at 6:50 p.m. pursuant to CT § 1-**
220 **225(f), §1-200 (6)(D), (E), §1-210(b)(5)(B) and §7-232a to discuss the Pierce Property**
221 **lease.**

222

223 **Made by: Rinebold**

224 **Seconded by: Birney**

225 **Votes: 2 ayes**

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227 **Attendance at Executive Session: Commissioners Patrick Birney and Joel Rinebold,**
228 **Electric Division General Manager Tony Buccheri, Business Office Manager Marianne**
229 **Dill, Attorney Gerald E. Farrell, Sr., Mayor William Dickinson**

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231 **Motion was made to conclude Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.**

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233 **Made by: Rinebold**

234 **Seconded by: Birney**

235 **Votes: 2 ayes**

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237 **Time of Executive Session: 6:50 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

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- 8. Discussion and Possible Action: Approve amendments to the Lease of the Pierce Property and the facilities encompassing same, the Assignment of the Lease by CMEEC to MPH AL Pierce, LLC, the Estoppel Agreement in connection with same Assignment, and the execution of the documents by Mayor Dickinson.**

No Action Taken

- 9. Motion to adjourn at approximately 7:30 p.m.**

Made by: Rinebold

Seconded by: Birney

Votes: 2 ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Bracale
Recording Secretary

Joel Rinebold
Secretary