

APPROVED

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

WALLINGFORD TOWN HALL

ROOM 315

45 SOUTHMAIN STREET

WALLINGFORD, CT 06492

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Robert Beaumont; Commissioners Patrick Birney and Joel Rinebold; Director Richard Hendershot; Electric Division General Manager Tony Buccheri; Electric Division Business Office Manager Marianne Dill; Water and Sewer Divisions General Manager Neil Amwake, Water and Sewer Divisions Business Manager Brian Naples and Recording Secretary Bernadette Sorbo.

Absent – None

Members of the public – None

Mr. Beaumont 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 February 24, 2022.
- b. Consider and approve Meeting Minutes of March 1, 2022.
- c. Consider and approve Fiscal 2022-2023 Budget Transfer – Electric – Operations Maintenance Street Light & Signal.
- d. Consider and approve Fiscal 2022-2023 Budget Transfer – Electric – Distribution Overhead Conductors.

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda

Made by: Mr. Birney

Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold

Votes: 3 ayes

42 **3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None**
43
44
45

46 **4. Discussion and Action: Approval of the Director’s Report for the Month of**
47 **February 2022**
48

49 Mr. Rinebold questioned, has there been any feedback on the Electrical Vehicle Program?
50

51 Mr. Hendershot responded not yet. Mr. Hendershot spoke with Don Mauritz who informed him
52 that he is starting to receive sufficient data to analyze. Mr. Hendershot stated that he should
53 have an update in the next month.
54

55 Mr. Birney requested an update on the Pierce Project.
56

57 Mr. Hendershot stated that both consultants have completed their work. The WED has received
58 their reports and estimates. These have been passed on to the Town Attorney, who has been in
59 touch with the new owners of the project. They are discussing the next steps in moving forward
60 now that the information has been obtained and presented to them.
61

62 Mr. Birney requested an update on the Ulbrich Dam Engineering Studies Project.
63

64 Mr. Amwake stated the intent of the overall project of the Ulbrich Reservoir Dam was to
65 examine if the Wallingford Water Division could increase capacity and specifically what it
66 would do to the overall safe yield value. The safe yield is the calculation that the Water Division
67 needs to abide by (there has to be so much water in reserve). There have been concerns moving
68 forward as there will be future mandatory stream flow releases from MacKenzie Reservoir. The
69 Wallingford Water Division has taken a look at the Ulbrich Reservoir dam and it does not appear
70 that raising the water surface elevation of the dam will have an impact on the reservoir system
71 safe yield value. From a safe yield perspective, the Water Division will not be moving forward in
72 raising the water surface elevation.
73

74 Part of the engineering study was to also do a slope and stability analysis as well. The dam was
75 built when Interstate 91 was constructed and the Water Division has never formally evaluated the
76 geotechnical aspects of the dam. Mr. Amwake believes that at some point DEEP will tell the
77 Water Division that this will need to be done as this shows up in the biennial regulatory dam
78 inspection reports. The other item that the Water Division will possibly move forward with are
79 the top two feet of the Ulbrich Reservoir Dam. the top two feet of the dam are steel stop logs.
80 Every winter, the water surface elevation is lowered in the reservoir to prevent icy conditions
81 against the steel stop logs. The consultant has been engaged to take a look at modifying the
82 engineering scope to replace the steel stop logs with concrete. This would allow the Water
83 Division to raise the water surface elevation two or three feet to go higher than the current
84 elevation and the Water Division would no longer have to lower the water surface elevation as
85 much in the winter. Long term, in order to meet the Water Division’s safe field, a new
86 groundwater well would need to be installed in the preserve south of Mackenzie reservoir.
87

88 Mr. Birney questioned, when is the I/I mitigation going to be relaunched?
89

90 Mr. Amwake stated that the Sewer Division is currently down two inspectors. The I/I mitigation
91 will continue once the Sewer Division has appointed a new inspector. The Sewer Division is
92 expecting an inspector around mid-May.
93

94 Mr. Beaumont referenced Item No. 4-2 and questioned if the FY budget forecast (1/15/19) in
95 regards to WED's all-in purchased power costs per MWh is correct?
96

97 Mr. Hendershot stated that the budget forecast was not 1/15/19 and that it should read 1/15/21.
98

99 Mr. Beaumont referenced Item No. 4-30, Account 557 Other Purchased Power Expenses and
100 questioned why only 1/5 of the money was used?
101

102 Mr. Hendershot stated that this is where the WED also places dollars that may be spent on legal
103 fees for new counterpart, agreements and things of that nature.
104

105 Ms. Dill stated that additionally the WED did not have an Accountant I for the entire year and a
106 portion of the Accountant I is budgeted to that account. This account is part of salary and
107 benefits.
108

109 Mr. Beaumont referenced Item No. 4-35 and questioned what is "Net OPEB Liability"?
110

111 Ms. Dill stated that this account has to do with the pension.
112

113 Mr. Naples stated that the account stands for Other Pension, Expenses and Benefits and it is the
114 long term liability for the outstanding pension.
115

116 Mr. Beaumont complimented Ms. Dill and Mr. Naples for the great reports.
117

118 **Motion to Approve the Director's Report for the Month of February, 2022**
119

120 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

121 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

122 **Votes: 3 ayes**
123
124
125

126 **5. Discussion and Possible Action: Approval of PUC and Division Budgets**
127

128 **Motion to Approve the PUC Budget**
129

130 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

131 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

132 **Votes: 3 ayes**
133

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

135

136 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

137 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

138 **Votes: 3 ayes**

139

140 **Motion to Approve the Water Division Budget**

141

142 Mr. Beaumont stated that a line item was added to the Water Division budget of \$85,000.00 to
143 fund a financial forecast and rate design effort to be performed by an outside consultant.

144

145 Mr. Birney reiterated that he knows that the Division is working extremely hard and understands
146 that the Water Division will be short staffed. Mr. Birney stated that he appreciated the Water
147 Division reallocating resources for purpose of doing what he believes is greatly important. Mr.
148 Birney thanked the Water Division for recognizing the concerns that were raised in the
149 workshop.

150

151 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

152 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

153 **Votes: 3 ayes**

154

155 **Motion to Approve the Sewer Division Budget**

156

157 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

158 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

159 **Votes: 3 ayes**

160

161

162

163 **6. Discussion WPCF Upgrades Project Update**

164

165 Mr. Amwake updated the Commission on the construction of the WPCF Project. At the
166 Secondary Settling Tanks, the Contractor has completed installation of the equipment for the
167 sludge and scum rakes. The electricians are installing conduit and pulling wires in the electrical
168 building on top of the SST gallery extension roof. Installation of the 30-inch influent pipe to
169 SST 5&6 (extension of the existing 30-inch pipe) is complete. Grating over the effluent troughs
170 is complete. The aluminum effluent launders for SST 5&6 have been installed.

171

172 At the Secondary Pump Station, optimization of the pump on/off cycling in response to the
173 influent flowrate to the SPS continues.

174

175 At the Tertiary Phosphorous Building, testing of individual equipment associated with the
176 tertiary phosphorus treatment process, and testing and optimization of each treatment train
177 continues.

178

179 At the UV Disinfection/Post Aeration Building, testing of each UV disinfection channel is
180 moving forward.

181
182 At the Existing Personnel Electrical Building, the Electrical work is substantially complete.
183

184 At the Site Work, construction of the SCADA duct bank along Main Street is ongoing.
185 Construction of the electrical duct bank between the electrical building on top of the SST gallery
186 extension roof and the Intermediate Pump Station (IPS) is in process. The Contractor is
187 excavating for site light pole foundations and conduit runs.
188

189
190 Construction Contract Payment Applications – C. H. Nickerson

191 Original Contract Sum	\$45,507,000.00	
192 Net Change by Change Orders	<u>\$179,590.33</u>	(No Change this Month)
193 Contract Sum to Date	\$45,686,590.33	As of February 15, 2022

194
195
196 Construction Contract Schedule

197 Original Completion Date	February 10, 2022	
198 Net Change Schedule Days	<u>193</u>	(No Change this Month)
199 Contract Completion Date	August 22, 2022	As of February 15, 2022

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201
202
203 **Public Question and Answer Period**

204
205 No members of the Public Present

206
207 **Public Question and Answer Period Closed**

208
209
210
211 **ADJOURNMENT**

212
213 **Motion to adjourn**

214
215 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

216 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

217 **Votes: 3 ayes**

218
219 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:56 p.m.
220
221
222
223

224 Respectfully submitted,

225

226 *Michelle Sorbo for*

227

228 Bernadette Sorbo

229 Recording Secretary

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Rinebold/mb

Joel Rinebold

Secretary