

APPROVED

4/18/23

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
WALLINGFORD ELECTRIC DIVISION

100 JOHN STREET

WALLINGFORD, CT 06492

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Robert Beaumont; Commissioners Joel Rinebold and Laurence Zabrowski; 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 Donald Langenauer and Recording Secretary Bernadette Sorbo

Absent – None

Members of the public – John Pierlioni

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

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Annual Reorganization

Discussion and Action: PUC – Annual Election/Reorganization

Motion to Elect Mr. Beaumont as Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission

Made by: Mr. Rinebold

Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski

Votes: 3 ayes

Motion to Elect Mr. Rinebold as Vice-Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission

Made by: Mr. Zabrowski

Seconded by: Mr. Beaumont

Votes: 3 ayes

Motion to Elect Mr. Zabrowski as Secretary of the Public Utilities Commission

43 **Made by: Mr. Beaumont**
44 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**
45 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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49 **3. Consent Agenda**

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- a. Consider and approve Regular Meeting Minutes of March 7, 2023
- b. Consider and approve Budget Transfer – FY 22-23 – Electric Division – Admin. and General – Customer Records and Collection Expenses
- c. Consider and approve Budget Transfer – FY 22-23 – Electric Division – Distribution – Operation Overhead Line Expenses
- d. Consider and approve Budget Transfer – FY 22-23 – Electric Division – Distribution – Maintenance Station Equipment
- e. Consider and approve Budget Transfer – FY 22-23 – Electric Division – General Plant – Tools, Shop, and Garage Equipment
- f. Consider and approve Budget Transfer – FY 22-23 – Electric Division – Transmission – Maintenance of Station Equipment
- g. Consider and approve Budget Appropriation - FY 22-23 – Electric Division – Outside Services
- h. Consider and approve Budget Transfer - FY 22-23 – Water Division – Unemployment Compensation
- i. Consider and approve Budget Transfer - FY 22-23 – Sewer Division – Unemployment Compensation

71 **Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda**

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73 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**
74 **Seconded by: Mr. Beaumont**
75 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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79 **4. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None**

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83 **5. Discussion and Action: Approval of the Director’s Report for the Month of**
84 **February 2023**

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Mr. Rinebold referenced Item No. 5-3 and questioned if Tata and Howard’s bid is just for design work?

89 Mr. Amwake stated that Tata and Howard was hired to do the I-91 Wastewater Pump Station
90 design. The proposal is for design, bidding support as well as construction engineering and
91 inspection. At this time the purchase order is for design and bidding support.

92
93 Mr. Rinebold referenced Item No. 5-3 and stated Nitrogen discharge for February averaged 453
94 pounds per day with the current permit level at 269 pounds per day. Mr. Rinebold questioned
95 what are the consequences of exceeding the permit level?

96
97 Mr. Amwake stated that this is an annualized average. Each day the Sewer Division regulatory
98 average is 269 pounds. The Division looks at each month's discharge and average the amount
99 over 365 days. Wastewater treatment plants that are under their nitrogen limit can sell credits
100 and those that are over the nitrogen limit will have to buy credits.

101 Mr. Rinebold questioned if the Sewer Division will be below the permit level annualized? Will
102 the Sewer Division sell credits or buy credits?

103
104 Mr. Amwake stated that Wallingford Sewer Division has always been in a buy position and will
105 continue to be in a buy position.

106
107 Mr. Rinebold referenced Item No. 5-8 in regards to natural gas prices and the price drop and
108 questioned how volatile is the market?

109
110 Mr. Hendershot stated that the questions were passed on to Craig Kieny and the response is as
111 follows "It is hard to tell but there is not much on the horizon to move gas prices at the moment
112 however the uncertainty in the price is one of the main reasons for the WED's hedging mid-max
113 take."

114
115 Mr. Rinebold referenced Item No. 5-14 and noted that the LNG deliveries were diverted to
116 another customer. Mr. Rinebold questioned if the WED knows who this is and is it someone in
117 the region?

118
119 Mr. Hendershot stated that Mr. Kieny's answer is "Unfortunately no. The contract between ISO
120 and Exelon is confidential." Mr. Hendershot stated that his suspicion is that it may be one of the
121 Local Distribution Companies in the region.

122
123 Mr. Rinebold inquired if there has been any update with Human Resources in regards to filling
124 the job positions.

125
126 Mr. Hendershot responded no. There have been no changes in the process so therefore there is
127 no changes to report.

128
129 **Motion to Approve the Director's Report for the Month of February 2023**

130
131 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**

132 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**

133 **Votes: 3 ayes**

134 **Public Question and Answer Period**

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None

Public Question and Answer Period Closed

6. Discussion and Action: Resolution – Kathy Brenner

Mr. Amwake stated that Ms. Brenner was a Water Quality Inspector for the Town of Wallingford Water Division for ten years. Ms. Brenner was known for her attention to details for water quality sampling and reporting, watershed and cross connection inspections and the annual consumer confidence report. She also took the lead for lead and copper sampling with a strong focus on communication and coordination with the participating households. Mr. Amwake expressed that he will be sad to see her go.

Motion to Approve the Resolution for Kathy Brenner

Made by: Mr. Rinebold

Seconded by: Mr. Beaumont

Votes: 3 ayes

7. Discussion and Possible Action: Bid Waiver Request – WD-3 Valve Truck Engine Replacement

Mr. Amwake referenced the memorandum dated March 15, 2023 from Jay Pawlowski, the Water Division Superintendent and stated that the valve truck (WD-3) is an important truck for the Water Division. This truck is used every day for valve operation, annual unidirectional flushing operations, as well as vacuuming dirt and debris from gate box risers and from curb boxes. This truck does have an engine issue. On October 5, 2022, the Water Division was informed that the engine was hydrolocked. Hydrolocking is a condition where fluid, either water, coolant or oil, enters the cylinder of the engine above the piston. This liquid is not compressible, and movement of the engine is halted or locked. The Water Division obtained three quotes for labor from different Ford dealerships to diagnose the problem. The low quote came from Tasca Ford in Berlin, so the vehicle was towed there on November 30, 2022. The Water Division was hopeful that Ford Motor Company would participate in the repair by providing financial assistance. On January 9, 2023, the Water Division received an email from Ford stating that they would be unable to assist in this repair. On January 23, 2023, the Water Division had WD-3 towed from Tasca Ford to Morin Diesel, LLC in Portland, CT. Within a week the Water Division was informed that metal shavings and coolant were found in the engine oil, and that the engine would need to be replaced. On February 21, 2023, the Water Division received an estimate to replace the engine. The cost estimate for replacement of the engine, including the new turbo charger from Morin Diesel, LLC is \$25,427.69. It is anticipated that the repair could be completed in approximately thirty days after receipt of a Town of Wallingford purchase order. The Water

181 Division is requesting the PUC to approve the bid waiver for Morin Diesel, LLC for this repair.
182 Funds are available for the engine replacement from the Water Division's current operating
183 budget.

184
185 Mr. Zabrowski questioned if there are any warranties?

186
187 Mr. Amwake stated that Ford will not touch it.

188
189 **Motion to Waive the Bid to enable Morin Diesel LLC of Middletown, CT to perform the**
190 **needed repair**

191
192 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**
193 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**
194 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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198 **8. WPCF Upgrades Project**

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

201
202 In regards to the General Building, the Town, the Contractor and the Engineer continue to review
203 and complete outstanding punch list items.

204
205 At the Tertiary Phosphorus Building, startup of the Actiflo tertiary phosphorus treatment system
206 began on Monday, March 20, 2023 in advance of the April 1st regulatory start. Kruger Veolia
207 and AECOM staff are on site this week to confirm the proper operation of the tertiary
208 phosphorus treatment system, including the polymer pumps, and to optimize Actiflo
209 performance utilizing the newly selected cationic (positive charge) polymer.

210
211 As a reminder the net change orders and the construction schedule as reported on the monthly
212 WPCF Upgrades Project Update for the Public Utilities Commission are as shown on the
213 payment application from the Contractor once they have been reviewed and approved by the
214 State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and
215 incorporated into the Contractor's monthly payment application.

216
217 As of February 15, 2023 the net change orders approved by DEEP and reflected on the general
218 contractor's invoice is \$772,463.60; Net change orders as negotiated and signed by the Engineer
219 (AECOM), the Contractor (C.H. Nickerson) and the Town through March 21, 2023 are equal to
220 \$849,062.60 (1.8658% of the original contract sum), which reflects no change from the previous
221 month.

222
223 Taking a step back, for a project with an accelerated design schedule and after 3+ years of
224 construction, net change orders as approved or negotiated to date are less than \$1,000,000.00 -
225 and less than \$900,000.00 - for a project with an original contract value of \$45,507,000.00.

226

227	Construction Contract Payment Applications – C. H. Nickerson		
228	Original Contract Sum	\$45,507,000.00	
229	Net Change by Change Orders	<u>\$772,463.60</u>	<i>(No Change this Month)</i>
230	Contract Sum to Date	\$46,279,463.60	As of February 15, 2022
231			
232	Construction Contract Schedule		
233	Original Completion Date	February 10, 2022	
234	Net Change Schedule Days	<u>193</u>	<i>(No Change this Month)</i>
235	Contract Completion Date	August 22, 2022	As of February 15, 2022
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239 **9. Discussion and Action: Resolution – Carmelo Aresco**

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241 Mr. Buccheri stated that Mr. Aresco began his WED career in June, 2016 as a

242 Meter/Maintenance Supervisor. Mr. Aresco is always there to lend a helping hand in any

243 capacity. Mr. Aresco will be missed.

244

245 Mr. Beaumont stated that Mr. Aresco is very outgoing and will miss seeing him around.

246

247 **Motion to Approve the Resolution for Carmelo Aresco**

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249 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**

250 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**

251 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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255 **10. Discussion and Possible Action: Approval of PUC and Division Budgets**

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257 Mr. Hendershot stated that the budgets are unchanged from when the PUC reviewed them at the

258 PUC budget workshop. There has just been some fine tuning from the Town Hall but the Mayor

259 did not make any changes.

260

261 Mr. Beaumont stated that the bulk of the changes were primarily insurance and benefits.

262

263 **Motion to Approve the PUC Budget and send to Mayor with no substantive changes**

264

265 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**

266 **Seconded by: Mr. Beaumont**

267 **Votes: 2 ayes**

268 **(Mr. Zabrowski abstained from the vote)**

269

270 **Motion to Approve the Electric Division Budget and send to Mayor with no substantive**

271 **changes**

272

273 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**
274 **Seconded by: Mr. Beaumont**
275 **Votes: 2 ayes**
276 **(Mr. Zabrowski abstained from the vote)**

277
278 **Motion to Approve the Water Division Budget and send to Mayor with no substantive**
279 **changes**

280
281 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**
282 **Seconded by: Mr. Beaumont**
283 **Votes: 2 ayes**
284 **(Mr. Zabrowski abstained from the vote)**

285
286 **Motion to Approve the Sewer Division Budget and send to Mayor with no substantive**
287 **changes**

288
289 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**
290 **Seconded by: Mr. Beaumont**
291 **Votes: 2 ayes**
292 **(Mr. Zabrowski abstained from the vote)**

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296 **Correspondence**

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298 Mr. Hendershot referenced a memorandum from Mr. Kieny regarding the renewable energy
299 credits. In the memorandum Mr. Kieny spoke about the relative value and the range of values
300 that the WED would receive if the Division chose to monetize the credits.

301
302 Mr. Hendershot advised that he has also had a conversation with a large manufacturer who may
303 have been interested in purchasing the credits in the entirety. This manufacturer has declined to
304 do so.

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308 **ADJOURNMENT**

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310 **Motion to Adjourn**

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312 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**
313 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**
314 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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316 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:21 p.m.
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318 Respectfully submitted,

319

320 *Michelle Bracale for*

321

322 Bernadette Sorbo

323 Recording Secretary

324

Respectfully submitted,

Laurence Zabrowski/mb

Laurence J. Zabrowski

Secretary