

1 **DRAFT**

2 **SPECIAL MEETING**

3 PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

4 100 JOHN STREET

5 WALLINGFORD, CT

6 TUESDAY, January 15, 2019

7 6:30 p.m.

8 **MINUTES**

TOWN OF
WALLINGFORD

JAN 22 2019

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES

9
10 **PRESENT:** Chair Robert Beaumont; Commissioners Joel Rinebold & Patrick Birney; Director
11 Richard Hendershot; Electric Division General Manager Tony Buccheri; Office Manager Tom
12 Sullivan; Water and Sewer Divisions General Manager Neil Amwake; Office Manager William
13 Phelan; Recording Secretary Cynthia Kleist; Public – None.

14 Chair Beaumont called the Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was
15 recited.

16 1. Pledge of Allegiance

17 2. **CONSENT AGENDA**

18 Consider and approve Minutes of January 2, 2019

19 Motion to approve consent items.

20 Made by: Birney

21 Seconded by: Rinebold

22 Vote: 3 ayes

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

24 4. Discussion and Action: Approval of the Director's Report for the Month of December
25 2018

26 **DIRECTOR'S OFFICE/DEPARTMENT-WIDE**

27 **Mr. Birney made a motion to approve the Director's Report for the Month of**
28 **December 2018. Mr. Rinebold seconded the motion.**

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1 Mr. Hendershot reported that on December 7, 2018, he and Mr. Amwake participated in Mayor
2 Dickinson's annual meeting with the Wallingford Legislative Delegation to review issues of
3 concern to the Department. He noted that on December 10, along with Mr. Amwake, he
4 attended the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting in which the Wastewater Treatment
5 Plant Phosphorus Removal project was introduced to the PZC.

6 **ELECTRIC DIVISION**

7 Office Building, Garage Bays, etc.

8 Mr. Hendershot noted reviews of the technical portion of the two-part bids for qualified firms to
9 produce a long-term plan for the interior design of the 100 John Street office building have
10 been reviewed and scores provided to the Purchasing Dept. He said the price portion will be
11 opened in January.

12 Wallingford Renewable Energy ("WRE") Solar-PV Interconnection

13 Mr. Hendershot said WRE has obtained final DEEP approval for the project, and will submit its
14 Development and Management Plan to the CT Siting Council in January. He said WRE expects
15 to begin construction activities in late March; WED has completed all necessary pole
16 replacements and is working to procure labor and material resources needed to perform
17 identified substation work.

18 Kohl's Plaza Overhead Line

19 Mr. Hendershot stated an access road has been established along the overhead line which
20 supplies the Kohl's Plaza and abutting automotive dealership. Chair Beaumont asked where the
21 access road was located. Mr. Hendershot confirmed the road was located on the south side of
22 the Kohl's property.

23 Mr. Hendershot noted that service work in December included four new services, 12 service
24 changes and no retired services; street light work included 74 LED street light conversions and
25 10 street light repairs. To date, 1,329 LED streetlights have been installed (28.6% complete),
26 with 3,306 HPS streetlights remaining to be repaired.

27 The electric service to the former Bristol Myers-Squibb (BMS) site was formally transferred to
28 the new owners on December 20, 2018. The WED will now process final bills for BMS and the
29 special Market Priced power agreement with BMS has been terminated. Mr. Hendershot pointed
30 out there is language remaining that maintains certain obligations for costs incurred by BMS
31 prior to the end of 2018 but WED is not selling energy to BMS anymore.

32 Personnel

33 Mr. Hendershot reported the part-time Account Clerk will begin on February 11 and will work
34 mornings; Distribution Superintendent interviews concluded December 20 and a conditional

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1 offer was made to one of the candidates who, after extensive consideration, declined in early
2 January. Mr. Hendershot noted the Division was not interested in pursuing the remaining
3 candidates and Human Resources will re-post and re-advertise; the vacant Distribution Engineer
4 position was offered to current System Operator Manuel Rigor, and was accepted and he will
5 begin work in early February. The Division has initiated the process of filling this soon to be
6 vacant System Operator position.

7 Electric System Metrics

8 Mr. Hendershot reported that system input for December totaled 51,523 MWh, a decrease of
9 2.5% from December 2017. Maximum system demand for December was 91.53 MW, a
10 decrease of 3.0% from the December 2017 peak.

11 November Wholesale Power Supply

12 Mr. Hendershot noted that in November, 89.8% of the WED's total energy was hedged which
13 was below the forecasted hedging level for November of 92.3%; WED's all-in purchased power
14 costs per MWh: November actual = \$98.10; 2018/2019 FY budget forecast (1/15/18) for
15 November = \$104.97; prevailing six-month average PCA forecast (7/1/18-12/31/18) = \$102.67.

16 WED's generation cost:

17 Average cost for hedged volume = \$46.59

18 Average cost for total volume = \$48.00

19 Mr. Hendershot noted this result occurred because the WED purchased 4,792 MWh of "short"
20 energy at an average price of \$68.65 per MWh. He explained since this was well above the
21 average hedged price. The total average cost of energy for November was greater than the
22 hedged price and this result is to be expected during winter months, when spot energy costs
23 within ISO-NE tend to be at their highest levels.

24 Mr. Hendershot addressed questions by Mr. Birney on page 4-7 of Mr. Buccheri's December
25 2018 Monthly Report regarding the Statistics/Metrics.

26 Mr. Birney said this was discussed two years ago. He noted that when looking at the
27 components: Average System Availability Index; System Average Interruption Duration Index;
28 System Average Interruption Frequency Index and Customer Average Interruption Duration
29 Index; there is ability every month to see what the average is. He requested that instead of
30 looking at this month, can we look at this month and next month. Mr. Birney said he would like
31 to see the peak on a monthly basis, the time of the peak, when the peak occurred and the
32 megawatts. He said he would like to have a six-month running average. He said he wanted
33 rolling six-month figures. Mr. Hendershot said this request had merit.

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1 Mr. Rinebold noted page 4-1 where a meeting took place with Energy New England and lobbyist
2 Julie Cammarata. Mr. Hendershot said nothing was foreseen that would be a concern to WED.
3 He said the only specific topic discussed was a proposal that did not get to the floor regarding
4 shift workers and payment for people on non-traditional hours. Mr. Rinebold asked to be kept
5 apprised of an agenda affecting WED. Mr. Hendershot said Sewer Division has hired a lobbying
6 firm DePino, Nunez & Biggs (DNB) to provide the Sewer Division with monthly briefings
7 regarding wastewater legislative issues. Chair Beaumont asked about CMEEC. Mr. Hendershot
8 said this wasn't discussed.

9 On page 4-18, Mr. Rinebold asked about the asset management report for CMEEC not being
10 provided. Mr. Hendershot said he believes this report has been obtained. Mr. Rinebold noted
11 Mystic's cost of service agreement approved by FERC up to 2022. Mr. Hendershot said the
12 parties have reached an agreement for a year beyond where the auction is now. He asked what
13 the expert opinion was on how this would affect forward market auction pricing. Mr.
14 Hendershot said he hadn't read any expert opinions on this topic.

15 **WATER DIVISION**

16 Mr. Hendershot noted Water Division crews repaired one water main break and one service leak
17 during December.

18 East Center Street/I-91 Water Main Insulation Repairs

19 Mr. Hendershot reported the work was completed on December 5, with a total of 320 linear feet
20 of pipe insulation and wrapping repaired.

21 Unid-Directional Flushing (UDF) Plan.

22 Mr. Hendershot said a project kick-off meeting with the Consultant and Staff is scheduled to
23 take place in January.

24 Chair Beaumont asked about the I-91 Water Main Insulation Repairs, wondering how many
25 times the insulation has been replaced. Mr. Phelan noted that approximately five years ago the
26 full length of the insulation was replaced under the bridge. He said he believes that since this
27 time, something has hit the insulation, causing it to become damaged.

28 Personnel

29 Mr. Hendershot reported the Human Resources Dept. conducted tests for candidates for Water
30 Treatment and Pumping Operator II and WTPO I on December 12 and 13 respectively, and
31 candidate lists were subsequently produced and forwarded to the Division; interviews have
32 begun. Two new Maintainer I vacancies were created on January 4 because of retirements.
33 Employment Authorizations have been submitted to Human Resources. The new Maintainer I
34 assigned to the Distribution Crew began employment Dec. 27, 2018.

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1 Water Division Metrics

2 Mr. Hendershot said water production for December totaled 96.15 million gallons, a decrease of
3 2.4% from December 2017; water production for all of calendar 2018 was 3.9% less than
4 during calendar 2017. Reservoir storage at month's end was at 89% of total effective
5 impoundment which is above the historical average for December of 84%; precipitation for the
6 month totaled 6.4 inches, which is 2.2 inches above the historical average for December;
7 precipitation for the entire calendar year was 61.4 inches, which is 12.2 inches (24.6%) above
8 the historical average for a calendar year.

9 Chair Beaumont asked about unit directional flushing. Mr. Amwake explained this is an
10 engineered plan which involves operating valves so the water flows in one direction which
11 results in cleaner pipes with less water used for flushing. He said this procedure is more known
12 in Massachusetts.

13 **WASTEWATER DIVISION**

14 Mr. Hendershot said Sewer Division staff responded to and resolved a total of seven WWTP
15 alarms and collection system trouble calls during December. During December, collection
16 system staff televised 6,618 linear feet of sewer main and flushed 1,125 feet of sewer. For the
17 calendar year, 18.8 miles of sewers were televised and 10.5 miles flushed.

18 WWTP Facility Plan/Phosphorus Treatment Project

19 Mr. Hendershot said a real-time update of the status of the phosphorus treatment project will
20 be provided later in the evening. Mr. Hendershot said this project was presented to the PZC on
21 December 10, 2018 and is scheduled to be discussed and hopefully approved at the February
22 PZC meeting. Mr. Hendershot noted a 50% design milestone workshop was held as part of the
23 PUC meeting on January 2.

24 Personnel

25 Interviews with candidates for Laboratory Technician and Account Clerk continue. Mr.
26 Hendershot noted decisions are close to being made for both positions; it was noted that in late
27 December, a conditional offer was made to a candidate for Attendant III to address the vacant
28 Attendant position.

29 Wastewater Division Metrics

30 Mr. Hendershot reported that at the WWTP, the average daily flow during December was 7.71
31 MGD, a 72% increase from December 2017. He said this was due to well above average rainfall
32 during the month. Nitrogen discharge for the month averaged 618 pounds per day. This
33 amount is above the December 2017 discharge rate of 414 pounds per day, as well as the
34 permit level of 269 pounds per day. Calendar 2018 average nitrogen discharge was 529 pounds
35 per day vs. 415 pounds per day during calendar 2017.

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1 Private Side I/I

2 Mr. Hendershot noted that during December, Division staff conducted 23 inspections, which
3 identified six connections. Also during the month, one issue was corrected. Calendar 2018 I/I
4 efforts resulted in 515 inspections, 53 connections identified and 40 issues corrected. Since
5 inception, the I/I program has conducted 1,322 inspections, identified 167 connections and
6 corrected 94. Mr. Birney asked about the 167 connections being identified and why were 94
7 corrected. Mr. Amwake explained that with the 167 connections, the delta, the difference
8 between that, is still a work in progress. He pointed out this is a voluntary program. He also
9 noted that of the seven alarms that the WWTP staff addressed, five were lateral homeowner
10 issues. He said there were only two alarms at the plant and pump stations. Mr. Hendershot said
11 this is true every month, there is a combination of both issues.

12 **Vote: 3 ayes**

13 **PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD – 7 p.m.- CLOSED AT 7 p.m. NO PUBLIC**
14 **QUESTIONS.**

15 **ELECTRIC**

16 5. Discussion and Action: Resolution – Franson

17 **Mr. Birney made a motion to approve the Franson Resolution. Mr. Rinebold**
18 **seconded the motion**

19 **RESOLUTION**

20 **WHEREAS,** The Board of Public Utilities Commissioners of the Town of Wallingford wishes to
21 congratulate

22 **JEFFREY "JEFF" FRANSON**

23 After over three years of service with the Town of Wallingford Electric Division; and

24 **WHEREAS,** the Commissioners do hereby express their gratitude and appreciation to Mr.
25 Franson for his constant efforts on behalf of the Wallingford Electric Division; and

26 **WHEREAS,** it was the Division's good fortune that Jeff decided to "mosey on down the road"
27 after his retirement from Eversource and become the WED's Distribution Superintendent,
28 bringing with him the knowledge and experience of many years in the industry; and

29 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Franson has made an incredibly positive impact on the Electric Division and its
30 staff in his short time here; the construction of the new line truck storage facility; completely
31 reorganizing the warehouse facilities and processes; overseeing the hiring and training of two
32 new System Operators and a System Clerk; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Jeff’s positive attitude, professionalism and overall ability to just “get the job done”
2 as well as his coined phrase, “let me tell you what I just did” will surely be missed; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Jeff always had a bright smile and a good word for all; sometimes even a “funny”
4 which was shared by all and truly brightened the day; and

5 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Public Utilities Commission hereby wishes Jeff
6 good health and safe travels in future adventures with his wife Suzanne, and as much Grandpa
7 time with Oliver as his body and mind (oh those questions...) can handle.

8 Unanimously adopted by: THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

9 Robert N. Beaumont, Chair

10 Patrick M. Birney, Vice-Chair

11 Joel M. Rinebold, Secretary

12 Chair Beaumont said Mr. Franson did a very good job for the Division and were fortunate to
13 have him. Mr. Hendershot noted that Mr. Franson’s last day of work is Friday, Feb. 1. Mr. Birney
14 said Mr. Franson was a smart dedicated man and will be missed. Mr. Hendershot said Mr.
15 Franson left the Division much better than he found it.

16 **Vote: 3 ayes**

17 6. Review of Electric Division Disbursements for the Month of December 2018 – No
18 Questions. **NO ACTION TAKEN – DISCUSSION ONLY.**

19 **WATER/SEWER**

20 7. Review of Water/Sewer Division Disbursements for the Month of December 2018. – No
21 Questions. **NO ACTION TAKEN – DISCUSSION ONLY.**

22 8. Discussion and Action: Resolution – Gootkin

23 Mr. Amwake noted that Mr. Gootkin was with the Water Division for over 29 years working both
24 in the watershed as well as the Distribution Crew. Mr. Amwake said Mr. Gootkin had been
25 working on over the past year and half setting up a spreadsheet and database for future valve
26 and hydrant maintenance programs. He said this program should roll out summer/fall. He
27 wished Mr. Gootkin the best of luck.

28 **Mr. Birney made a motion to approve the Gootkin Resolution. Mr. Rinebold seconded**
29 **the motion.**

30 **RESOLUTION**

31 **WHEREAS**, The Board of Public Utilities Commissioners of the Town of Wallingford wishes to
32 congratulate

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1 **PHILIP GOOTKIN**

2 Upon his retirement after 29 years of dedicated service to the Town of Wallingford Water
3 Division; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the Commissioners do hereby express their gratitude to Phil for his sincere efforts
5 over the years on behalf of the Water Division; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Phil’s conscientious efforts and devotion to the maintenance and care of the
7 watershed properties have greatly contributed to the Division’s assets; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Phil’s years of experience and skill have further allowed him to contribute to the
9 Division as he performed his duties as a Maintainer I; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Phil has helped to maintain the Division’s water distribution system through
11 flushing and hydrant maintenance activities; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Phil has developed a valve and hydrant database to be used for future
13 maintenance operations; and

14 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that this Commission goes on record as extending to
15 Phil Gootkin good health and best wishes in the years to come

16 Unanimously adopted by: THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
17 Robert N. Beaumont, Chair
18 Patrick M. Birney, Vice-Chair
19 Joel Rinebold, Secretary

20 **Vote: 3 ayes**

21 9. Discussion and Action: Resolution – Lawrence

22 Mr. Amwake noted Mr. Lawrence was with the Division for over 37 years and remained with the
23 Distribution Crew where he began. Mr. Amwake said what will be missed about Jim is that he
24 was the guy regarding tools, details and ensuring the trucks were prepared for the daily task.
25 He said he will be missed for this aspect. He noted there are currently nine vacancies in the
26 Water and Sewer Divisions out of 67 employees.

27 **Mr. Birney made a motion to approve the Lawrence Resolution. Mr. Rinebold**
28 **seconded the motion**

29 **RESOLUTION**
30

1 **WHEREAS**, The Board of Public Utilities Commissioners of the Town of Wallingford wishes to
2 congratulate

3 **James Lawrence**

4 Upon his retirement after 37 years of dedicated service to the Town of Wallingford Water
5 Division; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the Commissioners do hereby express their gratitude to Jim for his sincere efforts
7 over the years on behalf of the Water Division; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Jim's years of experience and skill have allowed him to contribute to the Division as
9 he performed his duties as both a Meterman and a Maintainer I; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Jim has always maintained and prepared tools and equipment for his crew and the
11 task at hand; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Jim has always made himself available for emergency work and as such as been a
13 team player; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Jim could always be counted on to do whatever was asked of him without
15 hesitation; and

16 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that this Commission goes on record as extending to
17 James Lawrence good health and best wishes in the years to come.

18 Unanimously adopted by: THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

19 Robert N. Beaumont, Chair

20 Patrick M. Birney, Vice-Chair

21 Joel N. Rinebold, Secretary

22 **Vote: 3 ayes**

23 10. Discussion: Update on WWTP Facility Plan/Phosphorus Treatment Project

24 Mr. Amwake noted that 13 days ago, AECOM presented the 50% design workshop. He said the
25 goal is to submit the plans and specifications to DEEP by Friday, January 18, 2019, so they can
26 begin their review process. Mr. Amwake said AECOM will have pencils down on January 17, so
27 they can spend overnight and Friday morning pulling everything together off their servers. Mr.
28 Amwake said that during this time, focus will continue to be on design details. He said there
29 was a 2 ½ hour design meeting as is done every other Thursday, currently focusing on very
30 granular design and specification items. He emphasized everyone is being very cognizant of the
31 three phases; the engineering phase, the construction phase, as well as the long-term
32 operation and maintenance phase.

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1 Mr. Amwake said the finite details are being tackled now. He said DEEP also has boilerplate
2 language and the Division is giving DEEP 45 days to review this. Mr. Amwake said during this
3 time the Division expects to have a conversation with them. He said the design drawings and
4 specifications will continue to be refined. Mr. Rinebold asked if DEEP hires consulting engineers
5 or do they review in-house. Mr. Amwake said this is done in-house noting the two points of
6 contacts are very knowledgeable. He said they are looking at the larger processes and design
7 elements of the upgrade.

8 Chair Beaumont said it is good that this is being taken down to the people who have the boots
9 on the ground and do this day in and day out. He commended Mr. Amwake and all the people.
10 Mr. Amwake said they have also gently pushed back on AECOM noting they are not always
11 going to take what the Consultants give them without discussion, etc., noting that at the end of
12 the day, it is our plant. Mr. Amwake noted the formal response to Value Engineering
13 recommendations continues to be developed. He added this will be more developed and more
14 complete after the January 18th. He said the Energy Consultant has been engaged. He said the
15 design will continue to be refined.

16 Mr. Amwake he looks forward to submitting the Facility Plan Grant Application once the
17 resolution is done. Mr. Hendershot emphasized the schedule remains doable but is tight. He
18 said there isn't a spare moment anywhere. He noted that between now and the 28th of June is
19 not a long way off. He hoped people only took 42 to 45 days to review this, noting they are
20 allowed 90 days. Mr. Amwake said he hopes the bid target date is Thursday, March 7.

21 **COMMITTEE REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

22 Mr. Hendershot and the PUC discussed dates and times for the budget workshop. The PUC
23 decided to schedule Friday February 15, 2019 at 2 p.m. in the Electric Division Conference
24 Room at 100 John Street, for the budget workshop discussion.

25 11. Executive Session

26 Executive Session pursuant to Section 1-200(6)(A), 1-210 (b)(2), and 1-225(f) of the CT
27 General Statutes to discuss the evaluation and performance of the Director of Public
28 Utilities.

29 Motion to go into Executive Session at 7:36 p.m. to discuss the evaluation and performance
30 of the Director of Public Utilities without further motions until a motion to come out of
31 Executive Session.

32 **PRESENT:** Chairman Beaumont, Commissioners Birney and Rinebold, and Director
33 Hendershot.

34

35

1 Made by: Birney
2 Seconded by: Rinebold
3 Vote: 3 ayes.

4 **ADJOURNMENT**

5 Mr. Birney made a motion to adjourn the Meeting at 8:33 p.m. Mr. Rinebold seconded the
6 motion which passed unanimously.

7

8 Respectfully submitted, Respectfully submitted,

9

10 Cynthia A. Kleist Joel Rinebold
11 Recording Secretary Secretary

12

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14