

SEP 24 2019

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES

DRAFT

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

WALLINGFORD ELECTRIC DIVISION

100 JOHN STREET

WALLINGFORD, CT

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chair Robert Beaumont; Commissioner Patrick Birney; Director Richard Hendershot; Electric Division General Manager Tony Buccheri; Office Manager Tom Sullivan; Water and Sewer Divisions General Manager Neil Amwake; Officer Manager William Phelan; Recording Secretary Beth Dighello; Public - none

Chair Beaumont called the Meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Consent Agenda

- a. Consider and approve the Minutes of September 3, 2019
- b. Consider and approve Budget Transfer – Electric – Account 584 – Distribution Operations – Underground Lines.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda:

Made by: Mr. Birney

Seconded by: Chair Beaumont

Votes: 2 ayes

3. Items removed from Consent Agenda - None

4. Discussion and Action: Approval of Director's Report for the Month of August 2019

Between August 12 and 22 we discussed, planned and executed the most recent purchase of forward energy. A very favorably priced Load Following energy hedge was executed for 2021, and purchases of even lower cost blocks of energy were executed for 2022 and 2023.

On August 26 a very satisfactory meeting was held with Mr. Hendershot, Mr. Amwake, Mr. Buccheri and the Town's Human Resources Director to discuss the Utility Departments'

48 frustration with the pace of recruiting and testing to fill vacant positions. We have seen an
49 uptick in activity since then.

50
51 Regarding the Electric Division's Office Building Review, the Architect has developed a
52 preliminary set of plans and will present them to WED staff on September 27. Mr. Buccheri will
53 provide the architect with some feedback before a presentation is made to staff.

54
55 Since the last report, there has been no significant change in the status of the Wallingford
56 Renewable Energy Solar-PV Interconnection.

57
58 Regarding the Hall Avenue Streetscape, General Manager Buccheri and WED staff reviewed
59 and clarified the three new streetlight service risers and multiple new ornamental streetlight
60 locations with the State's contractor.

61
62 Service work during August included six (6) new services, 10 service changes and no (0) retired
63 services. Street light work included 53 LED street light conversions and six (6) street light
64 repairs. To date, 1,793 LED streetlights have been installed, with 2,842 HPS streetlights
65 remaining to be replaced. During August, 21 poles were replaced, along with five (5) aged
66 overhead transformers. To date in fiscal year 2020 the Division has replaced 24 poles.

67
68 Related to Personnel matters, conditional offers have been made to two (2) preferred
69 candidates for the open positions of System Operator. Both candidates were still in the process
70 of background checks and pre-employment physicals at month's end. Start dates have since
71 been established for both candidates. The Meter Technician A posting has closed and at
72 month's end the date of the screening exam had not yet been established. The screening exam
73 for Apprentice Meter Technician applicants was scheduled for September 16. The screening
74 exam for the new Distribution Engineer position is scheduled for September 27, as is the exam
75 for the Distribution Technician. The Assistant Office Manager screening exam was scheduled
76 for September 5. Mr. Buccheri has a candidates list, and those interviews will be scheduled
77 very soon.

78
79 Regarding Electric System Metrics, system input for August totaled 55,621-MWh, a decrease of
80 6.5% from 2018. Maximum system demand for the month was 121.1-MW, a decrease of
81 10.3% from last year. Average System Availability Index for August was computed at
82 99.999%. Monthly values for the other tracked indices are noted in the report.

83
84 For July Wholesale Power Supply, 89.9% of WED's total energy was hedged. The forecasted
85 hedging level for July was 93.3%. WED's all-in purchased power costs per MWh for July actual
86 was \$81.89, 2019-2020 FY budget forecast for July was \$90.87, and the prevailing six-month
87 average PCA forecast was \$93.91.

88
89 For the Division's generation cost per MWh, the average cost for hedged volume was \$44.08
90 and the average cost for the total volume was \$43.46. The WED purchased 6,672 MWhs of
91 "short" energy at an average price of \$37.35, and realized a \$19,627 benefit due to locational
92 spread. These factors contributed to the average cost of all energy being slightly less than the
93 average cost of hedged energy. There were no questions for the Electric Division.

94

95 The Water Division experienced one (1) water main break and one (1) service leak during
96 August.

97
98 Contract 35 continues to advance. As reported last month, all of the new main line has been
99 installed. During August, 25 more services were connected to new mains, and two (2) new
100 main line tie-ins were successfully accomplished. Work along Ward Street and South Whittlesey
101 Avenue is largely complete.

102
103 A pre-bid meeting was held on August 22 related to Contract 36R; Pond Hill Road, Ward Street
104 Extension, Bonnie Court and Wallace Street. The bid opening is scheduled for September 19.

105
106 The bid for Stand-by Generators for Well 1 and Wells 2/3 was advertised on August 22, and the
107 pre-bid meeting was scheduled for September 4. Bid opening is scheduled for September 18.
108 The Division's annual water main flushing program continued in August, with the flushing of
109 Zone 6 accomplished. Efforts have now moved onto Zone 7. During August, 164 watershed
110 inspections and re-inspections took place and 50 concerns were resolved.

111
112 The vacant Electrical Technician (Water Treatment Plant) screening exam was held on July 31;
113 however, no applicants passed. The position was re-advertised beginning August 23. The
114 screening exam for the Assistant Superintendent – Water Supply and Treatment position was
115 held on August 27, and interviews were then scheduled for early September. As an update,
116 Tom Esposito has been appointed to that position. The preferred candidate for the Water
117 Treatment and Pumping Operator II position was appointed to the position on August 18.

118
119 Water production for August totaled 126.2 million gallons, essentially the same volume as
120 August 2018. Reservoir storage at month's end was at 88.8% of total effective impoundment.
121 The historical average for August is 81.9%. Precipitation for the month totaled 2.5 inches,
122 which is 1.8 inches below the historical average for August. Precipitation to date is 36.5 inches,
123 which is four (4) inches above the historic mean for the first eight months of the calendar year.
124 There were no questions for the Water Division.

125
126 In the Sewer Division, staff responded to and resolved a total of three (3) WWTP alarms,
127 collection system trouble calls and vehicle issues during August. Regarding the WWTP Facility
128 Plan/Phosphorus Treatment Project, staff will next provide a real-time update of the status of
129 this effort at the second PUC meeting in October. During August, the collection system staff
130 televised 5,440 linear feet of sewer main and flushed 2,177 feet of sewer. To date, 14.8 miles
131 of sewers have been televised and 7.0 miles have been flushed in 2019.

132
133 There are currently no vacancies in the Sewer Division.

134
135 At the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the average daily flow during August was 3.7-MGD, which
136 is 0.4-MGD less than the average daily flow of August 2018. The 12-month rolling average
137 daily flow remains at 6.4-MGD, which is below the 90% permit threshold of 72-MGD.

138
139 During August, the average level of phosphorus in the WWTP effluent was 0.71 mg/L, which is
140 0.29 mg/L above the August 2018 level. Recall that the current permit level is 0.70 mg/L for a
141 2-month rolling average.

142

143 Nitrogen discharge for the month averaged 224 pounds per day. This amount is below the
144 August 2018 discharge rate of 246 pounds per day, and is under the permit level of 269 pounds
145 per day. Average daily discharge to date in 2019 is 463 pounds through August.

146
147 During August, Division staff conducted 45 I/I inspections, which identified seven (7)
148 connections. Also during the month, four (4) issues were corrected. Since inception, the I/I
149 program has conducted 1,626 inspections, identified 197 connections, and corrected 129 issues.

150
151 Chair Beaumont commented that the amount of nitrogen is the lowest that we have seen in the
152 last four to five years. Mr. Amwake replied that that is correct, and that we typically see an
153 uptick in August. He also clarified that the .70 mg/L limit for phosphorus is a two month rolling
154 average.

155
156 **Motion to approve the Director's Report as presented:**

157 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

158 **Seconded by Chair Beaumont**

159 **Votes: 2 ayes**

160
161 **WATER/SEWER**

162 **5. Review of Water Division Disbursements for the Month of August 2019**

163
164 Chair Beaumont asked if the Workman's Compensation disbursement was a final payment. Mr.
165 Phelan responded that all five payments were made on the same day and is complete.

166
167 Chair Beaumont asked for clarification on a disbursement to Emerson Process. Mr. Phelan
168 explained that Emerson was formerly known as Bristol Babcock and they maintain our SCADA at
169 the water treatment plant and our pump stations. They have an annual maintenance
170 agreement with us. It is a one-time payment.

171
172 **6. Review of Sewer Division Disbursements for the Month of August 2019**

173
174 There were no questions regarding Sewer Division Disbursements.

175
176 **6.a Discussion: Establish date for a PUC Workshop regarding the Sewer Division**
177 **Cost of Service Study and preliminary draft retail Sewer Rates.**

178
179 Mr. Amwake stated that he was looking for 2-3 possible dates. The consultant will be traveling
180 from Annapolis, so there are some logistics involved. This will be a workshop. The plan is to
181 walk through the model and show the PUC some rate scenarios. The rates will not be set until
182 next February or March when we go through the Operating and Capital budget for next fiscal
183 year. We can give you numbers now, but they may tweak a little bit. It is a dynamic model.
184 The workshop will walk the PUC through the process. It will include a presentation, followed up
185 by a question and answer session. The workshop will be scheduled as a meeting separate from
186 the regular Public Utilities Commission meeting. Mr. Hendershot said he will consult with Mr.
187 Amwake to come up with a list of possible dates, and then forward those dates to the
188 Commissioners.

191 **ELECTRIC**

192
193 **7. Review of Electric Division Disbursements for the Month of August 2019.**

194
195 Chair Beaumont asked why the disbursement to Amtrak Contractor was under the Employee
196 Pension & Benefits-Safety/Environmental account. Mr. Sullivan replied that is if for the Amtrak
197 safety training for all employees.

198
199 **8. Discussion and Possible Action: Electric Division – ASG Information**
200 **Technologies – Economic Development Rider.**

201
202 Mr. Buccheri explained that Robert Mitchell is the owner of ASG Information Technologies. He
203 recently bought a facility in town. He is a Wallingford resident and started his business out of
204 his home in Wallingford. He then moved is business to Meriden for a short time. He had the
205 opportunity to purchase the facility at 9 South Cherry Street in Wallingford. He continued to
206 operate his business out of Meriden while renovating the facility in Wallingford. During this
207 time, the electric bills were sent to the unoccupied Wallingford facility. One of the bills, for
208 \$43.89, was lost and not paid on time. The customer received notification that he was no
209 longer eligible for the Downtown Economic Rider. The customer send an email documenting
210 what happened. All of his bills have been paid on time since then.

211
212 Chair Beaumont said it is an unusual case, and he does not have a problem with reinstating the
213 customer. Mr. Beaumont stated the Mr. Rinebold sent an email indicating his support for
214 reinstating the company on the Economic Development Rider.

215
216 **For the reasons stated in Mr. Buccheri’s memo dated September 11, 2019, as well as**
217 **the reasons stated on the record a motion was made to reinstate ASG Information**
218 **Technologies into the Downtown Economic Development Rider and retroactively**
219 **adjust the bill.**

220
221 **Made by: Mr. Birney**
222 **Seconded by: Chair Beaumont**
223 **Votes: 2 ayes**

224
225 **Public Question and Answer Period**

226 There were no members of the public in attendance.

227
228 **9. Discussion and Possible Action: Electric Division – Reinstatement of**
229 **Downtown Economic Development Rider – Sam & Sonia LLC.**

230
231 Mr. Buccheri stated that the owners of Sam & Sonia, LLC sent a letter to the Public Utilities
232 Commission. They own a restaurant at 100, 104 and 108 Quinnipiac Street. Mr. Sullivan put
233 together a letter to Mr. Buccheri and Mr. Hendershot explaining the history of the customer’s
234 services. The customer originally took service at 100 and 108 Quinnipiac Street. They were on
235 the DEDR, but came off the rider after six months due to a late payment. In August 2018, the
236 customer took over the electric service at 104 Quinnipiac, the largest of the three services. This
237 third service qualified for the DEDR, however, it has now come off due to a late payment. The
238 customer has requested to be reinstated for the 104 Quinnipiac St. service. As of now, they are

239 up to date on all payments. However, there were several months that all three accounts were
240 delinquent. They were terminated based on delinquent bills for January and the following three
241 months. Mr. Sullivan stated that the last four monthly bills have been paid on time.

242

243 Chair Beaumont stated that Mr. Rinebold sent correspondence to the Director that suggested
244 the customer stay current for 12 months, and the PUC may revisit it at that time. Mr.
245 Hendershot stated that there is no precedent for this, but it may be considered.

246

247 **No motion made.**

248

249 **Committee Reports/Correspondence**

250

251 Mr. Hendershot called the Commissioners attention to Mr. Buccheri's memo stating the Division
252 received notice regarding the FEMA payment related to last May's disaster. It has been
253 approved. The amount is in line with what we expected. Mr. Buccheri stated that when all is
254 said and done, total payment should be close to \$1 million.

255

256 **ADJOURNMENT**

257 **Motion to adjourn.**

258 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

259 **Seconded by: Chair Beaumont**

260 **Votes: 2 Ayes**

261

262 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:05 p.m.

263

264 Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,

265

266

267 Elizabeth Dighello

Joel Rinebold

268 Recording Secretary

Secretary