

1 **DRAFT**

2 PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
3 WALLINGFORD ELECTRIC DIVISION
4 100 JOHN STREET
5 WALLINGFORD, CT

TOWN OF
WALLINGFORD

OCT 8 2019

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES

6 Tuesday, October 1, 2019

7 6:30 p.m.

8 **MINUTES**

9 **PRESENT:** Chair Robert Beaumont (via telephone); Commissioners Patrick Birney and Joel
10 Rinebold; Director Richard Hendershot; Electric Division General Manager Tony Buccheri; Office
11 Manager Tom Sullivan; Water and Sewer Divisions General Manager Neil Amwake;
12 OfficerManager William Phelan; Recording Secretary Beth Dighello; *no members of the public*

13
14 Mr. Birney called the Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

15 **1. Pledge of Allegiance**

16
17 **2. Consent Agenda**

- 18 a. Consider and approve the Minutes of September 17, 2019
19 b. Review of Electric Division Financial Statements for period ending June 30, 2019
20

21 **Motion to approve the Consent Agenda:**

22 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**

23 **Seconded by: Mr. Beaumont**

24 **Votes: 3 ayes**
25
26

27 **3. Items removed from Consent Agenda - None**
28
29

30 **4. Discussion and Possible Action: Water Division – Budget Amendment –**
31 **Pistapaug Raw Water Pumps**
32

33 Beginning in July 2019, the Water Division staff discovered operational issues with one of the
34 four vertical turbine pumps located at the Pistapaug Pond raw water pump station. That is the
35 pump station that moves water from the Pistapaug Reservoir uphill to the Pistapaug Water
36 Treatment Plant. Over several weeks, we tried to repair or troubleshoot it ourselves, but were
37 unsuccessful. We brought in a contractor to remove, disassemble and inspect the entire pump
38 assembly of Raw Water Pump #2. The inspection revealed that various components of the
39 pump assembly were experiencing significant galvanic corrosion that caused one shaft coupling

40 to split. We are here today to ask for a budget amendment. This covers two pumps. When
41 we went back to the operational run times for all pumps, they are nearly equal. There is a
42 \$44,000 budget amendment in front of you that would remove, disassemble and repair both
43 pumps and shafts for \$20,000 each. We also included a 10% contingency. We are moving the
44 \$44,000 from Cash (Retained Earnings) to two accounts The first moves \$7,000 into an
45 operational account. We first thought this was going to be an operational repair, but as we got
46 into it further, we realized it really falls under the capital realm. The \$37,000 will be moved to a
47 capital account. Next year, we will be putting \$44,000 into the capital budget.

48
49 Mr. Rinebold asked about galvanic corrosion and any possible issues with stray current or the
50 need for some anodes. Mr. Amwake responded that there are some there, however, we are
51 dealing with a hostile work environment. We are going into the reservoir, and we do work with
52 electricity. The anodes have been working since 1993. Over time anodes will not be a bullet
53 proof solution because they will wear out. Mr. Rinebold stated that the anodes are still there
54 and asked if we have done everything possible using preventative maintenance. Mr. Amwake
55 said we have, but eventually they need to be replaced.

56
57 Mr. Beaumont stated that he understands the situation and is in favor of replacing them.

58
59 Mr. Birney said he appreciates the detail of the work that goes into trying to fix the problem.
60 He stated he also appreciated the level of detail that went into preparing the memo.

61
62 Mr. Hendershot dismissed the Electric Division employees from the meeting.

63
64 **Motion to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$44,000 increasing**
65 **various accounts as indicated below along with a corresponding increase to the**
66 **Appropriation From Cash (Retained Earnings).**

67
68 **43100652 Maint. of Water Treatment Equipment \$ 7,000**
69 **43300325 Electric Pumping Equipment \$37,000**

70
71 **Made by: Mr. Beaumont**
72 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**
73 **Votes: 3 ayes**

74
75
76 **5. Discussion and Possible Action (Endorsement): Water Division – Request to**
77 **Utilize Qualifications Based Selection for Engineering Studies at Ulbrich**
78 **Reservoir Dam.**

79
80 Mr. Amwake explained that Ulbrich Reservoir Dam is our middle dam, so we pump from
81 MacKenzie up to Ulbrich, and from Ulbrich up to Pistapaug. Per DEEP, every two years we are
82 required to do a regulatory dam inspection. We did an inspection in 2016, followed by one in
83 the Spring of 2018. In the October 2016 inspection, it was recommended that we do a slope
84 instability analysis. It is an earthen dam, so we would look at the vertical and horizontal forces.

85 The second recommendation was to do an evaluation of our low level outlet. There is a pipe at
86 the bottom of the dam that releases water, particularly in the case of an emergency. We want
87 to make sure that it works. We are also looking to raise the water surface elevation in Ulbrich
88 two to four feet. We want to do this to capture more water to pump it up from MacKenzie,
89 particularly when we have more rainfall. The average rainfall is pretty steady in Connecticut,
90 but we are beginning to see larger storms and periods of droughts. We really want to capture
91 more water. In order to do this, we need to first do a specialty engineering study. The bid was
92 put out in two parts: Part A – a firm’s qualifications and Part B – cost. We had some concerns
93 with the bid results. We had an open scope too, so some of the scope items were a little
94 broad. We are looking for the Commission’s endorsement to go to the Town Council to request
95 to utilize a Qualifications Based Selection process. This really is a specialty study. Mr. Amwake
96 read a quote from the Purchasing Agent’s memo “due to the unique and critical nature of the
97 project and your desire to err on the side of safety and select the most technically qualified
98 firm, I have no objection in using this selection process”.

99

100 Mr. Amwake stated that we will look at three things. One is the slope and stability analysis.
101 How does the earthen dam interact if you were to raise the water surface? To raise the water
102 surface you need to be able to move your water out of the reservoir. That is a hydrologic and
103 hydraulic study. This is a specialty because we are going to be putting three or four borings
104 through the center of the dam. When you remove the drill rig, the dam must be put back to
105 how it was. That is why we are asking to use the Qualifications Based Selection process.

106

107 Mr. Rinebold asked Mr. Amwake if he believes this is unique and critical. Mr. Amwake
108 responded that it is. The first time it was put out to bid, there were seven responses. There
109 are firms out there that specialize in this. It is a niche market within civil engineering. Mr.
110 Rinebold noted that other than one outlier, the spread between the prices is not that great. Mr.
111 Amwake replied that there was one that was really low and one that was really high. He said
112 the scope of the services were reviewed and will be tightened up.

113

114 Mr. Beaumont commented that if you throw out the highest bid and the lowest bid, the rest are
115 all in the same area. Mr. Amwake stated that the two firms with the highest technical score are
116 within \$500 dollars of each other. Mr. Beaumont said he is in favor of doing this and is glad
117 that the Purchasing Department has approved the concept.

118

119 Mr. Birney asked why Ulbrich is a Class C dam. Mr. Amwake responded DEEP has different
120 rating criteria. Class C is the highest class followed by Class B, Class A, Class AA and what is
121 referred to as a farm dam. The classes are determined by what would happen if the dam were
122 to breach by any cause, what damage would it cause downstream including human life,
123 property damage, and the impact of road damage. Mr. Birney stated that a lot of work went
124 into the bid process and analyzing the results. He asked Mr. Amwake about the process of
125 pulling the plug after the bid results are in and analyzed. Mr. Amwake said the bids are usually
126 good for sixty or ninety days, depending on what is written in the bid specifications. He said we
127 will let the bid expire. Mr. Birney asked if he thought the same firms that responded the first
128 time will again respond. Mr. Amwake said he expected only about three or four of the same

129 firms to respond. All seven responding firms can look at the results and see where they rank
130 technically. He said probably only the top three or four firms will resubmit.

131

132 Mr. Rinebold asked why a Qualification Based Selection process was not used initially. Mr.
133 Amwake responded that the standard procedure is to first go to the Part A and Part B process.

134

135 Mr. Birney noted that the funding is coming from a capital budget. He asked if that was
136 because it is a first step in a capital project. Mr. Amwake replied that he is correct.

137

138

139 **Motion to endorse the Water Division's Request to Utilize Qualifications Based**
140 **Selection for Engineering Studies at Ulbrich Reservoir Dam.**

141

142 **Made by: Mr. Beaumont**

143 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

144 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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146

147 **6. Executive Session pursuant to CGS Sections 1-200(6)(B) and 1-225(f),**
148 **regarding strategy and negotiations with respect to pending litigation in the**
149 **matter of Town of Wallingford v. Matthew J. Madley.**

150

151 **Motion to go into Executive Session (at 6:46 p.m.) to discuss pending litigation**
152 **without further motions until a motion to come out of Executive Session.**

153

154 **Made by: Mr. Beaumont**

155 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

156 **Votes: 3 ayes**

157

158 **Out of Executive Session at 6:55 p.m.**

159

160 **No votes or actions were taken during Executive Session.**

161

162

163 **7. Consider and approve action on Town of Wallingford v. Matthew J. Madley as**
164 **discussed in Executive Session.**

165

166 Motion to approve action on Town of Wallingford v. Matthew J. Madley as discussed in
167 Executive Session.

168

169 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**

170 **Seconded by: Mr. Beaumont**

171 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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173

174

175 **ADJOURNMENT**

176 **Motion to adjourn.**

177 **Made by: Mr. Beaumont**

178 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

179 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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181

182 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.

183

184 Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,

185

186

187 Elizabeth Dighello

Joel Rinebold

188 Recording Secretary

Secretary