

NOV 25 2019

DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC UTILITIES

**DRAFT**

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
WALLINGFORD ELECTRIC DIVISION

100 JOHN STREET

WALLINGFORD, CT

Wednesday, November 19, 2019

6:30 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Chair Robert Beaumont; Commissioners Patrick Birney and Joel Rinebold; Electric Division General Manager Tony Buccheri; Office Manager Tom Sullivan; Water and Sewer Divisions General Manager Neil Amwake; Officer Manager William Phelan; WED Energy Efficiency and Conservation Specialist Walt Szymanski; Recording Secretary Beth Dighello; *members of the public – Steve Gale, Adelheid Koepfer*

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 the Minutes of November 6, 2019

**Motion to approve the Consent Agenda:**

**Made by: Mr. Rinebold**

**Seconded by: Mr. Beaumont**

**Votes: 2 ayes**

**3. Items removed from Consent Agenda - None**

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

Mr. Buccheri presented the Electric Division's section of the Director's Report.

On October 9<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Hendershot along with WED Staff, viewed a demonstration from a vendor regarding possible outsourcing of the printing and mailing of Electric and Water/Sewer bills, notices and other printed materials. Later that evening, Mr. Hendershot and General Manager Amwake, attended the Town Council meeting to discuss a requested bid waiver and budget transfer.

42 Mr. Hendershot traveled to Washington, DC on October 15<sup>th</sup> through October 17<sup>th</sup> to participate  
43 in a NEEPA legislative "fly-in". He was part of the team that visited congressional and senatorial  
44 offices of the states of Maine, Vermont, and Connecticut, as well as one FERC commissioner  
45 and several congressional committees.

46  
47 On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Mr. Hendershot, PUC Chairman Beaumont and Executive Secretary Kathy White  
48 participated in interviews of candidates for a PUC Secretary. Mr. Beaumont commented that an  
49 offer has been made and accepted for this position, and there will be a new PUC Secretary as of  
50 December 3, 2019. He thanked Beth Dighello for filling in as PUC Secretary.

51  
52 Wallingford Renewable Energy awarded an EPC contract. On October 17<sup>th</sup> the Wallingford  
53 Electric Division participated in a telephone meeting with WRE and their EPC contractor.

54  
55 Service work during October included four (4) new services, 13 service changes, and no (0)  
56 retired services. Street light work included 178 LED street light conversions and 10 street light  
57 repairs. To date, 2,010 LED streetlights have been installed, with 2,625 HPS streetlights  
58 remaining to be replaced. During October, six (6) poles were replaced, along with four (4)  
59 aged overhead transformers. To date in fiscal 2020, the Division has replaced 43 poles.

60  
61 The Meter Technician A screening exam took place on October 9<sup>th</sup>. There was one passing  
62 candidate, who was interviewed but not offered the position. Interviews for Apprentice Meter  
63 Technicians (Meterman Helpers) took place in late October into early November. The WED may  
64 look to hire two (2) Apprentice/Helper candidates. Interviews for Distribution Technician  
65 concluded on October 10<sup>th</sup>. A conditional offer has been made to the preferred candidate. Mr.  
66 Buccheri has confirmed that this person will be starting December 16<sup>th</sup>. The vacant Accountant  
67 I position has been advertised, and the screening exam is scheduled for November 20<sup>th</sup>.

68  
69 Regarding Electric System Metrics, system input for October totaled 44,019-MWh, a decrease of  
70 13.5% from 2018. Maximum system demand for the month was 99.4 MW, a decrease of 24%  
71 from last year.

72  
73 For September Wholesale Power, 96.9% of the WED's total energy was hedged. The  
74 forecasted hedging level for September was 89.8%. WED's all-in purchased power costs per  
75 MWh for September's actual was \$99.41. The 2018/2019 FY budget forecast for September  
76 was \$99.66 and the prevailing six-month average PCA forecast was \$93.91. WED's generation  
77 cost per MWh, the average cost for hedged volume was \$43.07 and the average cost for total  
78 volume was \$42.38. The WED purchased 2,136 MWhs of "short" energy at an average price of  
79 \$25.28, and realized a \$12,477 benefit due to locational spread. These factors contributed to  
80 the average cost of all energy being approximately 1.6% less than the average cost of hedged  
81 energy.

82  
83 Mr. Amwake presented the Water and Sewer Division sections of the Director's Report.  
84  
85 He stated that the Water Division experienced two (2) water main leaks and two (2) service  
86 leaks during October.

87 Contract 35 continues to advance. At the end of October, all of the main line has been  
88 installed. At that time, we had one (1) main tie-in remaining, as well as 10 service  
89 replacements.  
90

91 Contract 36R has been awarded. The contract will be signed and the kickoff meeting was held  
92 on November 13<sup>th</sup>.  
93

94 The bid for the Stand-by Generators for Well 1 and Wells 2/3 has been awarded and the  
95 requisition has been sent to Purchasing.  
96

97 In October, the annual water main flushing was completed. During the last month, we did  
98 repair four (4) hydrants. During October, 56 watershed surveys were re-inspected.  
99

100 The vacant Water Treatment and Pumping Supervisor position was advertised and closed on  
101 September 30<sup>th</sup>. An oral exam was held on October 30<sup>th</sup>. That was Tom Esposito's former  
102 position. The vacant Electrical Technician was re-advertised and closed on September 16<sup>th</sup>.  
103 The exam for this position is occurring this evening. We did post for Water Treatment and  
104 Operator I and II positions. No candidates passed the test for the Candidate I and one  
105 candidate passed for the Operator II, but has subsequently withdrawn from the process. We  
106 are re-advertising for both positions. Tom Flannery has been promoted to Engineer Planner  
107 effective this Sunday. We now have a Junior Engineer position open.  
108

109 Water production for October totaled 98.86-million gallons, a decrease of 3.0% for October  
110 2018. Reservoir storage at month's end was at 80.2% of total effective impoundment. The  
111 historical average for October is 77.7%. The effective impoundment will begin to drop through  
112 the winter, because we purposefully lower our reservoirs for icing conditions against our dams.  
113

114 Precipitation for the month totaled 7.2 inches, which is 3.1 inches above the historical average  
115 for October. Precipitation to date is 46.2 inches, which is 5.5 inches above the historic mean  
116 for the first 10 months of the calendar year.  
117

118 The Sewer Division staff responded to and resolved a total of 11 WWTP alarms, collection  
119 system trouble calls and vehicle issues during October. We received the new close captioned  
120 television inspection truck. We have been learning to use that. In October, we televised 4,647  
121 linear feet of sewer main and flushed 6,400 feet of sewer. To date, 17.5 miles of sewers have  
122 been televised and 8.25 miles have been flushed in 2019. Additionally, 12 manholes were  
123 inspected during October.  
124

125 There are no vacancies in the Sewer Division.  
126

127 At the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the average daily flow during October was 4.1-MGD, which  
128 is 1.8-MGD less than the average daily flow of October 2018. The 12-month rolling average  
129 daily flow remains at 6.11 MGD, which is below the 90% permit threshold of 7.2-MGD.  
130

131 For October, the average level of phosphorus in the WWTP effluent was 0.39mg/L, which is  
132 0.29 mg/L less than the October 2018 level. Recall that the current permit level is 0.70 mg/L.

133  
134 Nitrogen discharge for the month averaged 243 pounds per day. This amount is below the  
135 October 2018 discharge rate of 448 pounds per day, and is under the permit level of 269  
136 pounds per day. Average daily discharge to date in 2019 is 415 pounds through October.

137  
138 Related to the Private Side I/I Mitigation Program, during October, Division staff conducted 13  
139 inspections, which identified three (3) properties with one or more connections. Also during the  
140 month, two (2) issues were corrected. Since inception, the I/I program has conducted 1,639  
141 inspections, identified 200 locations with connections, and corrected 131 issues.

142  
143 Mr. Beaumont asked Mr. Amwake to try to locate some historical reports on rainfall. Mr.  
144 Amwake replied that he will try to locate them.

145  
146 **Motion to approve the Director's Report for the Month of October 2019:**

147  
148 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

149 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

150 **Votes: 3 ayes**

151  
152 Mr. Amwake asked if he could add a budget amendment for the repair of the pump at Well #1.  
153 Mr. Beaumont said he will need a motion to waive Article (1) Section (1).

154  
155  
156 **A motion was made to Waive Article (1), Section (1)**

157  
158 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

159 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

160 **Votes: 3 ayes**

161  
162 Mr. Amwake stated that this is a small budget amendment. It is necessary because this is the  
163 only line item in this budget account. If something unexpected happens, we have to go back to  
164 retained earnings. The pump at Well #1 is currently not working. We have a quote to  
165 disassemble, inspect and repair the electrical and mechanical components and reinstall it. The  
166 quote is for \$2,700, and we added a 10% contingency. That is how we arrived at \$2,970. This  
167 is a budget amendment and will come from retained earnings. We only have one pump at Well  
168 #1, so we would like to start repairs sooner rather than later.

169  
170 Mr. Rinebold asked if this was a mechanical issue rather than a software issue. Mr. Amwake  
171 replied that it is mechanical.

172  
173

174 **For reasons stated in Mr. Amwake's November 15, 2019 memo as well as reasons**  
175 **stated on the record, a motion is made to approve the Budget Amendment for Well**  
176 **#1 - Inspection and Repair**

177

178 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

179 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

180 **Votes: 3 ayes**

181

## 182 **5. Discussion: Update on Sewer Treatment Plant Construction**

183

184 Mr. Amwake updated the Commission on the design aspects of the project. The design  
185 drawings have been updated to reflect the change from a 10-lamp UV system to a 12-lamp UV  
186 system due to a recent NPDES Permit. The updated drawings have been transmitted to C.H.  
187 Nickerson for pricing. That is a potential change order. The third party review for the Town  
188 Building Department and the Town Fire Marshal's Office is expected to be completed this week  
189 and transmitted to AECOM for their peer review and response.

190

191 Related to construction, C.H. Nickerson continues to submit shop drawing submittals, requests  
192 for information, and schedule of values. It is managed electronically between C.H. Nickerson,  
193 AECOM and Sewer Division staff. We all have access to it so that we can log on and see where  
194 things stand. The groundwater level monitoring wells have been installed throughout the site.  
195 We do have high groundwater. That impacts our dewatering schedule.

196

197 Twelve (12) seismograph monitors have been installed on existing structures, primary settling  
198 tanks, anoxic basin, RBSs and the Personnel Building/Garage to monitor for any movement or  
199 settlement during construction. All measurements to date have been within the prescribed  
200 tolerance.

201

202 The sheeting installation has been completed on the anaerobic tank. The contractor is working  
203 on the installation of the walers, and bracing is in process. Two of the six dewatering points  
204 inside the sheeting have been installed. Excavation is ongoing.

205

206 The UV Disinfection/Post Aeration Building has approximately 65% of the sheeting installed.  
207 The Tertiary Phosphorus Building has approximately 10% of the sheeting installed. The next  
208 four to six weeks will be about sheeting, bracing, walers and dewatering and excavation.

209

210 Mr. Rinebold asked if the sheeting can continue if the temperature goes below freezing. Mr.  
211 Amwake said the only temperature worry would be with pouring concrete.

212

213 Mr. Beaumont asked Mr. Amwake if he is pleased with the progress so far. Mr. Amwake replied  
214 that he was pleased. This is a twenty-seven month project, and we are in month number two  
215 and a half.

216

217

218

219 **6a. Review of Water Disbursements for the Month of October 2019**  
220

221 Mr. Beaumont asked why the RBC drive expense was under Operations rather than Capital. Mr.  
222 Phelan said that although the cost of the drawings is not small in relation to the machinery that  
223 they operate, they are not equivalent to more than a capital piece of equipment. The cost of  
224 replacing that drive is not the capital item. Three or four of these RBC drives are replaced each  
225 year.  
226

227 **Public Question & Answer Period**  
228

229 Ms. Adelheid Koepfer stated that she is in favor of keeping a set time for the Public Question &  
230 Answer Period. She also asked about the request for the Town Council to move money from  
231 Retained Earnings to the Energy Efficiency Fund from the previous year. She asked if there was  
232 money back from CMEEC earmarked for renewable energy. There is also the actual Energy  
233 Conservation and Load Management funds that result from customer charges on the electric  
234 bill, as well as, revenue from the Forward Capacity Auction that could be spent for efficiency  
235 and renewables. Mr. Szymanski responded that there were some recommendations brought to  
236 the Commission about how those funds should be used. The Commission directed Mr.  
237 Szymanski to rewrite the policy to use it toward renewable opportunities. Ms. Koepfer asked if  
238 there any Greenhouse Gas Initiative funds. Mr. Szymanski replied that those funds are  
239 primarily for the Home Energy Savings Program for residential customers. By state statute, it  
240 must be end used for reduction in carbon emissions. The audits help in that reduction. Ms.  
241 Koepfer asked about funds available for public buildings, maybe schools. Mr. Szymanski said  
242 there is the Forward Capacity revenue stream that the Commission recommended be directed  
243 to municipal buildings only. This would be a change from the previous policy.  
244

245 Mr. Steven Gale asked if the Electric Division has started the next rate study. Mr. Sullivan  
246 replied that there was an internal meeting about a month ago to review costs. There doesn't  
247 appear to be any need to increase rates. The PCA would take care of the amount that was  
248 collected over the purchase power costs. It would automatically go back to the customers. Mr.  
249 Gale asked why a licensed contractor needs to install a hot water heater in order to qualify for  
250 the rebate. Mr. Szymanski stated that the form states it is an option, not required. Mr. Gale  
251 asked why the rebate is \$500 through the Wallingford Electric Division, but \$750 through  
252 Energize Connecticut. Mr. Szymanski replied that he filed a three year plan with the Energy  
253 Efficiency Board. The rebate levels are based on a consensus from our consultants that they  
254 were appropriate at the time they were filed.  
255

256 **6b. Review of Sewer Disbursements for the Month of October 2019**  
257

258 There were no questions or comments.  
259

260 **7. Review of Electric Division Disbursements for the Month of October 2019**  
261

262 Mr. Beaumont asked about an expense related to a breaker. Mr. Buccheri replied that it is a  
263 circuit breaker related to the Wallingford Renewable Energy Project. We needed a new breaker  
264 for the position at the East Street Substation. It is reimbursable.

265  
266 Mr. Beaumont asked about an expense for Outside Services. Mr. Buccheri replied that it is our  
267 share of the arbitration for the IBEW contract that was just recently settled.

#### 268 269 **8. Discussion and Possible Action: Revision to Policy E-6, Renewable Energy**

270  
271 Mr. Rinebold asked why there is a reference to Public Act 13-313 instead of the codified statute.  
272 Mr. Szymanski replied that he quoted it because he referenced an Act Concerning Connecticut's  
273 Clean Energy Goals. He thought it is appropriate to reference a statute. Mr. Rinebold stated  
274 that the act has been updated, and maybe the statute should be referenced instead. CGS #16-  
275 126 is the codified statute that would change from year to year. The policy will be amended to  
276 show this change.

277  
278 Mr. Birney asked if the Commission wanted to add a bit more time to the date of December 1<sup>st</sup>  
279 for grandfathering applications. The Commission agreed that the date should be changed to  
280 February 1, 2020.

281  
282 Mr. Beaumont asked about the last item under the Appendix A – Fuel Cell (methane gas from  
283 landfills). Mr. Szymanski said that terminology came from the Public Act. Mr. Rinebold said  
284 that fuel cells are defined by Connecticut State law as Class I, regardless of the source of the  
285 fuel. Mr. Szymanski asked if the Commission would like the last item in Appendix A to be struck  
286 from the policy. The Commission agreed that because the statute is cited, Appendix A can be  
287 completely eliminated. Mr. Szymanski thanked the Commission for their comments.

288  
289 The Commission agreed that the references to Appendix A be removed from Item #5 and Item  
290 #7. The Commission thanked Mr. Szymanski for a job well done.

#### 291 292 **Motion made to approve the Renewable Energy Policy as amended:**

293  
294 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

295 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

296 **Votes: 3 ayes**

#### 297 298 **PUBLIC HEARING – Downtown Economic Development Rider**

299  
300 Mr. Buccheri referenced a letter dated October 9, 2019 from Liz Landow, Executive Director of  
301 Wallingford Center, Inc., to Mr. Hendershot. The letter requests that the Electric Division  
302 continue the Downtown Economic Development Rider.

303  
304 Mr. Beaumont explained that we are not changing anything, we are just extending it. He asked  
305 what the cost of this program is to the Electric Division. Mr. Sullivan replied that year-to-date,  
306 through October 31, 2019, the cost is \$10,330. Last year it was about \$15,000, and the year

307 before that it was \$19,000. It has dropped a bit because some of the larger accounts have  
308 dropped down in their percentage discount.

309  
310 Mr. Gale asked if the program could be expanded to cover all of Wallingford on a limited basis.  
311 He said maybe businesses outside of the downtown area could begin at a 20% discount instead  
312 of 50%. Mr. Buccheri said the original intent was to try to get all storefronts in the center of  
313 town occupied. Mr. Gale said there are a lot of empty buildings outside of downtown. Mr.  
314 Beaumont said it is an interesting idea and should possibly be looked at. Mr. Buccheri said he  
315 works closely with Tim Ryan anytime there is a bigger business looking to locate in Wallingford.  
316 He said they do an analysis comparing our service cost to that of UI or Eversource. A lot of  
317 times, that alone is enough to make their decision to move to Wallingford. Mr. Birney said  
318 there is nothing preventing Mr. Buccheri, in conjunction with Mr. Ryan, from coming to the  
319 Commission on behalf of a larger company to request consideration for reduced rates. Mr.  
320 Buccheri said he would make it clear to the company that he does not have the authority to  
321 approve it. The avenue to pursue that would be to come before the Public Utilities Commission.  
322 Mr. Beaumont said it should be considered, but it is not part of tonight's agenda.

323  
324 Mr. Rinebold said he likes the program and the focus on the downtown district.

325  
326 **9. Discussion and Action: Electric Division – Approval of Downtown Economic**  
327 **Development Rider.**

328  
329 **Motion made to approve the Downtown Economic Development Rider**

330  
331 **Made by: Mr. Birney**  
332 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**  
333 **Votes: 3 ayes**

334  
335 **10. Discussion and Action: Electric Division – Requisition for Additional Meter**  
336 **Technician Staff.**

337  
338 Mr. Buccheri referenced a memo from Mr. Hendershot to the Commission requesting an  
339 additional Meter Technician. The Meter Technician group includes a Chief Meterman and three  
340 Meter Technicians. The Chief retired, and one of the meter techs applied for the open position  
341 and was promoted to Chief. We currently have a Chief and two meter techs remaining. The  
342 Chief and one meter tech are both at retirement age. The program is a four year  
343 apprenticeship. The vacancy created by the promotion to Chief has been posted. In parallel,  
344 an Apprentice and Meterman A position were posted. There were no fully qualified applicants  
345 for the Meterman A position. That is why the positions were posted in parallel. We have  
346 several applicants for Apprentice. Mr. Buccheri is looking to hire two of the applicants to go  
347 through the apprenticeship in hopes that they will be ready to work unsupervised before the  
348 retirements. He stated that he did meet with the Mayor, and the Mayor was in support of this  
349 plan. We now need the approval of the Commission. There is no amendment to the current  
350 year's budget. It is only a headcount increase. Mr. Birney asked if this will be temporary. Mr.



351 Buccheri replied that the Division would be staffed up to five, and then when retirements take  
352 place, we will not backfill it. We would then go back down to four.

353  
354 Mr. Rinebold said this is a creative way to plan for the future. He congratulated the Division.  
355 Mr. Beaumont said the Division's foresight is commendable.

356  
357 Mr. Birney noted that in Mr. Hendershot's memo it states it is a budget amendment, however, it  
358 would not be a budget amendment, just additional staffing.

359  
360

361 **For the reasons stated in Mr. Hendershot's November 14, 2019 memo, a motion is**  
362 **made to approve the request for additional Meter Technician Staff. Let the record**  
363 **state it is not a budget amendment.**

364

365 **Made by: Mr. Birney**  
366 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**  
367 **Votes: 3 ayes**

368

369

370

371 **ADJOURNMENT**

372

373 **Motion to adjourn.**

374 **Made by: Mr. Birney**  
375 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**  
376 **Votes: 3 ayes**

377

378

379 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:47 p.m.

380

381 Respectfully submitted,

382

383

384 Elizabeth Dighello  
385 Recording Secretary

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Rinebold  
Secretary