

1 **DRAFT**

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

TOWN OF
WALLINGFORD

DEC 23 2019

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES

6 Tuesday, December 17, 2019

7 6:30 P.M.

8 **MINUTES**

9 **PRESENT:** Chairman Robert Beaumont; Commissioner Joel Rinebold; Director Richard
10 Hendershot; Electric Division General Manager Tony Buccheri; Office Manager Tom Sullivan;
11 Water and Sewer Divisions General Manager Neil Amwake; Office Manager William Phelan;
12 Recording Secretary Bernadette Sorbo;

13 *Members of the public – Lauren Takores, representing the Record Journal*

14 Mr. 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
18 **2. Consent Agenda**

- 19 a. Consider and approve Minutes of November 7, 2019
20 b. Consider and approve Minutes of November 19, 2019

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

23 **Made by: Mr. Joel Rinebold**

24 **Seconded by: Mr. Robert Beaumont**

25 **Votes: 2 ayes**
26

27
28 **3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None**

29
30 **4. Discussion and Action: Approval of Director's Report for the Month of**
31 **November 2019.**
32

33 Mr. Richard Hendershot presented the Electric Division's section of the Director's Report for
34 November 2019.

35
36 On November 7th, Mr. Hendershot attended a Special PUC Meeting and a workshop regarding
37 Draft Sewer Rates for Fiscal 2021 and beyond.

38 Regarding the Electric Division's Office Building Review, WED staff met on November 14 to
39 review and discuss the Architect's latest drawing submittals, and reply comments were provided
40 on November 22.

41

42 Wallingford Renewable Energy Solar-PV Interconnection noted that on December 3 WED staff
43 met WRE'S EPC contractor in the field to review the three physical interconnection points.

44

45 Mr. Beaumont asked if they are all continuous. Mr. Hendershot responded that yes, they were
46 all at service territory. Mr. Beaumont then responded he never had asked before and that he just
47 made an assumption.

48

49 Service work during November included 10 new services, seven service changes, and one retired
50 service. Street light work included 48 LED street light conversions and eight street light repairs.
51 To date, 2058 LED streetlights have been installed, with 2,577 High Pressure Sodium streetlights
52 remaining to be replaced. During November, 14 poles were replaced, along with four aged
53 overhead transformers. To date in Fiscal 2020 the Division has replaced 57 poles.

54

55 Regarding personnel, within the Division as noted last month the Meter Technician A screening
56 exam yielded no suitable candidates, and so the Division began the process to hire an Apprentice
57 Meter Technician. The interviews for this position were completed on November 3. Also during
58 November, the Division secured the necessary approvals to hire an additional Apprentice Meter
59 Technician. At month's end the Division was working to identify the next preferred candidate.
60 As noted last month, the screening exam for the vacant Accountant I position yielded no passing
61 applicants. General Manager Buccheri, in coordination with the Comptroller's office, has
62 developed a revised Job Description so that an expanded candidate pool may be solicited and
63 considered. He, and the HR Director, are targeting the January 6 Town Council meeting for
64 approval of the revised job description.

65

66 Regarding the Electric System Metrics the system input for November totaled 45,859-MWh, a
67 decrease of 5.9% from 2018. Maximum system demand for the month was 86.1-MW, a decrease
68 of 4.4% from last year. Average System Availability Index for November was computed at
69 99.998%. Monthly values for the other tracked indices for the month are as follows:

70 SAIDI (System Average Interruption Duration Index): 0.91 minutes

71 SAIFI (System Average Interruption Frequency Index): 0.013

72 CAIDI (Customer Average Interruption Duration Index): 70 minutes

73

74 For October Wholesale Power Supply, 95.2% of the WED's total energy was hedged. The
75 forecasted hedging level for October was 91.7%. WED'S all-in purchased power cost per MWh
76 for October's actual was \$96.83. The 2018/2019 FY budget forecast cost for October was
77 \$96.09 and the prevailing six-month average PCA forecast was \$93.91. Regarding the WED's
78 generation cost per MWh, the hedged volume came in at \$42.77 and the average cost for total
79 volume was priced out at \$42.90. Even though the WED purchased 2,136 MWhs of "short"
80 energy at an average price of \$25.28, and realized a \$12,477 benefit due to locational spread,
81 these factors were less than the cost impact of the June energy market re-settlements
82 (approximately \$50,000) and so the actual month-end cost of total energy was still slightly more
83 than the cost of hedged energy.

84
85 Mr. Beaumont had questions on the Distribution Technician job position, if they are an outside
86 person. Mr. Hendershot responded yes and he will be starting on Monday.
87
88
89 Mr. Hendershot stated that the Water Division experienced two water main leaks and one
90 service leak during November.
91
92 Water Main replacements project Contract 35, during November Water Division Crews
93 coordinated with the contractor to accomplish the installation of the final 12 services. Except for
94 final paving in the Spring this project is now complete. Contract 36R (revised) the contract was
95 signed on November 8, and a kickoff meeting took place on November 13. Work is scheduled to
96 begin on March 23, 2020.
97
98 Stand-by Generators for Well 1, and Wells 2/3 the purchase order was issued November 21 and a
99 preconstruction meeting took place on November 26. Work is scheduled to begin right around
100 now, mid-December.
101
102 During November, 13 watershed sanitary survey re-inspections were performed. Inspections of
103 approximately 160 stream and bridge crossings have begun.
104
105 In regards to Personnel, the vacant Electrical Technician (Water Treatment Plant) position was
106 re-advertised and closed on September 16. Human Resources provided the Division with a
107 candidate list on November 20, and interviews are now scheduled for mid-December. The
108 posting for the Operator II vacancy was re-advertised on November 10 and closed December 2.
109 The vacant Operator I positions (there are three vacancies) were re-advertised on November 17.
110 The vacant Water and Wastewater Engineer/Planner position was filled by the promotion of
111 Junior Engineer Tom Flannery. The Division will now work to fill the vacant Junior Engineer
112 position.
113
114 During the month of November, water production totaled 88.2 –million gallons, a decrease of
115 6.9% from November 2018. Reservoir storage at month's end was at 82.5% of total effective
116 impoundment. The historical average for November is 80.4%. Precipitation for the month
117 totaled 2.4 inches, which is 1.8 inches below the historical average for November. Precipitation
118 to date is 48.6 inches, which is 3.75 inches above the historic mean for the first 11 months of the
119 calendar year.
120
121 Mr. Beaumont asked about page 4-102 last item above Personnel, Engineering Section staff
122 responded to 214 Call Before You Dig tickets is for the month. Mr. Amwake responded yes.
123 Mr. Beaumont stated that this is low. Mr. Amwake replied that November tends to be the lowest
124 month and that this is a new statistic. Mr. Beaumont further questioned how many do they
125 normally get? Mr. Amwake replied around 300 and peak around 360-380. Mr. Amwake further
126 discussed that this number will be included in future reports.
127
128 Mr. Hendershot reported that the Sewer Division staff responded to and resolved a total of six
129 Waste Water Treatment Plant alarms, collection system trouble calls and vehicle issues during

130 November. Mr. Amwake advised that at the end of this item in the agenda he will provide an
131 update on the status of the phosphorus treatment project. During November, the collection
132 system staff televised 9,641 linear feet of sewer main and flushed 785 feet of sewer. To date,
133 19.3 miles of sewers have been televised and 8.4 miles have been flushed in 2019. Additionally,
134 44 manholes were inspected during November.

135
136 There are currently no vacancies in the Sewer Division.

137
138 Wastewater Division Metrics at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the average daily flow during
139 November was 4.4-MGD, which is 3.5-MGD less than the average daily flow of November
140 2018. The 12-month rolling average daily flow remains at 5.82-MGD, which is below the 90%
141 permit threshold of 7.2-MGD.

142
143 Beginning in November, and continuing through March, phosphorous in the effluent is not
144 monitored.

145
146 Nitrogen discharge for the month averaged 289 pounds per day. The amount is well below the
147 November 2018 discharge rate of 816 pounds per day, but is slightly over the permit level of 269
148 pounds per day. Average daily discharge to date in 2019 is 403 pounds through November.

149
150 Related to the Private Side I/I Mitigation Program, during November, Division staff conducted
151 22 inspections, which identified four properties with one or more connections. Also during the
152 month three issues were corrected. Since inception, the I/I program has conducted 1,661
153 inspections, identified 204 locations with connections, and corrected 134 issues.

154
155 **Motion to approve the Director's Report for the Month of November 2019**

156
157 **Made by: Mr. Robert Beaumont**

158 **Seconded by: Mr. Joel Rinebold**

159 **Votes: 2 ayes**

160

161 Mr. Beaumont introduced and welcomed the new PUC Recording Secretary, Bernadette Sorbo
162 who was hired on December 3, 2019.

163

164 **Public Question and Answer Period**

165

166 There were no questions or comments.

167

168 **5. Discussion: Update on Sewer Treatment Plant Construction**

169

170 Mr. Amwake updated the Commission on the focus of construction. The first item Mr. Amwake
171 spoke on is logistics. Mr. Amwake holds monthly manager meetings and Tuesday morning
172 meetings where they go over the granular activities of the coordination between C.H. Nickerson
173 and the Sewer Divisions Operations. These activities include bypass pumping, tie-ins, vehicle
174 movements and schedule. This gives the foreman and staff an opportunity to look ahead at the

175 next five days which helps focus on the detailed issues. Related to construction they will
176 continue requesting shop drawings, requests for information and other paper work.

177
178 The anaerobic tank that is North of the primary clarifiers has completed the sheeting insulation,
179 and the installation of the walers and bracing. The six de-watering points inside the sheeting
180 are installed and the dewatering system is fully operational and in use. The soil excavation has
181 been completed.

182
183 To date three of the five concrete pours for the base slabs are complete. The next two are
184 scheduled prior to the Christmas holiday. Mr. Amwake noted that the base slab for the anaerobic
185 tank is integrated with the base slab for the intermediate post station.

186
187 The UV Disinfection and Post Aeration buildings have completed the sheeting. They are at
188 about 65% soil excavation. Regarding the Tertiary Phosphorus Building all the sheeting has
189 been installed. At this point they have only removed the top 6 feet of soil.

190
191 For the next several months it will be sheeting, excavation and concrete..**Public Questions and**
192 **Answers:**

193
194 Mr. Beaumont asked what is the depth of concrete and what is the cure time?

195 Mr. Amwake responded that the cure time is about 28 days. There was more discussion on full
196 curing time depending on the thickness of concrete.

197
198 Mr. Rinebold asked was everything on time for scheduling? Mr. Amwake responded, yes, they
199 are working with the weather and they do have some float time in the schedule. They are driving
200 to have the Tertiary Phosphorus Building up by March 31, 2022.

201
202 **6. Discussion and Action: Electric Division – Resolution – Hazen**

203
204 Mr. Beaumont stated that Mr. Ronald Hazen is retiring after 15 years. Mr. Ronald Hazen had
205 started at the Department of Public Works. Mr. Beaumont further stated that Mr. Ronald Hazen
206 is always eager and always responds to troubles. When Mr. Hazen would get called in afterhours
207 he would always respond. His availability and willingness to report in during all types of
208 weather, especially during storm restoration will be sorely missed.

209
210 **Motion to approve the Resolution for Ronald Hazen:**

211 **Made by: Mr. Joel Rinebold**

212 **Seconded by: Mr. Robert Beaumont**

213 **Votes: 2 ayes**

214
215 **7. Discussion and Possible Action: Electric Division – Set the PCA – Jan. – June**
216 **2020**

217
218 Mr. Hendershot referenced a memo from December 12 that points out a spreadsheet and
219 calculates that the PCA for the next six months should be at a negative value which is effectively
220 a credit of an amount that is .003433 cents per KWh. This calculated that a typical Wallingford

221 residential customer will therefore see a monthly bill credit of approximately \$2.57 for six
222 months. Given that the magnitude of the change is less than half of a cent there is nothing for the
223 Commission to do with regards to Rate 12 in that when the adjustments are smaller than that the
224 PCA's is to be left alone. Therefore, there is no need for the PUC to take any action. Mr.
225 Beaumont questioned if the reserves are standing on what? Mr. Hendershot replied that based
226 off of a very educated guess it would be a high twenty, less than thirty million dollars.

227

228 **No Action Taken**

229

230 **ADJOURNMENT**

231

232 **Motion to adjourn**

233 **Made by: Mr. Joel Rinebold**

234 **Seconded by: Mr. Robert Beaumont**

235 **Votes: 2 ayes**

236

237 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:58 P.M.

238

239 Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,

240

241

242

243 Bernadette Sorbo

Joel Rinebold

244 Recording Secretary

Secretary

245

246

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