

1 **DRAFT**

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

TOWN OF
WALLINGFORD

JAN 27 2020

6 Tuesday, January 21, 2020

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES

7 6:30 P.M.

8 **MINUTES**

9 **PRESENT:** Chairman Robert Beaumont; Commissioners Patrick Birney (arrived 6:35 p.m.) and
10 Joel Rinebold; Electric Division General Manager Tony Buccheri; Office Manager Tom Sullivan;
11 Water and Sewer Divisions General Manager Neil Amwake; Office Manager William Phelan;
12 Executive Secretary Kathy White; Recording Secretary Bernadette Sorbo;

13 Members of the public – Steve Gale, Robert Cone and Adelheid Koepfer

14
15 Mr. Beaumont called the Meeting to order at 6:30 P.M., and the pledge of Allegiance was
16 recited.

17 **1. Pledge of Allegiance**

18
19 **2. Consent Agenda**

- 20 a. Consider and approve Minutes of January 7, 2020

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

23 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**

24 **Seconded by: Mr. Beaumont**

25 **Votes: 2 ayes**

26
27 **3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None**

28
29 **4. Discussion and Action: Approval of Director's Report for the Month of**
30 **December 2019.**

31
32 In Mr. Hendershot's absence, it is stated that only questions would be asked concerning the
33 Director's Report.

34
35 Mr. Beaumont asked if there were any questions and then asked if anyone has any knowledge
36 of the item on page 4-15 concerning Reconciliation of Load. A discussion about how
37 transmission owners are reporting to ISO-NE the loads of distribution utilities followed. Many
38 utilities are using this strategy with behind the meter generation and batteries. Mr. Beaumont

39 then questioned will ISO-NE reconstitute loads and if they do will they go back a-ways? Mr.
40 Buccheri responded that this is a great question and it is something that was discussed in the
41 past. Mr. Beaumont then requested to note the question and query it as he is concerned with
42 reconstitution.

43
44 **Motion to approve the Director's Report for the Month of December 2019**

45
46 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**

47 **Seconded by: Mr. Beaumont**

48 **Votes: 3 ayes**
49
50

51 **5. Discussion and Action: Electric Division – Revised NEPPA Mutual Aid**
52 **Agreement.**
53

54 Mr. Buccheri reviewed the memorandum dated January 15, 2020 and the final draft of the
55 updated North East Public Power Association (NEPPA) Mutual Aid Agreement. Mr. Buccheri
56 represents NEPPA's South Region utilities on the Mutual Aid Agreement Committee. He stated
57 that the agreement has been in place since 1990 and that is an open ended agreement. The
58 WED doesn't pay to participate in this program and it is something we utilize in the event we
59 need resources to support restoration. He also stated that we do the same for all other utilities
60 involved. The Agreement was sent to the Department of Law for review. Law had one
61 correction which was to have a time frame instead of leaving the Agreement open ended. It
62 was agreed that the agreement would be good for a 5-year term and reviewed and updated, if
63 necessary, on an annual basis.

64
65 Mr. Buccheri stated that upon review of the agreement the first thing that was deleted was the
66 section on arbitration. He also stated that termination language was added so that now at any
67 time a signatory can give ten days' notice and back out of the agreement.
68

69 Mr. Birney questioned in the absent of this agreement would WED have access to this network
70 and would there be alternatives? Mr. Buccheri responded that agreements are in place with
71 Eversource, UI, and another utility company down in Pennsylvania. He stated that just in case
72 we get hammered in the Northeast and need to pull resources from somewhere else, we have
73 the ability to do that. The first line of defense would be NEPPA resources because they are
74 close by. Mr. Rinebold responded that he has a few questions and comments. Mr. Rinebold
75 stated that he is good with dispute resolution through the courts, hold harmless clause, food,
76 lodging set up, insurance by the requesting utility and the schedule for the rates of equipment
77 uses. Mr. Rinebold questioned has this been reviewed by legal and legal will sign off on this?
78

79 Mr. Buccheri responded Law approved. The only caveat Law had was to include a term as they
80 did not want to leave it open ended. Mr. Buccheri stated that he spoke to Bonnie Biocchi from
81 NEPPA and confirmed that a term for the contract was acceptable.
82

83 Mr. Rinebold questioned how do they handle breakage and/or theft of equipment be handled?
84 Is this covered under Schedule of Equipment Rates? Mr. Buccheri stated that he would
85 assume that they would go by those rates. He also stated that when we had crews in the

86 Virgin Islands we got paid for the equipment as the truck came back with bald tires and missing
87 tools. We were reimbursed.

88
89 Mr. Rinebold stated that there is identical language for insurance by both the requesting and
90 the assisting party for the insurance. It appears as though its duplicative but intended to be
91 that way.

92
93 Mr. Beaumont stated that the insurance referred on page 4 section 3 g is for requesting utility
94 and the insurance referred on page 7 section 4 d is for assisting utility. Each one maintains
95 their own. Mr. Buccheri confirmed that each one covered their own. Mr. Rinebold requested to
96 take a look to confirm that information.

97
98
99

100 **Motion to approve the Revised NEPPA Mutual Aid Agreement**

101 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

102 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

103 **Votes: 3 ayes**

104
105 **6. Discussion and Possible Action: Water and Sewer Divisions – Billing Issue**
106 **– Cone.**

107
108 Mr. Beaumont welcomed Mr. Cone to the table. Mr. Beaumont stated that he has the letter
109 from Mr. Cone and questioned if there was anything that he would like to add. Mr. Cone
110 responded no and that he thinks that he may have more problems with the pipe. He then
111 questioned if the Water Division received the samples from the water service? Mr. Amwake
112 responded that they have one of the two samples. The contractor has not provided us with the
113 other sample following a request by the Water Division for the section of the removed water
114 service. Mr. Amwake advised that the pipe is corroded on the outside and they do not know
115 the cause. Mr. Beaumont responded it could be something in the soil. Mr. Amwake stated that
116 occasionally you may get bad copper as well.

117
118 The Wallingford Water Division was required to install services as an agent for the State.
119 Traditionally the Wallingford Water Division does not install services though did so per the
120 Consent Order issued by DEEP. Mr. Amwake stated that this issue has popped up on our radar
121 and that they will continue to monitor it. The issue in front of us is the billing issue. One of the
122 issues is that these are very long water services. Mr. Amwake showed a drawing to the PUC.
123 Mr. Amwake advised that during construction the decision was made to change the meters from
124 inside the house to meter pits directly beyond the water main. Mr. Beaumont questioned if this
125 map was specifically for Mr. Cone's property? Mr. Amwake responded Yes. There are five
126 parallel very long services. In a classic case the homeowner would be responsible for service
127 between the public water main and the house but the water would not have not gone through a
128 meter if it was a traditional service. The Water Division reviews quarterly billing data for water
129 usage outside the traditionally use for a property. If they do get a high-low reading, they
130 contact the customer. Presumption is that it is the soil but the copper is the thinnest that it
131 can be before it is out of specification.

132

133 Mr. Beaumont expressed his concerns on the corrosion from the outside and stated that there
134 has to be a chemical of some description that is interacting with the copper. Mr. Amwake
135 responded that all they can do at this point is continue to monitor. The Water Division was
136 required to install the design as agreed to with the State. Mr. Amwake responded that they
137 will continue to monitor the high-low reports and repeated they are here tonight to address the
138 billing concern.

139
140 Mr. Amwake presented a draft recommendation from the Water Division to the PUC to review,
141 modify and reject it. Mr. Amwake advised there is a caveat to the proposed recommendation.
142 When the original leak occurred and what we are purposing there is still a forthcoming credit.
143 The proposed credit affects three different billing quarters. We have two quarters under the
144 books. The last quarter will be read at the end of this month, it goes back three months before
145 the second leak was repaired. Mr. Beaumont questioned if the second leak was repaired in
146 November? Mr. Cone responded in October. Mr. Amwake responded so the last read date was
147 October 19, 2019 and if you flash forward three months it brings us to this month. Mr. Amwake
148 advised there will be a future adjustment coming. Mr. Cone will get a bill and then the Water
149 Division will have to adjust for it as they cannot change mid-cycle.

150
151 **Motion to adjust billing assuming shared responsibility – Combined credit of**
152 **\$911.21 and future adjustments as necessary**

153 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**

154 **Seconded by: Mr. Birney**

155 **Votes: 3 ayes**

156
157 **7. Discussion and Possible Action: Water and Sewer Divisions – Billing Issue**
158 **– Minervini.**

159
160 Mr. Amwake stated that Mr. Minervini is currently in Arizona and would not be attending the
161 meeting. A neighbor called Mr. Minervini and stated that they saw the outside spigot running.
162 Mr. Minverini then called the Water Division to notify them on November 19, 2019. The Water
163 Division read the water meter on November 20, 2019. Mr. Amwake advised that this is typically
164 a two-step process. The Water Division will go out a day or two early to be sure they can find
165 the curb box and make sure that it is operating. At this point they would test and shut off the
166 curb box. Mr. Amwake stated that upon arrival on November 21st they did not shut off the
167 curb box. When the Division arrived they could hear water running through the service line. On
168 November 26th the Division went back to remove the meter and shut it off at the curb. When
169 looking at the billing data and piecing together information from our staff and the resident there
170 were two items going on, the outside spigot that someone turned on and an inside leak in the
171 toilet. In order to come up with the credit the Division had to figure out what portion was
172 related to the toilet that went to the wastewater collection and treatment system and what
173 portion went to the outside and did not go through the collection system and waste water
174 treatment plant.

175
176 Mr. Amwake came up with the calculation that toilets use 200-350 gallons of water per day.
177 The Division went off the low end, reducing the volume of water that went to the wastewater
178 collection and treatment system. They then looked at typical flow rates that go through the
179 spigot, picked the highest flow rate without a hose at the highest pressure for the location of
180 the residence. Therefore, a recommendation for a sewer credit for the portion of water that

181 was discharged to the ground of \$461.18 should be applied to the Minervini's account. It is
182 further recommended that the Minervini's enter into a payment plan with the Water and Sewer
183 Divisions concerning their outstanding balance of \$487.87. The payment plan shall be a
184 minimum monthly payment of \$50.00 with no interest or lien fees for 12 months provided that
185 the full amount is paid by January 31, 2021; and they remain current with future water and
186 sewer bills. Mr. and Mrs. Minervini shall contact the Water and Sewer Divisions Business Office
187 within fourteen calendar days to enter into the payment plan.
188

189 **Motion to implement the proposal from Mr. Neil Amwake circulated earlier today**

190 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

191 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

192 **Votes: 3 ayes**
193

194 **Public Questions and Answers:**
195

196 Ms. Koepfer questioned on the minutes for the workshop before Christmas regarding the power
197 purchase, line item Green Power Portfolio. Ms. Koepfer stated that she is not sure if this is the
198 correct name for the line item. Mrs. White responded she is close and she is still working on
199 the minutes for this workshop.
200

201 Ms. Koepfer asked if this discussion will be available for the public to review? Mrs. White
202 explained that these minutes have not yet been completed but once completed they will be
203 available for review. Ms. Koepfer further stated that she was not sure because she thought it
204 may have been an Executive Session.
205

206 Mr. Beaumont stated that a portion of the meeting was conducted in executive session. Mrs.
207 White also stated that if this was in the Executive Session it will not be in the minutes. Mr.
208 Beaumont further stated that the only way it would be included in the minutes if there was a
209 vote to act on which would have been discussed in the Executive Session. Anything in the
210 Executive Session would not be included unless action was taken. Ms. Koepfer replied she was
211 not sure if any action was taken.
212

213 Mr. Birney responded that no action was taken, it was a workshop. He also advised that a small
214 piece of the meeting was in Executive Session. This Executive Session of the workshop related
215 to sensitive commercial material about pricing. The vast majority regarding the green initiative
216 was on the record and will be included in the minutes for review.
217

218 **8. Discussion: Update on Sewer Treatment Plant Construction**
219

220 Mr. Amwake reviewed and spoke on the update for the Sewer Treatment Plant Construction.
221 Mr. Amwake stated that they will continue to hold weekly meeting between CHN, AECOM and
222 WSD staff to review and discuss coordination of construction activities. CHN continues to
223 submit many shop drawing submittals (equipment, pumps, materials, etc.) and requests for
224 information (RFIs) which are managed electronically between CHN, AECOM and WSD.
225

226 Mr. Amwake discussed the construction of the Anaerobic Tank. Mr. Amwake stated that all five
227 of the concrete pours for the base slab are complete. Please note that the base slab of the
228 Anaerobic Tank is integrated with the base slab for the Intermediate Pump Station. There are

229 14 concrete wall pours. Three of the concrete pours for the interior and exterior walls have
230 been completed, with two more concrete pours scheduled this week.
231

232 Mr. Amwake discussed the update on the construction of the UV Disinfection/Post Aeration
233 Building. He stated that all of the soil excavation to subgrade is complete and six of the ten
234 lower base slab concrete pours on the Post Aeration side of the structure is complete. It is
235 almost a duplex structure. The back side which is the west side, the side closest to the
236 Quinnipiac River is the Post Aeration Basin. This side is eight feet lower than the east side or
237 the side closet to John Street which is the UV Disinfection side.
238

239 In regards to the Tertiary Phosphorous Building, the excavation of soil is ongoing and 75% of
240 the soil has been removed to date. Excavating for below slab piping is on-going. Through late
241 spring and early summer, we will still continue to see concrete pours.
242

243 Mr. Amwake has decided to include statics each quarter for the Anaerobic Basin. These
244 highlights include:

- 245 • Overall Exterior Dimensions: 123'-4" x 44'-10" x 19'-6" (L x W x H)
- 246 • Interior Dimensions: 120'-0" x 41'-2" x 17'-6" (L x W x H)
- 247 • Thickness of the Floor Slab: 2'-0"
- 248 • Volume: 647,000 gallons (2.8 hours hydraulic residence time [HRT] at future ADF)
- 249 • Design Flow Rate: 5.5 MGD Average, and 27.0 MDG Peak
- 250 • Normal Water Height Inside the Tank: 10'-0"
- 251 • Volume of Concrete to Construct the Structure: 1,375 cubic yards.
252

253 Mr. Beaumont questioned if there have been any problems with the water below the Anaerobic
254 Basin. He was mostly concerned with water below where they are digging. Mr. Amwake
255 responded with No and that the dewatering system is in place. They have been dewatering at
256 both the Anaerobic Basin and the UV Disinfection/Post Aeration Building.
257

258 Mr. Rinebold asked if the water table was expected to rise when you stopped pumping hence
259 the way the concrete to hold the structure from floating? Mr. Amwake replied that is correct.
260 The Anaerobic Basin gives the flexibility to go through the Anaerobic Basin, through Primary
261 Settling Tanks either, or run them in series. We asked for this design.
262

263 Mr. Rinebold then questioned on the hydraulic residence time of 2.8 hours. Is that number
264 consistent with our processing time? Mr. Amwake responded that it is s a linear process. That
265 is at a design flow rate of 5.5 MGD. So if you are at 4 MGD your hydraulic residence time
266 increases. If you take more time up stream it just doesn't get to the Primary Settling Tanks
267 until it is done working its way through.
268

269 Mr. Rinebold asked if we are on schedule and if we have lost any time? Mr. Amwake replied
270 that we are on schedule and have not lost any time.
271

272 Mr. Rinebold questioned how are we with change orders? Mr. Amwake stated that he cannot
273 comment right now because the change order process is such a long process. Right now we
274 are tracking some change orders but do not have final costs. We are looking at a couple of
275 credits but we are looking at some costs as well.
276

277 Mr. Rinebold further questioned if it is too premature to understand budget over runs and under
278 runs with the change orders? Mr. Amwake stated that it is too premature. Our exposure will
279 really be on the electrical. We have been upfront about this, but this is where we will run into
280 dollars.

281
282 Mr. Birney followed with the question how much have we spent thus far compared to budget
283 and if we can include this in the next report? Mr. Amwake responded that all of the change
284 orders need to be reviewed and approved by the State. There are different levels of approval
285 depending on whether or not they are less than or greater than \$100,000.00. This goes both
286 ways even if it is credit over \$100,000.00, the state will have to sign off on this.

287
288 **9. Executive Session pursuant to Section 1-200(6)(A),1-210(b)(2), and 1-**
289 **225(f) of the CT General Statutes to discuss the evaluation and**
290 **performance of the Director of Public Utilities.**

291
292
293 Mr. Beaumont stated that due to Mr. Hendershot being out sick this session can be rescheduled
294 either to the February meeting or January 30 at 2PM if feasible. Mr. Birney responded that he
295 is here and flexible. He would rather do this mid-day. Mr. Rinebold responded that he is
296 available for the 30th as well. Mrs. White responded that she will post.

297
298 **No Action Taken – Discussion Only**

299
300
301
302 **ADJOURNMENT**

303
304 **Motion to Adjourn at 7:22 p.m.**

305 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

306 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

307 **Votes: 3 Ayes**

308
309
310 Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,

311
312
313
314 Bernadette Sorbo
315 Recording Secretary

Joel Rinebold
Secretary

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319
320