

1 **DRAFT**

2 **PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

3 **WALLINGFORD ELECTRIC DIVISION**

4 100 JOHN STREET

5 WALLINGFORD, CT

6 Tuesday, June 16, 2020

7 6:30 P.M.

8 **MINUTES**

9 **The meeting was held via teleconference. In attendance were:**

10 Chairman Robert Beaumont (TC); Commissioners Patrick Birney and Joel Rinebold (TC);
11 Director Richard Hendershot (TC); Electric Division General Manager Tony Buccheri (TC),
12 Office Manager Tom Sullivan (TC); Water and Sewer Divisions General Manager Neil Amwake
13 (TC); Office Manager William Phelan (TC); WED Energy Conservation Specialist Walter
14 Szymanski (TC); Recording Secretary Bernadette Sorbo (TC).

15 *members of the public – Steve Gale (TC)*

16 (TC-TELECONFERENCE)

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

19 **1. Pledge of Allegiance**

20
21 **2. Consent Agenda**

- 22 a. Consider and approve Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2020
23 b. Consider and Approve Electric Division Transfer – Account 586 – Distribution
24 Operations – Meter Expense

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

26 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

27 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

28 **Votes: 3 ayes**

29
30 **3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None**

31
32 **4. Discussion and Action: Approval of Director’s Report for the Month of May,**
33 **2020**

34
35 Mr. Birney stated that after reviewing the May Report and the June Report that he noticed a lot
36 of duplication. But no mention of agenda item #9. Mr. Birney would like to have seen more

37 information in regards to item #9. Mr. Birney would like to have focused more on hot button
38 issues that are the subject matter of the meeting vs. reiteration of the information that is being
39 provided by Mr. Amwake and Mr. Buccheri.

40

41 **Motion to approve the Director's Report**

42 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

43 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

44 **Votes: 3 ayes**

45

46 **5. Discussion and Action: Electric Division – Approval of Electric Vehicle Project**

47

48 Mr. Szymanski stated that SmartCharge New England is a newly developed collaboration
49 between Energy New England, the WED's current wholesale power supply agent, and
50 FleetCarma. Mr. Szymanski referenced the proposal included in the meeting packet that was
51 submitted for review by the PUC. Mr. Szymanski stated that the Electric Vehicle Pilot Program
52 is a methodical and analytic driven approach to assess current and near term customer electric
53 vehicle charging behavior and determine the viability of an incentive program to influence
54 customer behavior to avoid costs during peak load time periods. FleetCarma would provide a C2
55 device that plugs into the diagnostic port of the Electric Vehicle. This is a customer driven
56 program where the customer would sign up for the program and login into their portal. The C2
57 device which is used as cellular technology to transfer the data is sent directly to the customer
58 and the customer installs this. The benefit of this program is that WED will be able to see the
59 data from each participant in the Pilot Program.

60

61 Mr. Rinebold commented that the Electric Vehicles are coming. The pricing is extremely
62 reasonable and he supports the program as well as the bid waiver.

63

64 Mr. Birney concurs with Mr. Rinebold's comments. Mr. Birney questioned on how the project
65 will advance and how will the project be managed with the retirement of Mr. Szymanski?

66

67 Mr. Hendershot responded that a lot of help will come from Energy New England.

68

69 Mr. Birney questioned on how the consumers will know that the project will be up and coming?

70

71 Mr. Szymanski stated that this is referenced on page 5-5 Pilot Program Implementation. The
72 marketing of this Program Pilot will be initiated by the WED through bill stuffers, the quarterly
73 newsletter and other low cost alternatives prior to enlisting Energy New England for an
74 additional and more expansive public outreach effort.

75

76 Mr. Beaumont suggested that once the bid waiver is approved, WED should put together a
77 newsletter or press conference.

78

79 Mr. Buccheri advised that Mr. Szymanski has agreed to work with WED on a part time basis
80 until his position is filled.

81

82

83 **Motion to approve the requested bid waivers associated with the Electric Vehicle Project**
84 **Made by: Mr. Birney**
85 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**
86 **Votes: 3 ayes**

87

88 **6. Discussion and Possible Action: Electric Division – PCA Adjustment**

89

90 Mr. Hendershot emphasized the memo that Mr. Sullivan sent over late in the day on June 16,
91 2020. The summary of power costs for the month of May 2020 and an updated purchased power
92 forecast from Energy New England have been received. Mr. Sullivan was able to update and
93 improve the analysis which resulted in a larger credit. The actual value, based on the updated
94 information, is a credit value of \$(0.013159) per kWh. The previous estimate from June 9 was
95 \$(0.011442).

96

97 **Motion to approve the PCA as calculated today by the WED Business Office Manager Tom**
98 **Sullivan**

99 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

100 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

101 **Votes: 3 ayes**

102

103 **Public Question and Answer Period**

104

105 Mr. Hendershot commented that the Electric Division received an email from a Wallingford
106 customer with some other questions to read in regards to the Electric Vehicle Program discussed
107 earlier on in the meeting.

108

109 Mr. Buccheri read the questions.

110

111 The first question was in regards to the incentives as the customer could not locate this
112 information in the proposal.

113

114 Mr. Buccheri explained that the proposal that is being put forward is to collect data. Based on
115 that data WED will recommend a rate or some other incentive for off peak charging.

116

117 The next question was if the program was only aimed towards residential customers, if there will
118 be charging stations at Stop & Shop, Walmart, Train Stations, etc., and is there data for these
119 stations?

120

121 Mr. Buccheri responded that WED does not at this point. This is more for Electrical Vehicle
122 Owners. This is to monitor their charging habits. Are they charging during peak hours, what
123 does that do to WED and what incentives can WED offer to customers to charge on off peak
124 times?

125

126 The last question was what is WED's approach to load management?

127

- 128 a. Increasing power supply during peak demand summer afternoon with renewable
129 generation storage.
130 b. Time of use rate that can be adjusted as these changes occur.
131

132 Can we quickly explain why alternative metering and other solutions would not be economically
133 viable?
134

135 Mr. Buccheri responded that there is not a quick answer to this question. These options have
136 been looked at in the past. Right now to put that infrastructure in place requires significant
137 investment and does not look like it would provide the return. With the size of utility that WED
138 is it would certainly increase the head count and WED would need to increase computed power
139 to do significant analysis in order to make that investment and pay back for the WED.
140

141 Mr. Hendershot responded that the gist of the question revolves around the concept of time of
142 use rates, which requires time of use metering and time of use billing. Quite some time ago,
143 WED looked into cost of the metering infrastructure to accomplish this. Mr. Hendershot stated
144 that what Mr. Buccheri was referring to above was data manipulation and administration. In
145 order to do this, WED would have to replace all meters and go to full Automatic Metering
146 Infrastructure. This would then involve Communication Infrastructure which would reduce
147 headcount. WED has not done this as this was very costly and the time of use rates would either
148 grossly under or over collect if the rate structure does not exactly match the load shape and
149 structure of the cost.
150

151 Mr. Beaumont commented that capital cost is significant to begin with.
152

153 Steven Gale presented himself and questioned on the Bid Waiver. What is the point of the
154 program if the time of day rates are out of the question?
155

156 Mr. Hendershot responded that WED envisioned a few times each month through Energy of
157 New England identify impending likely pending peak moments and notify the Electric Vehicle
158 Customers. Or carve out certain times of day where WED does not want the customers to
159 charge. WED would monitor the customer's behavior and reward the customers who stay away
160 from those times.
161

162 Mr. Gale questioned if this was going to be done for the Vehicle Program why not reward
163 customers for not using electrical on off peak times?
164

165 Mr. Hendershot responded that the Vehicle Program is being monitored through cellular
166 technology through third party reporting. In order to monitor the residential electric WED would
167 need to implement the infrastructure stated above.
168

169 The Public Question and Answer Period Closed
170
171
172

173 **7. Discussion and Action: Water and Sewer Divisions – Set Date and Time for the**
174 **Public Hearing for the Water/Sewer Rate Changes**

175
176 Mr. Amwake presented a PowerPoint for the Updated Sewer Usage (\$/ccf) Charges. See
177 attached for a copy of the presentation.

178
179 Mr. Beaumont questioned on the Item No. 7-33, Proposed Rate Model. For the FY 24, 25, 26
180 includes other capital improvements on Phase II?

181
182 Mr. Amwake responded that this is correct.

183
184 **Motion to set the date of the Public Hearing as July 16, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in Town Council**
185 **Chambers**

186 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

187 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

188 **Votes: 3 ayes**

189
190 **8. Discussion: WPCF Upgrades Project**

191
192 Mr. Amwake reviewed the building and facility construction. He stated that the construction is
193 substantially complete for the Anaerobic Basin with the exception of installation of the 6 invent
194 mixers, the scum trough and the weir baffle.

195
196 At the Intermediate Pump Station, the contractor is in the process of installing seven (7) slide
197 gates for this structure, ranging in size from 12-inches square to 6-feet by 3-feet.

198
199 At the Main Street Piping, the contractor has installed 60 linear feet of 36-inch effluent piping
200 from the RBC's (RBCE) to the IPS, and 60 linear feet of 36-inch influent piping from the IPS to
201 the Anoxic Basin (AXI). The electrical subcontractor is in the process of installing a 28-conduit
202 duct bank between the Primary Settling Tanks and the AB towards Main Street.

203
204 At the Tertiary Phosphorous Building the Contractor continues to place rebar and form the
205 exterior and interior walls. The concrete installation is approximately 75%± complete for this
206 building.

207
208 At the UV Disinfection/Post Aeration Building the structure passed both the quantitative and the
209 qualitative hydrostatic tests for the exterior walls. The next step is to backfill the interior space
210 to subgrade and pour the floor slabs.

211
212 **Construction Contract Payment Applications – C. H. Nickerson**

213 Original Contract Sum \$45,507,000.00

214 Net Change by Change Orders (\$47,432.14)

215 Contract Sum to Date \$45,459,567.86 As of May 15, 2020

216
217 **Construction Contract Schedule**

218 Original Completion Date February 10, 2022

219 Net Change Schedule Days 0
220 Contract Completion Date February 10, 2022

221
222 **9. Discussion and Action: Approval of Proposed Settlement Agreement Regarding**
223 **FERC Docket EL. 16-19-000**

224
225 Mr. Hendershot advised that he needs to endorse or recommend the proposed settlement
226 agreement as written in the materials that were provided, which would then require Town
227 Council approval of the settlement agreement. The Council Chairman given the nature of the
228 material will hold an Executive Session.

229
230 Mr. Birney advised that he sent an email out to Attorney Jan Small earlier in the day. Mr. Birney
231 questioned Mr. Hendershot on the email that was sent out giving instructions to the PUC not to
232 discuss the matter.

233
234 Mr. Hendershot responded that he was advised to keep this discussion limited and brief.

235
236 Mr. Birney was uncomfortable with the fact that the Town Council is reviewing this agreement
237 in an Executive Meeting. He questioned why the PUC is not discussing this in Executive Session
238 as the PUC is the body which is charged by the Town Charter to act as the Legislative Body for
239 all issues regarding the utility business. Mr. Birney stated that he would not vote to approve this
240 based on the comments and that he had questions for Mr. Doyle.

241
242 Mr. Beaumont questioned if the PUC cannot have an Executive Session?

243
244 Mr. Hendershot responded that he was advised that they were not allowed to have an Executive
245 Session as this did not meet the criteria for Connecticut FOI.

246
247 Mr. Rinebold responded that he is in the same position as Mr. Birney as he would like more
248 information on the scheduled payments. Mr. Rinebold would be satisfied if Mr. Hendershot
249 could discuss the memo 9-66 as opposed to the direct settlement agreement as this is all that he
250 needs to confirm.

251
252 Mr. Hendershot responded that he should be able to.

253
254 Mr. Rinebold questioned if the allocation and total allocation of \$483,420.71 is correct and if this
255 is Mr. Hendershot's understanding of the allocation. Mr. Hendershot responded that this is
256 correct. Mr. Rinebold stated that he believes the allocation figures are very fair. He is
257 concerned that if not reviewed the entire settlement could be disrupted.

258
259 **Motion to endorse the proposed Settlement Agreement, as outlined above**

260 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**

261 **Seconded by: Mr. Beaumont**

262 **Votes: 2 ayes; Birney – nay**

263
264

265 **ADJOURNMENT**

266

267 **Motion to adjourn**

268 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

269 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

270 **Votes: 3 ayes**

271

272 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:31 p.m.

273

274 Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,

275

276

277

278 Bernadette Sorbo

Joel M. Rinebold

279 Recording Secretary

Secretary