

1 **NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION**

2
3 **DRAFT**

4 **PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

5 **WALLINGFORD TOWN HALL**

6 **ROOM 315**

7 **45 SOUTH MAIN STREET**

8 **WALLINGFORD, CT**

9 **Tuesday, May 18, 2021**

10 **6:30 P.M.**

11 **MINUTES**

Approved
6/1/21

TOWN OF
WALLINGFORD

MAY 24 2021

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES

12
13 **PRESENT:** Chairman Robert Beaumont; Commissioners Patrick Birney and Joel Rinebold;
14 Director Richard Hendershot; Electric Division General Manager Tony Buccheri; Water and
15 Sewer Divisions General Manager Neil Amwake; Electric Division Business Office Manager
16 Marianne Dill; Water and Sewer Divisions Business Manager Brian Naples; Recording Secretary
17 Bernadette Sorbo

18 *Members of the public – Mayhew Seavey; Steven Gale*

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

20 **1. Pledge of Allegiance**

21
22 **2. Consent Agenda**

- 23 a. Consider and approve Meeting Minutes of May 04, 2021

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

25
26 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

27 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

28 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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

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32 **4. Discussion and Action: Approval of Director's Report for the Month of April**
33 **2021**

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35 Mr. Beaumont questioned if there has been any discussion on opening up for regular business with
36 respect to Covid-19 protocols?

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Mr. Hendershot stated that he is waiting on guidance from the Town Health Director as he has not heard back on this matter. Mr. Hendershot noted that there is a virtual Town Council Meeting being held tonight, May 18, 2021.

Motion to approve the Director’s Report for the month of April 2021

Made by: Mr. Birney
Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold
Votes: 3 ayes

5. Discussion and Possible Action: Water and Sewer Divisions: Customer Appeal – Monocchi

Mr. Naples stated that on February 11, 2019 a neighbor reported to the Wallingford Water Division that the above referenced property had water coming out of the residential dwelling. The Water Division responded and identified the cause as a frozen meter. The water service was turned off at the curb stop and the frozen meter was removed. This service remained off until a new meter was installed on April 22, 2019. From the normal cycle read on January 15 to the meter removal on February 11, 2019, 48,618 cubic feet of water passed through the meter. On February 13, 2019 a bill was generated for the aforementioned period in the amount of \$3,913.90; comprised of \$1,992.96 in water charges and \$1,920.94 in sewer charges. Since the February 13, 2019 bill the customer has incurred an additional \$501.18 of water and sewer usage charges, as well as \$715.39 of water interest charges, \$699.24 of sewer interest charges, and \$40.00 of lien fees. During this time period the customer has paid \$231.94. Since the appeal could not be investigated immediately due to Covid-19 restrictions, \$123.13 of water interest charges and \$119.94 of sewer interest charges have already been waived. On April 12, 2021 a dye test performed at the property determined that the sump pump located in the basement discharges to the ground in the front yard, not to the sanitary sewer collection system. As of May 10, 2021 the customer’s current balance is \$5,426.64. The customer is seeking a credit for the entire amount of the February 13, 2019 bill as the water was not used for any useful purpose.

Mr. Rinebold stated that he believes the water was used but the sewer was not and that waiving the sewer fee charges and the interest as well as entering into a payment plan is fair.

Mr. Birney questioned if the recommendation is approved and adopted, how will Ms. Monocchi be notified so that the customer can arrange the payment plan within one week?

Mr. Amwake stated that if approved, Mr. Naples will contact Ms. Monocchi on May 19, 2021 to let her know that the payment plan has been accepted and will follow up again on Friday May 21, 2021.

Motion to approve a payment plan for Ms. Monocchi of \$250.00/month with no water interest for 12 months provided that Ms. Monocchi will remain current with future water and sewer bills including new interest charges and any lien fees

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Made by: Mr. Birney
Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold
Votes: 3 ayes

6. Discussion and Action: Water Division: Budget Amendment – Standby Generators Wells 1 and 3 (FY 16-17)

Mr. Amwake stated that Item No. 6 and Item No. 7 are paired together. Under government general acceptable accounting practices, you cannot move capital funds across fiscal years. The project scope is for design, bidding and installation of standby generators at Wells No. 1 and No. 3 where there previously was no emergency power. The work consists of the installation of a standby generator at Well No. 1, and connecting the Well No. 2 electrical service and generator to Well No. 3. Please note that Well No. 2 currently has a natural gas powered emergency generator. Currently the Water Division is waiting on Eversource Natural Gas to install the natural gas lateral from the road to the Building at Well No. 1. The two budget amendments in front of the PUC are:

1. To take money from the FY16-17 design capital account and move to retained earnings.
2. Then move \$14,200.00 from retained earnings into the capital construction account for FY17-18.

Motion to amend the FY20-21 Water Division budget by reducing capital Account #433-00314 (Wells and Springs for FY16-17 associated with the design of the standby generators) by \$14,200.00 through a corresponding increase in the Appropriation to Retained Earnings (Cash) in the Use of Funds section of the budget

Made by: Mr. Birney
Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold
Votes: 3 ayes

7. Discussion and Action: Water Division: Budget Amendment – Standby Generators Wells 1 and 3 (FY 17-18)

Motion to amend the FY20-21 Water Division budget by increasing capital Account #433-00314 (Wells and Springs for FY17-18 associated with the installation of the standby generators) by the amount of \$14,200.00 through a corresponding increase in the Appropriation to Retained Earnings (Cash) in the Source of Funds section of the budget

Made by: Mr. Birney
Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold
Votes: 3 ayes

8. Discussion: WPCF Upgrades Project

Mr. Amwake updated the Commission on the focus of construction.

129
130 At the Secondary Settling Tanks, excavation for the influent pipe gallery for SST5&6 is
131 proceeding.

132
133 At the Secondary Pump Station, the membrane roofing has been placed. The leakage test for the
134 pump wet well is in progress. The contractor poured the final finished floor fill in the pump room.
135 Preparing to install the fine screens, which are located in the flow path prior to pumping wastewater
136 to the TPB.

137
138 At the Tertiary Phosphorous Building, the masonry subcontractor is in the process of installing the
139 brickwork along the west and north walls. Installation of the Actiflo equipment continues.
140 Installing interior CMU for the north stairwell and for the mechanical room located in the
141 southwest corner of the grade level. Completed installation of the 6-inch effluent trough drain
142 piping. Currently installing the 6-inch sludge piping. The motor control center units have been
143 placed.

144
145 At the UV Disinfection/Post Aeration Building, the mechanical subcontractor has begun
146 installation of the Interior ductwork. The electricians continue to install conduit and wiring for the
147 UV/PA building.

148
149 At the Emergency Generator Building, the louvers have been installed. The Electrical work
150 continues.

151
152 At the Existing Personnel Electrical Building, the Electrical work is ongoing.

153
154 At the Site Work, the electrical transformer and the meter box have been installed. The installation
155 of the duct bank along the High Road in front of the EGB has begun.

156
157 Construction Contract Payment Applications – C. H. Nickerson
158 Original Contract Sum \$45,507,000.00
159 Net Change by Change Orders \$105,869.36
160 Contract Sum to Date \$45,612,869.36 As of April 15, 2021
161 (No Change from last month)

162
163 Construction Contract Schedule
164 Original Completion Date February 10, 2022
165 Net Change Schedule Days 0
166 Contract Completion Date February 10, 2022
167 (No Change from last month)

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169 **9. Public Hearing – Proposed Electric Rates**

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171 Mr. Hendershot referenced the memorandum dated May 13, 2021 and referenced the table shown
172 as Item No. 9-2. The table summarizes the projected cost changes by customer class through FY
173 2025 inclusive of the proposed rates and projected wholesale power costs. Mr. Hendershot stated

174 that the overall revenue shows that in FY22 the Electric Rates are down -2.3%, in FY23 -1.8%,
175 in FY24 -0.2% and FY25 2.0%.

176
177 Mr. Gale commented that he appreciated that the rate increases were kept to a minimum.

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179 **10. Discussion and Action: Electric Division – Adoption of Proposed Electric Rates**

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181 Mr. Rinebold stated that he supports the rate structure as it has been presented. The rates maintain
182 revenue sufficient to cover expenses and provide equitable distribution across the rate service
183 classes.

184
185 Mr. Birney stated that he echoes Mr. Rinebold's statement and added that throughout the
186 workshops, Mr. Seavey has provided the PUC with comprehensive information to assist with
187 formulating current rates. The information provided was easy to read and easy to understand.

188
189 Mr. Beaumont commended Mr. Seavey and staff for one of the best presentation's that he has seen
190 with respect to the rate study.

191
192 **Motion to approve the proposed Electric Rates as presented**

193
194 **Made by: Mr. Birney**
195 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**
196 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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198 **Public Question and Answer**

199
200 Mr. Gale referenced the power cost adjustments and questioned if these will remain negative or
201 moving forward will these go positive?

202
203 Mr. Hendershot stated that he does not know as these would be computed about a month from
204 now. Mr. Hendershot stated that his hunch is that this will not change very much.

205
206 Mr. Gale questioned if the PUC will concentrate on Energy Conservation rebate formulas?

207
208 Mr. Hendershot stated that this is a separate effort.

209
210 Mr. Buccheri stated that he has spoken with Mr. Szymanski and the new Energy Efficiency
211 Specialist. Mr. Buccheri is looking into this.

212
213 **Public Question and Answer Period Closed**

214
215 **ADJOURNMENT**

216
217 **Motion to adjourn**
218 **Made by: Mr. Birney**
219 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

220 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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222 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:04 p.m.

223

224 Respectfully submitted,

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228 *Bernadette Sorbo*

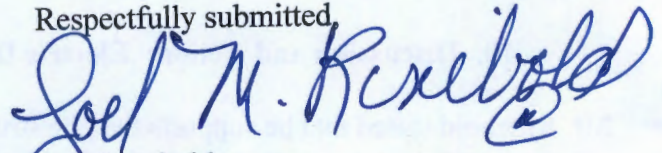
229 Recording Secretary

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Respectfully submitted,



Joel Rinebold
Secretary