

APPROVED

5/3/22

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

WALLINGFORD TOWN HALL

ROOM 315

45 SOUTHMAIN STREET

WALLINGFORD, CT 06492

Tuesday, April 19, 2022

6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Robert Beaumont; Commissioners Patrick Birney and Joel Rinebold (TC); Director Richard Hendershot; Electric Division General Manager Tony Buccheri; Electric Division Business Office Manager Marianne Dill; Water and Sewer Divisions General Manager Neil Amwake; and Recording Secretary Bernadette Sorbo.

Absent – N/A

Members of the public – Kim Maloney

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

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda

Made by: Mr. Birney

Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold

Votes: 3 ayes

3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None

41 **4. Discussion and Action: Approval of the Director’s Report for the Month of**
42 **March 2022**

43
44 Mr. Rinebold expressed his concerns in regards to the volatility increasing with both the
45 wholesale electric costs and the lead times for the supply chain of the key components such as
46 transformers. Mr. Rinebold stated that he appreciates the staff for recognizing this and using
47 priority to keep inventory and supply of these components.

48
49 Mr. Birney questioned what is the discussion going to be in regards to the workshop for ISO
50 New England?

51
52 Mr. Hendershot stated that the Mayor has inquired repeatedly about the Energy Market in
53 regards to who’s in it and how is it made up? The Mayor was concerned about Wall Street’s
54 involvement in the Energy Market. While trying to get answers for the Mayor, Mr. Hendershot
55 received a well-developed PowerPoint presentation from David Cavanaugh, the Vice President
56 of Regulatory Affairs at Energy New England. The PowerPoint presentation well describes the
57 structure of ISO New England and will be able to give good answers to the PUC and the Mayor
58 at the workshop.

59
60 Mr. Birney questioned if the Nucor Meeting was in regards to the high energy costs?

61
62 Mr. Hendershot stated that it was. The primary topic was Nucor’s recent experiences with daily,
63 and higher than usual energy costs and an overview of the New England electricity grid and
64 markets.

65
66 Mr. Birney questioned what are Pool Transmission Funds filing?

67
68 Mr. Hendershot stated that all owners of transmission facilities within the Regional Transmission
69 Organization (ISO-NE) are entitled to receive their costs of ownership and operation of their
70 transmissions facilities. This is done through filing their accounting records.

71
72 Mr. Birney questioned why was the position for the System Operator re-advertised?

73
74 Mr. Buccheri stated that the position was not filled. The posting did not generate any qualified
75 candidates, therefore the position has been re-posted and re-advertised.

76
77 Mr. Birney questioned if the 20% increase in the wholesale power costs will come out of the
78 retained earnings since it was not included in the budget?

79
80 Mr. Hendershot responded yes, until the PCA can catch up and replenish the funds.

81
82 Mr. Beaumont referenced Item No. 4-3 and questioned if bidding is supposed to be Autumn
83 2023 or Autumn 2022 for Contract 38?

84
85 Mr. Amwake stated that the bidding is supposed to be Autumn 2023 as Contract 38 is split into
86 two parts, 38.1 and 38.2. The Water Division will be funding two streets in FY 22-23 and will

87 fund the other two streets in FY 23-24. The Water Division will not have 100% of the estimated
88 budget until July 1, 2023.

89
90 Mr. Beaumont referenced Item No. 4-8, Overall Load Coverage and questioned why Pierce was
91 mentioned as this “does not include Pierce?”

92
93 Mr. Hendershot stated that Mr. Beaumont is correct. This should not include Pierce and has
94 been noted.

95
96 Mr. Hendershot requested to strike WED Business Office Manager Dill from Item No. 4-1, in the
97 paragraph, On March 16, GM Buccheri, **WED Business Office Manager Dill** and insert WED
98 Business Office Manager Dill to the following paragraph, On March 29, the WED GM, Chief
99 Engineer, **WED Business Office Manager Dill** and Director...

100
101 **Motion to Approve the Director’s Report for the month of March 2022**

102
103 **Made by: Mr. Birney**
104 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**
105 **Votes: 3 ayes**

106
107
108
109 **Public Question and Answer Period**

110
111 No members of the Public Present

112
113 **Public Question and Answer Period Closed**

114
115
116
117 **5. Discussion and Action: Waive Article I, Section I – Water Division Budget**
118 **Amendment FY 2021-2022 – Operating Labor and Expenses – In-House**
119 **Laboratory Supplies Including Water Quality**

120
121 **Motion to Waive Article I, Section I and add the above referenced endorsement to the**
122 **agenda**

123
124 **Made by: Mr. Birney**
125 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**
126 **Votes: 3 ayes**

127
128
129
130 **6. Discussion and Action: Water Division Budget Amendment FY 2021-2022 –**
131 **Operating Labor and Expenses – In-House Laboratory Supplies Including**
132 **Water Quality**

133 Mr. Amwake introduced Kim Maloney, a Chemist with the Water and Wastewater Laboratories.
134

135 Mr. Amwake stated that the gas chromatograph mass spectrophotometer (GCMS) system at the
136 Water and Wastewater Laboratory utilized to perform water quality testing, is currently not
137 operating. The GCMS is an expensive piece of equipment and was purchased in 2018. The
138 GCMS system is utilized to analyze for trihalomethanes (disinfection by-products; chlorine
139 degradation products), regulated volatile organic compounds (VOCS), and taste and odor
140 constituents in drinking water. Results of these analyses are reported to the State of Connecticut
141 Department of Public Health. The Chemist, Ms. Maloney and the Sewer Division Electrical
142 Technician have attempted to troubleshoot and correct the issue in-house, though were unable to.
143 Based on discussions between laboratory staff and PerkinElmer Health Sciences, Inc., the
144 manufacturer of the GCMS system, the working hypothesis is that the turbomolecular pump will
145 need to be replaced, with this work conducted on site. PerkinElmer Health Sciences, Inc. has
146 submitted a quotation of \$12,170.00 to repair the GCMS system. With a 5% contingency the
147 estimated cost to repair this important piece of water quality laboratory equipment is \$12,800.00.
148 Therefore, the Water Division is requesting that the PUC approve of a FY21-22 budget
149 amendment to increase Account #43100642 – Operating Labor and Expenses by \$12,800.00
150 which includes the 5% contingency.

151
152 Mr. Birney questioned what caused the pump to fail? Was there a warranty that could have been
153 purchased when the GCMS system was purchased that would have covered these repairs?
154

155 Ms. Maloney stated that she would have liked to fix the system and have the system up and
156 running rather than waiting for a technician to come in and charge \$2,000.00 - \$4,000.00 just to
157 enter the building. Systems that are decades older seem to just need preventative maintenance
158 and are more reliable. The problem with the older equipment is that companies do not want to
159 sell equipment over ten years old as the parts are not in stock and hard to get. The newer systems
160 have more technology that is likely to break. The bid for this particular system came with a
161 three-year warranty. Typically, the warranty that is offered is only for one year. The GCMS
162 system was only 4 months out of the warranty. Ms. Maloney stated that she understands the
163 frustration and that it is out of her control.

164
165 **Motion to Approve the FY 21-22 Budget Amendment to increase Account #43100642 –**
166 **Operating Labor and Expenses by \$12,800.00**
167

168 **Made by: Mr. Birney**
169 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**
170 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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172
173

174 **7. Discussion: WPCF Upgrades Project**

175
176 Mr. Amwake updated the Commission on the construction of the WPCF Upgrades Project.
177 At the Secondary Settling Tanks, the electricians continue to install conduit and pull wires in the
178 electrical building on top of the SST gallery extension roof. SST 5 & 6 have been put into

179 operation. SST 3 & 4 have been removed from service and drained so that the effluent scum
180 troughs can be replaced and the return activated sludge (RAS) pumps and piping for these two
181 secondary settling tanks can also be replaced.

182
183 At the Secondary Pump Station, optimization of the pump on/off cycling in response to the
184 influent flowrate to the SPS continues.

185
186 At the Tertiary Phosphorous Building, the Kruger Actiflo Tertiary Phosphorus Treatment System
187 is online and operational. Optimization of the individual equipment and chemical dosages
188 associated with the tertiary phosphorus treatment process, along with optimization of each
189 treatment train as a complete unit, continues. Staff continues to monitor and optimize the
190 chemical dosage at the influent trough at the secondary settling tanks upstream of the TPB.

191
192 At the UV Disinfection/Post Aeration Building, testing of each UV disinfection channel is
193 complete. The UV disinfection system is operational and will be put online on April 25th in
194 advance of the start of the UV disinfection season on May 1, 2022. The post aeration system is
195 online and operational.

196
197 At the Existing Personnel Electrical Building, the electrical work is substantially complete.

198
199 For Site Work, construction of the SCADA duct bank along Main Street is complete.
200 Construction of the electrical duct bank between the electrical building on top of the SST gallery
201 extension roof and the Intermediate Pump Station (IPS) is complete. The Contractor is
202 substantially complete with excavation for the site light pole foundations and conduit runs. The
203 concrete sidewalks along the SPS and TPB have been installed. The Contractor is currently
204 installing new roadway base material throughout the site.

205
206 Construction Contract Payment Applications – C. H. Nickerson

207	Original Contract Sum	\$45,507,000.00	
208	Net Change by Change Orders	<u>\$179,590.33</u>	(No Change this Month)
209	Contract Sum to Date	\$45,686,590.33	As of March 15, 2022

210

211

212 Construction Contract Schedule

213	Original Completion Date	February 10, 2022	
214	Net Change Schedule Days	<u>193</u>	(No Change this Month)
215	Contract Completion Date	August 22, 2022	As of March 15, 2022

216

217

218

219 **Committee Reports/Correspondence – None**

220

221

222

223 **ADJOURNMENT**

224

225 **Motion to adjourn**
226 **Made by: Mr. Birney**
227 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**
228 **Votes: 3 ayes**

229
230 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:28 p.m.

231
232 Respectfully submitted,

233
234 *Michelle Bracale for*

235
236 Bernadette Sorbo
237 Recording Secretary

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Rinebold/mb

Joel Rinebold
Secretary