

APPROVED

6/7/22

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

WALLINGFORD TOWN HALL

ROOM 315

45 SOUTHMAIN STREET

WALLINGFORD, CT 06492

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

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

*Absent – Electric Division General Manager Tony Buccheri*

*Members of the public – None*

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**

- a. Consider and approve meeting Minutes of May 3, 2022
- b. Consider and approve Budget Transfer- FY 2021-2022 - Electric - Admin. and General - Property Insurance
- c. Consider and approve Budget Appropriation - FY 2021-2022 - Electric – Various Accounts - Management Contract Settlement

**Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda**

**Made by: Mr. Birney**

**Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

**Votes: 3 ayes**

42           **3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None**  
43  
44  
45

46           **4. Discussion and Action: Approval of Director’s Report for the Month of April**  
47           **2022**  
48

49 Mr. Birney questioned, why there was not approval for the two storms, Ida and Henri, from  
50 FEMA?  
51

52 Mr. Hendershot stated that the neither of the two storms caused enough damage in New Haven  
53 County to result in a disaster declaration therefore WED was not eligible for reimbursement.  
54

55 Mr. Birney questioned, what is the Unite CT Program?  
56

57 Mr. Hendershot stated that Unite CT is a program administered by the State of Connecticut  
58 Department of Housing to provide monetary assistance to renters affected by the COVID  
59 pandemic with their rent and electricity bills.  
60

61 Mr. Birney questioned, what is the period of time that the job vacancies should be filled? What  
62 is the period of time that the job vacancies would be filled if it was a private sector/company  
63 attempting to fill these positions?  
64

65 Mr. Amwake stated that if this was the private sector, hiring for the vacancies the jobs would be  
66 filled sooner. Mr. Amwake referenced Page No. 4-103 and stated an authorization for  
67 Employment for a Water and Sanitary Sewer Inspector, Engineering Section, was initiated on  
68 August 6, 2021. The oral panel for that position did not occur until January, 2022. There is a  
69 lengthy process with Human Resources and the Department of Public Utilities have had  
70 conversations with Human Resources in regards to greater efficiencies.  
71

72 Mr. Amwake referenced Page No. 4-102 and stated that the Business Manager position had a  
73 closing date of March 29, 2022. In speaking with Human Resources one week ago, they still  
74 have not determined who the qualified candidates are. An oral panel examination still needs to  
75 be set up and completed. The next steps after the oral panel examination would then be  
76 interviews with select candidates, the a conditional offer letter to the preferred candidate,  
77 background check, driving history and a physical and drug screen. After the conditional offer is  
78 issued, realistically it will be another 6-9 weeks before the position is filled. Human Resources  
79 will not let the General Managers of the Divisions comment, see or touch the applications before  
80 the certified lists are issued should there be any improprieties or favoritism.  
81

82 Mr. Birney questioned, can a line item be added in next year’s budget for the PUC to hire its own  
83 Human Resources professional?  
84

85 Mr. Hendershot stated that he would gratefully tilt at this suggestion with the Commissions  
86 support. Mr. Hendershot believes that something like this will be the ultimate answer.  
87

88 Mr. Beaumont and Mr. Rinebold agreed that this is a good idea.

89  
90 Mr. Hendershot thanked the Commissions for initiating that conversation and stated that he  
91 really appreciated it.

92  
93 Mr. Rinebold stated wastewater from April 2021 to April 2022 is up 30.37% but rainfall is down  
94 2.8%. Is this infiltration?

95  
96 Mr. Amwake stated it is groundwater. A lot of it is coming from sump pumps as it is not coming  
97 through the collection system. Additionally, as shown on Page 4-110 the WPCF influent for  
98 April 2021 was below the 3-year mean and the lowest of the 4 years plotted. Thus, with a  
99 smaller denominator the month-to-month comparison between April 2021 and April 2022 will  
100 result in a higher percentage increase from a statistical perspective.

101  
102 Mr. Rinebold stated that the energy prices are going up and referenced Page No. 4-13. The  
103 overall average cost for Energy is 14.8% higher than the budgeted Energy cost and the spot  
104 market prices for unhedged volume cost the town \$350,000.00 which is \$173,000.00 higher than  
105 hedged. Mr. Rinebold questioned what are WED's thoughts on this? Hedge for load following?

106  
107 Mr. Hendershot stated that load following has not been offered by the counterparties in recent  
108 solicitations. At the last ERMOC meeting it was decided that WED would no longer hold itself  
109 to the self-imposed limit of 90% hedging.

110  
111 **Motion to Approve the Director's Report for the month of April 2022**

112  
113 **Made by: Mr. Birney**  
114 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**  
115 **Votes: 3 ayes**

116  
117  
118  
119 **Public Question and Answer Period**

120  
121 No members of the public present

122  
123 **Public Question and Answer Period Closed**

124  
125  
126  
127 **5. Discussion: WPCF Upgrades Project**

128  
129 Mr. Amwake updated the Commission on the construction of the WPCF Project.

130  
131 The Anaerobic Basin is now online. The six invent mixers have been started and flow has been  
132 introduced through the Anaerobic Basin.

133

134 At the Intermediate Pump Station, refurbished IPS Pump 2 has been installed and placed into  
135 operation. Pulled and terminated wiring to the new programmable logic control panel for the  
136 IPS.

137  
138 At the Secondary Settling Tanks, continued demolition and installation of new scum skimmers in  
139 Secondary Settling Tanks 3 and 4 (SST 3&4). Installation of the effluent launders for SST 4 is  
140 complete. Demolition of return activated sludge (RAS) pumps 4, 5 and 8 along with demolition  
141 of the associated piping. Installed new RAS pumps 3, 4 and 8 and associated piping.

142  
143 At the Secondary Pump Station, conducted performance testing of the Secondary Effluent  
144 Pumps. Optimization of the pump on/off cycling in response to the influent flowrate to the SPS  
145 continues.

146  
147 At the Tertiary Phosphorous Building, the Kruger Actiflo tertiary phosphorus treatment system is  
148 online and operational. Optimization of the individual equipment and chemical dosages  
149 associated with the tertiary phosphorus treatment process, along with optimization of each  
150 treatment train as a complete unit, continues. Staff continues to monitor and optimize the  
151 chemical dosage at the influent trough at the secondary settling tanks upstream of the TPB.

152  
153 At the UV Disinfection/Post Aeration Building, the UV disinfection system is operational and  
154 was put online on April 25<sup>th</sup> in advance of the start of the UV disinfection season that began on  
155 May 1, 2022.

156  
157 At the Anoxic Tank, repowered existing Anoxic Mixers 1 and 3 to the Secondary Pump Station  
158 motor control center. Installed conduit and pulled wiring for new flow sensors in the AT.

159  
160 For Site Work, the Contractor has completed excavation for the site light pole foundations and  
161 conduit runs. The Contractor has completed installation of new roadway base material and has  
162 placed the binder course of pavement throughout the site. Installation of permanent perimeter  
163 fencing is ongoing. Rough graded turf and stone areas around the AB, SSTs, SPS and UV/PA.

164

165 Construction Contract Payment Applications – C. H. Nickerson

166 Original Contract Sum	\$45,507,000.00	
167 Net Change by Change Orders	<u>\$179,590.33</u>	(No Change this Month)
168 Contract Sum to Date	\$45,686,590.33	As of April 15, 2022

169

170

171 Construction Contract Schedule

172 Original Completion Date	February 10, 2022	
173 Net Change Schedule Days	<u>193</u>	(No Change this Month)
174 Contract Completion Date	August 22, 2022	As of April 15, 2022

175

176

177

178           **6. Executive Session pursuant to State of Connecticut General Statutes §1-**  
179           **200(6)(A), §1-210(b)(2), and §1-225(f) to discuss the evaluation and performance**  
180           **of the Director of Public Utilities**

181  
182   **Motion was made to move into Executive Session at 7:08 p.m. pursuant to State of**  
183   **Connecticut General Statutes §1-200(6)(A), §1-210(b)(2), and §1-225(f) to discuss the**  
184   **evaluation and performance of the Director of Public Utilities**

185  
186   **Made by: Mr. Birney**  
187   **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**  
188   **Votes: 3 ayes**

189  
190   Attendance at Executive Session: Chairman Robert Beaumont; Commissioners Patrick  
191   Birney and Joel Rinebold; Director Richard Hendershot

192  
193   Time of Executive Session: 7:08 p.m. - 7:22 p.m.

194  
195  
196

197   **ADJOURNMENT**

198  
199   **Motion to adjourn**  
200   **Made by: Mr. Birney**  
201   **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**  
202   **Votes: 3 ayes**

203  
204   The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:23 p.m.

205  
206   Respectfully submitted,

207  
208   *Bernadette Sorbo for*

209   Bernadette Sorbo  
210  
211   Recording Secretary

Respectfully submitted,

*Joel Rinebold /mb*

Joel Rinebold

Secretary