

APPROVED

10/17/23

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
WALLINGFORD ELECTRIC DIVISION

100 JOHN STREET
WALLINGFORD, CT 06492

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Robert Beaumont; Commissioners Joel Rinebold and Laurence Zabrowski; Director Richard Hendershot; Electric Division General Manager Jake Arborio; Electric Division Business Office Manager Marianne Dill; Water and Sewer Divisions General Manager Neil Amwake; Water and Sewer Divisions Business Manager Donald Langenauer and Acting Recording Secretary Michelle Bracale

Absent – None

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 September 19, 2023
- b. Consider and Approve Budget Amendment – Water Division – FY 2023-2024 – Transmission & Distribution Mains – Clearing
- c. Consider and Approve Budget Amendment – Sewer Division – FY 2023-2024 – Liability Insurance

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda

Made by: Mr. Rinebold

Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski

Votes: 3 ayes

3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

43 None

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4. Discussion and Possible Action: Budget Transfer – Electric Division – FY 2023-2024 – Distribution Plant – Underground Conductors

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Mr. Arborio stated that the Electric Division is entertaining an expansion of an existing customer, Nel Hydrogen who is located on Technology Drive. Nel Hydrogen is expanding their service from 1.2 MW to 6 or 7 MW. Based on the size, Nel Hydrogen will likely have their own feeder. This transfer will come out of the transportation budget Account 392 to Account 367 in the amount of \$285,000.00. This funding is to procure the cable for this project. Once Nel Hydrogen has completed their detail design, the necessary underground infrastructure needed shall be assessed.

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The PUC further discussed the general configuration of the project.

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Motion to Approve the Budget Transfer – Electric Division in the amount of \$285,000.00 from Account 392 to Account 367 - Distribution Plant – Underground Conductors

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Made by: Mr. Zabrowski

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Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold

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Votes: 3 ayes

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Public Question and Answer Period

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None – No Members of the Public Present

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Public Question and Answer Period Closed

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5. Discussion and Possible Action: Proposed Agreement Between the Town of Wallingford – Sewer Division and Gaylord Hospital to Design, Construct and Fund a Replacement Sewer Lateral

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Mr. Amwake stated that Gaylord Hospital, Inc. owns and operates an existing sanitary sewer lateral between their campus at 50 Gaylord Farm Road and Ridgenoll Road, Wallingford. Based on circa 2022 flow measurements and calculations performed by the Water and Sewer Divisions Engineering Section, the existing Gaylord sanitary sewer lateral contributes approximately 5,732,540 gallons per year of inflow and infiltration into the Wallingford Sewer Division wastewater collection system and to the wastewater treatment plant. The WSD is looking to work with Gaylord Hospital as a public-private partnership. The WSD will design, bid and award the new sanitary sewer lateral. The WSD will then provide construction and administration

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89 services. Direct costs incurred by the project up to \$500,000.00 will be split evenly between
90 Gaylord Hospital and the Wallingford Sewer Division (a 50/50 cost split). If the direct costs are
91 over \$500,000.00 Gaylord is responsible for all direct costs over \$500,000.00. Direct costs
92 include expenses for surveying, geotechnical borings, permitting, bid advertisement and
93 construction costs. The direct project costs as of July 1, 2024 are estimated to be \$491,550.00.
94 At a 50/50 split the return on investment for the WSD's portion of \$245,775.00 is 4.97 years.
95 This is based on a FY 2021-22 expense of \$0.008621 per gallon of wastewater to convey and
96 treat the wastewater. The new lateral will be located between the Gaylord campus and Harnish
97 Lane. This request is being made as this project is not a strict reimbursement project as defined
98 in the "Policy Regarding Reimbursement of Infiltration and Inflow Removal Costs" and as such
99 a project-specific Agreement has been drafted between Gaylord Hospital, Inc. and the
100 Wallingford Sewer Division to address this particular and identifiable situation of a large volume
101 of infiltration and inflow entering into the sanitary sewer collection and treatment system. The
102 Sewer Division is requesting the PUC's adoption approval of the agreement. Per the Department
103 of Law, this agreement does not have to go to the Town Council. Mr. Amwake noted that
104 Gaylord has already reviewed and signed the agreement.

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106 There were discussions and questions in regards to some concerns on who should be responsible
107 for the design and obtaining permits, specifically a permit from the Inland Wetlands and
108 Watercourses Commission.

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110 **Motion to Approve the Proposed Agreement Between the Town of Wallingford – Sewer**
111 **Division and Gaylord Hospital to Design, Construct and Fund a Replacement Sewer**
112 **Lateral**

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114 **Made by: Mr. Beaumont**
115 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**
116 **Votes: 2 ayes, 1 nay**

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120 **6. Discussion and Possible Action: Budget Amendment – Water Division – FY**
121 **2023-2024 – Interest on Long Term Debt – Mackenzie Dredging**
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123 Mr. Amwake stated that in 3 ½ years the Water Division has gone through 5 Business Managers,
124 including Acting Business Managers. This was an oversight and the Water Division owes the
125 money. Mr. Amwake noted that the new budget number has only hit the budget cycle twice
126 since the debt was refinanced in August, 2021.

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128 Mr. Langenauer stated that there was a line item on the budget for the debt but no numbers were
129 shown on the spreadsheet he received for the prior years. Therefore, no one looked at the item.

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131 **Motion to Approve the Budget Amendment – Water Division in the amount of \$52,416.60**
132 **from Retained Earnings to Account #43100427 Interest on Long Term Debt – Mackenzie**
133 **Dredging**

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135 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**
136 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**
137 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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141 **7. Discussion and Possible Action: Budget Transfer – Water Division – FY 2023-**
142 **2024 – Replacement of Lift Gate and Side Steps on WD-31**

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144 Mr. Amwake stated that in 2012, the Wallingford Water Division purchased a new pick-up truck
145 with a hydraulic lift gate. This vehicle is assigned to the Pistapaug Water Treatment Plant, and
146 the lift gate is used for moving various materials to each of the facilities. In 2019, a new tread
147 plate was installed on this lift gate, as the old tread plate had corroded. Due to additional
148 corrosion that has occurred over the past few years, the entire lift gate now requires replacement.
149 The side steps for entry and exit from the cab also require replacement. This vehicle is not due
150 for replacement until FY 2025-26. The current Water Division FY 2023-24 capital budget
151 includes a line item for a new snow plow for WD-16 in the amount of \$5,000.00. The snow
152 plow for this truck does not require immediate replacement. As such, the WWD would like to
153 have these funds transferred to a capital account for replacement of the lift gate and side steps on
154 WD-31. Since this is an inter-account transfer of funds, a budget transfer form and updated
155 budget pages are not required. Funds are simply being moved between line items in Account #
156 43300394 – Tools, Shop & Garage Equipment.

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158 **Motion to Approve the Budget Transfer – Water Division – FY 2023-2024- Replacement of**
159 **Lift Gate and Side Steps on WD-31**

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161 **Made by: Mr. Zabrowski**
162 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**
163 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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168 **8. Committee Reports/Correspondence**

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169 Mr. Amwake referenced the memorandum dated September 27, 2023 and stated that a customer
170 called and complimented the Chief Water Meter Man, Mr. Steven Vollero for his knowledge,
171 punctuality and work ethic while installing the new water meter.

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173 Mr. Beaumont stated that majority of the times all that is heard about is complaints and that it is
174 nice to hear compliments.

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176 **ADJOURNMENT**

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178 **Motion to Adjourn**

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180 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**

181 **Seconded by: Mr. Zabrowski**

182 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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184 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:51 p.m.

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187 Respectfully submitted,

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191 Michelle Bracale

192 Recording Secretary

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Respectfully submitted,

Laurence Zabrowski/mb

Laurence J. Zabrowski

Secretary