

1 **DRAFT**

2 **PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

3 **WALLINGFORD TOWN HALL, ROOM 315**

4 **45 S. MAIN STREET**

5 **WALLINGFORD, CT 06492**

6 **Tuesday, August 18, 2020**

7 **6:30 P.M.**

**TOWN OF  
WALLINGFORD**

**AUG 24 2020**

**DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC UTILITIES**

8 **MINUTES**

9 Commissioners Patrick Birney and Joel Rinebold; Director Richard Hendershot; Electric  
10 Division General Manager Tony Buccheri, Office Manager Tom Sullivan; Water and Sewer  
11 Divisions General Manager Neil Amwake; Office Manager William Phelan; Recording Secretary  
12 Bernadette Sorbo.

13 Absent - Chairman Robert Beaumont

14 *Members of the public – Jared Liu*

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

16 **1. Pledge of Allegiance**

17  
18 **2. Consent Agenda**

- 19 a. Consider and approve Meeting Minutes of July 16, 2020  
20 b. Consider and approve Meeting Minutes of July 21, 2020  
21 c. Consider and Approve Electric Division Transfer – Account 372 – Distribution  
22 Plant Leased Property – Private Lights  
23 d. Consider and Approve – Water Division – Transfer – Workers Compensation  
24 Replenish Reserve  
25 e. Consider and Approve – Water Division – Transfer – Sick/Vacation Accrual  
26 f. Consider and Approve – Sewer Division – Transfer – Sick/Vacation Accrual  
27 g. Consider and Approve – Sewer Division – Transfer – Phosphorous Project  
28 Accrued Interest Payable  
29

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

31 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**

32 **Seconded by: Mr. Birney**

33 **Votes: 2 ayes**

34  
35 **3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None**

38  
39 **4. Discussion and Action: Approval of Director's Report for the Month of July,**  
40 **2020**  
41

42 Mr. Hendershot spoke on the recent Tropical Storm Isaias and the damage that resulted from the  
43 storm. He advised that the initial cost estimate is approximately \$620,000.00 and that there  
44 were 19 broken poles and 21 damaged transformers. This storm compared quite similarly to  
45 Hurricane Irene.  
46

47 Mr. Birney questioned on the timing of getting everyone up and running from Hurricane Irene  
48 compared to Tropical Storm Isaias. Mr. Hendershot responded that to the best of his recollection  
49 restoration for this storm went faster. It took about 8 days to complete with Hurricane Irene  
50 whereas Storm Isaias took 4-1/2 to 5 days.  
51

52 Mr. Birney thanked Mr. Hendershot, Mr. Buccheri and the team for a job well done.  
53

54 Mr. Buccheri spoke on the road cleanup and the help that was provided, especially by the Water  
55 Division..  
56

57 Mr. Birney referenced a paragraph from the Wholesale Power Supply Summary listed as Item  
58 #4-13 "Forward energy prices for all years were fairly stable in July, 2020 is noticeably lower  
59 than all other years due to the low spot market prices, while 2021 is noticeably higher than all  
60 other years. Recall that the WED is already at the self-imposed hedge level of 90% for each of  
61 2020 and 2021, but does have room for purchases in each of 2022-2024. 2022-2024 prices are  
62 down approximately 20% since August 2, 2019." Mr. Birney asked based on the above  
63 paragraph, is this an implied recommendation that we should be looking to acquire energy for  
64 that period of time? Mr. Hendershot replied that the WED had already done some of this with the  
65 purchase that was made in June. He stated that typically Spring and Fall is the best time to  
66 purchase as this is the off season. As of now the demands are the highest as it is the Summer.  
67 Typically, the costs will soften in the off season.  
68

69 Mr. Birney questioned on the analysis for the Covid-19 impact of usage in comparison to the fact  
70 that there were more hot days in 2020 vs 2019. He noted that the low was up slightly from 2019.  
71 Mr. Hendershot stated that it appears that Covid-19 is suppressing electricity consumption.  
72 People are only home as before they would also be at their offices.  
73

74 Mr. Rinebold questioned on the status of the Pierce Station after the fire that occurred on June 6.  
75 Mr. Hendershot responded that the station is fine. After further investigation the fire started  
76 from accumulated lube oil. The unit has been examined and there was just superficial damage  
77 which has been repaired.  
78

79 Mr. Rinebold referenced Item #4-14 and asked if there is any indication on looking into  
80 reconstituting the behind-the-meter loads for the transmission tariffs? Anything new? Mr.  
81 Hendershot responded that the idea behind this is gathering momentum. Moving forward there  
82 will probably be a push to document and real time monitor the information. Mr. Hendershot  
83 stated that he is not yet sure where this will all go.

84

85 Mr. Birney questioned Mr. Amwake on the monthly rainfall measurement vs. production as the  
86 rainfall is down and production is up. There have been two dry months and everyone has tried to  
87 keep up on their lawn, therefore the irrigation numbers have risen. Also, as the heat goes up the  
88 chlorine residual in the distribution system needs to be flushed. The production increase is from  
89 more people home, more people watering their lawns as well as the distribution system flushing  
90 program.

91

92 Mr. Birney questioned if there is a forecast for mandatory water conservation? Mr. Amwake stated  
93 no. As of August 14 the effective impoundment was 1,580 million gallons of water which is  
94 82.2% for reservoir. The historic average for the month of August is 81.9%. The drought  
95 advisory will not begin until approximately 1,200 million gallons of effective storage. Current  
96 levels are approximately 380 million gallons above the first drought threshold. This is monitored  
97 every Friday.

98

99

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

101 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**

102 **Seconded by: Mr. Birney**

103 **Votes: 2 ayes**

104

105

## 106 **5. Discussion: WPCF Upgrades Project Update**

107

108 Mr. Amwake reviewed the Building and Facility Construction.

109

110 At the Anaerobic Basin, the construction of this structure is substantially complete with the  
111 exception of installation of the 6 invent mixers and tank-specific overhead lighting.

112

113 At the Intermediate Pump Station (IPS), the hoist and monorail have been installed, with the  
114 wiring for the hoist outstanding at this time. The temporary wiring for the pumps has been  
115 installed. Planning to switch over from the existing IPS to the new IPS is underway.

116

117 At Main Street Piping, the 36-inch diameter Anoxic Tank influent (AXI) pipe between the IPS  
118 and the Anoxic Tank is progressing. The electrical subcontractor is installing the electric duct  
119 bank to provide permanent power to RBC Rows 1-4 as well as to the Anoxic Tank mixers.

120

121 At the Tertiary Phosphorous Building the interior concrete walls for the below grade floor are  
122 complete. The contractor is currently erecting shoring and installing formwork for the ground  
123 level floor slab. The ground level walls will be constructed of block and brick.

124

125 At the UV Disinfection/Post Aeration Building the UV Building ground level floor slabs are  
126 complete. The Contractor has begun to erect the block walls for the UV Building. Please note  
127 that the PA portion of this structure is open (no exterior walls or roof).

128

129 At the Emergency Generator Building, the installation of the block retaining wall for the EGB  
130 and the associated 10,000-gallon aboveground fuel storage tank is complete. The Contractor is  
131 excavating for the underground electrical feed between the EGB and the main switchgear in the  
132 Personnel Building.

133  
134 Construction Contract Payment Applications – C. H. Nickerson

135	Original Contract Sum	\$45,507,000.00	
136	Net Change by Change Orders	<u>(\$47,432.14)</u>	
137	Contract Sum to Date	\$45,459,567.86	As of July 15, 2020

138  
139 Construction Contract Schedule

140	Original Completion Date	February 10, 2022	
141	Net Change Schedule Days	<u>0</u>	
142	Contract Completion Date	February 10, 2022	

143  
144  
145 **6. Discussion: Proposed Revisions to the Policy Regarding Reimbursement of**  
146 **Infiltration and Inflow Costs**

147  
148 Mr. Birney questioned Mr. Amwake if this was something that can be discussed tonight in the  
149 absence of Mr. Beaumont as this was just a discussion. Mr. Amwake stated that this was  
150 presented to the PUC last month and if there are any questions the PUC could reach out directly.  
151 Mr. Amwake stated tonight was just to get everyone together. The original schedule was to vote  
152 at the second meeting in September and then for the revised policy to become effective October  
153 1, 2020. There is no hard timeline. If needed this can change to November 1. Mr. Amwake  
154 pointed out that on page 2 of the reimbursement policy in the memorandum, the fourth check  
155 mark down there was a requirement added. The added statement requires a minimum of two  
156 quotations from contractors qualified to perform the work for corrective actions greater than  
157 \$500.00. This was the only change that was made.

158  
159 Mr. Rinebold thanked Mr. Amwake for putting this together.

160  
161 Mr. Rinebold questioned what other towns have programs similar to this and have we leaped  
162 ahead of the other towns? Mr. Amwake commented that other towns are doing this. Mr.  
163 Amwake advised that he will check his notes and call some colleagues. Mr. Amwake stated that  
164 he would need to get back to Mr. Rinebold on this matter.

165  
166 Mr. Birney questioned Mr. Amwake on how he arrived at the calculation of 3,072,407 million  
167 gallons per year savings listed in Item # 6-1. Mr. Amwake stated that the WSD looks at a one-  
168 year, six-hour storm for CT and figures out how much goes through a typical rain leader or sump  
169 pump. WSD selected gallons per one inch of rain and then multiples that value by the annual  
170 rainfall for Wallingford Mr. Birney commented that the 3.2 million gallons per year is based on  
171 the amount invested and the typical storm measurement.

175 **Public Question and Answer Period**

176

177 Mr. Liu thanked the PUC for getting the Town back up and running after the storm.

178

179 Mr. Liu questioned if the WPCF was on target financially for the project? Mr. Amwake  
180 responded yes. Mr. Amwake advised that there are change orders in process as there have been  
181 discussions and negotiations with the contractors. How this is reflected is when the contractor  
182 shows these on their invoice. The process is as follows: There are robust negotiations, the DEEP  
183 needs to approve any change order including any credit or debit and then the contractor has to  
184 bill for it. WPCF snaps their line to report this to the PUC when the contractor puts this on their  
185 invoice.

186

187 Mr. Liu spoke on the article in the New Haven Registry in regards to the Electric usage  
188 increasing during Covid-19. The article did not speak on water and waste water usage. Mr. Liu  
189 questioned has this increased as well? Mr. Amwake stated that most people are home and using  
190 their pools more. Also, due to the lack of rain and the heat wave the public watered their lawns  
191 more. The numbers in the last week have dropped down. Mr. Amwake advised that the Water  
192 and Sewer bills are due quarterly therefore the Water and Sewer Division cannot review the  
193 numbers constantly as the Electric Division can. Anecdotally the numbers are up but these were  
194 driven from the lack of participation.

195

196 Mr. Liu questioned if we are tracking levels of Covid-19 through sewage output as other cities  
197 are doing? Mr. Amwake stated that Wallingford is not. Mr. Amwake advised that there was an  
198 outfit out of Boston that was looking for volunteers back in March or April. Mr. Amwake  
199 emailed them and was told that the first month was free and after that it would cost \$1,200.00 per  
200 month to subscribe. Mr. Amwake declined the offer. Mr. Amwake advised that Yale is moving  
201 forward. Yale has reached out to the larger municipalities in order to get the most population.  
202 These companies included the Metropolitan District, Stamford and other wastewater treatment  
203 plants, not Wallingford.

204

205 Mr. Liu questioned the percentage on the drought warning advisory. Mr. Amwake advised that  
206 the drought advisory changes from month to month and will change again September 1, 2020.  
207 Mr. Amwake stated that this is based on a historical average. The current effective  
208 impoundment is 1,580 million gallons. As of last Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup> the trigger for the drought  
209 advisory was approximately 1,200 million gallons. This is a delta (difference) of 380 million  
210 gallons. The typically amount used per day is currently about 5 million gallons. Mr. Amwake  
211 stated that as of now there is no concern.

212

213 Mr. Liu questioned if there is a mask protocol for the crews coming out to the homes for Electric  
214 Division service calls? Mr. Buccheri stated that typically the crews do not go to the doors, but if  
215 the crews are closer than 6 feet than masks are required. Other than this outside crews are not  
216 mandated to wear masks as long as they maintain 6 feet of social distancing.

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220

221 **Correspondence/Committee Reports**

222  
223 Mr. Hendershot shared a letter from the Mayor that was sent to Mr. Hendershot on August 14,  
224 2020. Mr. Hendershot stated that this letter was due to the efforts of Mr. Buccheri. The letter  
225 thanked the Wallingford Electric Division and the crews for the outstanding efforts shown during  
226 and after Tropical Storm Isaias as the crews worked during the night to help keep the roads open  
227 and to address safety issues. Due to the crew's efforts the Electric Division was able to restore  
228 power to all customers in 4 ½ days. The Mayor stated that the Town is very proud of the Electric  
229 Division and staff.

230

231

232 **ADJOURNMENT**

233

234 **Motion to adjourn**

235 **Made by: Mr. Rinebold**

236 **Seconded by: Mr. Birney**

237 **Votes: 2 ayes**

238

239

240 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:21 p.m.

241

242 Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,

243

244

245

246 Bernadette Sorbo

Joel Rinebold

247 Recording Secretary

Secretary