

**BOARD OF FINANCE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
The Metropolitan District  
555 Main Street  
Hartford, Connecticut 06103  
Friday, November 8, 2019**

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Andrew Adil, Donald Currey, Allen Hoffman and Pasquale J. Salemi and District Chairman William A. DiBella; Citizen Members Ronald Angelo, Joan McCarthy Gentile and Linda King-Corbin (8)

**ABSENT:** Citizen Member Ram Aberasturia (1)

**ALSO**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Denise Hall  
Commissioner Jean Holloway  
Commissioner Gary LeBeau  
Commissioner Jackie Gorsky Mandyck  
Commissioner Whit Osgood  
Commissioner Dominic Pane  
Commissioner Bhupen Patel  
Commissioner Raymond Sweezy  
Commissioner Alvin Taylor  
Scott W. Jellison, Chief Executive Officer  
Christopher Stone, Assistant District Counsel  
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk  
Kelly Shane, Chief Administrative Officer  
Christopher Martin, Chief Financial Officer  
Christopher Levesque, Chief Operating Officer  
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Technology  
Tom Tyler, Director of Facilities  
Lisa Remsen, Manager of Budget and Analysis  
Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer  
Kerry E. Martin, Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer  
Julie Price, Professional Level Trainee  
Victoria S. Escoriza, Executive Assistant  
David Silverstone, Independent Consumer Advocate

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Salemi called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM

**PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS**

David Silverstone, Independent Consumer Advocate discussed payroll and also gave a preview of his statement that he will provide at the upcoming public hearing.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*On motion made by Commissioner Adil and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of the Board of Finance meeting of November 6, 2019 were approved.*

**DISCUSSION RE: FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET**

The Board of Finance discussed the Fiscal Year 2020 Proposed Budget.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

David Silverstone, Independent Consumer Advocate, spoke regarding the Pension Assumptions, and wants to ensure we accurately capture data such as the mortality table.

Judy Allen, West Hartford Resident, submitted the following written comments and asked for clarification regarding the Clean Water Project Charge.

11/5/2019

To the District Board of Finance

It would be helpful to have a response to the questions and comments below before the upcoming public hearing so my comments can be as informed as possible.

#### WATER RATES

Since the increase in the water rate for treated water is so high, please explain why the rate for untreated water remains the same. In the chart for water revenues, is raw water included in the "Sale of Water – Variable" section? If so, what percentage of that is included in this section?

#### GENERAL INSURANCE

Please explain the item under General Insurance called Liability – Claims which is described as contributions to a self-insurance fund that is to pay for claims not covered by insurance. Is this a fund to which contributions are made and if not used by the end of the year stays in the fund, and accumulates from year to year? That is, if the \$3 million budgeted for last year is not used by year's end, will that carry over and the \$4 million proposed for 2020 would result in a fund containing \$7 million? If not, and if expected \$3 million budgeted for in 2019 will be spent by year's end, can you explain what kinds of things that money was used for.

#### COLEBROOK

If responsibilities have ended at Colebrook, please explain why it still has a budget of \$183,200.

#### EMPLOYEE PAYROLL

Why aren't the employees and their titles included in all departments as they have been in previous years?

How many employee qualify for the 3% COLA? What is the total amount budgeted for the COLA for non-union employees?

**CLEAN WATER PROJECT**

Where in the budget is the rate for the CWP charge documented? Is there a separate budget kept for the CWP? If so, where can customers read that?

If the CWP charge is included in the proposed 2020 budget and since on customer bills it is identified as the CWP charge, could the same wording be used in the proposed budget so it's clear how those charges are accounted for?

**MISC**

Please explain what part of the levee the MDC actually owns and what part is the responsibility of Hartford and East Hartford? Will any of the \$2,200,000 in the CIP go toward what is the responsibility of Hartford and East Hartford? Or is this money exclusively to be used on the pipeline?

Is the CT DPH allotment actually increasing? The charge for 2020 is \$.15 which is less than the \$.33 in 2019 budget.

Does the proposed budget available on the website include any recent changes? Will updates be made available so comments at the public hearing will be informed by the actual proposed 2020 budget?

If the proposed budget is based on a water rate of \$4.01, and the claims and liability item is taken out of Special Agreements and programs in the amount of \$4,792,800 million, will the water rate decrease as a result? If not, why not?

Could the public hearing be video taped?

Thank you for any information you can provide.

Judy Allen

West Hartford

**COMMISSIONER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

Commissioner LeBeau discussed public relations strategies in relation to the budget and fees.

Commissioner Currey requested that we provide responses to Judy Allen's Public Comments in writing and also discussed OPEB Trust Policies.

Commissioner Hoffman discussed budget priorities.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk

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Date of Approval