

**BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**The Metropolitan District**  
555 Main Street, Hartford  
Monday, July 11, 2016

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Allen Hoffman, William P. Horan and Pasquale J. Salemi;  
Citizen Members Martin B. Courneen and Linda King-Corbin and District  
Chairman William A. DiBella (6)

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Luis Caban and Citizen Members Ron Angelo and Richard  
Mulready (3)

**ALSO**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Joseph H. Kronen  
Commissioner Bhupen Patel  
Scott W. Jellison, Chief Executive Officer  
John M. Zinzarella, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Business Services  
R. Bartley Halloran, District Counsel  
Brendan Fox, Assistant District Counsel  
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk  
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Technology  
Kelly Shane, Director of Procurement  
Robert Zaik, Interim Director of Human Resources  
Kerry E. Martin, Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer  
Cynthia A. Nadolny, Executive Assistant

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Salemi called the meeting to order at 5:14 PM

**PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS**

Donna Landerman of 6 Rundelane, Bloomfield commented regarding local hiring and the future hiring practice for projects.

Written comments were submitted by Judy Allen of 25 Fowler Drive, West Hartford.

July 11, 2016

Comments for the Board of Finance Meeting, 5:pm

To be included in the official minutes of this meeting.

I would like to point out some misrepresentations by CEO W. Scott Jellison and CFO John M. Zinzarella in their Letter of Transmittal in the introductory section of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ended Dec. 31, 2015.

Page vii, paragraph 3 includes the statements: "During the FY 2016 budgeting process, based on feedback received from business and industry leaders, as well as some of our key stakeholders, the MDC adopted a decreasing block rate structure which we believe will make the MDC service area more attractive to industrial users who have the potential to consume large quantities of water as well as hire local residents. Although this course of action was not embraced by all of our customers, we believe that in the long run, this newly adopted rate structure will benefit all the customers of the MDC."

The MDC did not receive any customer feedback before adopting this rate structure. The MDC voted on this ordinance at the same time Niagara Bottling closed its deal with the Town of Bloomfield for building a water bottling plant in their town based on this new rate structure, a deal the citizens of Bloomfield were not aware of.

When brought to light this prompted such a public outcry that the MDC was called to defend its actions at public meetings in many member towns. Citizens of Bloomfield joined by citizens of other member towns brought their concerns to the State Legislature. This resulted in a bill passed by the State Senate that would have put a moratorium on further development by high volume water users until the State Wide Water Plan is completed and can evaluate the impact of water bottling industries on the waters of CT. The bill would also have required future rate structures be equitable and ensure high volume users pay their share of the special sewer system charges.

"Although this course of action was not embraced by all our customers" seems a gross understatement of the events that unfolded.

This also raised the ongoing issue of the lack of transparency by the MDC. On page 31 in the body of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, paragraph 2, "The proposed operating budget is then published in line item format in one or more local newspapers servicing the District for a period of three consecutive days".

That just plain didn't happen, again highlighting the lack of customer involvement in the budgetary process.

The MDC Charter established a district for the creation and oversight of an infrastructure to provide clean drinking water and a sewage system for member towns. Nowhere does it give the MDC power to influence economic development within the district, state or region.

In my opinion, the MDC has lost sight of what its primary purpose is and continues to lose the confidence of its customers. This is something I believe has a bearing on the MDC's financial health.

Judy Allen  
25 Fowler Dr.  
West Hartford, CT 06110

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***On motion made by Citizen Member Courneen and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of the Board of Finance meeting of June 15, 2016 were approved.***

**REQUIRED AUDITOR COMMUNICATIONS – FISCAL YEAR 2015 AUDIT**

*Vanessa Risotto of Blum Shapiro presented the required auditor's communications of the closing report for the fiscal year 2015 audit to the Board of Finance.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:29 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Approval