

**THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Remote Only Meeting  
Hartford, Connecticut 06103  
Monday, January 4, 2021

**Present:** Commissioners Andrew Adil, John Avedisian, Richard Bush, Donald Currey, William A. DiBella, James Healy, Allen Hoffman, Jean Holloway, David Ionno, Shubhada Kambli, Mary LaChance, Gary LeBeau, Byron Lester, Diane Lewis, Maureen Magnan, Jacqueline Mandyck, Alphonse Marotta, Dominic M. Pane, Pasquale J. Salemi, Michael Solomonides, Raymond Sweezy, Alvin Taylor, Calixto Torres, Richard W. Vicino and James Woulfe (25)

**Absent:** Commissioner Clifford Avery Buell, Daniel Camilliere, Michael Maniscalco, Jon Petoskey and New Britain Special Representative Michael Carrier (5)

**Also**

**Present:** Citizen Member Awet Tsegai  
Scott W. Jellison, Chief Executive Officer  
Christopher Stone, District Counsel  
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk  
Brendan Fox, Assistant District Counsel  
Steve Bonafonte, Assistant District Counsel  
Christopher Levesque, Chief Operating Officer  
Kelly Shane, Chief Administrative Officer  
Sue Negrelli, Director of Engineering  
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Technology  
Nick Salemi, Communications Administrator  
Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer  
Victoria S. Escoriza, Executive Assistant  
Julie Price, Professional Level Trainee  
David Silverstone, Independent Consumer Advocate

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by District Chairman DiBella at 5:32 PM

**ROLL CALL AND QUORUM**

The District Clerk called the roll and informed the Chairman that a quorum of the Commission was present, and the meeting was declared a legal meeting of the District Board of The Metropolitan District of Hartford County, Connecticut.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***On motion made by Commissioner Sweezy and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of December 7, 2020 were approved.***

**PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS**

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

**REPORT FROM DISTRICT CHAIRMAN**

Chairman DiBella reported that he would be reconvening the Strategic Planning Committee with a meeting to be scheduled in January. He also discussed the ongoing exploration of new revenue sources.

Chairman DiBella also recognized Commissioner Daniel Camilliere who had served 18 years on the District Board but did not seek reappointment as his term expired at the end of 2020.

**REPORT FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Scott Jellison, Chief Executive Officer, reviewed upcoming issues that would be brought to committees in 2021.

**REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNSEL**

Christopher Stone, District Counsel, gave an update on pending cases including the Hartford landfill groundwater discharge billing dispute, the Colebrook River Lake Dam, the Glastonbury class action suit, and the 777 Main Street appeal.

**DISTRICT CLERK  
SERVICE OF TAX WARRANTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021**

To: District Board January 4, 2021  
From: District Clerk

Pursuant to the Charter of the District, Section 3-13, the District Clerk reports that Tax Warrants for Fiscal Year 2021, drawn by the Chairman of The Metropolitan District, in favor of the Treasurer have been served on the following:

- Town Clerk, Marguerite Phillips, Bloomfield
- Town Clerk, Robert J. Pasek, East Hartford
- Town and City Clerk Noel McGregor, Hartford
- Town Clerk James Krupienski, Newington
- Town Clerk Sandra Merrill Wieleba, Rocky Hill

Town Clerk Essie S. Labrot, West Hartford  
Assistant Town Clerk Sue Schroeder, Wethersfield  
Town Clerk Anna Posniak, Windsor

Receipts for these tax warrants have been received and are on file in the Office of the District Clerk.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
John S. Mirtle, Esq.

***Without objection, the report was received.***

**COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION  
APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS TO COMMITTEES**

To: District Board  
From: Committee on Organization

January 4, 2021

At a meeting of the Committee of Organization held on January 4, 2021, it was:

**Voted:** That the Committee on Organization recommend to the District Board appointment of the following Commissioners to the following Committees:

**Water Bureau**

Shubhada Kambli

**Committee on MDC Government**

Shubhada Kambli

**Personnel, Pension & Insurance**

Shubhada Kambli

**Strategic Planning Committee**

Jackie Mandyck

**Further**

**Voted:** That the Committee on Organization recommend to the District Board the following modifications to the following Committees:

**Strategic Planning Committee**

Remove Alphonse Marotta

Respectfully submitted,  


John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk

***On motion made by Commissioner Sweezy and duly seconded, the report was received and resolution adopted by unanimous vote of those present.***

**COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT  
APPOINTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANTS**

To: District Board

January 4, 2021

From: Committee on MDC Government

Over the past year, the firms of Gaffney, Bennett and Associates Inc. (Attorney Brendan Fox), SJB Strategies, LLC (Attorney Steve Bonafonte) and Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC (Janice Flemming) have provided exemplary service in the area of government relations and advocacy within state government on behalf of the District, and the same holds true for Squire Patton Boggs (William Schuster) and SJB Strategies, LLC on the federal level. Based upon their collective past performance, and to maintain the necessary level of continuity within the District's legislative and administrative lobbying activities, District staff recommends the reappointment of each of these firms for the 2021 state and federal legislative consultants. The term of these appointments would be from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, subject to Board approval.

Furthermore, in the event the Committee on MDC Government forwards the appointments to the District Board, District staff recommends the following annual fees for state legislative/administrative consultants: (1) Gaffney, Bennett and Associates, Inc. receive \$60,000.00, (2) SJB Strategies, LLC receive \$20,000.00 and (3) Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC receive \$60,000.00, for a total of \$140,000.00. By moving Gaffney Bennet and Strategic Outreach to \$60,000.00 each, there is a slight increase from the 2020. As such, Gaffney, Bennet will be specifically tasked with providing legal advice on proposed legislation affecting the District, and Strategic Outreach will specifically tasked with an expanded role of improving our outreach to the Black and Hispanic Caucus and explaining and defending the Clean Water Project charge to legislators representing communities and constituents most adversely affected.

On the Federal level, District staff recommends the reappointment of Squire Patton Boggs and SJB Strategies LLC as federal legislative consultants. In the event the Committee on MDC Government forwards the appointments to the District Board,

District staff recommends the following annual fees for federal legislative/administrative consultants: (1) Squire Patton Boggs receive \$150,000.00; and (2) SJB Strategies, LLC receive \$70,000.00.

At a meeting of the Committee on MDC Government held on January 4, 2021, it was:

**Voted:** That the Committee on MDC Government recommends to the District Board passage of the following resolution:

**Resolved:** That the firms of Gaffney, Bennett and Associates Inc., SJB Strategies, LLC and Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC be retained to perform state lobbying services for a period commencing on January 1, 2021 and terminating on December 31, 2021. Gaffney, Bennett and Associates, Inc. fee will receive \$60,000.00, SJB Strategies, LLC will receive \$20,000.00, and Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC will receive \$60,000.00, subject to the execution of a written agreement prepared and approved by District Counsel as to form and content, reflecting the scope of services, reporting requirements and such other terms and conditions as District Counsel may specify, including those tasks specifically referenced above.

**Further Resolved:** That the firms of Squire Patton Boggs and SJB Strategies, LLC be retained to perform federal lobbying services for a period commencing on January 1, 2021 and terminating on December 31, 2021. Squire Patton Boggs will receive at \$150,000.00 and SJB Strategies, LLC will receive \$70,000.00, subject to the execution of a written agreement prepared and approved by District Counsel as to form and content, reflecting the scope of services, reporting requirements and such other terms and conditions as District Counsel may specify.

Respectfully submitted,



John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk

***On motion made by Commissioner Hoffman and duly seconded, the report was received and resolution adopted by unanimous vote of those present.***

***Without objection, Agenda Item #11 "Sewage Sludge Incinerators Consent Decree" was tabled indefinitely.***

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

Commissioner Salemi inquired about the class action administrator.

Commissioner Avedisian inquired about the status of the billing dispute with the Berlin Water Control Commission.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk

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Date of Approval