

**PERSONNEL, PENSION AND INSURANCE COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING**

**The Metropolitan District**

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

**Present:** Commissioners John Avedisian, Donald Currey, Byron Lester, Maureen Magnan, Dominic Pane, Bhupen Patel, Pasquale J. Salemi, Raymond Sweezy, Alvin Taylor and District Chairman William A. DiBella (10)

**Absent:** Commissioners Shubhada Kambli and Alphonse Marotta (2)

**Also**

**Present:** Commissioner Andrew Adil  
Commissioner Peter Gardow  
Scott W. Jellison, Chief Executive Officer  
Christopher Stone, District Counsel  
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk  
Steve Bonafonte, Assistant District Counsel  
Kelly Shane, Chief Administrative Officer  
Christopher Levesque, Chief Operating Officer  
Christopher Martin, Chief Financial Officer  
Susan Negrelli, Director of Engineering  
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Services  
Tom Tyler, Director of Facilities  
Robert Zaik, Director of Human Resources  
Robert Constable, Manager of Treasury  
Jamie Harlow, Manager of Labor Relations  
Kadian Cohen, Human Resources Generalist  
Carrie Blardo, Executive Assistant to the CEO  
Victoria Escoriza, Executive Assistant  
Julie Price, Professional Level Associate  
David Silverstone, Independent Consumer Advocate

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM

**PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS**

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

***On motion made by District Chairman DiBella and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of April 28, 2021 were approved.***

**MDC WELLNESS PROGRAM**

Kadian Cohen, Human Resources Generalist, gave a presentation regarding the MDC Wellness Program.

***Commissioner Taylor temporarily recused himself from the meeting for agenda item #5. Vice Chairman Sweezy assumed the chair.***

**EMPLOYEE BENEFITS CONSULTANT RFP 2021R-01**

***District Chairman DiBella made a motion for the Personnel, Pension & Insurance Committee to forego acting as the Source Selection Authority for RFP 2021R-01 and return the matter to the Chief Executive Officer for him to act in this capacity.***

***On motion made by District Chairman DiBella and duly seconded, the resolution was adopted by majority vote of those present. Commissioner Pane voted no. Commissioner Patel abstained.***

***Without objection, Commissioner Currey requested to move agenda items #7 “2021-03 Pension & OPEB Trust Investment Consultant Services” and #8 “Modification of 457b Deferred Compensation Committee” prior to agenda item #6 “Extension of District Counsel Contract”.***

***Chairman Taylor resumed the chair.***

**RFP 2021R-03 PENSION & OPEB TRUST INVESTMENT CONSULTING SERVICES**

***Without objection, District Chairman DiBella moved to table agenda item #7, “2021R-03 Pension & OPEB Trust Investment Consulting Services”. The motion was approved unanimously.***

**MODIFICATION OF THE 457b DEFERRED COMPENSATION COMMITTEE**

To: Personnel, Pension and Insurance Committee

May 12, 2021

WHEREAS, The Metropolitan District (the “Employer”) is the sponsor of The Metropolitan District Commission Eligible 457 Governmental Deferred Compensation Plan (the “457(b) Plan”); and

WHEREAS, the District Board of the Employer has the authority to adopt documents pertaining to the 457(b) Plan at any time and from time to time; and

WHEREAS, the District Board of the Employer by resolution adopted on June 1, 2009, adopted 457(b) Plan documents that incorporate the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 ("Plan Documents") as amended; and

WHEREAS, upon adoption of the Plan Documents, the District Board of the Employer authorized the District's Personnel, Pension and Insurance Committee ("PPI") to designate individuals or positions to serve as members of the Deferred Compensation Committee ("Committee"), the duly appointed administrator of the 457(b) Plan;

WHEREAS, on July 14, 2014, September 11, 2017, June 4, 2018 and June 10, 2019, the Personnel, Pension & Insurance Committee amended the composition of the Committee;

It is therefore **RECOMMENDED** that it be:

VOTED: That the Personnel, Pension and Insurance Committee approve passage of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the Personnel, Pension and Insurance Committee hereby amends the composition of the Deferred Compensation Committee to comprise of the following members:

Chairperson of the Personnel, Pension & Insurance Committee  
Chief Financial Officer  
District Clerk  
Local 184 Representative  
Local 3713 Representative  
Local 1026 Representative  
Director of Engineering  
**Director of Human Resources**

FURTHER

RESOLVED: That any member may appoint a designee to serve on the Committee on his or her behalf;

Respectfully submitted,



Scott W. Jellison  
Chief Executive Officer

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

**EXTENSION OF DISTRICT COUNSEL CONTRACT**

At 5:52 P.M., Chairman Taylor requested an executive session to discuss the District Counsel's employment contract.

***On a motion made by District Chairman Dibella and duly seconded, the Personnel, Pension and Insurance Committee entered into executive session to discuss the District Counsel's employment contract.***

Those in attendance during the executive session:

Commissioners John Avedisian, Donald Currey, Byron Lester, Maureen Magnan, Dominic Pane, Bhupen Patel, Pasquale J. Salemi, Raymond Sweezy, Alvin Taylor and District Chairman William A. DiBella; Chief Executive Officer Scott W. Jellison; and Attorney Steve Bonafonte.

**RECONVENE**

At 6:26 P.M., Chairman Taylor requested to come out of executive session and on motion made by Commissioner Currey and duly seconded, the Personnel, Pension & Insurance Committee came out of executive session and reconvened. No formal action was taken.

To: Personnel, Pension and Insurance Committee

May 12, 2021

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Personnel Pension & Insurance Committee of the Metropolitan District hereby recommends to the District Board the reappointment of Christopher R. Stone, Esq., of East Hartford as District Counsel for a term of two (2) years commencing on June 7, 2021 and ending on June 7, 2023 subject to the employment agreement terms and conditions in the term sheet entitled "DISTRICT COUNSEL- PROPOSED CONTRACT EXTENSION SUMMARY 5/12/2021" attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

DISTRICT COUNSEL – PROPOSED CONTRACT EXTENSION SUMMARY – 5/12/2021

**Annual Salary:** \$331,660.00 – (current annual salary) Future increases must be approved by the District Board (Other than COLA which will be added annually as authorized by the District Board for E&E Employees)

**General Requirements/Benefits:** Existing Standard Benefits Package for all Executive Level Staff:

Standard Health Benefits	Anthem – Blue Cross // PPO
Dental Vision	Century Preferred / Full Dental and Vision Coverage
Sick Time	8 Days per calendar year (Loaded in January)
Holiday Time	Per District’s Published Holiday Calendar
Vacation	4 Weeks
Inclement Weather Days	3 Days
Personal Leave	10 Days
Life Insurance	\$500,000 policy paid by MDC
Car Allowance	\$750 Month (net of taxes) Lump Sum <b>(Declined by CRS in lieu of salary)</b>
Working Hours	Standard Working Hours

**Retirement Vesting:** Incumbent is currently vested. Full participation in IRS Section 457(f) Plan

**Miscellaneous:** MDC will provide Cell Phone, Laptop/Notebook/i-Pad and other ordinary and necessary business equipment

**Start Date:** June 7, 2021

**Term of Contract:** 24 Months; may be terminated by District without just cause, but triggers payment of lesser of 12 months of salary or balance of salary remaining in the contract term.

***Without objection, Commissioner Currey made a motion to amend the Term Sheet to provide for addition of a year to be added to the term of the contract at each anniversary date of each year of the term of the contract. The amendment was duly seconded and adopted by majority vote.***

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

**OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_ Date Approved