

**BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
The Metropolitan District
November 10, 2021**

PRESENT: Commissioners Andrew Adil, Allen Hoffman, Pasquale J. Salemi and District Chairman William DiBella; Citizen Member Awet Tsegai (5)

REMOTE ATTENDANCE: Commissioners Donald Currey and Joan Gentile (2)

ABSENT: Citizen Member Linda King-Corbin (1)

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioner Jackie Gorsky Mandyck
Commissioner Bhupen Patel
Scott W. Jellison, Chief Executive Officer
Christopher Stone, District Counsel
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk
Christopher Levesque, Chief Operating Officer
Kelly Shane, Chief Administrative Officer
Robert Barron, Chief Financial Officer
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Services (Remote Attendance)
Jamie Harlow, Director of Human Resources
Lisa Remsen, Manager of Budget and Analysis
Shereese Rodgers, Financial Analyst (Remote Attendance)
Nefertere Whittingham, Financial Analyst (Remote Attendance)
Peter Krzyk, Financial Analyst (Remote Attendance)
Nick Salemi, Communications Administrator (Remote Attendance)
Carrie Blardo, Assist to the Chief Operating Officer
Julie Price, Professional Level Associate
David Silverstone, Independent Consumer Advocate

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Salemi called the meeting to order at 5:21 PM

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS

Independent Consumer Advocate David Silverstone spoke on Agenda Item #5, Fiscal Year 2022 Budget. He stated that the table showing a 2.6% increase for customer bills varies based on the size of the customer. He also suggested to Commissioners that they read the most recent Raftelis study regarding the sewer customer service charge.

Judy Allen of West Hartford spoke on Agenda Item #5, Fiscal Year 2022 Budget, and raised concern that the Raftelis memo regarding the sewer customer service charge shows a significant unfairness in the rate.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Commissioner Adil and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of the Board of Finance meeting of October 27, 2021 were approved.

REVISION OF AVAILABLE GENERAL FUND BALANCE POLICY

To: Board of Finance

November 10, 2021

Whereas, the Metropolitan District, Hartford County, Connecticut (the "District" or the "MDC") has issued General Obligation Bonds and such General Obligation Bonds carry ratings by one or more of the rating agencies; and

Whereas, Available General Fund Balance is a metric used in assigning bond ratings and is important to the financial stability of the District; and

Whereas, on September 4, 2019 the District Board established an Available General Fund Balance requirement for its General Fund for budgetary flexibility in the event the District has unexpected revenue shortfalls or expenditure needs. It is now proposed to amend and replace the Available General Fund Balance.

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

VOTED: That the Board of Finance recommends to the District Board passage of the following resolution.

RESOLVED: The Available General Fund Balance policy approved by the District Board on September 4, 2019 is hereby amended and the following approved in its place:

1. It shall be the policy of the MDC to maintain, to the extent possible, an adequate **available** General Fund **unassigned fund** balance **equal to** between 30% and 35% of general fund revenues for the most recent completed fiscal year.
2. **The District's Chief Financial Officer shall present the most recent completed fiscal year's unassigned fund balance to the District Board by its September meeting, identifying fund balance target excesses for those balances greater than 35% of revenues and shortfalls for those balances less than 30%.**
3. **In the event of a target excess, the District Board will determine the use of the target excess as it deems appropriate.**

4. In the event of a target shortfall, the District administration will include a reserve fund replenishment line-item equal to one third of the target shortfall in its proposed budget for the upcoming year.
5. Any expenditure of all or part of the **available** General Fund **unassigned fund** balance must be authorized by vote of the District Board.
- ~~3. If the available general fund balance established under Section 1 above falls below the minimum target of 30% of general fund revenues for the most recent completed fiscal year, the District's Chief Financial Officer shall present a plan to restore the available general fund balance to the target within no more than three fiscal years to the District Board for its consideration.~~
- ~~4. If the available general fund balance realized in any given fiscal year exceeds the target set forth in Section 1 above, the District Board may authorize by vote of the District Board, the expenditure of any excess available funds as it deems appropriate.~~

Respectfully submitted,



Scott W. Jellison
Chief Executive Officer

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

FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET

Chief Financial Officer Robert Barron presented on the fiscal year 2022 budget

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judy Allen of West Hartford stated that adding \$1 onto the sewer customer service charge, which was discussed in the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget discussion, would result in a larger overall bill increase. She also restated that the Raftelis memo on the sewer customer service charge shows that it is an unfair rate.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Citizen Member Tsegai spoke in support of Riverfront Recapture as a regional recreational asset.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

Date of Approval