

**THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Hartford, Connecticut 06103  
Wednesday, November 3, 2021

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Andrew Adil, Richard Bush, William A. DiBella, David Drake, Peter Gardow, Allen Hoffman, Christian Hoheb, Gary LeBeau, Jacqueline Mandyck, Dominic M. Pane, Bhupen Patel, Jon Petoskey, Pasquale J. Salemi, Ray Sweezy, Alvin Taylor, Richard W. Vicino, and James Woulfe (16)

**REMOTE ATTENDANCE:** Commissioners Donald Currey, Jean Holloway, Shubhada Kambli, Byron Lester, and Maureen Magnan (5)

**ABSENT:** Commissioners John Avedisian, Avery Buell, James Healy, David Ionno, Mary LaChance, Diane Lewis, Michael Maniscalco, Alphonse Marotta, Calixto Torres, Richard Vicino, and New Britain Special Representative Michael Carrier (11)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Scott W. Jellison, Chief Executive Officer  
Christopher Stone, District Counsel  
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk  
Kelly Shane, Chief Administrative Officer  
Christopher Levesque, Chief Operating Officer  
Robert Barron, Chief Financial Officer / Director of Finance  
Sue Negrelli, Director of Engineering  
Bob Schwarm, Director of Information Services (Remote Attendance)  
Tom Tyler, Director of Facilities  
Jamie Harlow, Manager of Labor Relations  
Rita Kelley, District EEO Officer  
Lisa Remsen, Manager of Budget and Analysis  
Nick Salemi, Communications Administrator  
David Baker, IT Consultant  
Anthony Spaziani, IT Consultant  
Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer  
Victoria S. Escoriza, Executive Assistant  
David Silverstone, Independent Consumer Advocate

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by District Chairman DiBella at 5:31 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.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Those in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***On motion made by Commissioner Adil and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of October 4, 2021 were approved.***

***Commissioners Jean Holloway and Byron Lester entered the meeting (remotely) at 5:34 PM.***

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS**

Judy Allen, of West Hartford, submitted the following comments:

11/3/21

*Public Comments to the District Board*

*Your presentation for tonight covers the Water Rates and Ad Valorem but doesn't mention the Customer Sewer Service Fee, something that is proposed to increase from \$7 to \$9, and has an impact on the ad valorem. The public has the right to know about this increase.*

*At a recent meeting of the Board of Finance this charge was discussed with an explanation that the rate is set based on information in the Raffellis study which has not been made public. Mr. Jellison explained that it will not be made public until it has been presented to the Bureau of Public Works.*

*According to the website, Public Works is not scheduled to meet before the public hearing on Nov. 15th.*

*Are we to assume that the study will not be available before the public hearing?  
How can the public comment on a charge without knowing how it is set?*

*Under the challenges the MDC faces in regards to the water budget, the needed renovations to the water treatment plants are not mentioned. This is a very expensive undertaking. Even if decisions about what exactly this will look like and therefore the costs involved are not known, you do know that it will be very*

*expensive and planning for this needs to start now. The public has the right to know that this expense will affect the water budget in the future.*

*Also missing under challenges is the continued conservation of water by individuals who want to save money on their water bill, see conservation of water as part of being a good environmental steward, or are using more water saving appliances. Lessening sales of water affects the water rate. While you as commissioners know and understand this, the public needs to know that this is part of the challenges facing the MDC.*

*Similarly, the public should know about the possibilities being discussed about providing water to towns not currently members of the MDC who must find new sources of water.*

*Finally, now it is known that the discounts on water have had no effect on the amount of water Niagara buys, I would like the MDC to reconsider the continuation of these discounts. Discounts impacts not only the water rate, but has significant impact on the Clean Water Project charge. At a recent meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee there was a suggestion that the discount be continued since it is also meant to attract more high volume water users. There was a suggestion that the MDC target large bottlers across the country to directly contact them and entice them to MDC towns with discounts on water. This is highly inappropriate for the MDC. It is your member towns who decide what kind of economic development they want to attract to their towns and wrong for the MDC to push for any one town to welcome a large volume water user. It is wrong for the MDC to set it's rates based on what might be rather than what is. It is fairly obvious that again, only Niagara will benefit and the MDC will continue to loose significant revenue. Repeal the discounts.*

*Thank you,  
Judy Allen  
West Hartford*

### **REPORT FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Chief Executive Officer Scott Jellison informed the Board that the Raftelis report on the sewer customer service charge was distributed today. He also discussed the MS4 issue with the City of Hartford, the need for a future referendum approval for the Integrated Plan and the bids received for Contract #3, the Tunnel Pump Station.

He also had Equal Employment Officer Rita Kelley speak on the MDC CHRO plan.

***Commissioner Petoskey entered the meeting at 5:41 PM.***

**REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNSEL**

Christopher Stone, District Counsel, provided an update on the Hartford Landfill dispute with CT DEEP, Colebrook River Lake Dam, potential bylaws on ethics and Commissioner communications, and the OSHA Emergency Temporary Standard on a COVID-19 vaccine mandate.

***Commissioner Kambli recused herself during the discussion on the DEEP landfill dispute and exited the meeting at 5:58 PM.***

**REFERRAL TO BUREAU OF PUBLIC WORKS  
LETTER TO CT DEEP REGARDING MS4**

***On motion made by Commissioner Sweezy and duly seconded, the letter to CT DEEP regarding MS4 was referred to the Bureau of Public Works.***

**BOARD OF FINANCE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH PRIMACY FEE**

To: District Board November 3, 2021

From: Board of Finance

At a Board of Finance meeting held on October 27, 2021, it was:

VOTED: That the Board of Finance recommends to the District Board passage of the following resolution from Bond Counsel

RESOLVED: District staff is hereby directed to apply the excess Department of Public Health Primacy Fee previously collected from customers by the District to the 2022 water budget to effectuate a reduction in the water rate.

Respectfully submitted,



John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk

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

**COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION  
APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

**To:** District Board November 3, 2021

**From:** Committee on Organization

Pursuant to Section B3b of the District By-Laws, it is the recommendation of the staff of The Metropolitan District and approved by the Committee on Organization to appoint Jamie Harlow as Director of Human Resources for The Metropolitan District.

At a Committee on Organization meeting held on November 3, 2021, it was:

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

**Resolved:** That the District Board, in accordance with Section B3b of the District By-Laws, hereby appoints Jamie Harlow as Director of Human Resources for The Metropolitan District effective November 3, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,



John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk

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

**COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION  
APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT CLERK**

**To:** District Board November 3, 2021

**From:** Committee on Organization

On August 5, 2013, the District Board appointed John S. Mirtle as Temporary District Clerk. On October 7, 2013, the District Board amended the job classification system to create an Assistant District Counsel/ District Clerk position. Attorney Mirtle has served as the District Clerk since that time and it is recommended to remove the 'temporary' designation. Pursuant to Section B3b of the District By-Laws, it is the recommendation to appoint John S. Mirtle as Assistant District Counsel/ District Clerk for The Metropolitan District.

At a Committee on Organization meeting held on November 3, 2021, it was:

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

**Resolved:** That the District Board, in accordance with Section B3b of the District By-Laws, hereby appoints John S. Mirtle as Assistant District Counsel/ District Clerk for The Metropolitan District.

Respectfully submitted,



John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk

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

### **2022 BUDGET**

Robert Barron, Chief Financial Officer, presented to the Board on the proposed fiscal year 2022 budget.

### **OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

### **COMMISSIONER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

Commissioner LeBeau asked about the Coca-Cola facility in South Windsor and East Hartford in relation to high volume users.

Commissioner Salemi spoke on MDC customers in South Windsor and other non-member towns benefiting from not having to pay the Clean Water Project Charge and, therefore, use more water for less money per customer than in non-member towns.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk

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Date of Approval