

THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION

555 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
Monday, August 1, 2022

PRESENT: Commissioners John Avedisian, Richard Bush, William A. DiBella, David Drake, Peter Gardow, James Healy, Allen Hoffman, Byron Lester, Diane Lewis, Maureen Magnan, Jacqueline Mandyck, Dominic Pane, Bhupen Patel, Pasquale J. Salemi, Ray Sweezy, Alvin Taylor and Calixto Torres (17)

REMOTE ATTENDANCE: Commissioners Avery Buell, Donald Currey, Christian Hoheb, Jean Holloway, David Ionno, Richard W. Vicino and James Woulfe (7)

ABSENT: Commissioners Andrew Adil, Mary LaChance, Michael Maniscalco, Alphonse Marotta, Jon Petoskey, and New Britain Special Representative Michael Carrier (6)

ALSO PRESENT: Scott W. Jellison, Chief Executive Officer
Christopher Stone, District Counsel
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk
Robert Barron, Chief Financial Officer
Christopher Levesque, Chief Operating Officer
Kelly Shane, Chief Administrative Officer
Sue Negrelli, Director of Engineering
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Technology
Tom Tyler, Director of Facilities
Jamie Harlow, Director of Human Resources (Remote attendance)
David Ruttly, Director of Operations
Tra Phan, Controller (Remote Attendance)
David Baker, IT Consultant (Remote attendance)
Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer
Victoria Escoriza, Executive Assistant
Joseph Szerejko, Independent Consumer Advocate (Remote attendance)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by District Chairman William DiBella at 5:01 PM

ROLL CALL AND QUORUM

The District Clerk called the roll and informed District Chairman William DiBella 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

SWEARING IN OF NEW COMMISSIONER

The District Clerk swore in Commissioner Gentile of East Hartford.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Commissioner Sweezy and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of July 11, 2022 were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

STATUS OF EXCESS OPEB CONTRIBUTIONS RECONCILIATION

Robert Barron, Chief Financial Officer provided an update on the reconciliation of excess OPEB contributions.

OUTSTANDING 2021 & 2022 SANDLER & MARA P.C. LEGAL INVOICES

District Chairman DiBella relinquished the Chair to Vice Chairperson Magnan.

Commissioner Taylor made a motion to refer the matter to the Internal Audit Committee to review the following: verification of the work performed, investigation as to whether an MDC Representative with authority directed the work be performed and whether the invoices constitute an obligation on the part of the MDC to pay. Commissioner Torres seconded the motion.

Commissioner Lewis entered the meeting at 5:38 PM

Commissioner Taylor stated that he will recuse himself on this matter at the Internal Audit Committee.

Commissioner Pane made a point of order that Commissioner Taylor should recuse himself from the District Board discussion and that the motion was improper. The point of order carried by majority voice vote. Commissioners Torres and Currey opposed.

Commissioner Torres withdrew his second of the motion. Commissioner Taylor withdrew his motion.

Commissioner Torres made a motion to refer the matter to the Internal Audit Committee to review the following: verification of the work performed, whether the work and invoices were properly authorized by an MDC Representative with

authority to do so and whether the invoices constitute an obligation by the MDC to pay. Commissioner Patel seconded the motion.

Commissioner Sweezy made a motion to call the question. The motion passed by two-thirds vote on a roll call vote.

The result of the roll call:

Yeas: Commissioners Donald Currey, Peter Gardow, Joan Gentile, Jean Holloway, Byron Lester, Diane Lewis, Dominic Pane, Bhupen Patel, Pasquale J. Salemi, Raymond Sweezy, Alvin Taylor, Calixto Torres, Richard W. Vicino and James Woulfe (14)

Nays: Commissioners John Avedisian, Richard Bush, David Drake, James Healy, Allen Hoffman, Maureen Magnan and Jacqueline Mandyck (7)

Abstentions: Commissioner Ionno (1)

Absent &

Not Voting: Commissioners Andrew Adil, Alphonse Marotta, Jon Petoskey and District Chairman William A. DiBella (4)

Without objection, Commissioner Gentile made a friendly amendment for the Internal Audit Committee to also review whether the invoices were timely, complete, accurate and reasonable.

Without objection, Commissioner Bush made a friendly amendment for the Internal Audit Committee to also review if all meetings occurred, who called the meetings, who authorized payment of the meetings and what or where is the resulting work product.

The motion to refer to the matter of outstanding 2021 & 2022 Sandler & Mara P.C. legal invoices to the Internal Audit Committee passed by majority of a roll call vote.

The result of the roll call:

Yeas: Commissioners Richard Bush, Donald Currey, Joan Gentile, James Healy, Jean Holloway, David Ionno, Byron Lester, Maureen Magnan, Jacqueline Mandyck, Bhupen Patel, Pasquale J. Salemi, Alvin Taylor, Calixto Torres, Richard W. Vicino and James Woulfe (15)

Nays: Commissioners John Avedisian, David Drake, Peter Gardow, Allen Hoffman, Diane Lewis, Dominic Pane and Raymond Sweezy (7)

Abstentions: (0)

Absent &

Not Voting: Commissioners Andrew Adil, Alphonse Marotta, Jon Petoskey and District Chairman William A. DiBella (4)

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Commissioner Bush apologized for the statement he made earlier in the meeting questioning Commissioners' motives and he withdrew his statement.

Commissioner Gardow reviewed the invoices and researched Attorney Sandler and found an article from the Hartford Courant in 1997 regarding fines from the State Ethics Commission and asked that the article be distributed to Commissioners.

Commissioner Sweezy reviewed the invoices and requested a sample of 3 months of invoices for work in 2019 performed by Sandler & Mara P.C., as well as the total amount paid to the firm for the past 10 years.

Commissioner Hoffman reminded the Board that the meeting is public and broadcast, and that one snippet of the meeting does not summarize the meeting conversation as a whole. Commissioner Hoffman stated there are exceptions in the Charter that allow individuals to make decisions to a certain point.

Commissioner Mandyck requested that the staff listed on Attorney Sandler's invoices be contacted to inquire whether or not they participated in the listed meetings and phone calls. She also reiterated a previous request that an ethics statement be created for Commissioners' and requested that it be done prior to the September District Board meeting.

Commissioner Pane asked Commissioner Taylor to clarify his earlier comments that he was surprised to be included in Attorney Sandler's meetings. He asked to ensure that Attorney Sandler will appear at the next meeting, as his appearance was already requested at two prior meetings. Commissioner Pane also inquired about the Chairman's authority.

Commissioner Sweezy asked Scott for clarification of the invoice for \$12,785 from the June 8th 2022 e-mail to Attorney Stone.

Commissioner Pane asked about Chairman DiBella's use of the MDC email account or a private email account.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

Date of Approval