

BUREAU OF PUBLIC WORKS

555 Main Street, Hartford
Monday, November 14, 2022

Present: Commissioners Andrew Adil, Richard Bush, Donald Currey, David Drake, Allen Hoffman, Dominic Pane, Bhupen Patel, Alvin Taylor, Richard W. Vicino, James Woulfe and District Chairman William DiBella (11)

Remote

Attendance: Commissioners John Avedisian (3)

Absent: Commissioners James Healy, Byron Lester, Maureen Magnan and Calixto Torres (4)

Also

Present: Commissioner Joan Gentile
Commissioner Jacqueline Mandyck
Commissioner Jean Holloway
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
Susan Negrelli, Director of Engineering
David Rutty, Director of Operations
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Technology (Remote Attendance)
Tom Tyler, Director of Facilities
Michael Curley, Manager of Technical Services
Jason Waterbury, Manager of Engineering Services
Lisa Remsen, Manager of Budget and Analysis
David Baker, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)
Dylan Pecego, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)
Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer (Remote Attendance)
Victoria Escoriza, Executive Assistant
Joseph Szerejko, Independent Consumer Advocate (Remote Attendance)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Richard Vicino at 4:02 PM

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS

Judy Allen, of West Hartford, spoke regarding Sewer Ordinance S2h "Use of Storm Drains" and inquired on how much lead time the towns have had to understand the changes in the ordinances.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

On motion made by Commissioner Patel and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of August 22, 2022 were approved.

Commissioner Hoffman entered the meeting at 4:06 PM

**FISCAL YEAR 2023 - REVISIONS TO DISTRICT SEWER USER CHARGE RATES
AND OTHER SEWER CHARGES**

To: Bureau of Public Works for consideration on November 14, 2022

In accordance with Section S12j of the District's Ordinances, sewer use unit charge rates shall be determined annually in conjunction with adoption of the District Budget. The 2023 budget in support of sewer operations calls for a sewer user charge rate to remain unchanged at \$5.90 per ccf or 0.0% change effective January 1, 2023.

Additionally, in support of the 2023 budget and in accordance with Section S12l of the District's Ordinances, the monthly sewer customer service charge per connection will remain at \$9.00 or 0.0% change effective January 1, 2023.

There will be an Administrative Review Fee for work performed by the Utility Services department, Engineering, Real Estate, Environment, Health & Safety, and others related to customer requests. The Administrative Review Fee includes, but is not limited to, the following individual services: availability and capacity analysis, assessment calculation, permit applications for non-domestic sewage wastewater discharges (including, but not limited to, individual permits, Significant Industrial Users, Categorical Industrial User Wastewater to a POTW, Food Service Establishment Wastewater, Groundwater Remediation Wastewater, Miscellaneous Discharges of Sewer Compatible (MISC) Wastewater, Vehicle Maintenance Wastewater), encroachment permits, abandonment of infrastructure, Engineering/Environmental surveys and documentation requests; this fee will be \$600.

The Annual Wastewater Discharge Compliance Fee of \$150 for all permitted wastewater discharges categorized as non-domestic sewage discharges, including but limited to, individual permits, Significant Industrial Users, Categorical Industrial User Wastewater to a POTW, Food Service Establishment Wastewater, Groundwater Remediation Wastewater, Miscellaneous Discharges of Sewer Compatible (MISC) Wastewater, Vehicle Maintenance Wastewater will be split into 12 monthly increments at a billing rate of \$12.50. The charge is related to costs associated with annual administration and review of discharge monitoring reports, verification of discharges and inventorying and management of customer data.

Following the cost trend for the sewer user charge rate, it is recommended the BOD and COD rates remain unchanged at \$0.70 per pound or effective January 1, 2023. In

addition, the suspended solids strength charge will also remain unchanged at \$0.58 per pound effective January 1, 2023. These unit charges, which apply to high flow users, low flow/high strength users and non-municipal tax-exempt users, are for the following:

Liquid flow charge rate based on sewer flow in hundreds of cubic feet (CCF).

1. BOD (biochemical oxygen demand) strength charge rate based on pounds of BOD for the concentration of BOD exceeding 300 milligrams per liter (mg/l); AND/OR
 COD (chemical oxygen demand) strength charge rate based on pounds of COD for that concentration of COD exceeding 700 mg/l.
2. Suspended solids strength charge rate based on pounds of suspended solids for that concentration exceeding 300 mg/l.

In accordance with Section S12p of the District's Ordinances, sewer user charge Late Filing/Sewage Evaluation Fees will remain at \$250.00 for the 2023 budget.

Additionally, Section S12x of the District's Ordinances provides for the Special Sewer Service Charge (a.k.a. Clean Water Project Charge), primarily for payment of principal and interest on certain bonds and loans which proceeds are used to finance the costs associated with the Clean Water Project and going forward, the Integrated Plan. The Special Sewer Service Charge is set annually in conjunction with adoption of the District Budget. Effective January 1, 2023, said charge shall be \$4.25 per hundred cubic feet (ccf) to be uniformly applied and to be proportional to the quantity of water used by District customers who utilize the District sewer system and are furnished water directly by the Metropolitan District. The Special Sewer Service Charge shall appear separately on the water bills of the District.

Liquid Waste Discharge Fee (other than Acceptable Septage): A fee is required as part of the approval from MDC for its acceptance, by whatever means, of the discharge of liquid waste other than Acceptable Septage, as provided by §S13b of the District's Sewer Ordinances. For example, but without limiting the forms of liquid waste subject to this fee, this fee shall apply to the following without limitation: groundwater; remediated groundwater; contaminated stormwater; contaminated groundwater permitted through a CT DEEP Groundwater Remediation General Permit or other CT DEEP Miscellaneous General or Individual Permit; landfill leachate; process equipment condensate; groundwater used for process water including cooling water; discharges granted temporary authorization to discharge by CT DEEP; and stormwater discharged into a separated sanitary sewer system.

Liquid Waste Discharge Fee (other than Acceptable Septage): **FOR EXISTING CUSTOMERS AS OF 12/31/22**

Tier 1--	0-500,000 avg. gallons per month	\$0.13/gal
Tier 2--	500,001 to 700,000 avg. gallons per month	\$0.07/gal
Tier 3--	700,000+ avg. gallons per month	\$0.05/gal

FOG Charges: Fees are charged to Class III and IV and FDA class 2, 3, and 4 Food Service Establishments FSE or any other facility that is likely to discharge fats, oils and grease above the effluent limit of 100 mg/l to offset the costs of managing the Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) program. This program is required by the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection General Permit for the Discharge of Wastewater Associated with Food Service Establishments.

It is **RECOMMENDED** that it be

Voted: That the Bureau of Public Works recommends to the District Board passage of the following resolution:

Resolved: That, in accordance with Section S12j of the District Ordinances, Unit Charges For Computing The Sewer User Charge, a sewer user charge rate of five dollars and ninety cents (\$5.90) per hundred cubic feet of sewer flow be effective for meter readings on and after January 1, 2023 and that, effective January 1, 2023, a sewer user customer service charge per connection of nine dollars (\$9.00) per month, a BOD strength charge of seventy cents (\$0.70) per pound be billed on sewer flow for that concentration of BOD exceeding 300 milligrams per liter; a COD strength charge of seventy cents (\$0.70) per pound be billed on sewer flow for that concentration of COD exceeding 700 milligrams per liter; and a suspended solids strength charge of fifty eight cents (\$0.58) per pound be billed on sewer flow for that concentration of suspended solids exceeding 300 milligrams per liter.

Further

Resolved: In accordance with Section S12x of the District’s Ordinances, the rate for the Special Sewer Service Charge a.k.a. Clean Water Project Charge shall be \$4.25 per ccf commencing January 1, 2023.

Further

Resolved: That the District Board approve the following schedule of fees effective January 1, 2023.

	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u>
Installation, Repair or Replacement of Sewer Meters		
<i>Fees are charged to wastewater dischargers that require metering of discharges for billing purposes. The charge is for the initial District meter installation and required repair or replacement of District meter as needed during the permitted discharge period.</i>		
5/8" meter	\$360	\$360
3/4" meter	\$375	\$375
1" meter	\$445	\$445

	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u>
1-1/2" meter	\$1,140	\$1,140
2" meter	\$1,250	\$1,250
3" meter	\$2,630	\$2,630
4" meter	\$3,180	\$3,180
6" meter	\$4,960	\$4,960
8" meter	\$14,840	\$14,840
10" meter	\$17,110	\$17,110
12" meter	\$17,800	\$17,800
Meter Box (5/8" to 1")	\$1,750	\$1,750
Meter Pit (1 1/2" and larger)	Actual Cost* + Overhead	Actual Cost* + Overhead
Open Channel Sewer	\$15,300	\$15,300
Meter Chamber for Open Channel	Actual Cost* + overhead	Actual Cost* + overhead
Radio transmitter unit	\$200	\$200
Liquid Waste Discharge Fee (other than Acceptable Septage) FOR EXISTING CUSTOMERS AS OF 12/31/22		
Tier 1-- 0-500,000 avg. gallons per month	\$0.13/gal	\$0.13/gal
Tier 2-- 500,001 to 700,000 avg gallons per month	\$0.07	\$0.07
Tier 3-- 700,000+ avg gallons per month	\$0.05	\$0.05
Sewer User Charge Late Filing/Sewage Evaluation Fees	\$250	\$250
Administrative Review for Sewer Services Fee	\$540	\$600
<i>Includes, but is not limited to, the following individual services: availability and capacity analysis, assessment calculation, permit applications for non-domestic sewage wastewater discharges (individual permits, Significant Industrial Users, Categorical Industrial User Wastewater to a POTW, Food Service Establishment Wastewater, Groundwater Remediation Wastewater, Miscellaneous Discharges of Sewer Compatible (MISC) Wastewater, Vehicle Maintenance Wastewater), encroachment permits, abandonment of infrastructure, Engineering/Environmental surveys and documentation requests</i>		

* The charge will be the District's cost of material, labor and equipment used, plus overhead at prevailing rates. In circumstances where this procedure for charging a customer would significantly delay the final billing, the District will use an appropriate estimate of its cost.

	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u>
Annual Wastewater Discharge Compliance Fee	\$150	\$150
<p><i>For all permitted wastewater discharges categorized as non-domestic sewage discharges, including but not limited to, individual permits, Significant Industrial Users, Categorical Industrial User Wastewater to a POTW, Food Service Establishment Wastewater, Groundwater Remediation Wastewater, Miscellaneous Discharges of Sewer Compatible (MISC) Wastewater, Vehicle Maintenance Wastewater. The charge is related costs associated with annual administration and review of discharge monitoring reports, verification of discharges and inventorying and management of customer data.</i></p> <p><i>The fee will be billed on a monthly basis at \$12.50/month.</i></p>		
Private Sewer Cleaning		Actual Cost* + Overhead
<i>Including appurtenances such as catch basins</i>		
Publicly Owned Catch Basin Cleaning		\$157.89 per catch basin
<i>Rate applies to MDC owned catch basins in Hartford with >50% full sumps at time of cleaning</i>		
Wastewater Discharge Compliance Fees		
Failure to submit Registration or Variance Applications	\$500	\$500
Disallow Inspection	\$225	\$225
Failure to maintain discharge records including analytical results and discharge volumes	\$200	\$200
No FOG management or pre-treatment equipment installed	\$200	\$200
Non-compliant FOG management or pre-treatment equipment installed	\$200	\$200
Failure to properly maintain/service FOG and pre-treatment equipment to maintain proper working order and provide inspection and maintenance records as required.	\$100	\$100
Failure to maintain FOG management equipment in proper working order	\$200	\$200

* The charge will be the District's cost of material, labor and equipment used, plus overhead at prevailing rates. In circumstances where this procedure for charging a customer would significantly delay the final billing, the District will use an appropriate estimate of its cost.

	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u>
Failure to clean FOG management equipment quarterly or when 25% of the depth of the trap is filled with food solids and FOG, whichever comes first.		
Failure to properly dispose of brown and/or yellow grease	\$200	\$200
Source of sewer blockage	\$1,000	\$1,000
Source of sanitary sewer overflow - Actual costs will be billed to the facility for time and materials related to the overflow	minimum \$1,000 or Actual Cost whichever is greater	minimum \$1,000 or Actual Cost whichever is greater

Wastewater Discharge Violation Correction Schedule

Discharge and/or Equipment not registered	7 days	7 days
No FOG management or pre-treatment equipment installed	30 days	30 days
FOG management equipment in need of repair or cleaning	7 days	7 days
Failure to maintain written records of FOG management equipment cleaning and inspection	7 days	7 days
Disallow an inspection – Inspection must be scheduled within 7 days of initial inspection attempt	7 days	7 days
Failure to clean and maintain FOG management equipment as required	7 days	7 days
Source of sewer blockage	24 Hours	24 Hours
Source of sanitary sewer overflow (minimum)	24 Hours	24 Hours

Respectfully submitted,



Scott W. Jellison
Chief Executive Officer

District Chairman DiBella made a motion to amend the resolution to remove fees for catch basin cleaning, as shown above in blue line. The motion was duly seconded.

On motion made by District Chairman DiBella and duly seconded, the report was received and the resolution, as amended, was adopted by unanimous vote of those present.

REVISIONS TO DISTRICT SEWER ORDINANCES

District Chairman DiBella made a motion to postpone consideration of the proposed sewer ordinance revisions to a future meeting with the exception of ordinance § S12x. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

To: Bureau of Public Works for consideration on November 14, 2022

It is **RECOMMENDED** that it be

Voted: That the Bureau of Public Works approves the following resolution:

Resolved: That following the public hearing held on November 7, 2022, the Bureau of Public Works recommends to the District Board, through the Committee on MDC Government, approval of the following “REVISIONS TO SEWER ORDINANCES” by the enactment of said proposed ordinances. (Additions are indicated in red and deletions by strikethrough).

REVISIONS TO SEWER ORDINANCES

SEC. S12x SPECIAL SEWER SERVICE CHARGE FOR ~~CAPTIAL~~ CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM

~~a.)~~ (1) For customers of The Metropolitan District who utilize the District sewer system and are furnished water directly by The Metropolitan District there shall be a special sewer service charge at rates established annually through the budget approval process as set forth in Chapter 3 of the Charter of The Metropolitan District. Except as provided in subsection S12x(b), and S12x(c), and S12(d) said rates shall be uniformly applied to, and be proportional to the quantity of water used by, the affected customers.

~~b.)~~ (2) Notwithstanding the foregoing, The Metropolitan District may, through its annual budget, allow for a reduction in the special sewer service charge otherwise payable by owners of commercial or industrial properties in the event said properties, and the commercial or industrial operations located thereon, are serviced, in whole or in part, by an on-site wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal system that does not discharge into the sanitary sewage system of The Metropolitan District.

The amount of said reduction shall be based upon the sewer usage metered and reported pursuant to Section S12e and determined by the Board of Commissioners of The Metropolitan District during its annual budget approval process for any ensuing year.

- ~~e.)~~ (3) Customers subject to the provisions of this Section 12x, other than customers subject to Subsection S12x(b) above, shall be subject to the special sewer service charge as follows: 1) for the first 24,060 hundred cubic feet of water consumed from a single water meter per month, the special sewer service charge shall be assessed at the rate established by The Metropolitan District against each one hundred cubic feet of water consumed; and 2) for all water consumed in excess of 24,060 hundred cubic feet per month from a single water meter, the special sewer service charge shall be assessed at such rate against each one hundred cubic feet of sewer flow generated by the water used in excess of 24,060 hundred cubic feet per month metered at a location approved by the Metropolitan District. This excess sewer flow shall be calculated via the proportion of sewage discharged to water consumed for the month, with this proportion applied to the volume of water consumed in excess of 24,060 hundred cubic feet per month and billed pursuant to Section S12f. The special sewer service charge assessed pursuant to this subsection shall be billed monthly.
- ~~d.)~~ (4) The proceeds from the special sewer service charge, as aforesaid, shall be used exclusively for capital costs associated with any and all measures necessary to comply with: (a) a certain consent decree executed by and between The Metropolitan District and the United States Environmental Protection Agency in a case filed on August 15, 2006 in the United States District court for the District of Connecticut captioned United States of America and State of Connecticut vs. The Metropolitan District of Hartford, Connecticut; (b) and a certain consent order (Consent Order No. 5434) executed by and between The Metropolitan District and the State of Connecticut on or about November 6, 2006 relating to the reduction of combined sewer overflows; (c) the reduction of nitrogen discharged from District Wastewater Treatment Facilities as required by State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Nitrogen General Permit issued December 21, 2005 October 5, 2018; and (d) a certain consent order (Consent Order No. COWRMU22002) executed by and between The Metropolitan District and the State of Connecticut relating to the implementation of an integrated planning concept dated September 12, 2022, as such decree and orders may be amended from time to time, and specifically for payment of capital expenditures in connection with compliance with the decree or orders, or payment of debt service on indebtedness of The District incurred for purposes of funding expenditures in connection with compliance with such decree and orders. For this purpose “indebtedness” shall mean bonds, notes and other loans and obligations, including, without limitation, State of Connecticut Clean Water Fund loans, and “Debt service” shall mean: (i) any obligation that would constitute “debt service” if incurred with respect to bonds issued under the special obligation indenture of trust, dated June 1, 2013, between The District and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee, as

amended and supplemented from time to time, as the term “debt service” is used in such indenture, whether or not such obligation is incurred with respect to indebtedness under such indenture; and (ii) any obligation of The Metropolitan District incurred in furtherance of compliance with Consent Order No. COWRMU22002, including, but not limited to, any indebtedness incurred or capital expenditures made pursuant to Public Act No. 15-114.

(e) (5) The special sewer service charge shall appear separately on the water bills of the District and shall be due and payable at the same time as the water bills are due and payable. Collection and payment of such charge shall be subject to and in accordance with sections S12m, S12n, and S12o of this part.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott W. Jellison
Chief Executive Officer

District Chairman DiBella made a motion to recommend the revisions to sewer ordinance § S12x to the Committee on MDC Government. The motion was duly seconded and adopted by unanimous vote of those present.

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Judy Allen of West Hartford stated the Sewer Customer Service Charge remains at \$9, even though the Raftelis study suggested a gradual change to a more equitable rate over 3-5 years.

COMMISSIONER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Adil requested that electric vehicle charging stations at reservoirs be placed on an upcoming agenda.

Commissioner Mandyck stated that she believes there was a prior discussion regarding electric vehicle charging stations as a revenue generator and it did not move forward but encourages considering placing electric vehicle charging stations as a benefit or service to the community. She also stated she had questions regarding the proposed ordinance revisions.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle
District Clerk

Date of Approval