

THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION

555 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
Monday, January 4, 2023

PRESENT: Commissioners Andrew Adil, John Avedisian, John Bazzano, Clifford Avery Buell, Richard Bush, Donald Currey, Dimple Desai, William A. DiBella, David Drake, John Gale, Peter Gardow, Allen Hoffman, Jean Holloway, Byron Lester, Diane Lewis, Jacqueline Mandyck, Dominic Pane, Alvin Taylor, Calixto Torres and James Woulfe (20)

REMOTE ATTENDANCE: Commissioners Bhupen Patel and Pasquale J. Salemi (2)

ABSENT: Commissioners Joan Gentile, James Healy, Christian Hoheb, Mary LaChance, Maureen Magnan, Michael Maniscalco, Jon Petoskey and New Britain Special Representative Michael Carrier (8)

ALSO PRESENT: 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 (Remote Attendance)
Robert Barron, Chief Financial Officer
Jamie Harlow, Director of Human Resources (Remote Attendance)
Sue Negrelli, Director of Engineering (Remote Attendance)
David Rutty, Director of Operations
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Technology
Tom Tyler, Director of Facilities
Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer
Julie Price, Executive Assistant
Dylan Pecego, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)
Joseph Szerejko, Independent Consumer Advocate

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman DiBella at 5:32 PM

ROLL CALL AND QUORUM

The District Clerk called the roll and informed Chairman 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Commissioner Currey and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of December 5, 2022 were approved. For transparency, Commissioner Mandyck asked that it be put on the record that her abstention from voting on the resolution to increase funding for Metro Hartford Alliance at the December Board meeting was due to CEO David Griggs of Metro Hartford being on a board of which she is the Executive Director.

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

Without objection, the agenda was amended to refer item #9, Vacancies on Committee on Technology, to the Committee on Organization.

Without objection, Commissioner Currey made a motion to add an additional member to the Committee on Technology.

RECESS

At 5:40 PM, Commissioner Hoffman made a motion to recess the District Board meeting to enable the Committee on Organization to consider Commissioner appointments to Committees. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

RECONVENE

At 5:51 PM, without objection, District Chairman DiBella reconvened the meeting of the District Board.

REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT CHAIRMAN

Chairman William DiBella briefed the District Board on the NEBRA conference on Residuals & Biosolids, held in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and that it focused heavily on PFAS.

REPORT FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Chief Executive Officer Scott Jellison reported to the District Board on the upcoming

Strategic Planning meetings that will be held to present the Management Study, the DPH declaratory ruling hearing being held on January 5, 2023, a meeting with watershed towns on December 8, 2022 to discuss the Colebrook issue, and the \$2.5 million federal grant that was received for a new transmission main across the Connecticut River.

Commissioner Gale entered the meeting at 6:14 PM.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNSEL

District Counsel Christopher Stone updated the District Board on the Marriott assessment appeal and on the litigation related to the tunnel dispute resolution board.

**COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION
APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS TO COMMITTEES**

To: District Board January 4, 2023

From: Committee on Organization

At a meeting of the Committee on Organization held on January 4, 2023, it was:

Voted: That the Committee on Organization recommend to the District Board appointment of the following Commissioners to the following Committees:

Bureau of Public Works

John Bazzano

John Gale

Personnel, Pension & Insurance

Dimple Desai

Committee on MDC Government

Dimple Desai

Water Bureau

Dimple Desai

Committee on Technology

Andrew Adil

Peter Gardow

Strategic Planning Committee

John Bazzano

John Gale

Respectfully submitted,



John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

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

**COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT
APPOINTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANTS**

To: District Board

January 4, 2023

From: Committee on MDC Government

Over the past year, the firms of Gaffney, Bennett and Associates Inc. (Attorney Brendan Fox), SJB Strategies, LLC (Attorney Steve Bonafonte) and Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC (Janice Flemming) have provided exemplary service in the area of government relations and advocacy within state government on behalf of the District, and the same holds true for Squire Patton Boggs (William Schuster) and SJB Strategies, LLC on the federal level. Based upon their collective past performance, and to maintain the necessary level of continuity within the District's legislative and administrative lobbying activities, District staff recommends the reappointment of each of these firms for the 2023 state and federal legislative consultants. The term of these appointments would be from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, subject to Board approval.

Furthermore, in the event the Committee on MDC Government forwards the appointments to the District Board, District staff recommends the following annual fees for state legislative/administrative consultants: (1) Gaffney, Bennett and Associates, Inc. receive \$69,000.00, (2) SJB Strategies, LLC receive \$25,000.00 and (3) Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC receive \$66,000.00, for a total of \$160,000.00.

On the Federal level, District staff recommends the reappointment of Squire Patton Boggs and SJB Strategies LLC as federal legislative consultants. In the event the Committee on MDC Government forwards the appointments to the District Board, District staff recommends the following annual fees for federal legislative/administrative consultants: (1) Squire Patton Boggs receive \$150,000.00; and (2) SJB Strategies, LLC receive \$70,000.00.

It is therefore recommended that it be:

Voted: That the Committee on MDC Government recommends to the District Board passage of the following resolution:

Resolved: That the firms of Gaffney, Bennett and Associates Inc., SJB Strategies, LLC and Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC be retained to perform state

lobbying services for a period commencing on January 1, 2023 and terminating on December 31, 2023. Gaffney, Bennett and Associates, Inc. fee will receive \$69,000.00, SJB Strategies, LLC will receive \$25,000.00, and Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC will receive \$66,000.00, subject to the execution of a written agreement prepared and approved by District Counsel as to form and content, reflecting the scope of services, reporting requirements and such other terms and conditions as District Counsel, may specify.

Further

Resolved: That the firms of Squire Patton Boggs and SJB Strategies, LLC be retained to perform federal lobbying services for a period commencing on January 1, 2023 and terminating on December 31, 2023. Squire Patton Boggs will receive at \$150,000.00 and SJB Strategies, LLC will receive \$70,000.00, subject to the execution of a written agreement prepared and approved by District Counsel as to form and content, reflecting the scope of services, reporting requirements and such other terms and conditions as District Counsel may specify.

Respectfully submitted,



John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

On motion made by Commissioner Taylor and duly seconded, the report was received and resolution adopted, as amended in redline above, by unanimous vote of those present.

Without objection, Commissioner Currey made motion to amend the agenda to add "Service of Tax Warrants for Fiscal Year 2023" for report.

**DISTRICT CLERK
SERVICE OF TAX WARRANTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023**

To: District Board

January 4, 2023

From: District Clerk

Pursuant to the Charter of the District, Section 3-13, the District Clerk reports that Tax Warrants for Fiscal Year 2023, drawn by the Chairman of The Metropolitan District, in favor of the Treasurer have been served on the following:

Town Clerk, Marguerite Phillips, Bloomfield
Town Clerk, Robert J. Pasek, East Hartford
Town and City Clerk Noel McGregor, Hartford
Town Clerk James Krupienski, Newington
Town Clerk Sandra Merrill Wieleba, Rocky Hill
Town Clerk Essie S. Labrot, West Hartford
Town Clerk Sue Schroeder, Wethersfield
Town Clerk Anna Posniak, Windsor

Receipts for these tax warrants have been received and are on file in the Office of the District Clerk.

Respectfully submitted,

John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

Without objection, the report was received.

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

Commissioner Avedisian asked whether a Commissioner is required to disclose the reason why they recused themselves or abstained from voting.

Commissioner Adil discussed his time served with Chairman DiBella and that there has been a lot of negativity around the organization recently and that Commissioners should resolve to work together and find the best paths forward for the organization.

Commissioner Currey asked about the conflict of interest form and if it would be prudent to have Commissioners watch the 30-minute video used by the State of Connecticut that explains conflicts of interest before they sign.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

Date of Approval