

**COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY
SPECIAL MEETING
The Metropolitan District
555 Main Street, Hartford
Thursday, October 12, 2023**

PRESENT: Commissioners David Drake, Joan Gentile, Pasquale J. Salemi, Alvin Taylor and District Chairman William DiBella (5)

REMOTE ATTENDANCE: (0)

ABSENT: Commissioner Andrew Adil and Peter Gardow (2)

ALSO PRESENT:

Commissioner John Avedesian
Commissioner Donald Currey (Remote Attendance)
Commissioner Allen Hoffman
Commissioner Bhupen Patel
Citizen Member Awet Tsegai
Scott W. Jellison, Chief Executive Officer
Christopher Stone, District Counsel (Remote Attendance)
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk
Steve Bonafonte, Assistant District Counsel
Christopher Levesque, Chief Operating Officer
Kelly Shane, Chief Administrative Officer
Robert Barron, Chief Financial Officer
Susan Negrelli, Director of Engineering (Remote Attendance)
Thomas Tyler, Director of Facilities
Jeff Bowers, Manager of Water Pollution Control
Michael Zabilansky, Manager of Maintenance
Lisa Madison, Manager of Procurement
Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer
Julie Price, Executive Assistant
Dylan Pecego, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)
Gabrielle Frigon, CT DEEP (Remote Attendance)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman DiBella called the meeting to order at 1:07 PM

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS

Judy Allen, of West Hartford, commented on item #7 “CT Public utilities Regulatory Authority’s Innovative Energy Solutions Program” and stated that, in her reading of the program information, the first applications closed in the first quarter of 2023, the next closes in first quarter of 2024, but that she does not think the MDC should be involved. She also commented that the responses to the follow-up questions to CTEC show that they are a company whom the MDC should not do business with. Lastly, she fails to see the need or purpose for this

Committee unless there is a specific purpose that has been identified, as the MDC has excellent staff who has the exceptional knowledge about new technology. She finds it interesting that the real need to replace the West Hartford water treatment plant hasn't drawn the same kind of attention.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Commissioner Drake and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of September 21, 2023 were approved. Commissioner Gentile abstained.

2023-RFI-01 SUBMITTAL OF LCI CORP

The Committee on Technology briefly discussed the presentation and submission from LCI Corp for 2023-RFI-01 and had no further questions for them.

Commissioner Taylor entered the meeting at 1:38 PM.

PRESENTATION FROM STAFF RE: 2023-RFI-01 SUBMITTAL OF CDM SMITH

Staff and Committee members reviewed the proposed questions to be sent to CDM Smith regarding their 2023-RF1-01 submittal before their forthcoming presentation to the Committee on Technology on October 26th.

The Committee discussed the ability for the public to submit their own questions regarding RFI submissions.

Commissioner Salemi noted that, having been absent for the meeting, he consulted the records of the minutes for the September 7th meeting and could not find any reference to questions being read into the record.

Commissioner Gentile moved the following resolution:

For the RFI process, any public comments or questions submitted to the District Clerk will be brought to the Committee on Technology for determination on disposition.

The resolution was duly seconded and passed by unanimous vote of those present.

Commissioner Salemi noted for the record that, per Robert's Rules of Order, anything that gets read into the record has to be a request from a member of the body to read it into the record.

Commissioner Salemi exited the meeting at 3:03 PM.

Agenda Item #7, "CT Public Utilities Regulatory Authority's Innovative Energy Solutions Program," was taken up before agenda item #6, "CTEC Response to Follow-up Questions."

CT PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY'S INNOVATIVE ENERGY SOLUTIONS PROGRAM

District Counsel Christopher Stone discussed the viability of MDC participation in this program after reviewing the PURA treatise. He stated that it is more for the innovators of the technologies to apply to the program.

CTEC RESPONSE TO FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

The Committee on Technology discussed the follow up questions and responses from CTEC. District Counsel stated that in CTEC's response there were representations made that caused the District Counsel's office some concern as it involves a claim. He suggested if the Committee wanted to discuss that claim, they should go into executive session.

At 3:11 P.M., Chairman DiBella requested an executive session to discuss a pending claim.

On a motion made by Commissioner Drake and duly seconded, the Committee on Technology entered into executive session to discuss the claim.

Those in attendance during the executive session:

Commissioners David Drake, Joan Gentile, Allen Hoffman, Bhupen Patel, Alvin Taylor and District Chairman William DiBella; Chief Executive Officer Scott W. Jellison; District Counsel Christopher Stone and Assistant District Counsel Steve Bonafonte.

District Clerk John Mirtle entered the executive session at 3:36 PM.

District Clerk John Mirtle exited the executive session at 3:54 PM.

RECONVENE

At 4:07 P.M., Chairman DiBella requested to come out of executive session and on motion made by Commissioner Taylor and duly seconded, the Committee on Technology came out of executive session and reconvened. No formal action was taken.

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judy Allen, Of West Hartford, stated that she has and will always follow whatever rules the Board sets for public participation. She does suggest two amendments for the public submittal of comments or questions for the RFI process. First, when submitting comments to the RFI respondents, to include the name of the member of the public. Second, include whatever criteria would be used in approving or rejecting a question from the public. She also stated that she would object to the Committee editing her questions without asking her permission first.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:09 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

Date of Approval