



The Metropolitan District
water supply · environmental services · geographic information

**BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024
5:00 PM**

<u>Location</u>	<u>Commissioners</u>	<u>Citizen Members</u>
Board Room District Headquarters 555 Main Street, Hartford	Adil Currey (Ex-Officio) Hoffman Salemi	Iacovazzi King-Corbin Russo Tsegai
Dial in #: (415)-655-0001 Access Code: # 2315 116 3034 Meeting Video Link	Quorum: 5	

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN
3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS
5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 2023
6. REFERRAL FROM DISTRICT BOARD RE: REQUEST FROM COMMISSIONER SALEMI FOR INDEMNIFICATION AND REIMBURSEMENT OF PRIVATE ATTORNEY FEES (POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION)
7. OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS
8. COMMISSIONER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
9. ADJOURNMENT

November 16, 2023

To; William A. DiBella
Chair, The Metropolitan District Commission

Cc: All Members and Citizen Members of the MDC

John S. Mirtle,
District Clerk / Assistant District Counsel

From; Pasquale Salemi
Commissioner, Chair Board of Finance

Subject; Indemnification for and Request for Reimbursement of Attorney Fees in the Matter of the "Investigation Report Relating to Sandler and Mara, P.C. Invoices April 4, 2023" and Commissioner Pasquale Salemi

On May 22, 2023, I engaged Atty. Jamie Sullivan of the firm of Logan, Vance, Sullivan and Kores to represent me regarding the MDC Internal Audit Committee's charge that I had acted in violation of the District's Charter as advanced in its "Investigation Report Relating to Sandler and Mara, P.C. Invoices" of April 4, 2023, prepared by Attys. Patrick J. McHale and Jennifer L. Dixon of Kainen, Escalera and McHale, P.C.

The charge is unfounded and unsupported; the "Report" ignores, and the proceedings as documented by the Report and the Minutes and Transcripts of the Meetings, conceal exculpatory documentation readily available and known to the IAC's investigation team and; I am never informed that I am a subject of the investigation and as all discussion(s) on the charge are conducted in Executive Session(s) I am not provided with the ability to respond, my right to an open (public) forum never offered and my expectation for advice, non-conflicted counsel and representation as a Commissioner by the Office of District Counsel is blocked by the participation of that office in the Investigation itself.

The charge(s) are damaging to me personally and as a longstanding volunteer Commissioner in service to the District and my own community with an exemplary record of dedication and accomplishment in the execution of my duties as a member of the Commission and the various Committees I have served on for over 30 years.

It became necessary for me to be assisted by an attorney in attempting to understand the CT/FOIA and its impact on both the proceedings and the production of documentation and communications found in and "not found" in the Report. Having been charged with a "violation of the Charter" which I have been unable to understand to this day, and the fact that absolutely no documentation or communication has ever been presented either in the report or elsewhere that supports this charge. In fact, in my own review and investigation there are numerous documents and communications that actually prove the opposite, that in fact, there was no violation of the Charter.

My requests for documentation through my attorney have produced at least some of the documents I requested that were not produced at my request alone. These services will continue to be necessary as

we produce my final response to the Report and ask the District Board to provide a forum wherein the Report can be challenged along with the proceedings leading to its production.

I respectfully request that the issue of providing for the reimbursement of private Atty's fees provided in my defense in the matter of the "Investigation Report Relating to Invoices of Sandler and Mara, P.C." and its charge against me, be placed on the Agenda of the December 4, 2023, District Board Meeting.

**BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING
The Metropolitan District
555 Main Street, Hartford
Monday, December 4, 2023**

PRESENT: Commissioners Andrew Adil, Donald Currey, Allen Hoffman, Pasquale J. Salemi and District Chairman William DiBella; Citizen Members Linda Russo and Awet Tsegai (7)

**REMOTE
ATTENDANCE:** None (0)

ABSENT: Citizen Members Drew Iacovazzi and Linda King-Corbin (2)

**ALSO
PRESENT:** Commissioner Richard Bush (Remote Attendance)
Commissioner Joan Gentile (Remote Attendance)
Commissioner Kyle Anderson
Commissioner John Bazzano
Commissioner Avery Buell
Commissioner Jean Holloway
Commissioner Bhupen Patel
Commissioner Jacqueline Mandyck
Commissioner Alvin Taylor
Christopher Stone, District Counsel (Remote Attendance)
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk
Robert Barron, Chief Financial Officer
Chris Levesque, Chief Operating Officer
Kelly Shane, Chief Administrative Officer
Tom Tyler, Director of Facilities
Dave Ruddy, Director of Operations
Jamie Harlow, Director of Human Resources
Rita Kelley, Equal Employment Opportunity Officer/Whistleblower Coordinator
Shereese Rodgers, Senior Financial Analyst
Jean-Paul Avenoso, Financial Analyst
Jeff King, Construction Manager
Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer
Victoria Escoriza, Executive Assistant
Dylan Pecego, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)
Joseph Szerejko, Independent Consumer Advocate (Remote Attendance)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Salemi called the meeting to order at 4:13 PM

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

On motion made by Commissioner Adil and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of the special Board of Finance meeting of November 9, 2023 were approved.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEWER AD VALOREM TAX LEVY STABILIZATION FUND, TO BE FUNDED FROM THE PROCEEDS, IF ANY, FROM CERTAIN LEGAL CLAIMS AGAINST THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

To: Board of Finance for consideration on December 4, 2023

It is **RECOMMENDED** that it be:

VOTED: That the Board of Finance approves passage of the following resolution, and recommends same to the District Board:

RESOLVED: There is established a Sewer Ad Valorem Tax Levy Stabilization Fund to be accessed by the District solely for the purpose of reducing future ad valorem payments in an amount, if any, determined by the District Board, as recommended by the Board of Finance as part of the District's annual budget process.

**FURTHER
RESOLVED:** Any and all proceeds realized by the District from the following legal proceedings shall fund the Sewer Ad Valorem Tax Levy Stabilization Fund. In addition, any other proceeds realized by the District, may be, with recommendation by the Board of Finance and with District Board approval, applied to the Sewer Ad Valorem Tax Levy Stabilization Fund.

1. *The Metropolitan District Commission v. State of Connecticut*, Hartford Superior Court, Docket No. HHD-CV23-6164187-S;
2. *The Metropolitan District v. State of Connecticut*, Office of the Claims Commissioner File No. 26015; and
3. *The Metropolitan District v. State of Connecticut*, Office of the Claims Commissioner File No. 26612.

Respectfully Submitted,



Scott W. Jellison
Chief Executive Officer

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 PM.

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

Date of Approval