



**WATER BUREAU
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024
5:30 PM**

<u>Location</u>	<u>Commissioners</u>	
Board Room	Adil	Gardow
District Headquarters	Anderson	Holloway
555 Main Street, Hartford	Buell	Lewis
	Clarke	Mandyck
	Currey (Ex-Officio)	Salemi
Dial in #: (415)-655-0001	Desai	Taylor
Access Code: 2312 672 8562#	Gale	Carrier
Meeting Video Link	Quorum: 7	

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS
3. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON
4. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON
5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 8, 2023
6. REPORT RE: REVISIONS TO CUSTOMER WATER BILLS
7. CONSIDERATION AND POTENTIAL ACTION RE: EPA LEAD & COPPER RULE AND AUTHORIZATION FOR REPLACEMENT OF CUSTOMER'S PRIVATE WATER SERVICE LINES CONTAINING LEAD OR COPPER
8. CONSIDERATION AND POTENTIAL ACTION RE: DISBANDING WATER BUREAU SUBCOMMITTEE ON MDC CUSTOMER BASE
9. DISCUSSION RE: INTRA-STATE CONNECTIVITY OF WATER SYSTEMS
10. DISCUSSION RE: ESTABLISHMENT OF ALTERNATIVE WATER RATES FOR NON-MEMBER TOWNS AND FOR OTHER WATER COMPANIES
11. REPORT RE: SUMMARY OF WATER MAIN BREAKS
12. REPORT RE: YEAR-TO-DATE WATER REVENUE
13. CONSIDERATION AND POTENTIAL ACTION RE: POTENTIAL SALE OF REAL ESTATE IN GLASTONBURY (POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION)
14. CONSIDERATION AND POTENTIAL ACTION RE: POTENTIAL PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE IN NEW HARTFORD (POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION)
15. OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS
16. COMMISSIONER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
17. ADJOURNMENT

DISBAND WATER BUREAU SUBCOMMITTEE ON MDC CUSTOMER BASE

To: Water Bureau for consideration on February 21, 2024

On March 14, 2018, the Water Bureau created a Subcommittee on MDC Customer Base. The subcommittee met five times in 2018 and 2019.

It is **RECOMMENDED** that it be:

VOTED: That the Water Bureau approve passage of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the Water Bureau hereby disbands and dissolves its Subcommittee on MDC Customer Base.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Mirtle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John S. Mirtle
District Clerk

**WATER BUREAU
REGULAR MEETING**
555 Main Street, Hartford
Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Present: Commissioners Andrew Adil, Dominic Pane, Alvin Taylor and District Chairman William DiBella (4)

Remote

Attendance: Commissioners C. Avery Buell, Dimple Desai, Peter Gardow, Jacqueline Mandyck and Pasquale Salemi (5)

Absent: Commissioners Kyle Anderson, Jean Holloway, Diane Lewis, Jon Petoskey and Special Representative Michael Carrier (5)

Also

Present: Commissioner Richard Bush
Commissioner Donald Currey
Commissioner Byron Lester (Remote Attendance)
Commissioner David Steuber (Remote Attendance)
Scott W. Jellison, Chief Executive Officer
Christopher Stone, District Counsel
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk
Christopher Levesque, Chief Operating Officer (Remote Attendance)
Kelly Shane, Chief Administrative Officer
Robert Barron, Chief Financial Officer
Susan Negrelli, Director of Engineering
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Services (Remote Attendance)
Tom Tyler, Director of Facilities
Ray Baral, Assistant Manager of Water Treatment
Andrew Hubbard, Natural Resources Administrator
Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer
Julie Price, Executive Assistant
Dylan Pecego, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)
Joseph Szerejko, Independent Consumer Advocate (Remote Attendance)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pane at 5:19 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

On a motion made by District Chairman DiBella and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of September 27, 2023 were approved.

WATER BUREAU REVISIONS TO DISTRICT WATER RATES

To: Water Bureau for consideration on November 8, 2023

The 2024 budget in support of Water Operations calls for the water use, customer service charge, fixed surcharge and fire protection rates to remain unchanged; however, the surcharge outside the Metropolitan District for capital improvements will change. These rates will become effective January 1, 2024. A discussion of several rates that comprise the proposed schedule for 2024 and the recommendations pertaining to each follows:

Water Used Charge – Treated Water

Staff recommends that the rate charged for the use of treated water based on actual metered consumption ***remain unchanged at \$3.80 per CCF.***

Water Used Charge – Untreated Water

The District provides untreated water to other agencies and water companies for a fixed rate based on actual consumption. The current rate for this untreated or “raw” water is \$1.50 per hundred cubic feet of consumption. Staff recommends that the rate charged for the use of untreated water based on actual consumption ***remain unchanged at \$1.50 per CCF.***

Customer Service Charge

Revenues from this customer service charge are intended to support a portion of the fixed operating, maintenance and debt costs associated with water operations. Staff recommends that the following Customer Service Charges by meter size ***remain unchanged,*** as follows:

<u>SIZE OF METER</u>	<u>MONTHLY BILLING</u>
5/8"	\$14.98
3/4"	\$14.98
1"	\$14.98
1 1/2"	\$48.60
2"	\$77.80
3"	\$145.89
4"	\$243.55
6"	\$486.07
8"	\$771.16
10"	\$1,777.77
12"	\$1,896.38

Surcharge Outside the Metropolitan District

A fixed “surcharge” rate is added to all accounts for service outside the boundaries of the District. The surcharge is based on the size of the meter that serves each delivery point. Revenues from this charge are for the reimbursement of assets deployed. The surcharge rates have been set at the same rates as the Customer Service Charges. Staff recommends that the following fixed Surcharge Outside the Metropolitan District by meter size ***remain unchanged,*** as follows:

<u>SIZE OF METER</u>	<u>MONTHLY BILLING</u>
5/8"	\$14.98
3/4"	\$14.98
1"	\$14.98
1 1/2"	\$48.60
2"	\$77.80
3"	\$145.89
4"	\$243.55
6"	\$486.07
8"	\$771.16
10"	\$1,777.77
12"	\$1,896.38

Private Fire Protection Charge

Rates for private fire protection are charged to all fire service accounts, including combination services, based on the size of the service connection. Staff recommends monthly that the monthly Private Fire Protection charges ***remain unchanged***, as follows:

<u>SIZE OF CONNECTION</u>	<u>MONTHLY CHARGE</u>
1"	\$5.00
2"	\$22.85
3"	\$33.75
4"	\$60.00
6"	\$135.00
8"	\$240.00
10"	\$375.00
12"	\$540.00
16"	\$960.00
20"	\$1,500.00
24"	\$2,160.00

Conclusion

Staff believes that the foregoing rate recommendations are justified, reflect the sound financial administration that has earned the District support among credit rating agencies and financial advisors, and are consistent with the policy direction of the Commission.

It is **RECOMMENDED** that it be:

Voted: That the Water Bureau, acting under Section 5-4 of the District Charter, approves the following **2024 water rates without change** from the 2023 rates:

SEC. W1a WATER USED CHARGE (TREATED WATER)

For customers which do not resell treated water, the WATER USED CHARGE is the quantity of water used as read at the meter, as follows:

BILLS RENDERED MONTHLYRATE**\$3.80** per 100 Cubic Feet

The WATER USED CHARGE for such customers subject to § S12x of The Metropolitan District Sewer Ordinances who purchase more than 802 CCF of water per day, as averaged over a monthly billing period, as follows:

For each of the first 802 CCF of water used per day:

BILLS RENDERED MONTHLYRATE**\$3.80** per 100 Cubic Feet

For each CCF of water used per day in excess of 802 CCF:

BILLS RENDERED MONTHLYRATE**\$3.05** per 100 Cubic Feet

For customers which, by agreement with the District or otherwise, resell treated water, the WATER USED CHARGE is the quantity of water used as read at the meter, as follows:

BILLS RENDERED MONTHLYRATE**\$3.80** per 100 Cubic Feet**SEC. W1b CUSTOMER SERVICE CHARGE**

The CUSTOMER SERVICE CHARGE is a service charge applicable to all metered services and services to be metered. The charge shall be determined from the size of each meter installed or to be installed on the premises, as follows:

<u>SIZE OF METER</u>	<u>MONTHLY BILLING</u>
5/8"	\$14.98
3/4"	\$14.98
1"	\$14.98
1 1/2"	\$48.60
2"	\$77.80
3"	\$145.89
4"	\$243.55
6"	\$486.07
8"	\$771.16
10"	\$1,777.77
12"	\$1,896.38

SEC. W1c SURCHARGE OUTSIDE THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

In towns outside the limits of The Metropolitan District, in addition to charges under SEC. W1a and W1b, there shall be a surcharge determined from the size of the meter installed on the premises, as follows:

<u>SIZE OF METER</u>	<u>MONTHLY BILLING</u>
5/8"	\$14.98
3/4"	\$14.98
1"	\$14.98
1 1/2"	\$48.60
2"	\$77.80
3"	\$145.89
4"	\$243.55
6"	\$486.07
8"	\$771.16
10"	\$1,777.77
12"	\$1,896.38

SEC. W1d CHARGES FOR UNTREATED WATER

Charges for untreated water sold to water companies and agencies under agreement between The Metropolitan District and such companies or agencies, or by other arrangement, shall be a rate of \$1.50 per hundred cubic feet.

SEC. W6f CHARGES FOR PRIVATE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE

Rates for private fire protection are charged to all fire service accounts, including combination services, based on the size of the service connection.

<u>SIZE OF CONNECTION</u>	<u>MONTHLY CHARGE</u>
1"	\$5.00
2"	\$22.85
3"	\$33.75
4"	\$60.00
6"	\$135.00
8"	\$240.00
10"	\$375.00
12"	\$540.00
16"	\$960.00
20"	\$1,500.00
24"	\$2,160.00

Further

Voted: That the Water Bureau, acting under Section 5-4 of the District Charter, establishes revised water rates effective with the meter readings rendered on and after January 1, 2024, as set forth in the following **"REVISIONS TO WATER SUPPLY ORDINANCES."**

Further

Voted: That following the public hearing held on November 2, 2023, as required by Special Act 01-3 adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, and

Section 2-14 of the Compiled Charter of The Metropolitan District, the Water Bureau recommends to the District Board, through the Committee on MDC Government, approval of the following **“REVISIONS TO WATER SUPPLY ORDINANCES”** by the enactment of said proposed ordinances. (Additions are indicated in red and deletions by strikethrough).

REVISIONS TO WATER SUPPLY ORDINANCES

Surcharge Outside the Metropolitan District for Capital Improvements

A surcharge is added to the water rate to recover the cost of major capital improvements and/or upgrades such as water main extensions, pump stations, etc. in non-member towns. The surcharge is calculated based on the aggregate hydraulic capacity of each meter size in each non-member town.

SEC. W1f SURCHARGE OUTSIDE THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

In towns outside the limits of The Metropolitan District for which capital improvements or layout and assessment projects are constructed, in addition to the charges set forth in SEC. W1a, W1b and W1c, there shall be a surcharge on the water rates determined from the size of the meter installed on the premises, as follows:

1. On or before the end of each fiscal year, The Metropolitan District shall determine the actual cost of each capital improvement constructed for each non-member town and the net cost (cost less assessments) of layout and assessment projects constructed for each non-member town. The costs and/or net costs, as applicable, shall be allocated to the towns for which the work was performed and shall be a surcharge on the water rates of the users located in such towns.
2. The annual surcharge to be added to each user's water rate shall equal the total amount of the costs and/or net costs, as applicable, allocated to the town in which such user is located [excluding costs which the town has paid as set forth in Section W1f(3)] amortized over a twenty year period using an interest rate computed by the District which approximates the District's long-term cost of funds for its General Obligation Bond portfolio-multiplied by the percentage of hydraulic capacity of each user's meter size (based on the American Water Works Association meter size capacity) of the aggregate hydraulic capacity of all meters in such town. The surcharge shall be billed in either quarterly or monthly installments, as applicable, commencing with the first bill sent out in the fiscal year succeeding the fiscal year in which the work was performed and continuing over the twenty year period.
3. The District shall, as soon as possible after the completion of each capital improvement project or separate phase thereof, provide to the non-member towns for which a capital improvement was constructed a compilation of the costs associated with the construction of such project(s). If, on or before the end of the District's fiscal year in which such construction was completed, a non-member town agrees to pay and does in fact pay all or a portion of the cost of a capital improvement constructed for such town, then the amount paid by such town shall be deducted from the total amount of costs and/or net costs allocated to such town as described in Section W1f(1) and used to calculate the individual surcharges as set forth in Section W1f(2).

MONTHLY BILLING

METER SIZE	Farmington		Glastonbury		South Windsor		Manchester	
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
5/8"	\$1.84	\$1.97	\$1.60	\$1.60	\$1.46	\$1.31	\$2.79	\$2.73
3/4"	-	-	\$2.39	\$2.39	\$2.19	\$1.97	-	-
1"	\$3.68	\$3.93	\$3.19	\$3.19	\$2.92	\$2.63	\$5.57	\$5.47
1½"	\$7.36	\$7.87	\$6.39	\$6.38	\$5.85	\$5.25	-	-
2"	\$138.08	\$147.53	\$119.74	\$119.70	\$109.67	\$98.50	-	-
3"	\$322.20	\$344.23	\$279.39	\$279.29	\$255.90	\$229.84	\$487.54	\$478.29
4"	\$552.33	\$590.10	\$478.96	\$478.79	\$438.68	\$394.02	-	-
6"	\$736.45	\$786.80	\$638.61	\$638.39	-	\$525.36	\$1,114.38	\$1,093.24
8"	\$1,841.12	\$1,967.01	-	-	-	-	-	-

Respectfully submitted,



Scott W. Jellison
Chief Executive Officer

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

District Counsel Stone stated that he had received a question from a Commissioner about whether there is anything in the Charter that would prevent the District from selling water to other water companies at a rate above what the MDC sells to member towns.

District Chairman DiBella made motion for a written opinion from District Counsel about the ability to sell water to other water companies at a different rate. The motion was duly seconded and passed by unanimous vote of those present.

**REVISIONS TO WATER ASSESSMENT RATES AND
MISCELLANEOUS WATER CHARGES**

To: Water Bureau for consideration on November 8, 2023

In support of the annual water operating budget, staff is submitting these rates in conjunction with the revisions to the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 water rates and other peripheral charges associated with the delivery and sale of water as part of the annual budget adoption process.

Staff has reviewed these rates in light of the costs associated with them on a 'typical' model basis and makes the following recommendations:

It is **RECOMMENDED** that it be:

Voted: That the Water Bureau hereby adopts the following schedule of fees effective January 1, 2024:

Water Assessment Rates and Miscellaneous Water Charges

	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u>
<u>Main Pipe Assessment</u>	\$95/ft	\$95/ft
<u>Service Pipe Taps</u>		
Domestic (includes spacer and meter costs):		
1" Service Tap with 5/8" Meter	\$910	\$910
1" Service Tap with 3/4" Meter	\$925	\$945
1-1/2" Service Tap with 1" Meter	\$1,100	\$1,100
2" Service Tap with 1-1/2" Meter	\$2,015	\$2,130
4" Service Tap with 2" Meter	\$2,200	\$2,335
4" Service Tap with 3" Meter	\$3,640	\$3,640
6" Service Tap with 4" Meter	\$4,190	\$4,190
8" Service Tap with 6" Meter	\$5,970	\$5,970
10" Service Tap with 8" Meter	\$15,850	\$15,850
12" Service Tap with 10" Meter	\$18,120	\$18,120
12" Service Tap with 12" Meter	\$18,810	\$18,810
Fire Service		
2" Fire Service Tap	\$1,440	\$1,590
4" and larger Fire Service Tap	\$1,200	\$1,370
Hydrants		
Installed after the main	\$11,600	\$15,000
Hydrant Maintenance	\$150	\$155
Hydrant Relocation	\$15,000 deposit +/- actual cost + overhead	\$15,000 deposit +/- actual cost + overhead
Fire Flow Testing	\$400	\$480
<u>Special Meter Charges and Deposits:</u>		
Hydrant Meters		
Administrative and meter reading fee, including connection and inspection fees + actual water use to be billed	\$1,500	\$1,500
Hydrant Meter Deposit	\$2,000	\$2,000

	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u>
Replacement of Damaged District Meters		
5/8" meter	\$360	\$360
3/4" meter	\$375	\$375
1" meter	\$445	\$445
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	\$5,090
8" meter	\$14,840	\$14,840
10" meter	\$17,110	\$17,110
12" meter	\$17,800	\$17,800
Hydrant meter assembly	\$2,000	\$2,000
Meter box (5/8"- 1")	\$1,750	\$1,750
Meter pit (1 – 1/2" and Larger)	Actual Cost* + Overhead	Actual Cost* + Overhead
Radio transmitter unit	\$200	\$212
Spacer Charges		
5/8", 3/4"	\$160	\$160
1"	\$165	\$181
1-1/2"	\$225	\$225
2" & larger	\$250	\$250
3rd Party Damage to District Infrastructure Repair or Replacement (e.g. public hydrants)	Actual Cost* + Overhead	Actual Cost* + Overhead
Lien Release Fee per Lien (includes delinquent account review)	\$90	\$90
Customer Check Returned for Insufficient Funds	\$60	\$60
Water Turn-on after Shut-off for Non-Payment or Ordinance Violation	\$170	\$170
Water Turn-on after Shut-off for Non-Payment or Ordinance Violation (subsequent event in same year)	\$225	\$225
Customer Private Property Service Call* e.g. lack of water pressure, leak investigation, customer requested water service off/on, etc. *First customer service call is free of charge. The \$125 fee will be charged for subsequent calls within a rolling 12-month time period.	\$125	\$125

* 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>
Inspection Service Calls – After Normal Work Hours and Scheduled Overtime/Emergency Inspections <i>After Normal Work Hours are Monday to Friday 4pm to 8am or holidays/weekends.</i>	\$415	\$415
Cross Connection Inspection Fee per building <i>Required by CT Dept. of Public Health. Per DPH regulation, this inspection is required either annually or every five years. The fee will be billed monthly in advance in the amount of either \$2.50 per month (5-year inspection required) or \$12.50 per month (annual inspection required).</i>	\$150	\$150
Backflow Device Testing per device <i>Required by CT Dept. of Public Health but customer may hire private contractor to perform test</i>	\$115	\$115
Failure to Properly Test/Maintain Backflow Device or Allow Access for Cross Connection Inspection Resulting in CT DPH Violation	\$225	\$225
Administrative Review for Water Services <i>Includes but not limited to the following individual services; availability and capacity analysis, assessment/connection charge calculations, encroachment permits, abandonment of infrastructure, Engineering/Environmental survey and documentation request, new hydrant installation fee by developer or other (per hydrant). The Administrative Review fee shall be paid for each individual service item.</i>	\$600	\$670
Bulk Water Truck Convenience Fee <i>Per load fixed fee including administrative, water, equipment maintenance, and inspection.</i>	\$75 per load	\$75 per load
Tampering with meter, hydrant or water supply First offense Subsequent offenses	\$500 \$1,000	\$500 \$1,000
Water Service Installation Charge <i>MDC will install the customer's water service from the public water main to the property line.</i>	\$150 per foot	\$150 per foot

Respectfully submitted,



Scott W. Jellison
Chief Executive Officer

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

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS AT DISTRICT RECREATION AREAS

Chris Levesque, Chief Operating Officer, presented on proposed EV charging stations on MDC recreational facilities.

STEWARDSHIP OF DISTRICT FORESTS AND ADDITION OF ANOTHER FORESTER

Andrew Hubbard, Natural Resources Administrator, and Ray Baral, Assistant Manager of Water Treatment, updated the Water Bureau on District forests and watershed land management and whether there is a need for an additional forester.

CANNABIS GROWING FACILITIES LOCATED WITHIN THE DISTRICT

Scott Jellison, Chief Executive Officer, discussed the addition of cannabis growing facilities in the District, including a current facility in Bloomfield that uses approximately 20,000 gallons a day.

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judy Allen, of West Hartford, spoke on the topic of EV Charging Stations. She stated that there is no longer PFAS in fire-fighting foam in Connecticut and that there should not be worry about cars spontaneously combusting, as that is not an EV car issue. She stated that cars currently parking at the MDC reservoir lots leak oil. She believes that installing EV charging stations is a public service and is an easy thing to do for public relations and that other government entities are installing them. Lastly, she stated that there should be more focus on all aspects, not just the financial impact.

Commissioner Taylor exited the meeting at 6:23 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle
District Clerk

Date of Approval