

The Metropolitan District water supply ·environmental services ·geographic information

DISTRICT BOARD 555 MAIN STREET, HARTFORD, CT REGULAR MEETING MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024 5:30 PM

The general public is welcome to call into the meeting. Everyone on the call will need to mute their phone to limit background noise disrupting the meeting.

Dial in #: (415)-655-0001; Access Code: 2314 717 5755# Meeting Video Link

- 1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- 2. ROLL CALL
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 2024
- 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS
- 6. REPORT FROM DISTRICT CHAIRMAN
- 7. REPORT FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
- 8. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNSEL
- 9. BOARD OF FINANCE CONSIDERATION AND POTENTIAL ACTION RE:
 - A. APPROVAL FOR STATE OF CT FINANCING DWSRF 2023-7118 (January 24, 2024)
 - B. APPROVAL FOR STATE OF CT FINANCING DWSRF 2023-5001 (January 24, 2024)
 - C. APPROVAL FOR STATE OF CT FINANCING DWSRF 2023-7123 (January 24, 2024)
- 10. COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION CONSIDERATION AND POTENTIAL ACTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER TO COMMITTEES (February 5, 2024)
- 11. COMMTTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT CONSIDERATION AND POTENTIAL ACTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANTS (January 31, 2024)
- 12. REPORT RE: KENNY OBAYASHI JOINT VENTURE v. MDC LITIGATION (EXECUTIVE SESSION)
- 13. REPORT RE: CYBERSECURITY (EXECUTIVE SESSION)
- 14. OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS
- 15. COMMISSIONER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
- 16. ADJOURNMENT

BOARD OF FINANCE APPROVAL FOR STATE OF CONNECTICUT FINANCING DWSRF 2023-7118

To: District Board

February 5, 2024

From: Board of Finance

Staff seeks approval from your Board to execute and deliver the Interim Funding Obligation and/or Project Loan Obligation to the State of Connecticut for DWSRF 2023-7118 having a principal amount of \$4,783,692.03 and having an interest rate of 2.00%.

The low interest loan and accompanying grant will fund the replacement of water mains and associated appurtenances in the vicinity of Hartford Hospital in Hartford.

The State of Connecticut, through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program, will provide \$6,283,692.03 in state funding with \$1,500,000 in grants and \$4,783,692.03 in low interest loans at 2.00% to fund the expenses associated with this agreement.

Bond Counsel prepared the following resolution for your approval.

At a meeting of the Board of Finance held on January 24, 2024, it was:

VOTED: That the Board of Finance recommends to the District Board passage of the following resolution from Bond Counsel

RESOLVED:

Section 1. The Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, and the District Treasurer, or in his absence, the Deputy Treasurer, are authorized to execute and deliver the Project Loan and Subsidy Agreement DWSRF 2023-7118 to be entered into with the State of Connecticut (the "Agreement") and any and all Interim Funding Obligations and Project Loan Obligations for DWSRF 2023-7118 in the aggregate amount not to exceed \$4,783,692.03, to fund the replacement of water mains and associated appurtenances in the vicinity of Hartford Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut. All previous actions taken by the District, including the actions of the Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, and the District Treasurer, or in his absence, the Deputy Treasurer, in furtherance of this resolution or otherwise related to the Agreement and any and all related documents, shall hereby be ratified and confirmed in all respects. Such Interim Funding Obligations shall be dated as of their date of issue, shall mature within six months of the Scheduled Completion Date, as defined in the Agreement, shall bear interest at a rate of two percent (2.00%) per annum, shall be payable as to principal and interest as provided in the Agreement and, to the extent not paid prior to maturity from The Metropolitan District funds, may be renewed by the issuance of Interim Funding Obligations or Project Loan Obligations, all as provided in the Agreement. Capitalized terms used herein and not defined shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Agreement.

Section 2. The Project Loan Obligations shall be dated as of their date of issue, shall mature no later than twenty years from the Scheduled Completion Date, shall

bear interest at a rate of two percent (2.00%) per annum and shall be payable as to principal and interest as provided in the Agreement.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Mistle

John S. Mirtle, Esq. District Clerk

BOARD OF FINANCE APPROVAL FOR STATE OF CONNECTICUT FINANCING DWSRF 2023-5001

To: District Board

February 5, 2024

From: Board of Finance

Staff seeks approval from your Board to execute and deliver the Interim Funding Obligation and/or Project Loan Obligation to the State of Connecticut for DWSRF 2023-5001 having a principal amount of \$340,133.80 and having an interest rate of 2.00%.

The low interest loan and accompanying grant will fund the inventory and material identification of service lines within the MDC water service area.

The State of Connecticut, through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program, will provide \$1,360,535.22 in state funding with \$1,020,401.42 in grants and \$340,133.80 in low interest loans at 2.00% to fund the expenses associated with this agreement.

Bond Counsel prepared the following resolution for your approval.

At a meeting of the Board of Finance held on January 24, 2024, it was:

VOTED: That the Board of Finance recommends to the District Board passage of the following resolution from Bond Counsel

RESOLVED:

Section 1. The Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, and the District Treasurer, or in his absence, the Deputy Treasurer, are authorized to execute and deliver the Project Loan and Subsidy Agreement DWSRF 2023-5001 to be entered into with the State of Connecticut (the "Agreement") and any and all Interim Funding Obligations and Project Loan Obligations for DWSRF 2023-5001 in the aggregate amount not to exceed \$340,133.80, to fund the Water Service Line Inventory, which shall consistent of the inventory and material identification of service lines within The Metropolitan District water service area. All previous actions taken by the District, including the actions of the Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, and the District Treasurer, or in his absence, the Deputy Treasurer, in furtherance of this resolution or otherwise related to the Agreement and any and all related documents, shall hereby be ratified and confirmed in all respects. Such Interim Funding Obligations shall be dated as of their date of issue, shall mature within six months of the Scheduled Completion Date, as defined in the Agreement, shall bear interest at a rate of two percent (2.00%) per annum, shall be pavable as to principal and interest as provided in the Agreement and, to the extent not paid prior to maturity from The Metropolitan District funds, may be renewed by the issuance of Interim Funding Obligations or Project Loan Obligations, all as provided in the Agreement. Capitalized terms used herein and not defined shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Agreement.

Section 2. The Project Loan Obligations shall be dated as of their date of

issue, shall mature no later than twenty years from the Scheduled Completion Date, shall bear interest at a rate of two percent (2.00%) per annum and shall be payable as to principal and interest as provided in the Agreement.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Mistle

John S. Mirtle, Esq. District Clerk

BOARD OF FINANCE APPROVAL FOR STATE OF CONNECTICUT FINANCING DWSRF 2023-7123

To: District Board

February 5, 2024

From: Board of Finance

Staff seeks approval from your Board to execute and deliver the Interim Funding Obligation and/or Project Loan Obligation to the State of Connecticut for DWSRF 2023-7123 having a principal amount of \$3,160,371.65 and having an interest rate of 2.00%.

The low interest loan and accompanying grant will fund improvements to the Orchard St. Pump Station in Glastonbury, CT.

The State of Connecticut, through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program, will provide \$3,493,042.35 in state funding with \$332,670.70 in grants and \$3,160,371.65 in low interest loans at 2.00% to fund the expenses associated with this agreement.

Bond Counsel prepared the following resolution for your approval.

At a meeting of the Board of Finance held on January 24, 2024, it was:

VOTED: That the Board of Finance recommends to the District Board passage of the following resolution from Bond Counsel

RESOLVED:

Section 1. The Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, and the District Treasurer, or in his absence, the Deputy Treasurer, are authorized to execute and deliver the Project Loan and Subsidy Agreement DWSRF 2023-7123 to be entered into with the State of Connecticut (the "Agreement") and any and all Interim Funding Obligations and Project Loan Obligations for DWSRF 2023-7123 in the aggregate amount not to exceed \$3,160,371.65, to fund improvements to the Orchard Street Pump Station in Glastonbury, Connecticut. All previous actions taken by the District, including the actions of the Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, and the District Treasurer, or in his absence, the Deputy Treasurer, in furtherance of this resolution or otherwise related to the Agreement and any and all related documents, shall hereby be ratified and confirmed in all respects. Such Interim Funding Obligations shall be dated as of their date of issue, shall mature within six months of the Scheduled Completion Date, as defined in the Agreement, shall bear interest at a rate of two percent (2.00%) per annum, shall be payable as to principal and interest as provided in the Agreement and, to the extent not paid prior to maturity from The Metropolitan District funds, may be renewed by the issuance of Interim Funding Obligations or Project Loan Obligations, all as provided in the Agreement. Capitalized terms used herein and not defined shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Agreement.

Section 2. The Project Loan Obligations shall be dated as of their date of issue, shall mature no later than twenty years from the Scheduled Completion Date, shall bear

interest at a rate of two percent (2.00%) per annum and shall be payable as to principal and interest as provided in the Agreement.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Mistle

John S. Mirtle, Esq. District Clerk

COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION APPOINTMENTS OF COMMISSIONER TO COMMITTEES

To: District Board

February 5, 2024

From: Committee on Organization

At a meeting of the Committee on Organization held on February 5, 2024, it was:

Voted: That the Committee on Organization recommends to the District Board the following Bureau, Committee, and Board appointments for the years 2024 and 2025 and until their successors are appointed and qualified:

Water Bureau

Esther Clarke

Strategic Planning Committee

Esther Clarke

Committee on MDC Government

Personnel, Pension and Insurance Committee

Esther Clarke

Bhupen Patel

Respectfully submitted,

John S. Mirtle, Esq. District Clerk

COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANTS

To: District Board

February 5, 2024

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. On the federal level, we have been working with our Congressional delegation on an amendment to federal infrastructure legislation that would terminate our agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers relating to the Colebrook River Reservoir, consistent with the granting of source abandonment application by the State Department of Public Health. The importance of this federal initiative cannot be understated, and staff suggest that SJB Strategies, LLC devote its time exclusively to its federal lobbying effort, and that another firm, namely Levin, Paolino and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC, be added during the state legislative session to assist at the state level. Based upon this suggestion, and in recognition of the past performance of our existing lobbyist, District staff recommends the reappointment of each of our existing firms for the 2024 state and federal legislative consultants, and addition of Levin, Paolino and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC. The term of the appointments of existing firms would be from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, and as to Levin, Paolino and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC, from February 6, 2024 to May, 2024, all 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) Levin, Paolino and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC receive \$14,000.00 and (3) Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC receive \$66,000.00.

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 \$95,000.00.

At a meeting of the Committee on MDC Government held on January 31, 2024, it was:

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. and Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC shall be retained to perform state lobbying services for a period commencing on January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, and the firm of Levin, Paolino, and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC, shall be retained for the period from February 6, 2024 through May, 2024. Gaffney, Bennett and Associates, Inc. fee will receive \$69,000.00, Levin, Paolino and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC will receive \$14,000.00, and Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC will receive \$66,000.00, all 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, 2024 and terminating on December 31, 2024. Squire Patton Boggs will receive \$150,000.00 and SJB Strategies, LLC will receive \$95,000.00, 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 Mistle

John S. Mirtle, Esq. District Clerk

THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION

555 Main Street Hartford, Connecticut 06103 Monday, January 10, 2024

PRESENT: Commissioners Andrew Adil, Kyle Anderson, John Avedisian, John Bazzano, Clifford Avery Buell, Richard Bush, Donald Currey, William A. DiBella, David Drake, John Gale, Allen Hoffman, Jean Holloway, Gary Johnson, Byron Lester, Diane Lewis, Jacqueline Mandyck, Dominic Pane, Bhupen Patel, Jon Petoskey, Pasquale J Salemi, David Steuber, Alvin Taylor, Calixto Torres and James Woulfe (24)

REMOTE

- **ATTENDANCE:** Commissioners Peter Gardow, Joan Gentile, Christian Hoheb, and Maureen Magnan (4)
- **ABSENT:** Commissioners Dimple Desai, James Healy, Mary LaChance, Michael Maniscalco and New Britain Special Representative Michael Carrier (5)

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 Sue Negrelli, Director of Engineering Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Technology Tom Tyler, Director of Facilities Nick Salemi, Communications Administrator Amanda Litvak, Professional Level Associate (IT) Chris Taveras, Network Analyst Jeff King, Construction Manager Rita Kelley, Equal Employment Opportunity Officer/Whistleblower Coordinator Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer Victoria Escoriza, Executive Assistant Awet Tsegai, Citizen Member Linda Russo, Citizen Member (Remote Attendance)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by District Counsel Christopher Stone at 5:31 PM

ROLL CALL AND QUORUM

The District Clerk called the roll and informed District Counsel Christopher Stone 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.

Commissioner Steuber entered the meeting at 5:33 PM

William A. DiBella recognized Commissioner Salemi for a point of privilege. Commissioner Salemi spoke in honor of former Commissioner and Chairman Gallicchio.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Christopher Stone, District Counsel, called for the election of the Chairperson. Commissioner Salemi placed Commissioner Donald Currey's name in nomination, Commissioner Adil seconded the nomination.

There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed. Commissioner Donald Currey of East Hartford was elected Chairperson of the District Board of The Metropolitan District for 2024 and 2025. Chairman Currey assumed the Chair and thanked the Commission for their nomination and votes.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON

Chairman Currey called for the election of the Vice Chairperson. Commissioner Woulfe placed Commissioner William A. DiBella's name in nomination, and the nomination was duly seconded by Commissioner Lester.

Commissioner Pane placed Commissioner Allen Hoffman's name in nomination, and the nomination was duly seconded by Commissioner Mandyck.

After a voice vote, Commissioner William A. DiBella was elected Vice-Chairperson of the District Board of The Metropolitan District for 2024 and 2025, by a majority of those present. Commissioners Avedisian, Gardow, Magnan, Mandyck and Pane voted for Commissioner Allen Hoffman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Commissioner Adil and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of December 4, 2023 were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS

Connor Martin, East Hartford Mayor, congratulated Donald Currey on his election of Chairman and mentioned his commitment to local government.

Alma Elder, requested that everyone speaking identify themselves and also stated she was interested in mitigation of flooding in North Hartford.

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION FOR THE YEARS 2024 - 2025

To: District Board

From: District Chairperson

January 10, 2024

The Chairperson hereby appoints the following Commissioners to the Committee on Organization for 2024 and 2025 and until their successors are appointed and qualified:

John Bazzano Clifford Avery Buell Richard Bush William A. DiBella John Gale Diane Lewis Byron Lester Calixto Torres James Woulfe

RECESS

At 5:55 PM, Commissioner Taylor made a motion to recess the District Board meeting to enable the Committee on Organization to prepare its report on appointments for 2024 and 2025. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

RECONVENE

At 5:59 PM, without objection, Commissioner Taylor made a motion to reconvene the District Board meeting. The District Board meeting reconvened.

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE YEARS 2024-2025

To: Committee on Organization for consideration on January 10, 2024

It is recommended that it be:

Voted: That pursuant to the Charter of The Metropolitan District, the Committee on Organization recommends to the District Board the following Citizen Members appointments for the years 2024-2025 and until their successors are appointed and qualified:

Drew Iacovazzi, West Hartford – Board of Finance Linda King-Corbin, Hartford – Board of Finance Linda Russo, East Hartford – Board of Finance Awet Tsegai, East Hartford – Board of Finance

Further

Voted:

That the Committee on Organization recommends to the District Board the following Bureau, Committee, and Board appointments for the years 2024 and 2025 and until their successors are appointed and qualified:

<u>Water Bureau</u>

Andrew Adil Kyle Anderson Clifford Avery Buell Dimple Desai John Gale Peter Gardow Georgiana Holloway Diane Lewis Jackie Gorsky Mandyck Jon Petoskey Pasquale Salemi Alvin Taylor Michael Carrier of New Britain (Special Rep)

Bureau of Public Works

John Avedisian John Bazzano Richard Bush William A. DiBella David Drake John Gale Joan McCarthy Gentile James Healey Allen Hoffman Georgiana Holloway

Gary Johnson Byron Lester Maureen Magnan Dominic Pane Bhupen Patel Pasquale Salemi David Steuber Alvin Taylor Calixto Torres James Woulfe

Board of Finance

Andrew Adil Allen Hoffman Pasquale Salemi Drew Iacovazzi (Citizen Member) Linda A. King-Corbin (Citizen Member) Awet Tsegai (Citizen Member) Linda Russo (Citizen Member)

Personnel, Pension & Insurance Committee

John Avedisian	
Dimple Desai	
David Drake	
Joan McCarthy Gentile	
Byron Lester	
Maureen Magnan	

Dominic Pane Pasquale Salemi David Steuber Alvin Taylor James Woulfe

Committee on MDC Government

Kyle Anderson John Avedisian John Bazzano Clifford Avery Buell Peter Gardow James Healy Georgiana Holloway Maureen Magnan Jon Petoskey Calixto Torres James Woulfe

Audit Committee

Andrew Adil Allen Hoffman Georgiana Holloway Diane Lewis

Jackie Gorsky Mandyck Dominic Pane David Steuber Alvin Taylor

Community Affairs

Kyle Anderson John Bazzano Clifford Avery Buell Georgiana Holloway Byron Lester Diane Lewis Maureen Magnan Jackie Gorsky Mandyck Calixto Torres

Commission on Regional Planning

William A. DiBella Dimple Desai David Drake Gary Johnson Jackie Gorsky Mandyck Bhupen Patel Pasquale Salemi Alvin Taylor

Strategic Planning Committee

Andrew Adil Kyle Anderson John Avedisian Richard Bush William DiBella John Gale Joan McCarthy Gentile James Healy Gary Johnson Diane Lewis Byron Lester Jackie Gorsky Mandyck Dominic Pane Jon Petoskey Bhupen Patel Pasquale Salemi Allen Hoffman Georgiana Holloway David Steuber Alvin Taylor

Committee on Technology

Andrew Adil Richard Bush William DiBella David Drake Peter Gardow Joan McCarthy Gentile Pasquale Salemi Alvin Taylor

Further

Voted:

The Committee on Organization ratifies the following appointments by the District Chairman made in accordance with MDC Bylaws §§ B3m and B6h:

General Policy & Planning

Andrew Adil John Avedisian William DiBella Dimple Desai Allen Hoffman Bhupen Patel Pasquale Salemi Alvin Taylor

Ethics Advisory Board*

Dimple Desai Bhupen Patel James Woulfe Peter Gardow (Alternate) Joan McCarthy Gentile (Alternate)

*District Chairperson not an ex officio member.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott W. Jellison Chief Executive Officer

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

REPORT FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Chief Executive Officer Scott Jellison thanked former Chairman DiBella for his time as Chairman and stated he appreciates the time working with him. He stated that the recent 20-year storm did not see as much street flooding as initially feared and there was no wide-spread street flooding.

Commissioner Mandyck asked for a list of existing water diversion permits, and also asked for an in-depth update on the tunnel project.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNSEL

District Counsel Christopher Stone thanked former Chairman DiBella for all his work at the MDC, and stated that he will provide a full update on the tunnel litigation at future meetings.

DISTRICT CLERK SERVICE OF TAX WARRANTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

To: District Board

January 10, 2024

From: District Clerk

Pursuant to the Charter of the District, Section 3-13, the District Clerk reports that Tax Warrants for Fiscal Year 2024, drawn by the Chairman of The Metropolitan District, in favor of the Treasurer have been served on the following:

Town Clerk, Marguerite Phillips, Bloomfield Deputy Town Clerk, Linda Muscaro, East Hartford Town and City Clerk Noel McGregor, Hartford Town Clerk James Krupienski, Newington Town Clerk Sandra Merrill Wieleba, Rocky Hill Town Clerk Leon Davidoff, 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

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Alma Elder requested that the mitigation of flooding in North Hartford be placed on a future agenda.

Judy Allen of West Hartford congratulated Chairman Currey for being elected Chairman.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq. District Clerk

Date of Approval