

**THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

555 Main Street  
Hartford, Connecticut 06103  
Monday, May 6, 2024

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Andrew Adil, Kyle Anderson, John Avedisian, John Bazzano, Richard Bush, Dimple Desai, David Drake, John Gale, Peter Gardow, Joan Gentile, James Healy, Allen Hoffman, Jean Holloway, Gary Johnson, Byron Lester, Diane Lewis, Jacqueline Mandyck, Dominic Pane, Bhupen Patel, Pasquale J Salemi, David Steuber, Alvin Taylor, Calixto Torres, James Woulfe and District Chairman Donald Currey (25)

**REMOTE  
ATTENDANCE:** Commissioner Mary LaChance (1)

**ABSENT:** Commissioners Clifford Avery Buell, Esther Clarke, William A. DiBella, Christian Hoheb, Maureen Magnan, Michael Maniscalco and New Britain Special Representative Michael Carrier (7)

**ALSO  
PRESENT:** Scott W. Jellison, Chief Executive Officer  
Christopher Stone, District Counsel  
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk  
Kelly Shane, Chief Administrative Officer  
Christopher Levesque, Chief Operating Officer  
Robert Barron, Chief Financial Officer  
Tom Tyler, Director of Facilities  
David Rutty, Director of Operations  
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Systems  
Jamie Harlow, Director of Human Resources  
Michael Curley, Manager of Technical Services  
Jessica Coehlo, Project Manager  
Frank Cahill, Construction Project Manager  
Olga Cordova, Manager of Human Resources  
Diana Phay, Treasury Manager  
Retina Smith, Accounts Receivable Administrator  
Jeff King, Construction Manager  
Rita Kelley, EEOC Officer  
Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer  
Victoria Escoriza, Executive Assistant  
Jacob Aviles, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by District Chairman Currey at 5:33 PM

**ROLL CALL AND QUORUM**

The District Clerk called the roll and informed District Chairman Currey 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 Adil and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of April 1, 2024 were approved.***

**PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS**

Judy Allen of West Hartford stated that it is difficult to comment on the CEO Report when the agenda doesn't specifically state the topics of discussion. She also stated that there has been no Chairman report in the recent meetings.

Elizabeth Bryden of West Hartford spoke in support of Agenda item #12B, "Retroactive Reimbursement of Customer Sewer Repairs" and also provided the following written comments:

*Good afternoon,*

*My name is Elizabeth Bryden and I am an MDC customer and home owner in West Hartford. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on agenda item #12B regarding retroactive reimbursement for customer sewer repairs.*

*As many of you are aware, I have attended many different MDC committee meetings and shared comments for a year now in an attempt to get reimbursed for an issue I had that began in January 2023 that resulted in a bill for over \$12,000 that I paid to replace a sewer pipe in the woods on someone else's property.*

*I believe you already have the details about this issue in the minutes from previous meetings so I won't repeat them but I would like to advocate in support of allowing retroactive reimbursement as part of the House Sewer Connection program. When the new sewer ordinances were approved in July 2023, they provided financial relief to homeowners who need to make repairs to the sewer laterals on their property but, up until now, they have not addressed the issue of retroactive reimbursement for repairs*

*that have already been made out of necessity. In my case, had the sewage back up in our house happened just a few months later, it likely would have been covered. Given that the Sewer House Connection program now provides homeowners with financial support for repairs to their laterals, I believe retroactive reimbursements for repairs should also be allowed for a reasonable time period prior to the implementation of the new program.*

*In support of this, I would also reference the new Hartford Sewerage System Repair and Improvement Fund which, as I understand it, allows homeowners who have been impacted by damage on or after January 1, 2021 to apply for reimbursement. This program allows for reimbursement for some MDC customers and I believe the Sewer House Connection program should, too. Given that there is precedence for the MDC paying for repairs to homeowners' laterals as well as precedence for retroactive reimbursement for homeowners affected by sewer issues and repairs, I would again advocate that retroactive reimbursement for repairs be allowed under the Sewer House Connection program as well or, as an alternative, that my case be considered for reimbursement as a special circumstance.*

*I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts today and hope you take them into consideration.*

*Thank you.  
Elizabeth Bryden*

Greg Dirkson of Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield spoke in favor of Agenda item #10, the Referral of Sewer Petition for Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield.

Julie Flynn of Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield spoke in favor of Agenda item #10, the Referral of Sewer Petition for Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield.

### **REPORT FROM DISTRICT CHAIRMAN**

District Chairman Currey reported that he recently met with Hartford Mayor Arulampalam along with the Chairs of Bureau of Public Works, Water Bureau, Board of Finance and Strategic Planning Committee. The meeting was very positive and productive and it is evident the District will be able to partner with the City of Hartford through the Mayor's office much better than in the past.

### **REPORT FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

CEO Scott Jellison discussed projects in Hartford; the upcoming Barbour Street Grand Opening. He also provided an overview of the WEF Conference that was recently held in Hartford and the NACWA Conference that was recently held in Providence with EPA and CTDEEP. There will be an upcoming presentation to member towns on May 9<sup>th</sup> regarding stormwater management and stormwater authority.

***Commissioner Lewis entered the meeting at 5:44 PM***

**REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNSEL**

District Counsel Christopher Stone provided an update on the tunnel litigation, which will be ready to go to trial as early as January 2025. He stated that there is a hearing with the State Claims Commissioner on June 7<sup>th</sup> for the Hartford Landfill claim, and that a legislative bill is pending at the General Assembly regarding water releases on the Farmington River.

***Commissioner Gardow entered the meeting at 6:01 PM***

**REPORT FROM MDC EMPLOYEE DIVERSITY COMMITTEE**

Accounts Receivable Administrator Retina Smith, Project Manager Frank Cahill and Project Manager Jess Coelho gave a presentation about the MDC Employee Diversity Committee

**DISTRICT CLERK  
PETITION FOR SEWER SERVICE**

From: District Clerk

To: District Board

May 6, 2024

The following petition was received on April 18, 2024:

Jamie and Gregory Dirkson, Paul Borgen, Amy and Ray Duquete, Toni Lacava, and Julie Flynn have requested sewer service for Wolcott Hill Road in Wethersfield, Connecticut.

It is RECOMMENDED that it be

**Voted:** That the foregoing petition be received and referred to the Bureau of Public Works for study and subsequent action.

Respectfully submitted,



John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk

***On motion made by Commissioner Taylor and duly seconded, the Petition for Sewer Service on Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield was unanimously referred to the Bureau of Public Works.***

**BOARD OF FINANCE  
APPROVAL OF STATE OF CONNECTICUT FINANCING DWSRF 2023-7120**

To: District Board for consideration on May 6, 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 2023-7120 having a principal amount of \$4,173,475.50 and having an interest rate of 2.00%.

The low interest loan and accompanying grant will fund the replacement of water mains in the vicinity of Capitol Avenue and surrounding streets in Hartford, CT.

The State of Connecticut, through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program, will provide \$5,673,475.50 in state funding with \$1,500,000 in grants and \$4,173,475.50 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 on April 29, 2024, it was:

**Voted:** That the Board of Finance recommends to the District Board passage of the following resolution:

**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 2023-7120 to be entered into with the State of Connecticut (the "Agreement") and any and all Interim Funding Obligations and Project Loan Obligations for DWSRF 2023-7120 in the aggregate amount not to exceed \$4,173,475.50, to fund the replacement of water mains in the vicinity of Capitol Avenue and surrounding streets 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 S. Mirtle  
District Clerk

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

**BUREAU OF PUBLIC WORKS  
1700 ASYLUM AVENUE WEST HARTFORD**

To: District Board for consideration on May 6, 2024

From: Bureau of Public Works

At a meeting of the Bureau of Public Works held on April 10, 2024, it was:

**VOTED:** That the Bureau of Public Works recommends to the District Board passage of the following resolution:

**RESOLVED:** In accordance with the Metropolitan District Sewer Ordinances Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the District Clerk to enter into an Agreement, as approved by District Counsel, by and between The Metropolitan District and Property Owner and/or the Developer of 1700 Asylum Avenue in West Hartford ("Property"), to allow connection to the District's sewer system to allow for mixed use development ("Development"), subject to: 1) the Property Owner and/or Developer reimbursing the District for costs associated with metering various points in and around the Development; and 2) the Property Owner and/or Developer bearing the financial responsibility for any work that may be necessary to remove approximately 67,000 gpd of inflow/infiltration from the area's sewer system by the District or its

contractor(s) (“Work”), said Work to include private property separation of sanitary and storm- and groundwater, and if necessary, improvements to increase the capacity of the Town’s stormwater system. Costs for the Work will be secured by the Property Owner and/or Developer depositing with the District funds in an amount sufficient to pay the costs for the Work.

Respectfully submitted,



John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk

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

**RETROACTIVE REIMBURSEMENT OF CUSTOMER SEWER REPAIRS**

***On motion made by Commissioner Pane and duly seconded, the Retroactive Reimbursement of Customer Sewer Repairs was unanimously referred to the Committee on MDC Government.***

**OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk

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Date of Approval