

**BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
The Metropolitan District
555 Main Street, Hartford
Monday, October 28, 2024**

PRESENT: Commissioners Andrew Adil, Allen Hoffman, Pasquale Salemi, Citizen Members Linda Russo and Awet Tsegai, and District Chairman Donald Currey (6)

REMOTE ATTENDANCE: Citizen Member Linda King-Corbin (1)

ABSENT: Citizen Member Drew Iacovazzi (1)

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioner Joan Gentile (Remote Attendance)
Commissioner Jean Holloway (Remote Attendance)
Commissioner Byron Lester (Remote Attendance)
Commissioner Jacqueline Mandyck
Commissioner Alvin Taylor
Scott W. Jellison, Chief Executive Officer
Christopher Stone, District Counsel (Remote Attendance)
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk
Christopher Levesque, Chief Operating Officer
Kelly Shane, Chief Administrative Officer
Robert Barron, Chief Financial Officer
Susan Negrelli, Director of Engineering
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Systems
Thomas Tyler, Director of Facilities
Michael Mohr, Controller
Shereese Rodgers, Assistant Budget Manager
Kim Cummings, Financial Analyst
Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer
Victoria Escoriza, Executive Assistant
Amanda Litvak, IT Professional Level Associate (Remote Attendance)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Salemi called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS

Judy Allen, of West Hartford, stated she was alarmed that the water rate may increase \$0.11 and that the Clean Water Project Charge is also increasing.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

On motion made by Citizen Member Russo and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of the Board of Finance meeting of September 30, 2024 were approved.

2025 DISTRICT BUDGET

Robert Barron, Chief Financial Officer, presented on the proposed fiscal year 2025 budget. The Board of Finance discussed and asked questions regarding the proposed budget.



EXPENDITURE CHANGES

(sewer and water operations)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	2024 Adopted	2025 Proposed	\$ Change	% Change
Debt	\$ 82,223,486	\$ 87,471,810	\$ 5,248,324	6.4%
Employee Benefits	\$ 9,877,379	\$ 13,026,943	\$ 3,149,564	31.9%
Other Operating Expenditures	\$ 50,683,935	\$ 53,769,839	\$ 3,085,904	6.1%
Contingencies	\$ 2,780,000	\$ 2,780,000	\$ -	0.0%
Payroll	\$ 49,865,678	\$ 51,227,922	\$ 1,362,244	2.7%
OPEB	\$ 7,631,465	\$ 7,929,257	\$ 297,792	3.9%
Pension	\$ 8,108,120	\$ 8,274,127	\$ 166,007	2.0%
General Insurance	\$ 2,327,236	\$ 2,246,193	\$ (81,043)	-3.5%
Total	\$ 213,497,299	\$ 226,726,091	\$ 13,228,792	6.2%

- Payroll and Employee benefits (updated salaries and steps)
- Non-payroll operating expenditures (Consumer Advocate increase, DB Training and Management Study)
- General Insurance (Property and Excess policies)
- **Total \$384K net additions, resulting in 6.2% increase over 2024 (September 6.0%)**



REVENUE CHANGES (sewer and water operations)

Major Object	2024 Adopted	2025 Proposed	\$ Change	% Change
Sale of Water	\$ 91,388,900	\$ 96,863,796	\$ 5,474,896	6.0%
Tax on Member Municipalities	\$ 53,076,600	\$ 53,076,600	\$ -	0.0%
Other Operating Revenue	\$ 47,013,655	\$ 54,239,140	\$ 7,225,485	15.4%
Other Non-Operating Revenue	\$ 8,242,422	\$ 9,050,422	\$ 808,000	9.8%
Contributions from Other Funds	\$ 10,995,722	\$ 10,716,133	\$ (279,589)	-2.5%
Contingencies	\$ 2,780,000	\$ 2,780,000	\$ -	0.0%
Total	\$ 213,497,299	\$ 226,726,091	\$ 13,228,792	6.2%

- Sale of Water increase (updated meter counts)
- Contribution from Other Funds (small reduction)
- **Total \$384K net additions, resulting in 6.2% increase over 2024 (September 6.0%)**



BUDGET SUMMARY (sewer and water operations)

- **Sewer**
\$107.0 opex - \$53.9 orev = **\$53.1** Ad Valorem
(Collected from Member Towns)
0.0% or no increase
- **Water**
\$119.7 opex - \$22.8 orev = **\$96.9** Water Sales
(Consumption and Service Charges)
6.0% increase
 - Water consumption increase from 17.7 to 18.3 million CCFs
 - Water rate of \$3.91 per CCF x 18.3 million CCF Consumption = \$71.7 million
 - Water service charges (domestic, commercial, industrial, other) = \$25.2 million
- **Operating Expenditures**
\$226.7 million or 6.2% increase over 2024

(millions)	2024		2025		\$ VAR	% VAR
	Adopted	Proposed				
Sewer						
1) Opex	\$ 102.7	\$ 107.0	\$ 4.4	4.2%		
2) Orev (subtract)	\$ 49.8	\$ 53.9	\$ 4.4	8.8%		
3) Ad Valorem	\$ 53.1	\$ 53.1	-	0.0%		
<i>Sewer Customer Service Charges</i>	\$ 9.0	\$ 9.0	\$ -	0.0%		
Water						
1) Opex	\$ 110.8	\$ 119.7	\$ 8.9	8.0%		
2) Orev (subtract)	\$ 19.4	\$ 22.8	\$ 3.4	17.5%		
3) Water Sales	\$ 91.4	\$ 96.9	\$ 5.5	6.0%		
<i>Consumption Rate</i>	17.7	18.3	0.6	3.7%		
<i>Consumption Charges</i>	\$ 3.80	\$ 3.91	\$ 0.11	2.9%		
<i>Service Charges</i>	\$ 67.1	\$ 71.7	\$ 4.6	6.8%		
<i>Water Sales</i>	\$ 24.3	\$ 25.2	\$ -	3.8%		
<i>Water Sales</i>	\$ 91.4	\$ 96.9	\$ 5.5	5.9%		
Total						
1) Opex	\$ 213.5	\$ 226.7	\$ 13.2	6.2%		
2) less Orev	\$ 69.0	\$ 76.8	\$ 7.8	11.2%		
3) Ad Valorem/Water Sales	\$ 144.5	\$ 149.9	\$ 5.4	3.8%		



PROPOSED BUDGET BOOK PAGE REFERENCES (sewer and water operations)

➤ See “\$ Change” column

- \$1,200,000 Riverfront Recapture (no change, proposed budget book page 248)
- \$ 100,000 Operation Fuel (\$50,000 increase, proposed budget book page 248)
- \$ 50,000 District Board Training (Meeting Expenses, proposed budget book page 46)
- \$ 50,000 Management Study (Consultant Services, proposed budget book page 54)

Citizen Member Tsegai exited the meeting at 6:42 PM, and entered the meeting remotely.

METER PITS

Board of Finance Chairman Salemi requested a breakdown of meter pit costs.

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

Date of Approval