



**COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT
SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2024
3:30 PM**

<u>Location</u>	<u>Commissioners</u>	
Board Room	Anderson	Healy
District Headquarters	Avedisian	Holloway
555 Main Street, Hartford	Bazzano	Magnan
Dial in #: (415)-655-0001	Buell	Torres
Access Code: 2315 936 1830 #	Currey (Ex-Officio)	Woulfe
Meeting Video Link	Gardow	
	Quorum: 6	

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 DECEMBER 4, 2023
6. CONSIDERATION AND POTENTIAL ACTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANTS
7. OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS
8. COMMISSIONER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
9. ADJOURNMENT

**COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT
APPOINTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANTS**

To: Committee on MDC Government

January 31, 2024

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.

It is therefore recommended that it be:

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,



Scott W. Jellison
Chief Executive Officer

**COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT
SPECIAL MEETING**

555 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
Monday, December 4, 2023

Present: Commissioners John Avedisian, John Bazzano, Avery Buell, Allen Hoffman, Jean Holloway, Alvin Taylor and District Chairman William DiBella (7)

Remote

Attendance: Maureen Magnan (1)

Absent: Commissioners Kyle Anderson, Dimple Desai, Peter Gardow and James Healy (4)

Also

Present: Commissioner Richard Bush (Remote Attendance)
Commissioner Donald Currey
Commissioner Joan Gentile (Remote Attendance)
Commissioner Bhupen Patel
Citizen Member Awet Tsegai
Christopher Stone, District Counsel
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk
Kelly Shane, Chief Administrative Officer
Robert Barron, Chief Financial Officer
Tom Tyler, Director of Facilities
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Technology
Dave Rutty, Director of Operations
Victoria Escoriza, Executive Assistant
Rita Kelley, Equal Employment Opportunity Officer/Whistleblower Coordinator
Shereese Rodgers, Senior Financial Analyst
Jean-Paul Avenoso, Financial Analyst
Dylan Pecego, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)
Joseph Szerejko, Independent Consumer Advocate (Remote Attendance)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bazzano called the meeting to order at 4:01PM

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Commissioner Hoffman and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of July 10, 2023 were approved.

Commissioner Gardow entered the meeting at 4:04 PM

REVISION TO WATER SUPPLY ORDINANCE § W1f

To: Committee on MDC Government for consideration December 4, 2023

District staff, through the Office of District Counsel, submits the following ordinance revisions to The Metropolitan District Water Supply Ordinances for consideration by the Committee on MDC Government.

Therefore, it is **RECOMMENDED** that it be

VOTED: That the Committee on MDC Government recommends to the District Board passage of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the following revisions to The Metropolitan District Water Supply Ordinances be adopted as follows:

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	\$638.64	\$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 Commissioner Taylor 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.

COMMISSIONER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No requests were made.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

Date of Approval