

**BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING
The Metropolitan District
555 Main Street, Hartford
Monday, April 6, 2026**

PRESENT: Commissioners Andrew Adil, Jackie Mandyck, Citizen Members Sharon Murray and Awet Tsegai (4)

REMOTE

ATTENDANCE: Commissioner Pasquale Salemi, Citizen Members Linda King-Corbin, Linda Russo and District Chairman Donald Currey (4)

ABSENT: Citizen Member Kay Al Mannai (1)

ALSO

PRESENT:

Commissioner William DiBella
Commissioner John Gale
Commissioner Dominic Pane
Commissioner Chris Tierinni
Commissioner Dimple Desai (Remote Attendance)
Commissioner Christian Hoheb (Remote Attendance)
Commissioner Alberto Cortes (Remote Attendance)
Commissioner Edwin Vargas (Remote Attendance)
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
Jamie Harlow, Director of Human Resources (Remote Attendance)
Dave Ruty, Director of Operations
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Systems
Tom Tyler, Director of Facilities
Janet Murphy, Controller (Remote Attendance)
Victoria Escoriza, Assistant Administrative Officer and Special Assistant
Kevin Sullivan, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)
Matt McAuliffe, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)
Elizabeth Tavelli, Independent Consumer Advocate (Remote Attendance)

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Adil called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

**INDEPENDENT CONSUMER ADVOCATE COMMENTS & QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO
AGENDA ITEMS**

Independent Consumer Advocate Elizabeth Tavelli did not have any comments or questions relative to agenda items.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 5, 2025

Chairman Salemi made a motion to postpone adoption of the March 5, 2025 minutes until the next regular meeting. The motion was duly seconded by Vice-Chairman Adil.

After further discussion, District Chairman Currey made a motion to call the question. The motion was duly seconded by Vice-Chairman Adil and passed by unanimous vote of those present.

The motion to postpone was passed by unanimous vote of those present.

Citizen Member Awet Tsegai entered the meeting in person, exiting the meeting remotely at 5:09 PM.

**BOARD OF FINANCE
TOWN OF NEWINGTON 2026 AD VALOREM TAX LEVY**

To: Board of Finance for consideration on April 6, 2026

After approval of the District's 2026 budget and sewer *ad valorem* tax levy, the Town of Newington contacted the District regarding its 2026 *ad valorem* tax. After discussion with the Town, the District learned that the town submitted incorrect tax abatement information resulting in Newington's 2026 *ad valorem* tax being calculated at a higher amount than if it had been based on the correct abatement information. Specifically, Newington provided District staff with the total assessed value of certain real estate on the Town's Grand List with tax abatements, rather than the amount of tax revenue that would otherwise be collected by the Town but for the abatements. As a result, there was a significant, and inaccurate, increase in the Town's total revenue amount which in turn caused an increase in Newington's proportional percentage of the total sewer *ad valorem* assessment, and a corresponding proportional decrease in the percentages charge to the remaining seven member towns.

To compound matters, as Newington and District staff investigated the foregoing issue, it was determined that the Town of Newington did not provide the District with its tax abatement revenue for 2023, effectively reducing the town's correct *ad valorem* assessment for the 2025 budget and sewer *ad valorem* tax levy by \$30,000.00. The adjustment proposed in this resolution corrects that oversight as well.

The Town of Newington and District staff support correcting the 2026 *ad valorem* tax levy on the Town based on corrected figures, with an adjustment for the prior year's underreporting.

In December 2023, the District Board established a Sewer *Ad Valorem* Tax Levy Stabilization Fund. There is currently \$1 million available in the fund. It is staff's

recommendation to use the Sewer *Ad Valorem* Tax Levy Stabilization Fund to correct the Town of Newington’s 2026 July and October *ad valorem* payments cumulatively by \$328,858. For the 2027 District Budget, the Board of Finance and the District Board may consider whether and/or how to restore the \$328,858 to the Sewer *Ad Valorem* Tax Levy Stabilization Fund.


It is **RECOMMENDED** that it be:

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

Resolved: The 2026 *ad valorem* tax levy on the Town of Newington approved by the District Board on December 8, 2025 be abated by \$328,858 as shown below:

Installment Date	1/21/2026	4/15/2026	7/15/2026	10/21/2026	Total
Hartford	\$3,476,375	\$3,476,375	\$3,259,600	\$3,259,600	\$13,471,949
East Hartford	1,532,604	1,532,604	1,493,744	1,493,744	6,052,696
Newington	1,206,214	1,206,214	1,376,532 1,212,104	1,376,532 1,212,104	5,165,492 4,836,634
Wethersfield	1,051,045	1,051,045	1,074,967	1,074,967	4,252,025
Windsor	1,200,299	1,200,299	1,230,944	1,230,944	4,862,485
Bloomfield	898,587	898,587	1,057,534	1,057,534	3,912,243
Rocky Hill	834,029	834,029	854,883	854,883	3,377,825
West Hartford	3,069,999	3,069,999	2,920,943	2,920,943	11,981,885
Total	\$13,269,152	\$13,269,152	\$13,269,148 \$13,104.719	\$13,269,148 \$13,104.719	\$53,076,600 \$52,747,742

Further Resolved: That the Sewer *Ad Valorem* Tax Levy Stabilization Fund shall be utilized for the 2026 budget up to \$328,858, if needed.

Respectfully submitted,

 John S. Mirtle, Esq.
 District Clerk

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Newington Town Manager Jonathan Altshul thanked the MDC for considering the *ad valorem* matter and for being flexible.

COMMISSIONER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chairman Salemi stated that adoption of the March 5, 2025 minutes will be on the next meeting agenda. He also stated he has questions for the auditors in response to the governance letter request for questions and will place those on the next agenda. He also stated there will be an agenda about notification of the auditors of approval of communications.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

Date of Approval