



Detroit Water and Sewerage Department Meeting Minutes - Final Board of Water Commissioners

735 Randolph
Detroit, Michigan 48226
(313) 224-4704 Office
dwsd.legistar.com

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

2:00 PM

To attend by phone call one of these numbers:
+1 301 715 8592, +1 312 626 6799, +1 267 831 0333
Use Meeting ID: 815 7263 5118
Use Passcode: 482262021

To attend online: <https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j>

BOWC Meeting and Public Hearing 5th Floor Board Room, Water Board Building

A final project plan for the DWSD Water Main Replacement and Rehabilitation and Designating an Authorized Project Representative FY 2026 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Einheuser called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Commissioner Linda Forte, Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon,
Commissioner John Henry Davis, Commissioner Jane Garcia, Chairperson
Michael Einheuser and Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Lane Coleman

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairperson Einheuser requested approval of the agenda.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Linda Forte, seconded by Vice
Chairperson Mary Blackmon that this be approved. The motion carried by a
unanimous vote.**

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Einheuser requested approval of the minutes of February 19, 2025.

**A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by
Commissioner John Henry Davis that this be approved. The motion carried by a
unanimous vote.**

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes per speaker)

Joyce Moore - comment regarding her property 2050 Taylor and asked for drainage fees to be waived. She requested to be grandfathered in to not be affected by fees.

Donna Davis - comment regarding alley near 2440 Gladstone. States that there is a hole in the alley that has been there going on three years and is requesting help getting it fixed. Also inquiring about the Lead Service Line Replacement program and wants a contact for her sidewalk to be better restored.

Kathy Floyd - comment regarding her water being turned off due to no meter reading since 2021. She is requesting her water to be turned back on. She stated that DWSD says that she owes \$500. She has paid \$200 so far and would like her water back on now.

Cicely McClellan - comment regarding a customer saying they were taken off of lifeline without knowing due to missing documentation. She is bringing this to DWSD's awareness and asking why this happened. (Matthew Phillips requested to provide the account number via email so he and his team can investigate this matter.)

Norrell Hemphill - following up on Cicely's McCullum comment and says what happened to that customer is one example of many of those on the list for Lifeline. She is questioning how is it being determined if one is accepted to the program or not? What is the process of getting those not being accepted into Lifeline into EasyPay or back into regular billing? How is this being addressed?

Jess Robertson - comment regarding a similar situation regarding the Lifeline recertification program. Back in Fall 2024, she received a letter saying that she was not being recertified due to a lack in documentation. She is asking for assistance in getting both those recertified on Lifeline or onto the program for the first time for those that really need it (Director Brown stated that he will have his team get this resolved today).

Gwendolyn Howard - comment about the letter of not getting recertified on Lifeline. Asking what are the next steps after Lifeline? Would like to know in order to know how to assist people (Director Brown wanted to remind everyone that the resources that were cut and the recertification process is a State of Michigan requirement. Says that transferring those from Lifeline to Easypay will have a \$10 dollar waiver and will have three years to pay off the bills).

Demeeke Williams - comment in response to what has been stated. Says it is sad that people are getting put off the Lifeline program. Says that it is out of control and needs the State of Michigan involved to have funding allocated to program. Says something needs to be done and is pleading to not shut off water.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

7. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

There were none.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were none.

9. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA (Items 9A-H)

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

A. [2025-48](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Purchase Order 3080762 with ARI Phoenix, Inc., dba ARI Hetra, for the purchase of mobile vehicle column lifts, for a total purchase order amount not-to-exceed \$163,441.40.** This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Welch

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

B. [2025-49](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contracts 6006967 with DLZ Michigan, Inc., 6006968 with Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment, Inc. dba OHM Advisors, and 6006969 with Somat Engineering, Inc., for Professional Engineering Services for as-needed Water and Sewer Capital Improvement Projects (Project No. CS-1990); for a combined total contract amount not-to-exceed \$6,000,000.00 and a term of three (3) years.** This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Welch

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

C. [2025-50](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6006991 (DWS-970) with L. D'Agostini and Sons, Inc., for Sewer Reconfiguration Project Near Riverside Park; for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$6,274,863.50 and a term of 465 days.** This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Welch

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

D. [2025-51](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage

Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract No. 6007004 with Groundwork 0, LLC, a piggyback off the City of Detroit Contract No. 6006678, for Network and Voice Maintenance Contract, for a total contract not-to-exceed amount of \$390,000.00 and a term of (2) two years, (7) seven months and (4) four days.** This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Welch

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

E. [2025-52](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract No. 6007005 with Groundwork 0, LLC, a piggyback off the City of Detroit Contract No 6006718, for Network/Voice Equipment and Software Purchases, for a total contract not-to-exceed amount of \$300,000.00 and a term of (2) two years, (7) seven months and (4) four days.** This also authorizes the Director to take such other actions as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Welch

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

F. [2025-53](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6007024 with Detroit Grounds Crew LLC, for Tree Trimming/Shrub Removal; for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$450,000.00 and a term of 3 years.** This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Welch

Attachments: [bid for tree trimming](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

G. [2025-54](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6007027 with EJ USA Inc. and DWSD Contract 6007028 with Melmac Co., Inc. d/b/a Motor City Pipe & Supply Co. for Various Brass Items; for a combined total contract amount not-to-exceed \$365,299.60 and a term of two years.** The BOWC also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Welch

Attachments: [bid tab brass items 6007027 6006728](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

H. [2025-55](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6007029 with Ferguson Water Works for the as-needed purchase of various sized ductile piping; for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$455,105.52 and a term of two years.** The BOWC also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Welch

Attachments: [bid tab ductile pipe 6007029](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. [2025-56](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve Amendment No. 1 to DWSD Contract 6005922 (PC-815) with Major Contracting Group for Oakman Boulevard Sewer Improvements, by adding \$43,323.69 in funding for a total amended contract amount not-to-exceed \$1,577,834.19. No change to contract terms and conditions or expiring date of 3/31/2025.** This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Welch

A motion was made by Commissioner Linda Forte, seconded by Commissioner John Henry Davis that this Contract Amendment be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

B. [2025-66](#)

Final Proposed FY 2026 Operating Budget

Sponsors: Rahman

Attachments: [BOWC Presentation Final Proposed FY 26 Operating Budget](#)

This matter was received and filed.

C. [2025-64](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department **approves the proposed two-year operating budgets for Fiscal Years 2025-26 and 2026-27 for the Water Operating Fund in the amounts of \$149,172,400 and \$156,948,900, respectively, and for the Sewage Disposal**

Operating Fund in the amounts of \$372,141,400 and \$389,220,200, respectively; and further authorizes the Director and Chief Financial Officer to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Rahman

Attachments: [BOWC Presentation Final Proposed FY 26 Operating Budget FY 2026 and FY 2027 Budget Resolution Letter](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Resolution, Finance be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

i. ROLL CALL

The Roll Call vote was unanimous.

A motion was made that this be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Commissioner Forte, Vice Chairperson Blackmon, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Garcia, Chairperson Einheuser and Commissioner Kinloch

D. [2025-65](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners approves the proposed schedule of Detroit Retail Water and Sewerage Rates and Fees consistent with the FY 2025-2026 Revenue Requirements and Water and Sewer System Budgets approved by the Board of Water Commissioners on March 19, 2025 and also authorizes the Director and the Chief Financial Officer to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Rahman

Attachments: [FY 2026 Water and Sewer Rates Resolution](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Linda Forte, seconded by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon that this Resolution, Finance be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

i. ROLL CALL

The Roll Call vote was unanimous.

A motion was made that this be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Commissioner Forte, Vice Chairperson Blackmon, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Garcia, Chairperson Einheuser and Commissioner Kinloch

E. [2025-67](#)

Upon recommendation of Samuel A. Smalley, P.E., Deputy Director, the Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department recommends adoption of the “A final project plan for the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department Water Main Replacement and Rehabilitation and Designating an Authorized Project Representative FY 2026 Drinking Water

State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)” and also authorizes the Chief Financial Officer and the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Smalley

Attachments: [DWSRF FY2026 BOWC March 2025](#)
[Public Meeting Notice DWSRF FY2026](#)
[DWSRF Resolution FY2026_signed](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner John Henry Davis, seconded by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon that this Resolution, BOWC be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

i. PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS (3 minutes per speaker)

Norrell Hemphill commented on any reason why DWSD is hiring contractors to perform this work versus having current employees as well as hiring new employees to complete this work. Shouldn't it be a cost savings doing the work internally? (Deputy Director Sam Smalley says this is temporary work and DWSD does not have the specialty to complete this work).

ii. ROLL CALL

The Roll Call vote was unanimous.

A motion was made that this be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Commissioner Forte, Vice Chairperson Blackmon, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Garcia, Chairperson Einheuser and Commissioner Kinloch

11. DIRECTOR'S METRICS

A. [2025-70](#) Director's Metrics

Sponsors: Brown

Attachments: [Board Report - Metrics - 03192025](#)

This matter was received and filed.

12. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

There were none.

13. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

There were none.

14. OTHER MATTERS

There were none.

15. CLOSED SESSION

A. [2025-69](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department: **Agrees to meet with legal counsel, in closed session, pursuant to Section 8(e) and Section 8(h) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act to discuss both ongoing litigation and an attorney-client privileged memorandum prepared by the Office of the General Counsel to the Board of Water Commissioners**

Sponsors: MacGriff

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch to enter into this CLOSED SESSION at 3:39 p.m., be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ROLL CALL

A motion was made that this be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Commissioner Forte, Vice Chairperson Blackmon, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Garcia, Chairperson Einheuser and Commissioner Kinloch

OPEN SESSION

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte to return from CLOSED SESSION at 4:04 p.m., be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ROLL CALL

The only matters that was discussed was ongoing litigation.

A motion was made that this be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Commissioner Forte, Vice Chairperson Blackmon, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Garcia, Chairperson Einheuser and Commissioner Kinloch

16. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Einheuser requested a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this be adjourned. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

How to Make a Request for Public Comment

You may provide your public comment via Zoom link:

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During the public comment section for each committee meeting, raise your hand using the Zoom hand icon on your desktop or mobile device, or if calling into the meeting by phone, press *9 to raise your hand (press *6 to unmute when called upon)

We respectfully request that you maximize your three minutes by sharing all your comments/questions at one time. You will only be called upon once for public comment during the same committee meeting, full board meeting, or hearing.

Once the Chair closes public comment, there will be no other public comments accepted and all the attendees will remain muted for the duration of the meeting