



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

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Detroit, Michigan 48226
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Wednesday, February 17, 2021

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/81572635118>
Use Passcode: 482262021

BOWC Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Commissioner Jane Garcia, Commissioner John Henry Davis, Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, Commissioner Lane Coleman, Commissioner Mary Blackmon, Commissioner Linda Forte and Commissioner Michael Einheuser

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Einheuser requested approval of the agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner John Henry Davis, seconded by Commissioner Jane Garcia that the agenda be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Einheuser requested approval of the minutes of January 20, 2021.

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes per speaker)

Bernice Toles came before the Board regarding a high water bill and late fees.

Tracy Stevenson came before the Board about her water charge and discrepancy in the drainage calculation.

Michelle George came to ask the Board to stop the rate increases.

Dannie Shufford came before the Board questioning the drainage charge for runoff into

the ground.

Journals of Jake News asked if there were other cities paying drainage fees.

Kris Reed came before the Board to inquire about the lead service line replacement program.

6. EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

[21-0397](#)

Edward Dunbar Rich Award

Sponsors: Brown

Attachments: [Board Report - Director's Message Only \(Dunbar Honorees\).pdf](#)

Chairman Einheuser thanked all the employees for their service and dedication.

Vice Chair Blackmon thanked all the employees with a special thanks to recipient Marian King-Bell. She is probably high on the list of exemplary employees with exemplary work, and if they added other criteria, excellence of service and work would be there as well.

Commissioner Forte commended all the honorees with a special thanks to Marian for commitment, dedication and long standing service.

Commissioner Kinloch thanked all the dedicated DWSD employees with appreciation of their dedication and especially Marian who has been very gracious, open, and helpful as I learn the processes of the Department.

7. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

Vice Chair Blackmon spoke about Heart Awareness Month and said that more women die from heart disease. She hopes that women are taking the necessary steps to stay well. She also mentioned that Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) is airing several series for Black History Month and recommended the series on the Black Church. She said it is well worth watching.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

A. [21-0398](#)

Receipt of Correspondence

Sponsors: Pospiech

Attachments: [FOIA REQUESTS - MONTHLY REPORT JANUARY 2021.pdf](#)
[Detroit Water Rate FOIA 21-001.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Communication or Report be received and filed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

B. [21-0399](#)

Receipt of Correspondence

Sponsors: Burgi

Attachments: [Memo to Board regarding Contract Number Listed for WS-718.pdf](#)
[Memo to Board-Low Bid research report for 2/2021 Turnstiles gates fences.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Linda Forte, seconded by Commissioner Mary Blackmon that this Communication or Report be received and filed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

C. [21-0407](#) Receipt of Correspondence

Sponsors: Pospiech

Attachments: [Damage Claims.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Communication or Report be received and filed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

10. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA (Items 10A-C)

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

A. [21-0380](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve Contract 6003171 with RMD Holdings, Ltd. dba Nationwide Construction Group for as needed Inspections, Services, Parts and Repairs to Turnstiles, Gate Operations and Fences on DWSD properties for a duration of five years and an amount not-to-exceed \$125,000.** This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Burgi

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

B. [21-0381](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to approve **DWSD Contract 6003270 to utilize OMNIA cooperative contract #EV2516 with KONE Inc. for preventative maintenance, service and repairs for all DWSD elevators for a total amount not-to-exceed \$400,000 and a term of 44 months.** This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish

the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Burgi

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

C. [21-0382](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to approve **DWSD Contract 6003048 to piggyback City of Detroit Contract 6002056 with Star Crane and Hoist Service - Metro for as needed maintenance, service, parts and repairs for all cranes & hoists at DWSD facilities for a duration of 14 months and a total amount not-to-exceed \$175,000.** This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Burgi

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

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. [21-0383](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6003145 H2bid Inc., for Electronic Online Material Standards Manuals for a term of 3 years with a total not-to-exceed amount of \$27,000.** This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Burgi

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

B. [21-0386](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department **approves the proposed two-year operating budgets for Fiscal Years 2021-22 and 2022-23 for the Water Supply Operating Fund in the amounts of \$122,941,800 and \$125,170,100, respectively, and for the Sewage Disposal Operating Fund in the amounts of \$371,768,800 and \$375,650,700, 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: Naughton

Attachments: [FY22 FY23 Budget Water.Sewer BOWC Attachment.pdf](#)
[FY 22 Budget Presentation.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Coleman, seconded by Commissioner Blackmon that this Resolution, BOWC be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Commissioner Garcia, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Coleman, Commissioner Blackmon, Commissioner Forte and Commissioner Einheuser

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Kinloch

- C. [21-0400](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit **rescinds the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department *Interim Collection Rules and Procedures*, as revised January 22, 2003, in its entirety**, and also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Pospiech

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

- D. [21-0401](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit **rescinds the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department's employee handbook entitled *The Way We Work*, published November 5, 2014, with exception of policies entitled Work Rules, Work Safely Rules, Corrective Action, Disciplinary Guidelines and Point System, and Policy 202.2 - Attendance, which shall automatically expire on June 30, 2021**, and authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Pospiech

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

12 POLICY REVIEW

- A. [21-0403](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department **approves the following finance policy: Special Use Meter-Residential Irrigation**, and also authorizes the Director to take such other actions as may be necessary to effectuate the policy.

Sponsors: Pospiech

Attachments: [Slide for Special Use Meters Policy.pdf](#)
[Special Use Meter - Residential Irrigation - FINAL.pdf](#)

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

13. **DIRECTOR'S METRICS**

A. [21-0404](#)

Sponsors: Brown

Attachments: [Board Report - Metrics - 02172021.pdf](#)

14. **COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS**

There were none.

15. **COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR**

There were none.

16. **OTHER MATTERS**

There were none.

17. **CLOSED SESSION**

A motion was made by Commissioner Linda Forte, seconded by Commissioner Mary Blackmon to enter into Closed Session at 3:30 p.m. be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

A. [21-0405](#)

Upon the request of Chief General Counsel Debra N. Pospiech, Esq., the Board of Water Commissioners votes to **approve a meeting with General Counsel in closed session pursuant to Section 8(h) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act to discuss a memorandum subject to attorney-client privilege.**

Sponsors: Pospiech

A motion was made by Commissioner Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Jane Garcia that this Request, Closed Session be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

B. [21-0406](#)

Upon the request of Chief General Counsel Debra N. Pospiech, Esq., the Board of Water Commissioners votes to **approve a meeting with General Counsel in closed session pursuant to Section 8(h) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act to discuss a memorandum subject to attorney-client privilege.**

Sponsors: Pospiech

A motion was made by Commissioner Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Jane Garcia that this Request, Closed Session be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

C. [21-0408](#)

Upon the request of Chief General Counsel Debra N. Pospiech, Esq., the City of Detroit Board of Water Commissioners votes to **approve a meeting with General Counsel in closed session pursuant to Section 8(h) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act to discuss a memorandum subject to attorney-client privilege.**

Sponsors: Pospiech

A motion was made by Commissioner Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Jane Garcia that this Request, Closed Session be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

RETURN FROM CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Commissioner John Henry Davis, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte to return from Closed Session at 4:35 p.m. be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

The only matters discussed were attorney-client privilege communications.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Einheuser requested a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lane Coleman, seconded by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.