



# **Detroit Water and Sewerage Department Meeting Minutes - Final Finance Committee**

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**Wednesday, February 5, 2025**

**1:00 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**

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## **Finance Committee Meeting will be held virtually**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Einheuser called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

### **2. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 2 - Commissioner Lane Coleman and Commissioner Michael Einheuser

### **3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Einheuser requested that the agenda be amended to allow the Chief Customer Service Officer to address publicly on misleading information about the Lifeline Program.

Matthew Phillips, Chief Customer Service Officer reported that the Department had received reports about community member and activist were publicly disseminating misinformation about the Lifeline Program. He said some of the misconception is that no one is participating in the Lifeline Program because DWSD had removed, eliminated, or cancelled the program completely or that the WRAP funding provided by GLWA had been completely removed for Detroit residents and only available for the outside counties that participate with GLWA.

Another matter is that no one from DWSD was available on-site during the Senate and House hearings on the Water Affordability Bill that was being presented in December. Mr. Phillips publicly noted that as of February 1, 2025, that DWSD has 12,604 residents receiving benefits, which means that they are receiving a \$18.43 or \$56 a month water bill payment.

The rest is being paid by GAP for DWSD through several grants, which are: WRAP through GLWA, State of Michigan Local Water Utility Affordability Program, and a grant by the State of Michigan Water Affordability Program. These three programs assist is paying residents' water bills. He also said there is communication that DWSD did not notify any of the Lifeline enrollees from 2024, that the program would need to end for that current grant period, and that individuals on the program would have to recertify and re-enroll, which is a requirement by the State of Michigan. Mr. Phillips said mailings to over 27,000 residents on September 12, 2024, to recipients of the re-certification process, that began on October 1, 2024. There were also two additional mailings that went out to the Lifeline Plan enrollees in their bill statement.

He also wanted to note that Debra Pospiech, was on-site in Lansing for multiple days while the hearings were going on, as well as the intent of the vote for Senator Cheng's bill on Water Affordability. Mr. Phillips stated that he also can attest that he was there on behalf of DWSD, while the Bill was being put forward to the Michigan house.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lane Coleman, seconded by Commissioner Michael Einheuser that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

#### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Einheuser requested approval of the minutes of December 4, 2024.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lane Coleman, seconded by Commissioner Michael Einheuser that the minutes be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

**Chairperson Forte joined at 1:02 p.m.**

#### **5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (3 minutes per speaker)**

a. Cecily McClellan with We the People of Detroit (WTPOD) came to thank the Department for replacing a customer's sewer lateral. Ms. McClellan stated that this was a prime example of a success story and how communication is key in resolving issues. The customer has been reconnected to the sewer system and is thankful for the support and assistance.

b. DeMeeko Williams with Hydrate Detroit responded to the comments made by Chief Customer Service Officer, Matthew Phillips about how the public had received misinformation about Lifeline Plan. Mr. Williams said the situation should have been mitigated. He wants to know what is the game plan? He also said there has been no representation from Wayne Metro at the Board meetings to provide an explanation or ratification.

c. Jermaine Paynes spoke on the comments about the Lifeline Plan. He said the Wayne Metro should be present at the Board meetings in order to understand their role with DWSD and explain their partnership. He also said that he has not heard anything about how customers would receive assistance from with their water bill from the program. He is very appreciative and commends the Department on the outstanding service they have provided with the water main breaks.

d. Tiffany Dupont Anderson stated that she, as a Lifeline Plan recipient, did not receive any information regarding the recertification to this day. She also mentioned that she had not received a water bill since September 2024.

e. Norrel Hemphill, Environmental Law Attorney, stated that the Department should engage into a more formal forum with the public. She said that WTPOD have met with Matthew Phillips and Bryan Pechinpaugh and appreciated their assistance. She said there were 26,000 customers in the Lifeline Plan and now there are only 12,000. What happened to the other 14,000 customers, what notice went out, is there a bridge period, and what is the plan?

f. Gwen Howard asked if the customers enrolled in the Lifeline Plan were being transferred to the \$10 EasyPay Program and where are the 14,000 non-enrolled customer?

**6. COMMUNICATIONS****A. [2025-1](#) Receipt of Correspondence**

**Sponsors:** Welch

**Attachments:** [BOWC Memo](#)  
[Contracts & Purchase Orders \\$5,000 -\\$25,000 January 2025](#)  
[BOWC ECS Report Approved by Director Brown Reported January 2025](#)

**This Communication or Report was received and filed.**

**B. [2025-18](#) Receipt of Correspondence**

**Sponsors:** Rahman

**Attachments:** [Finance Presentation - Jan 2025 Meeting \(Oct Results\) v 2024.12.17](#)

**This Communication or Report was received and filed.**

**C. [2025-25](#) Receipt of Correspondence**

**Sponsors:** Welch

**Attachments:** [BOWC Memo](#)  
[BOWC ECS Report Approved by Director Brown Reported February 2025](#)  
[Contracts & Purchase Orders \\$5,000-\\$25,000 February 2025](#)

**This Communication or Report was received and filed.**

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was none.

**8. NEW BUSINESS****A. [2025-38](#) External Auditor FYE June 30, 2024, Financial Audit**

**Sponsors:** Rahman

**Attachments:** [Plante Moran -DWSD Finance Committee Presentation - FYE 2024](#)  
[32883 City of Detroit - Water Sewerage Dept.-0624-Memo to Board-Final](#)  
[32883 City of Detroit - Water Sewerage Department-0624-FS-Final](#)

Presenters: Timothy St. Andrew and Stephanie Atkinson

**This Communication or Report was received and filed.**

- B. [2025-26](#)** The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve Amendment No. 5 to DWSD Contract 6002651 (CS-1943), with iVantage Group for temporary staffing services, by adding \$500,000.00 in funding, for a total amended not-to-exceed amount of \$1,965,000.00. No change to scope of services, or terms and conditions.** The BOWC 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 Lane Coleman, seconded by Commissioner Michael Einheuser that this Contract Amendment be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**
- C. [2025-28](#)** The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6006934 with Bob Maxey Ford, Inc., a secondary contract for as-needed OEM parts, repairs, and maintenance services for DWSD Ford owned vehicles; for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$1,000,000.00 and a term of five (5) 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 Michael Einheuser, seconded by Commissioner Lane Coleman that this Contract be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**
- D. [2025-29](#)** The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract No. 6006947 with RSI Enterprises, Inc., to provide Payment Plan Collection Services for Delinquent Receivables, for a duration of two (2) years with an option to extend. This is a revenue contract with no payments made to the vendor. The vendor is compensated by retaining 16% of all amounts collected.** 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 Lane Coleman, seconded by Commissioner Michael Einheuser that this Contract be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**
- E. [2025-30](#)** The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract No. 6006955 with EJ USA, Inc. (formally known as East Jordan) for Brass Curb Stops of various sizes; for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$339,312.93 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 6006955 ej usa brass curb stop](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Michael Einheuser, seconded by Commissioner Lane Coleman that this Contract be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**F.** [2025-31](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract No. 6006962 with Motor City Pipe & Supply Co. for Gate Valve parts, for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$601,549.50 and a term of two 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 tab 6006952 motor city gate valve](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Lane Coleman, seconded by Commissioner Michael Einheuser that this Contract be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**G.** [2025-32](#)

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 6006476 (CS-1989), with M. E. Simpson Company, Inc., for City of Detroit Leak Detection in Targeted Neighborhoods, by adding \$198,213.68 in funding, for a total amended contract not-to-exceed amount \$500,000.00. No change to the scope of services or contract terms and conditions.** 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 Michael Einheuser, seconded by Commissioner Lane Coleman that this Contract Amendment be recommended for approval. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**H.** [2025-36](#)

November 2024 Monthly Financial Review

**Sponsors:** Rahman

**Attachments:** [Finance Presentation - Feb 2025 Meeting \(Nov Results\) v 2025.01.22](#)

This Communication or Report was received and filed.

**I.** [2025-37](#)

Preliminary Proposed FY 2026 Operating Budget

**Sponsors:** Rahman

**Attachments:** [Finance Presentation Preliminary Proposed FY 26 Operating Budget 2.5.25](#)

This Communication or Report was received and filed.

**9. PLANNING CALENDAR (17-0024)**

November 2024 Monthly Financial Review  
Committee review of the Preliminary Proposed FY 2026 Operating Budget  
External Auditor presentation of FYE June 30, 2024 Financial Audit

**10. OTHER MATTERS**

There were none.

**11. NEXT MEETING**

March 5, 2025

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Forte requested a motion to adjourn.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Michael Einheuser, seconded by Commissioner Lane Coleman that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously.**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

**How to Make a Request for Public Comment**

You may provide your public comment via Zoom link:

<http://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/81572635118>

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.