



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

735 Randolph  
Detroit, Michigan 48226

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Wednesday, March 11, 2015

1:00 PM

5th Floor Board Room, Water Board Building

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## Special Meeting No. 4 and Continued Public Hearing

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fausone called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

### 2. ROLL CALL

Following roll call, Chairman Fausone called a brief recess to address technical difficulties with the Board Room's audio equipment.

**Present:** 5 - Commissioner James Fausone, Commissioner Fred Barnes, Commissioner Mary Blackmon, Commissioner J. Bryan Williams and Commissioner John Henry Davis

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Bradley Kenoyer and Commissioner Linda Forte

Also Present: Sue F. McCormick Director; William M. Wolfson, Chief Administrative and Compliance Officer/General Counsel; and Darryl A. Latimer, Chief Customer Service Officer/Deputy Director

### 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Board returned back from recess; Chairman Fausone called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM. Chairman Fausone requested approval of the agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Williams that the agenda be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**approved**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner Fausone, Commissioner Barnes, Commissioner Blackmon, Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Davis

### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None.

### 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes per speaker)

None.

**6. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS**

None.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**8. NEW BUSINESS - Continued Public Hearing****Public Hearing Comments:**

Director Sue F. McCormick asked for the Board's consideration of the proposed Capital Improvement Plans for both the Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Systems; the proposed comprehensive Budget for FY 2015-16, which included the operating budget, a plan to finance the CIP, contractual and regulatory non-operating expenses; and a proposed schedule of water and sewer rates and charges for FY 2015-16. Written statement submitted to the Board.

Sixto Rodriguez, citizen, asked the Board of Water Commissioners not to raise rates; he argued people do not get information as taxpayers about what the Board is doing; he expressed concern for the population well below the poverty line and on fixed incomes living hand-to-mouth, day-to-day.

Sandra Kennedy, citizen, stood before the Board against rate increases for those living 200% below the poverty line that cannot afford water from a medical standpoint, sanitation standpoint, and health standpoint she opposed the increase.

Erma Leaphart, Sierra Club, presented a written statement, titled "Public Hearing on Proposed Water and Sewerage Rates" to the Board regarding concerns related to higher water and sewer rates; solutions for the Board's consideration, i.e. a true affordability plan that takes into account a person's ability to pay based on EPAs affordability standard; encouraged the Board to provide incentives to businesses and residents to adopt green infrastructure methods to manage storm water. In addition, Ms. Leaphart complimented the Department for sharing valuable information in the article Urban Storm Water Management Practices Go Green at DWSD Customer Outreach.

Sylvia Orduno, Michigan Welfare Rights Organization, presented in writing and publically stated that the Michigan Welfare Rights group adamantly opposed rate increases, that lower income customers are continuously being held accountable for their water bills; 10,000 houses are without water; they were against a DWSD water rate increase for those who cannot afford to pay in poverty status; she argued people entered the 10-30-50 plan under duress, plans they could not afford; and there needs to be more water accountability based on income.

[15-1006](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve the FY 2016 Water Supply System (WSS) Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Fiscal Years 2016 through 2020**, and also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

**Sponsors:** Bateson

**Attachments:** [WATER FY 2016 CIP 3-11-2015 for BOWC Approval](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Barnes that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by the following vote: This item received five votes.

**approved**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner Fausone, Commissioner Barnes, Commissioner Blackmon, Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Davis

[15-1005](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve the FY 2016 Sewage Disposal System (SDS) Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Fiscal Years 2016 through 2020**, and also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

**Sponsors:** Bateson

**Attachments:** [SEWER FY 2016 CIP 3-11-2015 for BOWC Approval](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Blackmon that this Capital Improvement Project be approved. The motion carried by the following vote: This item received five votes.

**approved**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner Fausone, Commissioner Barnes, Commissioner Blackmon, Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Davis

[15-1008](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department **approves the proposed FY 2015-16 Operating Budget for the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department**, and also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

**Sponsors:** McCormick

A motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Barnes that this Department Budget be approved. The motion carried by the following vote: This item received five votes.

**approved**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner Fausone, Commissioner Barnes, Commissioner Blackmon, Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Davis

[15-1007](#)

The Director of the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department **recommends that the proposed wholesale water and sewer charges, as well as the proposed industrial waste control charges and industrial surcharges, as outlined in the March 11, 2015 public hearing rate document and the related FY 2016 City of Detroit allocated revenue requirements for water of \$94,641,200 and for sewage of \$254,643,600 as outlined in that document be approved by the Board of Water Commissioners with an effective date of July 9, 2015 for the wholesale water and sewer charges and July 1, 2015 for the industrial waste control charges, the industrial surcharges, and the City of Detroit revenue requirements,** and also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

**Sponsors:** McCormick

**Attachments:** [Proposed FY 2016 Schedule of Charges \(3\)](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Barnes that this Rates, Charges and Fees be approved. The motion carried by the following vote: This item received five votes.

**approved**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner Fausone, Commissioner Barnes, Commissioner Blackmon, Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Davis

[15-1004](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department, **having heard a Bid Protest by Kristel Group, Inc. determines that the Bid Protest is denied;** and also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

**Sponsors:** Wolfson

**Attachments:** [Kristel Protest Letter](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Barnes that this Resolution, BOWC be denied. The motion carried by the following vote:

**denied**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner Fausone, Commissioner Barnes, Commissioner Blackmon, Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Davis

9. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

None.

10. **COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS**

None.

**11. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR**

Chairman Fausone reminded Board Members that the next regular Board meeting would be Wednesday March 18, 2015 at 2:00 PM.

**12. OTHER MATTERS**

**None.**

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Commissioner Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Barnes that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:  
**approved**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner Fausone, Commissioner Barnes, Commissioner Blackmon, Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Davis

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:09 PM.