

Philadelphia Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board
May Monthly Meeting Notes
5/13/2020, by Telephone and Webex (Online) Only

Board Members Present

Irwin “Sonny” Popowsky, Chair
Tony Ewing, Vice Chair
Rasheia Johnson
Abby Pozefsky
Folasade A. Olanipekun-Lewis

Also Present

Daniel W. Cantú-Hertzler
Marcy Chestnut
David Jagt
Robert Ballenger
Scott Schwarz
Ji Jun
Melissa LaBuda
Andre Dasent
Susan Crosby
Bernadette Briefman
Subodh Nayar
Steven Liang

Mr. Popowsky called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

1. Mr. Ewing moved to approve the minutes from the February 19, 2020 monthly meeting. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The February meeting minutes were approved with 4 ayes from Mr. Popowsky, Ms. Pozefsky, Mr. Ewing, and Ms. Johnson. Ms. Olanipekun-Lewis abstained, not having been present at the February meeting.

2. Mr. Popowsky asked the Water Department to speak briefly on the upcoming Tiered Assistance Program Rider Reconciliation (TAP-R) Proceeding. Mr. Dasent stated that the Department intends to submit an “Assumptions” document on May 15th, followed by the Advance Notice filing on May 19th and the Formal Notice on June 19th. The hope is to come to a joint stipulation between the Department and other interested Participants, similar to the Department’s stipulation with the Public Advocate in the 2019 TAP-R Proceeding. Mr. Ballenger was the only person with comments, specifically mentioning the potential difficulty of garnering public input given the present circumstances. Mr. Dasent noted the precedent in the prior record of a public hearing held by telephone.

3. Mr. Popowsky then spoke about the 2020 General Rate Proceeding. The Water Department had requested a stay of the Proceeding due to restrictions imposed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Hearing Officer granted the stay, renewing once after thirty days without objection from the participants. Mr. Popowsky stated that due to the restricted circumstances it seemed extremely unlikely that the Board would be able to successfully complete the Proceeding within the 120-day deadline set forth in the Philadelphia Code. The

Water Department stated that it would be submitting an update to the Hearing Officer on or before May 29th about how it intended go forward with the Proceeding.

4. Ms. Chestnut commended the participants for their collaborative work in relation to the General Rate Proceeding.

5. Mr. Popowsky invited other Board members and attendees to raise other questions or issue. No one having done so, the Board voted to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.