

Philadelphia Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board
June Special Meeting Notes
6/16/2021, by Zoom (Online and Telephone) Only

Board Members Present

Irwin “Sonny” Popowsky, Chair
Tony Ewing, Vice Chair
Rasheia Johnson, Secretary
Abby Pozefsky

Also Present

Daniel W. Cantú-Hertzler
Lance Haver
Marlane Chestnut, Hearing Officer
Robert Ballenger
Andre Dasent
Steven Liang
Edward Markus, Technical Consultant

1. Mr. Popowsky called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. and noted that the only matter on the agenda was for the Board to vote on the proposed Rate Determination on 2021 General Rate Proceeding in the form furnished to Board members prior to the meeting. He thanked Ms. Chestnut for helping to prepare the Rate Determination for the Board’s consideration.

2. Mr. Popowsky opened the meeting to comments from attendees. Mr. Haver spoke in opposition to how the Rate Proceeding had been conducted. He expressed his belief that (a) by settling with the Water Department without having Public Hearings on the settlement, the Public Advocate had not appropriately represented the Public; (b) there was the appearance of a quid pro quo between the Advocate and the Department, because Community Legal Services would serve as Public Advocate in a special rate reduction proceeding; (c) the Board should impose more stringent requirements for the Department to pursue Federal or State emergency relief funds; and (d) the Board should require the Department to enroll more people in the TAP-R program. Mr. Haver also criticized the position of the Board Chair in support of the proposed settlement in light of the Chair’s longtime role as a consumer advocate.

3. The Board voted 4-0 to adopt the proposed Rate Determination. Mr. Popowsky and Mr. Cantú-Hertzler were asked to file the Rate Determination with the Department of Records and post it on the Board’s website.

4. Mr. Popowsky tentatively scheduled monthly meetings for the Board for July 14 and August 11.

5. Mr. Popowsky thanked the Hearing Examiner, Board Counsel, and the Board’s Technical Consultant for helping the Board reach timely Rate Determinations.

6. The meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m.