

Philadelphia Water, Sewer, and Storm Water Rate Board
August Monthly Meeting Notes
8/9/2023, by Zoom (Online and Telephone) Only
Open for public participation via Zoom

Board Members Present

Irwin “Sonny” Popowsky, Chair
Tony Ewing, Vice Chair
Abby Pozefsky, Secretary
Debra McCarty

Others Present

Robert Ballenger
Andre Dasent
Daniel W. Cantú-Hertzler
Sarah Stoner
Carl Shultz
Deland L. Bryant

Mr. Popowsky called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

1. Mr. Popowsky introduced Deland Bryant as the Board’s new Legal Assistant, taking over for Steven Liang.
2. Mr. Popowsky introduced the draft minutes from the June 14, 2023 and June 21, 2023 meetings of the Water Rate Board. There were no corrections or additions to the June 14, 2023 meetings. Mr. Ewing moved to approve the minutes. Ms. McCarty seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 4-0. There were no corrections or additions to the June 21, 2023 minutes. Ms. McCarty moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Pozefsky seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 4-0.
3. Mr. Popowsky introduced the next subject matter: Report on the two Rate Orders entered last month and filed by Mr. Cantú-Hertzler. The Compliance filings were made with the participants having the opportunity to review. Mr. Popowsky noted that the Public Advocate had no objections to the filing and there were no appeals filed by any of the participants. The Compliance Tariffs will go in effect without requiring any further action to be taken by the Water Rate Board on September 1, 2023. Mr. Dasent affirmed that the rates would go into effect September 1, 2023, and also added the department would like to post the Compliance Filing to the Water Rate Board website. Mr. Popowsky suggested that Mr. Dasent and Mr. Bryant work to get the compliance filings posted to the website.
4. Mr. Popowsky opened the meeting to Board members’ comments regarding the conduct of the Rate Proceedings. Ms. McCarty inquired as to how the Board intends to follow up on information requested from PWD in the Board Rate Determinations. Mr. Dasent commented in response to Ms. McCarty: The department has been in discussion on how to make quarterly reporting filings containing the requested information. The department is working with the Water

Revenue Board and its outside consultants to work on this. Mr. Dasent will give a progress report at the next Board meeting. October would be the department's kickoff for the filing of the quarterly reports. Mr. Ballenger said he would be open to having a discussion with Mr. Dasent regarding the reporting requirements. Mr. Ballenger also commented that the Department had reported positive news with respect to receipt of infrastructure funds. Mr. Popowsky commented that he hoped in the future that the Department, the Advocate, and any other participant would get together to work on issues that may come up, in advance of the next rate proceeding. Mr. Dasent said the department would work to accomplish this.

5. Mr. Ewing inquired if the virtual meeting format would continue going forward. Mr. Popowsky deferred to Cantú-Hertzler for the City's opinion but, added he thought the virtual meeting formatting seems to be working well. Mr. Popowsky also noted that the Board may wish to entertain some sort of hybrid meeting schedule should an in-person meeting be requested or required. Mr. Cantú-Hertzler commented that the City's position regarding virtual hearing has not changed but suggested to the board that it should remain flexible to accommodate the public, keeping in mind the digital divide and remain inclusive to all. Ms. McCarty commented that she felt the virtual meetings format are better attended than the in-person meetings. Mr. Ballenger commented that he felt the virtual meetings were successful. He felt that there were resources available for the public to attend virtual meetings.

6. Mr. Popowsky introduced the next subject matter, raising the point that when the department makes a rate filing, the filing is on a ten-month basis rather than an annual twelve-month period. Mr. Popowsky stated his concern that this may lead to confusion to the public regarding the amount of the proposed revenue increases. He suggested that perhaps the presentation from the department could reflect a full first year and second year increase, rather than 10 months of the two Fiscal Year increases. Mr. Dasent commented that for presentation purposes, the department will be clearer and will reach out to its finance department and outside consultants to accomplish this.

7. Mr. Popowsky opened the meeting to members of the public for comments. There were no comments from the public.

8. Mr. Popowsky asked if there were any other matters to be brought before the Board. There were none.

9. Mr. Ewing moved to adjourn, and Ms. Pozefsky seconded the motion. The Motion was approved 4-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.