

Philadelphia Water, Sewer, and Storm Water Rate Board
January Monthly Meeting Notes
1/10/2024, by Zoom (Online and Telephone) Only
Open for public participation via Zoom

Board Members Present

Irwin “Sonny” Popowsky, Chair
Debra McCarty
Mac Williams

Others Present

Robert Ballenger
Marcy Chestnut
Andre Dasent
Daniel W. Cantú-Hertzler
Deland L. Bryant (Zoom Administrator)

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

1. In the absence of the Board’s Secretary, Ms. Pozefsky, Mr. Popowsky presented the draft minutes from the November 8, 2023 meeting of the Water Rate Board. Ms. McCarty moved to approve the minutes, with no additions or corrections. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 3-0.
2. Mr. Popowsky asked Mr. Dasent to discuss the Water Department’s planned filing dates for the rate proceeding to be decided in 2024. Mr. Dasent noted that he anticipates filing advance notice of the TAP-R Reconciliation Proceeding on February 14, 2024 and the formal notice will be on March 15, 2024, with a final decision on or about June 12, 2024. Mr. Dasent also noted that the data he had reviewed had indicated that there was an uptick in program participation. Mr. Popowsky explained that the purpose of a TAP-R proceeding is to reconcile the Department’s costs of the low-income program called the Tiered Assistance Program and establish rate riders, applied to all other customers, to fund the Department’s revenue shortfalls arising from the program.
3. Mr. Popowsky stated his expectation, based on the Board’s Regulations, that the Participants and the Hearing Officer will develop a schedule under the TAP-R proceedings requiring at least one public input hearing and at least one technical hearing.
4. Mr. Popowsky asked Mr. Cantú-Hertzler to provide an updated report on the status of the Rate Board’s contracts with the Hearing Officer, Public Advocate and Amawalk Consulting Group that were awarded for the 2024 year. Mr. Cantú-Hertzler reported that the Rate Board posted notice of intent to award contracts to the same three contractors as before, with Community Legal Services serving as Public Advocate, Amawalk Consulting Group (Ed Markus) as Technical Consultant, and Marcy Chestnut as Hearing Officer. The contracts for Amawalk Consulting Group and Marcy Chestnut have been completed and the contract for Community Legal Services is in the final stages of being completed. All three contracts are retroactive to December 2, 2023, which is the anniversary of the prior contracts, so there will not be any interruption in services or the Board’s ability to pay for services. Mr. Popowsky mentioned that he has executed the contracts for the Hearing Officer and the Technical

Consultant for the Rate Board and will execute the contract for the Public Advocate when he receives it.

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

6. Mr. Williams moved to adjourn, and Ms. McCarty seconded the motion. The Motion was approved 3-0. Mr. Popowsky thanked the Board Members for their assistance in the contracting process and the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.