

Philadelphia Water, Sewer, and Storm Water Rate Board
Meeting Notes
1/10/18

Present:

Sonny Popowsky
Tony Ewing
Lee Huang
Folasade A. Olanipekun-Lewis
Rasheia Johnson
Daniel Cantú-Hertzler

Also Attending:

Cody Williams
Scott Schwarz
Marie McNeill
Debra McCarty
Melissa LaBuda
Andre Dasent
Sarah Stevenson
Susan Crosby
Josie Pickens
Paul Fugazzotto
Lauren Sell
Jaclyn Rogers
Prabha Kumar
Keola Harrington

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

Sade Olanipekun-Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 8 meeting and Tony Ewing seconded the motion. The minutes were adopted 5-0.

The Chair introduced Cody Williams from the Law Department. Mr. Williams will be providing administrative support to the Rate Board. Administrative duties have been reassigned to the Law Department. Invoices and correspondence should be addressed to Mr. Williams going forward.

Andre Dasent, counsel for Philadelphia Water Department (PWD), announced that the Advance Notice will be filed on February 9. PWD will notify all interested parties, including those registered as participants in prior rate cases. The Notice should also be posted to the Board's website. Mr. Dasent also reported that PWD is filing a confidentiality agreement with Community Legal Services (CLS) regarding the Black and Veatch Rate Model. The confidentiality agreement will be shared with the Hearing Officer.

Sonny Popowsky explained the hearing process and suggested possible dates for scheduling so that sufficient time is allotted for deliberations. The anticipated timeframe for deliberations is between June 15 and July 15. Although attendance is not mandatory, Mr. Popowsky encouraged Board members to attend hearings if their schedules allow it.

Josie Pickens of CLS commented that the Board has the authority to put emergency rates into effect if a decision in the Rate Case is not reached within 120 days, as stated in the Ordinance.

Water Commissioner Debra McCarty asked if the Board wanted input on deciding the location of the hearings. Folasade Olanipekun-Lewis and Daniel Cantú-Hertzler agreed to consult with City Council on the matter.

Deputy Water Commissioner Melissa LaBuda inquired about the Board's preference for the service of documents. In the previous rate case, some reports were distributed as a hard copy while others were sent electronically. Cody Williams will summarize for PWD the type of documents requested by each Board member.

Andre Dasent informed the Board that PWD met with CLS to discuss the rider for the TAP program. PWD is in the process of satisfying the data request sent by CLS on December 5. A copy will be provided to the Board when it's completed.

Paul Fugazzotto and Lauren Sell gave a presentation on the changes in process for the Rate Board's website. The new site is separate from the PWD's, but there will be a link connecting the two. Mr. Fugazzotto will provide screen shots as changes are made. Included on the new site is a Google Calendar to display the hearing schedule and a link to Google Maps for the hearing locations. The website is a repository of documents for the rate case, and Mr. Fugazzotto suggested that participants follow specific file naming conventions when they submit a document for posting. An email notification will be sent to the list serve when new documents are uploaded, and will include the location of the new file.

The Board's upcoming meetings are scheduled for February 7 and March 7. Mr. Popowsky plans to ask Ed Markus of Amawalk to give a presentation on the elements of a municipal water utility rate filing at the February 7 meeting. All members were asked to attend. On the motion of Tony Ewing, seconded by Folasade Olanipekun-Lewis, the Board voted 5-0 to hold meetings in the second quarter of the year at 3 p.m. on April 18, May 2, and June 6. Cody Williams will reserve rooms for these dates. Board members may submit agenda items for consideration the week prior to the meeting, and the agenda will be posted at least four days before the meeting is held.

Lee Huang moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Olanipekun-Lewis seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The meeting ended at 4:00 p.m.