Mr. Popowsky called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. The Board met in Room 18-029 because another group was meeting in Room 18-025 (the Mayor’s Media Room) despite the Board’s prior reservation and moved to Room 18-025 before 4:00 when another group that had reserved Room 18-029 for that time asked the Board to move.

Due to extenuating circumstances three of the Board members were not in attendance; lacking a quorum, the minutes of the prior meeting were not voted upon and the Board conducted no business. Mr. Popowsky asked that minutes be prepared anyway for the information of the public and other Board members.

Mr. Popowsky introduced Steven Liang, the new Legal Assistant who will be working for the Water Rate Board. Mr. Liang spoke briefly about the role he played as a member of the City Law Department before his transition, the circumstances surrounding how he came to replace his predecessor, Cody Williams, and the work related to water that he did prior to his work with the City.

Mr. Popowsky asked for an update on the schedule of the TAP Rider Proceeding. Scott Schwarz passed around a copy of the newest proposed schedule. The Advance Notice for the proceeding was submitted to the Department of Records on April 4th, with notice sent to various newspapers: The Daily News, the Legal Intelligential, the Philadelphia Tribune, Al Dia, and the Philadelphia Inquirer. He stated that the Water Department intends to file a Formal Notice on May 6th.

Under the rules of the Board the official deadline for the Public to register to participate in the Proceeding would be one week after the date of the Formal Notice Filing, May 13th. A tentative schedule from that date was outlined, subject to Board approval:
May 15  2:00 p.m. scheduling conference of Board Chair with participants
May 24  deadline for initial written comments on Formal Notice
June 3-7 public hearing and technical hearing or technical conference to be
  scheduled, perhaps on same date.
June 17-21 likely deadline for participant briefs or other final comments
June 24-28 likely public meeting(s) of Board to meet to make Rate Determination
July 1 likely filing date of Board’s Rate Determination
September 1 likely effective date of new TAP rider

At the Technical Hearing or Conference, over which the Board has authorized Mr. Popowsky to
  preside, Participants and their experts would be permitted to ask questions of each other and
  respond to questions from the Board.

The tentative schedule was designed to grant appropriate access and time for interested members
  of the public to review, understand, and comment on the documents and information that pass
  between the Water Department, Public Advocate, and other Participants as well as ensuring that
  they are fully and suitably involved in the hearing process.

Mr. Popowsky stated that the proceeding would be limited to the calculation of the reconcilable
  rider. There would be no reopening of any issues about design or formula of the Rider on a per
  CCF rate basis; rather, the Board should simply calculate the reconciliation and rider numbers to
  be implemented starting September 1st, 2019.

After the scheduling discussion, Ed Markus, from Amawalk Consulting, the Board’s technical
  consultant on rate matters, spoke about the simplified rate model he was asked to develop for
  future rate proceedings. The Board had requested Ed’s efforts to create a tool that could be used
  over the course of general rate proceedings that would allow both the Board and Participants to
  calculate the impact of any adjustments made to the Water Department’s revenue requirements
  and understand any financial results stemming from such adjustments. Data could be inputted,
  and an output would reveal potential changes in revenue requirements and other relevant
  financial impacts. The model is being developed by Amawalk in conjunction with the Water
  Department and Public Advocate and was nearly finished at the time of the meeting.

The next items on the agenda were issues that would be dealt with in the next full Rate
  Proceeding, anticipated for February 2020, that would affect the rates set from September 2020
  onwards. The items included the development of a Rate Design Study suggested at the prior Rate
  Proceeding and requested by the Board.

Melissa “Missy” Labuda headed the conversation about the list of items, made in conjunction
  with Black & Veatch Management Consulting, whose representatives Ann Bui and Brian Merritt
also spoke about the issue. The Water Department identified three broad areas where it may consider changes in the rate structure in the next General Rate Proceeding.

The items were as follows: 1. Putting pension costs onto a reconcilable rate rider. 2. Re-evaluation of the stormwater credit and incentives regulations based on the most up-to-date planimetric data. 3. Elimination of the Declining Block Rate and other rate design changes. The Water Department intends to discuss these issues with an advisory group from May through the end of summer 2019 so that any changes to the rate structure could be included in an Advance Notice filed in February 2020.

Mr. Popowsky encouraged the Department to look further into the issues with the Public Advocate and other interested Participants and to identify which avenues they would like to pursue before the next General Rate Proceeding.

Meeting adjourned at 4:32p.m.