

City of Philadelphia Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board
June Special Meeting Notes
6/27/2019, 1515 Arch Street, 18th Floor, Room 18-025 (Mayor's Media Room)

Board Members Present

Irwin "Sonny" Popowsky, Chair
Tony Ewing, Vice Chair
Rasheia Johnson
Abby Pozefsky (via phone)

Absent: Folasade Olanepikun-Lewis

Also Present

Daniel W. Cantú-Hertzler
Susan Crosby
Ed Markus
Robert Ballenger
Scott Schwarz
Steven Liang
Julia Park
Steven Liang

Mr. Popowsky called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m.

The Board reviewed the text of a draft 2019 Rate Determination concerning the TAP Rider, and decided to change a typo in Appendix A of the order; "Set Sewer usage rider of \$1/16/Mcf" on page 15 of the order should read "Set Sewer usage rider of \$1.16/Mcf." Mr. Popowsky asked whether any participants or members of the Board had questions, issues, or requests for any other modifications of the draft, and none were expressed.

The draft proposed setting the water usage rate under the TAP R at 71 cents per 1,000 cubic ft. (MCF). Mr. Popowsky noted that the Water Department accepted the rate proposed by the Public Advocate and there were no objections from any participants of the proceeding. Ms. Pozefsky moved to set the water usage rate at 71 cents per MCF and was seconded by Mr. Ewing. Mr. Cantú-Hertzler briefly clarified that, though in the formal notice there was a separate rate for fire connections, the same water usage rate would apply there as well. The motion carried, with Mr. Popowsky, Mr. Ewing, and Ms. Pozefsky voting Yes and Ms. Johnson recusing.

Mr. Ewing moved to set the Sewer usage rate to \$1.16 per MCF, and Ms. Pozefsky seconded the motion. Mr. Popowsky, Mr. Ewing, and Ms. Pozefsky voted Yes, and Ms. Johnson recused.

Mr. Ewing moved to approve the draft Rate Determination effective on or after September 1, 2019. Ms. Pozefsky seconded the motion. Mr. Popowsky, Mr. Ewing, and Ms. Pozefsky voted Yes and Ms. Johnson recused. With that final vote, the final Rate Determination was approved, which the Board asked be published on June 28, 2019 and filed with the Department of Records.

The rate proceeding having been completed, Mr. Popowsky expressed his gratitude to the participants and Board members. The members in attendance also expressed their gratitude to Mr. Popowsky for his work in the Proceeding.

Mr. Popowsky then notified the members of the Board and the others present about his invitation and intention to speak about the TAP program at a conference of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies in Washington, D.C. Mr. Popowsky was also asked to help the Penn Water Center in a proposal to develop a low-income water assistance program in Michigan. Mr. Popowsky stated his intention to assist the Penn Water Center, with the caveat that he not be compensated for his work.

The Board then proceeded to set the upcoming schedule for monthly Board meetings, cancelling the meetings to be held in July and August, and establishing subsequent meeting dates as the second Wednesday of each month at 3 PM, barring any dates that overlapped with religious or other holidays, and postponing that month's meeting to the subsequent Wednesday. The meeting dates were set as:

September 11, 2019 @ 3:00 p.m.
October 16, 2019 @ 3:00 p.m.
November 13, 2019 @ 3:00 p.m.
December 11, 2019 @ 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Popowsky then asked for a motion to authorize Mr. Cantú-Hertzler to advertise RFPs for Hearing Officer, Public Advocate, and Technical consultant for the 2020 Full Rate Proceeding and Tap R proceeding. Mr. Ewing so moved and was seconded by Ms. Johnson. The Board voted "aye" 4-0.

Mr. Popowsky then asked those in attendance if they had any more matters or issues to discuss. Ms. Johnson announced that the June 27th meeting would be her last meeting in her position as City Treasurer, but she would stay on the Board at the request of the Mayor's Administration and that City Council had confirmed her nomination to serve a second term.

Mr. Schwarz notified the Board that the incoming Water Commissioner would likely attend the September meeting and that by the time of that meeting Water Department will have completed the stakeholder meetings for the alternative rate analysis under consideration for future rate filings. Both items will be put on the September meeting agenda.

No one having any further questions or issues, the Board then voted to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 2:32.