

Philadelphia Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board
January Monthly Meeting Notes
1/8/2020, 1515 Arch Street, 18th Floor, Rooms 18-025 (Mayor's Media Room)

Board Members Present

Irwin "Sonny" Popowsky, Chair
Rasheia Johnson

Abby Pozefsky (by phone)

Board Members Absent:

Tony Ewing, Vice Chair
Folasade A. Olanepikun-Lewis

Also Present

Daniel W. Cantú-Hertzler
David Jagt
Robert Ballenger
Scott Schwarz
Brian Merritt
Ann Bui
Ji Jun
Melissa LaBuda
Randy Hayman
Steven Liang

Mr. Popowsky called the meeting to order at 3:12 p.m.

1. The meeting began with introductions between the Water Rate Board members and Randy Hayman, the new Philadelphia Water Commissioner. Mr. Hayman explained his extensive experience as an attorney, as well as his time as general counsel for two water utilities, Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District and District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority. In those capacities he worked to implement green water infrastructure, making special mention that Philadelphia's green water initiatives served as a model for utilities across the country.

Mr. Hayman also spoke about his goals as Water Commissioner which included improving customer service, improving working conditions for employees, ensuring rate structures that are fair and equitable for the users across the financial spectrum, promoting diversity, and conducting business fairly, transparently, and reliably.

Mr. Popowsky asked Mr. Hayman about D.C.'s low income water program and its structure. Mr. Hayman answered that it was similar in structure to Philadelphia's TAP Rider program, though it lacked an independent body to establish rates like the Water Rate Board. Mr. Cantú-Hertzler asked how Philadelphia's water and sewer system were different from Washington's and if it presented new or different challenges. Mr. Hayman answered that both the age of its system and the concentration and size of its population under the poverty line were issues that needed to be acknowledged. In response to a question from Mr. Popowsky, Mr. Hayman noted that he did indeed have experience with dealing with litigation involving lead in water.

2. Ms. Pozefsky moved to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2019 monthly meeting. Mr. Popowsky seconded the motion. The September 11 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Mr. Schwarz spoke to the Board about the Water Department's draft Rate Proceeding schedule. The initial tentative dates were set as follows:

February 11, 2020:	Filing of Advance Notice
March 12, 2020:	Formal Notice to Rate Board and City Council
April 3, 2020:	TAP-R Reconciliation Filing Advance Notice
Week of April 12 th :	Public Hearings
Week of April 19 th :	Public Hearings
May 4, 2020:	TAP-R Reconciliation Final Notice
Week of May 5 th :	Technical Hearings
Week of May 12 th :	Technical Hearings
July 10, 2020:	120-Day Deadline for Rate Board Determination

The dates of the hearings would be scheduled sometime within the mentioned weeks. The tentative schedule included no specific pre-hearing conferences or any other hearings or meetings that the Hearing Officer would directly be involved with in scheduling. Mr. Popowsky asked about the filing of the TAP Rider. Mr. Schwarz stated that the intention of the tentative dates would be so that the final vote for both the TAP Rider and the vote for the new base rates would coincide, allowing both proceedings to conclude at the same time. Both the Department and the Public Advocate were confident that the TAP-R proceeding could run simultaneously based on their experience with the 2019 TAP Rider Rate Proceeding, which ran smoothly and expeditiously.

4. The Board discussed moving its February meeting from the 12th to the 19th so that it would be at least seven days after the Department's Advanced Notice to the Rate Board. The members present voiced approval pending availability of the remaining Board members.

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

Meeting adjourned at 3:56.