

Philadelphia Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board
January Monthly Meeting Notes
1/13/2021, by Telephone and Zoom (Online) Only

Board Members Present

Irwin “Sonny” Popowsky, Chair
Abby Pozefsky
Tony Ewing, Vice Chair
Rasheia Johnson

Also Present

Daniel W. Cantú-Hertzler
Edward Markus
Marlane Chestnut
Susan Crosby
Robert Ballenger
Scott Schwarz
Ji Jun
Andre Dasent
Melissa LaBuda
Althea Udo-Inyang
Danielle Lavery
Steven Liang

Mr. Popowsky called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

1. Ms. Pozefsky moved to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2020 monthly meeting. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Mr. Dasent gave a preview of the upcoming Rate Proceeding. The Water Department expected to file its Advance Notice electronically on January 15, 2021. All participants would be given access to a SharePoint website to access all exhibits and documents. Thirty days after the Advance Notice the Formal Notice would be filed and approximately 120 days after that the Rate Proceeding would be concluded. The Water Department intends to seek rate increases effective on or about September 1, 2021 and September 1, 2022.

Mr. Popowsky asked how the Proceeding would be advertised. Mr. Dasent stated that the Water Department was preparing draft statements to inform the Public. Mr. Popowsky asked if there were going to be any major proposed rate design changes in the General Rate Proceeding Filing or the TAP Rider. Mr. Dasent stated that there were none intended, save for any necessitated by Covid-19.

3. Ms. Pozefsky asked about the Public Hearings mandated by the Rate Board Regulations. Would there be fewer hearings than in years prior due to all hearings being online and call-in only for the foreseeable future? The possibility exists that there would only be the minimum four Public Hearings, but those meetings would be publicized as widely as possible and scheduled to make them available to the maximum number of members of the Public.

4. Ms. Chestnut spoke briefly about her desire to see collaboration among the Participants as well as the need to advertise Public Hearings as widely as possible. All persons who addressed this stated their agreement with her goals.

5. Mr. Ballenger asked whether the electronic filing materials would be electronically searchable, which Mr. Dasent affirmed they would be. Mr. Ballenger also asked if Mr. Markus's Rate Model would be posted to the SharePoint website. It was agreed that it very likely would be.

The meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m.