

Philadelphia Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board
February Monthly Meeting Notes
2/10/2021, by Telephone and Zoom (Online) Only

Board Members Present

Irwin “Sonny” Popowsky, Chair
Abby Pozefsky
Tony Ewing, Vice Chair
Folasade “Sade” Olanipekun-Lewis
Rasheia Johnson

Also Present

Daniel W. Cantú-Hertzler
Edward Markus
Marlane Chestnut
Susan Crosby
Robert Ballenger
Scott Schwarz
Ji Jun
Andre Dasent
Brooke Darlington
Edward Markus
Lena Smith
Danielle Lavery
Dan O’Brien
Tim Williams
Steven Liang

Mr. Popowsky called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

1. Mr. Ewing moved to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2021 monthly meeting. Ms. Pozefsky seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with four ayes. Ms. Olanipekun-Lewis, having been absent from that meeting, abstained.

2. Mr. Markus gave a report on the progress of his Simple Rate Model. Mr. Markus’s group was processing the information the Water Department had provided through the Advance Notice, as well as spreadsheets that the Department had sent them directly, and integrating that information into the Rate Model. Mr. Ewing asked whether there was an ETA on the Rate Model. Mr. Markus stated that he expected it within the coming weeks.

3. Mr. Liang then asked about the influx of messages that the WaterRateBoard email inbox had been receiving and how those messages should be processed. The bulk of the emails were voicing opinions about the anticipated rate changes. It was decided by the Hearing Examiner and the Board that the emails would be catalogued and preserved on the Rate Board Website as Public Input.

4. Ms. Chestnut gave a status update on the Rate Proceeding. She commended the collaboration in problem solving that she had seen between the Public Advocate and the Department. A pre-hearing conference was scheduled for February 24, 2021 to formally discuss issues that may arise in scheduling and other issues for the upcoming rate proceeding.

5. Mr. Popowsky asked Mr. Dasent whether there would be any substantive changes between the Advance Notice and the Formal Notice. Mr. Dasent noted that there may be changes due to new EPA regulations passed relating to lead and copper. Adherence to these new regulations could affect revenue requirements that are not currently captured by cost of service.

6. Mr. Popowsky asked whether there was an expected date for the filing of the TAP Rider. Mr. Dasent anticipated that it would likely be on or around March 15th, 2021.

The meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.