

Philadelphia Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board
September Monthly Meeting Notes
9/8/2021, by Zoom (Online and Telephone) Only

Board Members Present

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

Non-Board Members Present

Daniel W. Cantú-Hertzler
Carl Shultz
Ji Jun
Melissa LaBuda
Robert Ballenger
Andre Dasent
Steven Liang

1. Mr. Popowsky called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. In the absence of Board Secretary Johnson, Mr. Popowsky introduced the draft minutes for the August 11, 2021 monthly meeting. There were no corrections or additions to the minutes. Mr. Ewing moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Pozefsky seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. The second matter on the Board’s agenda was the promulgation of the amendment to the Board’s regulation expanding the definition and scope of Special Rate Proceedings. The issue had risen during the 2021 Rate Proceeding. The specific language was as follows:

Section I(t) of the Regulations of the Philadelphia Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board is amended as follows, with added text underlined:

SECTION I. DEFINITIONS.

(t) **Special Rate Proceeding:** A proceeding (a) concerning a proposed change in rate structure, which has not more than a de minimis impact on residential customer bills, arising from a City Council ordinance, or a change in State or Federal law, that, due to factors beyond the Department’s ability to control, cannot reasonably be addressed in a General Rate Proceeding or (b) required to be initiated as a Special Rate Proceeding pursuant to a Rate Determination.

Mr. Popowsky asked Board members if they had comments about the language. Ms. Pozefsky voiced her approval and commended the Water Department and the Public Advocate for working together to develop it. Mr. Ewing echoed her sentiments. Mr. Popowsky then opened the discussion to other attendees. There were no comments.

Ms. Pozefsky moved to promulgate the language as it appeared above, Mr. Ewing seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Pozefsky moved to schedule a virtual Public Hearing on the amendment to the Regulations for October 13th, 2021 at 3:00 p.m., immediately preceding the regular monthly meeting. Mr. Ewing seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The hearing will be held via Zoom and phone with a physical location available at One Parkway, 17th Floor, Conference Room 17D, 1515 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102 for those without phone or internet access.

3. Mr. Popowsky asked the Water Department for a status update about the reports required under the Settlement Agreement in the 2021 General Rate Proceeding. Mr. Dasent responded that the Department was working on a final template and expected to be able to present something to the Board after September 15th. Mr. Dasent said that the Department was receiving interdepartmental insight as to how best to create the reports and was optimistic about their utility.

4. Mr. Popowsky invited comments from the public. There were none.

The meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.