

**Philadelphia Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board**  
**November 12, 2025, Meeting Notes**  
**In Person (Room 18031, One Parkway Building, 1515 Arch Street)**  
**and by Zoom (Online and Telephone)**

Board Members Present

Irwin “Sonny” Popowsky, Chair  
Abby Pozefsky, Secretary  
Debra McCarty  
McCullough “Mac” Williams III

Others Present

Ryan E. McSherry, Board Counsel  
Keitshawna Williams  
Sarah Hurr  
Neal Sellers  
Carl Schultz  
Robert Ballenger  
Brooke Darlington  
Alexandra Athanasiadis  
Susan Murray  
Sharon Merckle  
Tash Folkes  
Caitlin Crews  
Khadijah George (Zoom Administrator)

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

1. Mr. Popowsky asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Board’s meeting of September 10, 2025 as drafted. Ms. McCarty moved to approve the minutes as drafted, and Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 4-0.
2. Mr. Popowsky next addressed the Authorization for Renewal of the Contracts for the Public Advocate and Technical Consultant. Mr. Popowsky indicated that the Board had existing contracts for a Public Advocate and Technical Consultant. Under those existing contracts, the Board had the authority and discretion to renew the contracts for an additional year, up to a total of five years. The contract for the Advocate was initially effective on December 2, 2023. It was last renewed on December 10, 2024 with an effective date of December 2, 2024. The contract for the Technical Consultant was initially effective on December 2, 2023. It was last renewed on November 8, 2024 with an effective date of December 2, 2024. These contracts were set to expire on December 1, 2025. On June 11, 2025, the Board voted to authorize the Board Chair and Board Counsel to take all steps necessary and appropriate under City procedures and applicable law to get Board contracts in place for a Public Advocate and a Technical Consultant in advance of anticipated 2026 rate proceedings, by renewing the existing contracts. Mr. Popowsky asked for a motion from the Board to authorize the Board Chair and Board Counsel to renew the contracts for both the Technical Consultant and the Public Advocate for another one-year term. Ms. McCarty moved and Ms. Pozefsky seconded. The motion carried 4-0.
3. Mr. Popowsky indicated that the Board also had a contract in place for a Hearing Officer which was also set to expire on December 1, 2025. He indicated that the Board had the authority and discretion to issue requests for proposals for alternative or additional

contractors. On June 11, 2025, the Board voted to authorize the Board Chair and Board Counsel to take all steps necessary and appropriate under City procedures and applicable law to get a Board contract in place for a Hearing Officer in advance of anticipated 2026 rate proceedings, by soliciting a new contractor. A Request for Proposals for a Hearing Officer was posted to the eContract Philly website on October 28, 2025; it was to remain open until December 1, 2025; and a new contract would hopefully be in place prior to the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD)'s upcoming TAP-R rate filing. Mr. Popowsky indicated that there was no action needed from the Board at this time and that there would be more discussion after the December 1, 2025 due date for proposals. Mr. Popowsky asked for any questions or comments from the Board regarding the Hearing Officer Request for Proposals. There were none.

4. Mr. Popowsky next asked Mr. Schultz if PWD was still on schedule for the TAP-R Proceeding to be filed sometime in early 2026. Mr. Schultz indicated that PWD was still on schedule. Mr. Schultz indicated that PWD had begun discussion with its consultants and was hopeful to provide additional details later. Mr. Popowsky indicated that he hoped to receive PWD's anticipated schedule at the Board's meeting scheduled for December 10, 2025, and asked Mr. Schultz to communicate this to PWD. Mr. Schultz indicated that he would do so.
5. Mr. Popowsky asked if there was any other Board business. There was none.
6. Mr. Popowsky asked Mr. Ballenger if there was anything he needed to bring before the Board on behalf of the Public Advocate. Mr. Ballenger indicated there was none.
7. Mr. Popowsky asked if there was any public comment. There was none.
8. Mr. Popowsky asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Williams moved to adjourn, and Ms. Pozefsky seconded the motion, which carried 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10pm.