

Philadelphia Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board
December 10, 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
Tony Ewing, Vice Chair
Abby Pozefsky, Secretary
Debra McCarty
McCullough “Mac” Williams III

Others Present

Ryan E. McSherry, Board Counsel
Keitshawna Williams
Neal Sellers
Robert Ballenger
Brooke Darlington
Alexandra Athanasiadis
Sharon Merckle
Andre Dasent
Khadijah George (Zoom Administrator)

Mr. Popowsky called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

1. Mr. Popowsky asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Board’s meeting of November 12, 2025, as drafted. Mr. Ewing moved to approve the minutes as drafted, and Ms. McCarty seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 5-0.
2. Mr. Popowsky stated that the Board's contract for a Hearing Officer expired on December 1, 2025. He indicated that 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 to get a Board contract in place for a Hearing Officer in advance of anticipated 2026 rate proceedings. He represented that a Request for Proposals for a Hearing Officer was posted to the eContract Philly website on October 28, 2025, and it remained open until December 1, 2025. He indicated that Board received timely responses which were circulated to all Board members. Mr. Popowsky represented that he asked Board members for a volunteer to join him in reviewing the proposals. One Board member, Ms. McCarty, volunteered, and Mr. Popowsky met separately with her so no more than two Board members met at a time in this process. Mr. Popowsky represented that he and Ms. McCarty came up with a recommendation on a proposed candidate to serve as Hearing Officer.
3. Mr. Popowsky indicated that he believed each of the Board members had reviewed all of the proposals. He asked, from what they had reviewed, whether any Board member objected to making an award to an applicant at this time. There were no objections.

4. Mr. Popowsky invited a motion authorizing him to work with Board Counsel to do the following:
 - a. Post Notice of Intent on the eContract Philly Website to award the contract to Kathryn G. Sophy
 - b. Work with Board Counsel to negotiate an acceptable contract within the Board's budget; and
 - c. execute a contract, or, if the Board could not come to acceptable terms, restart the contract procurement process and, if necessary, make a temporary award and execute a temporary agreement in the meantime.
5. Mr. Popowsky represented that Ms. Sophy had more than 30 years of experience with the Pennsylvania Utility Commission (PUC), she most recently served as the director of the PUC's Office of Special Assistants, whose job it is to prepare and write orders on behalf of the PUC.
6. Ms. McCarty moved and Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.
7. Mr. Popowsky next asked Mr. Dasent to provide an update on the upcoming TAP-R Rate Proceeding.
8. Mr. Dasent indicated he had spoken with the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) and believed they would be able file advance notice in mid-February, but represented that they would need to use data through December 2025. Mr. Dasent believed that the rate proceeding could be concluded before the end of June. Mr. Dasent indicated that PWD is not rushing the process and understood more time may be needed.
9. However, Mr. Dasent was hopeful that—based on prior years' rate proceedings and from his experience working with the Public Advocate—a resolution could be reached before the end of June. Mr. Dasent also indicated that the Department could update the data along the way.
10. Mr. Popowsky asked Mr. Ballenger if he had any remarks. Mr. Ballenger stated that he was hopeful Mr. Dasent was correct with respect to the timeline, but there was no way to for the Public Advocate to project exactly how the hearing would proceed as they would necessarily be responding to PWD's filing. However, he indicated that if it was a "standard reconciliation" with no "bells and whistles," he was confident the timeline Mr. Dasent provided could be met.
11. Mr. Popowsky asked the Board members if they had any questions. There were none. Mr. Popowsky clarified that if PWD filed the advance notice in mid-February then the final notice would be filed in mid-March. Assuming the proceeding would take 120 days, the timeline would conclude in mid-July. Mr. Popowsky indicated that he personally would not hold PWD to a mid-June conclusion date at this time, considering the new Hearing

Officer would need some time to get acquainted with the issues. Ms. McCarty noted that Ms. Sophy already has experience in this field.

12. Mr. Dasent represented that—with standalone TAP-R proceedings—PWD can usually meet the timeline that was set forth based upon the Board's regulations. Mr. Dasent reiterated that he believes the proceeding can be concluded by mid-June. Mr. Popowsky reminded everyone that the Hearing Officer sets the schedule and he believed a reasonable schedule could be established.
13. Mr. Popowsky stated that it would initially be up to the Hearing Officer to determine where the proceedings would be held and whether they would be in-person, virtual, or hybrid. Mr. Popowsky indicated that the current room the Board was using for its meetings might be an appropriate space.
14. Mr. Popowsky represented that the Board's upcoming meetings needed to be advertised. Mr. Popowsky indicated that the Board's meetings would be scheduled to be held on the second Wednesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. on the following dates: January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8, May 13, and June 10. Mr. Popowsky also noted that additional meeting dates could be added once the rate proceeding begins. Mr. Popowsky asked Board Counsel and the Board's Office Manager to ensure the Board's upcoming meetings were properly advertised. Mr. Popowsky asked whether any Board Members had any concerns. There were none.
15. Mr. Popowsky asked whether PWD or the Public Advocate had any questions or concerns. Mr. Dasent asked whether he could see Ms. Sophy's resume. Mr. Popowsky referred him to a PUC press release regarding Ms. Sophy's work when she was appointed Director of the Office of Special Assistants.
16. Mr. Ballenger represented that Community Legal Services was finalizing the Public Advocate's contract extension with the Law Department.
17. Mr. Popowsky asked if there was any public comment. There was none.
18. Mr. Popowsky asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Pozefsky moved to adjourn, and Mr. Williams seconded the motion, which carried 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.