

Philadelphia Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board  
June 26, 2024, Monthly Meeting Notes  
by Zoom (Online and Telephone) Only  
Open for public participation via Zoom

Board Members Present

Irwin “Sonny” Popowsky, Chair  
Debra McCarty  
Tony Ewing

Others Present

Robert Ballenger  
Marcy Chestnut  
Brooke Darlington  
Andre Dasent  
Lance Haver  
Dan Cantú-Hertzler  
Adriana Gonzalez  
Daniel Gordon  
Ed Markus  
Elizabeth Scattergood  
Carl Shultz  
Malgorzata Witalis  
two unidentified callers  
Deland L. Bryant – Zoom Administrator

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

1. Mr. Popowsky proposed that the Board vote to approve monthly meeting dates for the remainder of the calendar year. He suggested that the next meeting be held in August rather than July, as the Board had met twice in June. He asked for a motion that the Board continue to meet at its usual time, on the second Wednesday of each month at 3 P.M., from August through December 2024. Mr. Ewing moved to approve those meeting dates and Ms. McCarty seconded the motion, which was approved 3-0.
2. Mr. Popowsky introduced the next item on the agenda: whether to approve the draft order setting forth the Board’s rate determination in the TAP-R Reconciliation Proceeding. Mr. Popowsky stated that the draft order had been previously distributed to the Board members and asked for a motion to approve the order as drafted. Ms. McCarty moved to approve the draft order and Mr. Ewing seconded the motion. Mr. Popowsky asked if there was any discussion from the Board members with respect to the draft order. Hearing none, Mr. Popowsky thanked the Hearing Officer for her excellent work. The order was approved 3-0.
3. Mr. Popowsky asked whether there were any comments from the public. Mr. Haver stated he had a comment and a question. Mr. Haver commented that the Board did not post the draft order approved in this meeting on its webpage. Mr. Haver asked Mr. Popowsky if that was the Board’s intent not to make the order available for public review and, if so, why. Mr. Popowsky explained that the Board had already voted on the issues contained in the order at the June 12, 2024 public

meeting and the draft order codified the decisions voted upon at that public meeting. Mr. Haver asked a question regarding the expected total increase in water bills. Mr. Popowsky stated he did not have that exact percentage but that non-TAP-R residential customers would pay a TAP surcharge of \$3.08 per thousand cubic feet for water and \$4.40 per MCF for wastewater. He noted that this would be approximately a 4.3% increase for non-TAP customers, which would be offset dollar for dollar by the rate decreases received by low-income TAP customers. He also stated that he believed the total rate increase for non-TAP customers would be approximately 12% including both the TAP surcharge and the base rate increase approved by the Board in last year's general rate proceeding. Mr. Dasent confirmed that the rate that non-TAP-R residential customers will pay beginning September 1, 2024 is approximately 12 percent greater than it was previously, which would include both the base rate increase approved by the Board last year and the new TAP-R reconciliation.

Mr. Popowsky asked if there were any additional comments. Mr. Dasent stated the Department will prepare and file PWD rates and charges once it receives the order. Ms. McCarty stated that the Board takes its charge very seriously and evaluates the recommendations of the Hearing Officer based upon the facts presented by the witnesses for the Department and Public Advocate. She said that the Board concluded that the fair and reasonable thing to do was to approve the settlement for the TAP-R adjustment. Mr. Haver commented that Ms. McCarty did not mention the public in her prior statement. Ms. McCarty acknowledged that she had mistakenly omitted the public comments as part of the Board's review in her previous comment. She thanked Mr. Haver for pointing this out and stated that she had read all the public letters received by the Board and had listened to the entire recording of the public hearing that she had been unable to attend.

Mr. Popowsky asked if there were any other matters to be brought before the Board. There were no comments from the Board members, participants, or other members of the public.

4. Mr. Popowsky asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Ewing moved, and Ms. McCarty seconded the motion, which was approved 3-0. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.