

Philadelphia Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board  
October 9, 2024, Monthly Meeting Notes In Person and  
by Zoom (Online and Telephone)  
Open for public participation via Zoom and In-Person

Board Members Present

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

Others Present

Alexandra Athanasiadis  
Robert Ballenger  
Brooke Darlington  
Andre Dasent  
Dan Cantú-Hertzler  
Adriana Gonzalez  
Daniel Gordon  
Ed Markus  
Ryan McSherry  
Tymeka G. McCaskill  
Carl Shultz  
Deland L. Bryant – Zoom Administrator

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

1. Mr. Popowsky proposed that the Board adopt minutes for the monthly meeting held on August 14, 2024. He asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the August 14, 2024, meeting. Ms. McCarty moved to approve the meeting minutes and Mr. Williams seconded the motion, which was approved 4-0.
2. Mr. Popowsky asked for an update from the Water Department representative regarding the schedule for the upcoming Rate Proceedings. Mr. Dasent stated that the Water Department’s plan is to file the advance notice in late January, followed by the formal notice in February, so that the Rate Proceedings will be completed by July 4, 2025. Mr. Dasent expects that the Water Department will propose that new rates go into effect on September 1, 2025. In parallel to that, there will be a TAP-R Proceeding which will be synchronized with the General Rate Proceeding. The decision dates and rate determination dates will be around the same time, either late June or early July 2025.
3. Mr. Popowsky asked if there were any questions from any Board members regarding the rate filing or any other matters. Ms. McCarty noted that she is concerned about residential stormwater charges and the rate pressure on residential customers, given increased expense of the Long-Term Control Plan Update, a/k/a/ Green City Clean Waters. Ms. McCarty stated that she believes the Board and the Department need to understand the implications of the potential increased burden of this program on the residential customers. She also stated that she was concerned about the apparent lack of progress on the Frankford/Tacony tunnel. Mr. Dasent indicated that he would take Ms. McCarty’s concerns back to the Department and that the Department is still looking into stormwater charges. Mr. Dasent also mentioned that there is currently a case before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court regarding how stormwater costs are collected by Pennsylvania

municipalities. Mr. Popowsky stated his understanding that the issue before the Court was whether stormwater costs could be recovered as a fee in rates or whether they must be treated as a tax.

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

5. Mr. Popowsky asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Williams moved, and Ms. Pozefsky seconded the motion, which was approved 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 3 p.m.