

MINUTES

WATER BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
ON
PROPOSED WATER RATES
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY OF THE COUNTY OF HAWAI‘I

Liquor Control Conference Room, Hilo Lagoon Center, 101 Aupuni Street, Hilo
May 27, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Rick Robinson, Chairperson
Mr. Russell Arikawa
Mr. Leningrad Elarionoff
Ms. Susan Lee Loy
Ms. Kanoë Wilson

Mr. Quirino Antonio, Manager-Chief Engineer (ex-officio member)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Craig Takamine, Vice-Chairperson
Mr. Bryant Balog
Ms. Brenda Iokepa-Moses
Mr. Jay Uyeda

DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY STAFF

Mr. Keith Okamoto, Deputy
Mr. Rick Sumada, Waterworks Controller
Mr. Kurt Inaba, Engineering Division Head
Mr. Daryl Ikeda, Chief of Operations

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Renee Schoen, Deputy Corporation Counsel
Ms. Ann Hajnosz, Brown & Caldwell

CALL TO ORDER: 6:05 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON ROBINSON: Good evening. Would the Public Hearing on proposed water rates for the Department of Water Supply please come to order. I am Rick Robinson, Chairperson of the Water Board, and the members of the Water Board who are here are: Kanoë Wilson, Rick Robinson, Sue Lee Loy, Leningrad Elarionoff and Russell Arikawa.

We are here to accept testimony on the proposed water rate schedules. The Department of Water Supply is operated and controlled by this Water Board as provided for in the Hawai‘i County Charter. Upon recommendation by the Department, the Water Board authorized the Manager to hire a water rate consultant to review the adequacy of the existing rates. Brown & Caldwell, of Seattle, Washington, was contracted for this purpose.

Section 63 of Part III, Chapter 54, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes, reads as follows:

“The board of water supply may fix and adjust rates and charges for the furnishing of water and for water services such that the revenues derived therefrom shall be sufficient to make the waterworks and water systems self-supporting and to meet all expenditures authorized by this part; the board may establish variable rates among the several districts of the county, or among the areas served by the individual water systems within the county, for the purpose of establishing charges as closely as possible to the necessary amount required for the maintenance and operation of the particular individual water systems; provided

no rates and charges shall be fixed or adjusted prior to the holding by the board of a public hearing, public notice of which shall have been given not less than twenty days before the date set for the hearing. The notice shall state the time and place for the hearing and the proposed rates and charges to be considered thereat. ..Isn't that two words instead of one?

SECRETARY: It's one. Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ROBINSON: One word...? Okay. The time within which the notice shall be given shall be computed by including the first day (the day of the notice) and excluding the last day."

We are here to receive comments or testimony on the proposed rates. As stated in the hearing notice, all comments or testimony were to be filed in writing before the time of the hearing or are to be presented in person at the time of the hearing. We would like to follow this format as closely as possible. However, because there may be some of you who do not have any written statements but would like to testify or comment, we would like to accord you this opportunity to do so, but would like to limit such presentations to three minutes because of the time element.

I'm not seeing anyone out there...

We have Ann Hajnosz of Brown & Caldwell here to give an explanation of the rate schedules. Public testifiers may choose to either testify before or after Ms. Hajnosz's explanation. Is there anyone who would like to testify *before* Ms. Hajnosz's explanation? If so, please come forward, wait to be recognized by the Chairperson, and for the record state your name and organization you represent, if any.

Seeing none, we will now hear from Ann Hajnosz of Brown & Caldwell. Then we will accept public testimony. At this time, Ms. Hajnosz, would you please give your presentation. Do you want to go through it again?

MS. HAJNOSZ: It's...I'm happy to do it. It's totally up to the Board.

MR. ELARIONOFF: I mean, don't you have a short version...? (*General laughter*)

MS. HAJNOSZ: That *is* the short version.

MR. ARIKAWA: That's it, right there! Go to the last one...go to the last one...

MANAGER-CHIEF ENGINEER: You could open it up for questions...

CHAIRPERSON ROBINSON: Well, wait. We saw the presentation, so I think we're okay, right?

MANAGER-CHIEF ENGINEER: I think so.

CHAIRPERSON ROBINSON: Everyone here is fine.

MR. ELARIONOFF: Except it's our dinnertime...

CHAIRPERSON ROBINSON: Okay. Everyone here has seen the presentation the day before...and um, we will now... Thank you, Ms. Hajnosz. The hearing is now open for public testimony. Will you please wait until you are recognized by the Chairperson; and for the good record, and for the record, please step forward, state your name and the organization you represent, if any. I will give you a warning at the 2-minute mark that you have 1 minute left to summarize. Okay, is there any further testimony at this time? Thank you for coming, and for presenting testimony on the proposed water rate schedules.

We did not receive any written testimony either, did we?

SECRETARY: No, we did not.

CHAIRPERSON ROBINSON: If the Water Board members have follow-up questions of Ms. Hajnosz, they can ask questions now. Does anybody have any follow-up questions? Okay. At this time, I will entertain a Motion that this Public Hearing be closed.

MR. ARIKAWA: So moved.

MR. ELARIONOFF: Second.

CHAIRPERSON ROBINSON: So moved and seconded that this public hearing be closed. Is there any further discussion? If not, all those in favor say Aye. (*All five Board members present say Aye.*) Contrary-minded?

MR. ELARIONOFF: But I have a question for *you*.

CHAIRPERSON ROBINSON: Off the record...

CHAIRPERSON ROBINSON: Oh, wait, wait. We'll close the meeting.

(Public Hearing closed at 6:10 p.m.)

Secretary

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in this Water Board Meeting should contact Janet Snyder, Secretary, at 961-8050 as soon as possible, but no later than five days before the scheduled meeting.

The Department of Water Supply is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer.

Notice to Lobbyists: *If you are a lobbyist, you must register with the Hawai'i County Clerk within five days of becoming a lobbyist. {Article 15, Section 2-91.3(b), Hawai'i County Code} A lobbyist means "any individual engaged for pay or other consideration who spends more than five hours in any month or \$275 in any six-month period for the purpose of attempting to influence legislative or administrative action by communicating or urging others to communicate with public officials." {Article 15, Section 2-91.3(a)(6), Hawai'i County Code} Registration forms and expenditure report documents are available at the Office of the County Clerk-Council, Hilo, Hawai'i.*