

MINUTES

WATER BOARD PUBLIC HEARING ON THE POWER COST CHARGE COUNTY OF HAWAI'I, DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY

November 24, 2020

Via WebEx/Host Location: Department of Water Supply, 345 Kekūanaō'ā Street, Suite 20, Hilo, HI

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. William Boswell, Jr., Chairperson
Mr. Eric Scicchitano, Vice-Chairperson
Mr. Nestorio Domingo
Ms. Judy Howard
Ms. Julie Hugo
Mr. Zendo Kern
Mr. Keith K. Okamoto, Manager-Chief Engineer, Department of Water Supply (ex-officio member)

ABSENT: Mr. David De Luz, Jr., Water Board Member
Mr. Benjamin Ney, Water Board Member
Mr. Kenneth Sugai, Water Board Member
Director, Planning Department (ex-officio member)
Director, Department of Public Works (ex-officio member)

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Diana Mellon-Lacey, Deputy Corporation Counsel

DEPARTMENT OF
WATER SUPPLY STAFF: Mr. Kawika Uyehara, Deputy
Mr. Kurt Inaba, Engineering Division Head
Mr. Richard Sumada, Waterworks Controller
Ms. Candace Gray, Assistant Waterworks Controller
Ms. Judith Hayducsko, Chief of Operations
Mr. Warren Ching, Energy Management Analyst

(Chairperson Boswell called the Public Hearing to order at 9:16 a.m.)

Chairperson Boswell: Good morning. Will the public hearing of the Water Board on the proposed new cost of Power Adjustment Clause please come to order. I am William Boswell, Jr., Chairperson of the Water Board, and I'd like to have the Secretary take a roll call of who is in attendance from the Board.

Secretary: Secretary took a roll call. In attendance were six Board Members: Mr. Domingo, Ms. Howard, Ms. Hugo, Mr. Kern, Mr. Scicchitano, and Chairperson Boswell.

Chairperson Boswell: The notice of this public hearing was published in the Hawai‘i Tribune Herald and in the West Hawai‘i Today on November 3, 2020. The Department of Water Supply is operated and controlled by this Water Board as provided by the Hawai‘i County Charter. 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 so 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. The time within which the notice shall be given shall be computed by including the first day (the day of notice) and excluding the last day.”

We are here to receive comments or testimony on the proposed amendment to the Power Cost Charge. The Department recommends decreasing the Power Cost Charge from \$2.01 to **\$1.71** per thousand gallons to reflect the decrease in power costs.

As stated in the hearing notice, all comments or testimony were to be filed in writing before the time of the hearing or register to have testimony included via web conference application. 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 afford you this opportunity to do so but would like to limit such presentations to five minutes because of the time limit.

The hearing is now open for comments from the floor. Doreen, is there anyone registered to provide oral testimony?

Secretary: No, Mr. Chair.

Chairperson Boswell: At this time, I would like to entertain a motion that this public hearing be closed.

Ms. Hugo: So move.

Mr. Domingo: Second.

Chairperson Boswell: It has been moved and seconded that the public hearing is closed.

Secretary: Roll call was taken on the Motion to close the public hearing. Motion was carried by Ayes: 6 - Mr. Domingo, Ms. Howard, Ms. Hugo, Mr. Kern, Mr. Scicchitano, and Chairperson Boswell; Nays: 0; Absent: 3 – Mr. De Luz, Jr., Mr. Ney, and Mr. Sugai.

Chairperson Boswell: The public hearing is closed. Thank you.

(Public Hearing adjourned at 9:20 a.m.)

Recording Secretary

(Approved by Water Board 12/22/20)