

Agenda Date: 12/6/19 -Agenda Item: VIIB

STATE OF NEW JERSEY Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350 www.nj.gov/bpu/

		<u>CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE</u>
VALERIE J. DROMBOSKI, Petitioner,)))	ORDER ADOPTING INITIAL DECISION
TRENTON WATER WORKS, Respondent.)))	BPU Docket No. WC19030310U OAL Docket No. PUC 06646-19
Parties of Record:		
Valerie J. Dromboski, petitioner pro se Julie A. Murray, Esq., Assistant City Attorney, for Respondent		

The within matter is a billing dispute between Valerie J. Dromboski ("Petitioner") and Trenton Water Works ("TWW" or "Respondent"). This Order sets forth the background and procedural history of Petitioner's claims and represents the Final Order in the matter pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 to -15 and N.J.S.A. 52:14F-1 to -13. Having reviewed the record, the Board of Public Utilities ("Board") now **ADOPTS** the Initial Decision rendered on October 17, 2019, as follows.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

BY THE BOARD:

On or about March 6, 2019, Petitioner filed a petition with the Board requesting a formal hearing, alleged that respondent inaccurately billed her account. Petitioner requested that the Board provide assistance in resolving this matter with the Respondent.

Respondent filed an Answer to the Petition, dated March 15, 2019. Respondent contends that the spike in the water usage was based on an actual meter reading conducted on October 18, 2017. Respondent further contends that the meter was working correctly and there will be no adjustment.

On May 7, 2019, this matter was transmitted by the Board to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing as a contested cased pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 to -15 and N.J.S.A. 52:14F-1 to -13. This matter was assigned to Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") Joseph A. Ascione.

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A Stipulation of Settlement was agreed to between Respondent and Petitioner dated October 7, 2019 resolving all issues in this matter.

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

Pursuant to the terms of the Stipulation, and in order to fully resolve this matter, Petitioner agreed that the total amount owing at the date of settlement to be \$528.45. Petitioner further agreed to pay \$50.00 a month until the total amount owing is paid in full. Respondent has confirmed that the Petitioner already made two (2) payments of \$50.00.

By Initial Decision issued on October 17, 2019, and submitted to the Board on October 24, 2019, ALJ Ascione found that the Stipulation was voluntary, its terms fully disposed of all issues in controversy, it was consistent with the law, and that it satisfied the requirements of N.J.A.C. 1:1-19.1.

After review of the Initial Decision and the Stipulation, the Board <u>HEREBY FINDS</u> that the parties have voluntarily agreed to the settlement as evidenced by their signatures and that, by the terms of the Stipulation, they have fully resolved all outstanding contested issues in this matter. Accordingly, the Board <u>HEREBY ADOPTS</u> the Initial Decision and the Stipulation executed by the parties in their entirety as if fully set forth herein.

The effective date of this Order is December 16, 2019.

DATED: 12/6/19

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

BY:

ØOSEPH L. FIORDÁLISO

PRESIDENT

MARY-ANNA HOLDEN

COMMISSIONER

UPENØRA J. CHIVUKULA

COMMISSIONER

DIANNE SOLOMON COMMISSIONER

ROBERT M. GÖRDÖN COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH

SECRETARY

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VALERIE J. DROMBOSKI, PETITIONER

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TRENTON WATER WORKS, RESPONDENT

BPU DOCKET NO. WC19030310U OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 06646-19

SERVICE LIST

Valerie J. Dromboski 204 Eaton Avenue Hamilton, NJ 08619

Julie A. Murray, Esq., Assistant City Attorney 319 East State Street Trenton, NJ 08608-1866 jmurray@tretnonnj.org

Julie Ford, Director
Division of Customer Assistance
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
julie.ford@bpu.nj.gov

Paul Youchak
Deputy Attorney General
Department of Law & Public Safety
R.J. Hughes Justice Complex, 7th Floor West
25 Market Street, P.O. Box 112
Trenton, N.J. 08625
(609) 376-3370
Paul.Youchak@law.njoag.gov

OCT 24 2019

RECEIVED CASE MANAGEMENT

State of New Jersey

OCT 242019

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES TRENTON, NJ.

INITIAL DECISION

SETTLEMENT

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 06646-19 AGENCY DKT. NO. WC19030310U

VALERIE J. DROMBOSKI,

Petitioner,

TRENTON WATER WORKS,

Respondent.

Valerie J. Dromboski, petitioner, pro se

Julie A. Murray, Esq., Assistant City Attorney, for respondent (John Morelli, City Attorney; attorney)

Record Closed: October 15, 2019

Decided: October 17, 2019

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BEFORE JOSEPH A. ASCIONE, ALJ:

J. Ford R. Lamb R. Matoc

On May 14, 2019, this matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for determination as a contested case, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 to -15 and g. Pathau N.J.S.A. 52:14F-1 to -13.

K- Flynn

P. Owen

The parties entered into successful settlement negotiations. As a result, the parties have filed a Settlement Agreement indicating the terms thereof, which is attached and fully incorporated herein.

OAL DKT, NO. PUC 06646-19

I have reviewed the record and the terms of settlement and I FIND:

The parties have voluntarily agreed to the settlement as evidenced by their 1.

signatures or their representatives' signatures.

2. The settlement fully disposes of all issues in controversy and is consistent with

the law.

I CONCLUDE that this agreement meets the requirements of N.J.A.C. 1:1-19.1

and that the settlement should be approved. I approve the settlement and therefore

ORDER that the parties comply with the settlement terms and that these proceedings

be concluded.

I hereby FILE my initial decision with the BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES for

consideration.

This recommended decision may be adopted, modified or rejected by the

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES, which by law is authorized to make a final decision in

this matter. If the Board of Public Utilities does not adopt, modify or reject this decision

within forty-five days and unless such time limit is otherwise extended, this

recommended decision shall become a final decision in accordance with N.J.S.A.

52:14B-10.

October 17, 2019

DATE

Date Received at Agency:

Date Mailed to Parties:

lam



W. Reed Gusciora

Mayor

CITY OF TRENTON ""

RECEIVED

John Morelli

DEPARTMENT OF LAW

2019 OCT 15 P 2: 48irector of Law

STATE OF NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF ADMIN. LAW

MEMORANDUM

To: Judge Joseph Ascione, fax (609)689-4100 Cc: Valarie J. Drombrowski, regular mail From: Julie A. Murray, Asst. City Attorney

Date: October 15, 2019

Re: Drombrowski v. Trenton Water Works, OAL Doc. # PUC 06646-2019S

Transmitted herewith is a settlement agreement in the referenced matter.

Please mark this case as settled.

rule.

Julie A. Murray

Assistant City Attorney

Direct Line: (609)989-3576

jmurray@tretnonnj.org

Settlement Agreement

This Settlement Agreement ("Agreement") dated October 7^{+h} , 2019 is made between the City of Trenton and Valerie J. Dromboski, 204 Eaton Avenue, Trenton, NJ 08619.

Ms. Dromboski filed a Complaint with the Board of Public Utilities against the City regrading a water bill, Agency Reference No. WC19030310U. The complaint was referred to the Office of Administrative Law, OAL Docket No. PUC06646-2019S.

The City and Ms. Dromboski have settled the matter under the following terms:

- 1. The total owing is \$528.45 on the date of settlement;
- 2. Ms. Dromboski will pay \$50.00 a month until the total is paid;
- 3. Ms. Dromboski has already made two (2) payments of \$50.00.

The City and Ms. Dromboski ask that his matter be marked as settled.

This Agreement resolves any and all billing disputes between the

parties.

City of Trenton

By: Tolle Murray

Date: 10/15/19

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Valerie J Drembaski

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Date: 12/7/19

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Pd 9-14-19
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STATE OF Drambada