

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS

BOARD MEMBERS

John Bakota, President
Henry Ventura, Vice President
Anthony Askounis, Member
Joseph Ochoa, Member
Ray Lopez, Member

Regular Meeting Minutes
(Via Telephone Conference)
Monday, May 4, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m.

Reported for Fissinger & Associates
By: Lisa Pena

CALL TO ORDER: 5:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL: Present: John Bakota, Henry Ventura, Ray Lopez.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 20, 2020

Motion to approve April 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes made by Ray Lopez. Second by Henry Ventura.

Questions/Comments: None.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

APPROVAL OF CHECK WARRANTS:

MR. BAKOTA: Next is Check Warrants. Check Warrant 050420 WB in the amount of \$64,620.10.

Motion to approve Check Warrant 050420 WB made by Henry Ventura. Second by Ray Lopez.

Questions/Comments: None.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

MR. BAKOTA: Check Warrant 050420 WF in the amount of \$522,665.

1 Motion to approve Check Warrant 050420 WF made by Henry
2 Ventura. Second by Ray Lopez.

3 Questions/Comments: None.

4 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
5 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

6 APPROVAL OF PAYROLL WARRANTS:

7 MR. BAKOTA: These are Payroll Warrants. Payroll
8 Warrant 041720 in the amount of \$35,352.27. This is payroll
9 from 3/28/20 to 4/10/20.

10 Motion to approve Payroll Warrant 041720 Payroll 3/28/20 to
11 4/10/20 made by Henry Ventura. Second by Ray Lopez.

12 Questions/Comments: None.

13 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
14 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

15 MR. BAKOTA: Payroll Warrant 050120 in the amount of
16 \$35,475.31. This is payroll from 4/11/20 to 4/24/20.

17 Motion to approve Payroll Warrant 050120 Payroll 4/11/20 to
18 4/24/20 made by Ray Lopez. Second by Henry Ventura.

19 Questions/Comments: None.

20 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
21 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

22 MR. BAKOTA: Payroll Warrant 041720 in the amount of
23 \$26,931.07. This is Utilities Payroll from 3/28/20 to
24 4/10/20.

25 Motion to approve Payroll Warrant 041720 Utilities Payroll
3/28/20 to 4/10/20 made by Henry Ventura. Second by Ray
Lopez.

Questions/Comments: None.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

MR. BAKOTA: Payroll Warrant 050120 in the amount of
\$27,022.69. This is Utilities Payroll from 4/11/20 to
4/24/20.

1 Motion to approve Payroll Warrant 050120 Utilities Payroll
2 4/11/20 to 4/24/20 made by Ray Lopez. Second by Henry
3 Ventura.

4 Questions/Comments: None.

5 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
6 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

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FILTRATION REPORT:

MR. BAKOTA: Do we have a Filtration Report?

MR. EL HARIT: This is Ben. Basically everything is going well. We're doing just preventive maintenance right now. We're changing oils and all that good stuff.

We also have received the storage tank on Michigan Avenue, the 4 million gallon. However they're still working on it. They're doing painting. And also they still have to do the levels and the ladders. But we are using that storage tank. So we do have 4 million gallons we're using from that storage tank.

So basically Michigan Filtration, membrane filtration we have 8 million gallons there we're using for the City.

However for the 4 million gallon at Todd Avenue basically just we don't have full control of that yet. Due to the Corona Virus the vendor cannot come there and finish his programming. However we are using -- I mean the filtration is working, but just for the protection. So the water goes up and comes out I mean like periodically.

Other than that everything is going well. We're trying to be safe and get the water to the City of East Chicago.

Do you have any questions?

MR. LOPEZ: Thank you, Ben.

MR. VENTURA: No questions. Thank you.

MR. BAKOTA: Thank you, Ben.

WATER REPORT:

1 MR. BAKOTA: Water Report, Winna.

2 MS. GUZMAN: I did provide just an Activity Report.
3 Sorry. I'm just going to have to speak a little bit into the
4 microphone here.

5 I did provide for the Board just some information
6 relative to our Department. If you have any questions on
7 that, I would be happy to answer any questions relative to
8 that Activity Report for our Department.

9 MR. VENTURA: No questions. Thank you, Winna.

10 MR. LOPEZ: Thank you. No questions from me either.
11 Nice report.

12 MS. GUZMAN: Thank you.

13 MR. BAKOTA: That concludes your report?

14 MS. GUZMAN: Yes. That completes my report. Thank you.

15 DISTRIBUTION REPORT:

16 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Distribution Report, Edward Santen.
17 Any comments?

18 MR. SANTEN: Sure. Good evening, Mr. President and
19 Trustees. I bring tonight for your noteworthy information
20 several things going on in the distribution side of the water
21 system.

22 One of the things I am working on is a plan or
23 strategy to help mitigate the water breaks throughout the
24 distribution system. And I will have a report to follow
25 regarding that program I'm going to be implementing.

The second thing I'd like to discuss is Eddie
Simpson started the valve exercising program in March and was
forced to stop activities on March 16, 2020 due to the virus
situation. Approximately 120 valves were checked and less
than 60 percent worked.

MR. LOPEZ: I'm sorry. Was that 60 percent?

MR. SANTEN: Less than 60 percent operate. I will go
through these and then you can ask the questions.

The third thing was we had a recent water break on

1 the 16 inch water main on Chicago Avenue right near the water
2 tank. Looks like it was a stress fracture. And I had Hasse
perform the emergency repair there.

3 As of last week, April 27, 2020, our lead service
4 line contractor will begin starting to install new lead
5 service lines again. They're approximately 10 long slated to
6 go in at the moment. And once those 10 are installed there's
7 approximately 30 left to complete that program.

8 The other item I'm going to address is the City has
9 approximately 15 fire hydrants to install currently. The
10 contractor gave us a good price. And Winna provided me a
11 list of where these are going to go in. So I hope to get
that project done within the next several months.

12 I'd like to think it could be done sooner. But
13 because of logistics with the valves and knowing what needs
14 to be turned off and whether or not the valves work, that's
15 one of the delays in that project. But we will get it done.

16 And then lastly we are working with our plumbing
17 contractor to install the meters throughout the City. We're
18 working on the remaining 17 or so industrial slats commercial
19 meters. And we've met out in the field several times. The
20 contractor is gearing up to finish this. And I am hoping to
21 have that program finished by July 1.

22 The other problem with this again is valves, where
23 they're located, whether or not they work. So that's one of
24 the biggest obstacles I have in completing that program. But
25 we are working on it right now. And we could have that done
by July 1.

That's all I have.

MR. LOPEZ: Can we get back to you said you checked the
valves and less than 60 percent were working?

MR. SANTEN: According to the reports provided by the
contractor and based on the figures less than 60 percent
operate at the moment.

MR. LOPEZ: And that's going to affect our water?
That's going to affect the deliveries?

MR. SANTEN: That basically affects us as water
operators from shutting off the water if there's an
emergency. So from a distribution point of view that's a

1 problem. So hopefully once they start exercising again we'll
2 move forward.

3 And it will be interesting to see how many others
4 are bad as we move on.

5 MR. LOPEZ: That's a problem waiting to happen.

6 MR. SANTEN: Yeah.

7 MR. LOPEZ: Thank you.

8 MR. BAKOTA: Any other questions for Ed?

9 MR. VENTURA: The hydrants, Ed, will you guys be color
10 coding the hydrants according to water available with the
11 Fire Department? I know in the past when I was there that's
12 something we did.

13 MR. SANTEN: We have a list that Winna provided me
14 showing capacity for the hydrants. And ideally what I would
15 like to do is try and get a program in place to paint them.
16 And then eventually we would put -- I don't know how to put
17 the ring on that Fire Department fitting. So I am working on
18 that right now. But we may end up putting a reflective strip
19 around it with a color on it because that's what other
20 communities are doing.

21 So I would recommend that. And we will eventually
22 get to that. But I am working on that.

23 MR. VENTURA: Sounds good. Thank you very much

24 MS. GUZMAN: Ed, can I just make mention that Mr. Henry
25 Ventura was a former firefighter. Mr. Ventura, can you let
him know how long you had been working? I know you're
retired now. But how long you were working.

MR. VENTURA: I was there with the Fire Department for
42 years.

MR. SANTEN: Nice.

MR. VENTURA: And left as Chief Inspector. That's one
of the things we coordinated a lot because of the fact a lot
of times under like a mutual situation you've got other
communities that come in. And by the color of the tops of
the hydrants they would know what hydrants had the best water
supply. That's very important to the City.

1 Okay. Thank you very much.

2 MR. SANTEN: You're welcome. Congratulations on 42
3 years.

4 MR. VENTURA: Thank you. And congratulations on being
5 appointed to your position too.

6 MR. SANTEN: Thank you for the opportunity.

7 MR. BAKOTA: Any other questions for Ed? Thank you, Ed,
8 for your information.

9 MR. SANTEN: Thank you.

10 NEW BUSINESS WATER:

11 MR. BAKOTA: We're moving on to New Business. This is
12 Emergency Calumet City Plumbing, 501 School Street. The cost
13 is \$3,330.89.

14 Motion to approve Calumet City Plumbing Emergency made by Ray
15 Lopez. Second by Henry Ventura.

16 Questions/Comments: None.

17 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
18 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

19 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Hessville Plumbing. I will go
20 through all of Hessville Plumbing which is three items. And
21 then you can scrutinize it through your packet there if
22 there's no objections.

23 The first one is 3731 Grand Boulevard. It's \$975.
24 The next is 3716 Deodar Street, \$2,830. The next is 1411
25 Carroll Street in the amount of \$2,618.

 Motion to approve Hesville Plumbing Emergencies made by Henry
Ventura. Second by Ray Lopez.

 Questions/Comments: None.

 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

 MR. BAKOTA: Next is a change order, Contract Number 1,
Change Order Number 4. This is the tanks.

1 DR. ZEHRAOUI: This is Dr. Abdul. Once we start laying
2 down the sealant, the part, the previous part for the
3 filtration was wrong. And we treat it down to what it should
4 be in the plant. So then we have to change fuel and also
change the prior part that is going from the firewall to the
filtration. So we had to do these changes so we can move on
with the project.

5 MR. LOPEZ: The total was what, 57,500?

6 DR. ZEHRAOUI: Yes, sir.

7 Motion to approve Contract Number 1, Change Order Number 4
8 made by Ray Lopez. Second by Henry Ventura.

9 Questions/Comments: None.

10 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

11 MR. BAKOTA: Next we have Past Due Invoices. This is
12 Waterworks Filtration. The reason is Department just
received the invoice on April 22, 2020. The amount is
\$1,500.64.

13 Motion to approve Department of Waterworks Past Due Invoice
14 made by Henry Ventura. Second by Ray Lopez.

15 Questions/Comments: None.

16 MS. GUZMAN: I have a comment. That says the Department
17 of Waterworks. Is that the name of the vendor?

18 MR. HERRERA: That's the water bill.

19 MS. GUZMAN: Okay. I understand.

20 MR. BAKOTA: It's addressed as Pennsylvania Avenue.

21 MS. GUZMAN: I apologize. When it said Department of
Waterworks, I was like. I understand now.

22 MR. BAKOTA: Any other comments or questions?

23 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
24 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

25 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Scrapping of Materials, pictures to
follow. It's the Water Department. These items are no

1 longer in operational state and respectfully request the
2 Board for approval to dispose of scrap of same.

3 Should you have any questions or need additional
4 information, please feel free to contact me.

5 This is written by Winna Guzman.

6 MS. GUZMAN: So these are various items. We have some
7 brass, a couple barrels to get rid of. We have tables. We
8 have chairs. There's various items in the meter room at the
9 Distribution Office that we are looking to dispose of and we
10 would like to get rid of. And we just need approval from the
11 Board.

12 MR. BAKOTA: There's also parts from the old meters back
13 there.

14 MS. GUZMAN: Yes. Correct.

15 Motion to approve Water Department Scrapping of Metals made
16 by Henry Ventura. Second by Ray Lopez.

17 Questions/Comments: None.

18 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
19 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

20 REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL: None.

21 FINANCIAL REPORT: None.

22 UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

23 PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

24 * Next Regular Meeting Date: May 18, 2020
25 @ 5:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn was made by Ray Lopez. Second by Henry
Ventura.

Questions/Comments:

MR. LOPEZ: I want to thank everybody for speaking into
the mic. This is the first meeting. I understood everybody.
It came out real clear. And if I interrupted one of our
speakers there, I'm sorry.

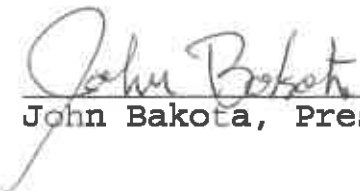
1 MR. VENTURA: I want to thank everybody for
participating.

2 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you for being with us.


3 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
4 Opposed: None Motion Carries.


5 * The Meeting ended.
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1 Approval of the Meeting Minutes of
2 Monday, May 4, 2020
3 Approved and Signed _____

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7 John Bakota, President

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10 Henry Ventura, Vice President

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14 Joseph Ochoa, Member

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17 Anthony Askounis, Member

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21 Ray Lopez, Member

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24 Anthony Herrera, Board Secretary

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, LISA PENA, a competent and duly qualified court reporter, do hereby certify that I did report in machine shorthand the foregoing proceedings and that my shorthand notes so taken at said time and place were thereafter reduced to typewriting under my personal direction.

I further certify that the foregoing typewritten transcript constitutes minutes of said proceedings taken at said time and place, so ordered to be transcribed.

Dated at Portage, Indiana, this 10th day of May, 2020.



Lisa Pena
Notary Public, Porter County
Certified Shorthand Reporter
License Number 084-003484

