

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 18, 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.
Present Via Telephone Conference: Anthony
Askounis, Joseph Ochoa, Ray Lopez.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 4, 2020

Motion to approve May 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes made by Ray
Lopez. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

Questions/Comments: None.

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

APPROVAL OF CHECK WARRANTS:

MR. BAKOTA: Next is the Check Warrants. Check Warrant
051520 WB in the amount of \$135,623.66.

Motion to approve Check Warrant 051520 WB made by Ray Lopez.
Second by Anthony Askounis.

Questions/Comments: None.

MR. BAKOTA: Check Warrant 051820 WF in the amount of
\$23,414.

1 Motion to approve Check Warrant 051820 WF made by Joseph
2 Ochoa. Second by Ray Lopez.

3 Questions/Comments: None.

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

6 MR. BAKOTA: Check Warrant 032020 WB in the amount of
7 \$22,912.16.

8 Motion to approve Check Warrant 032020 WB made by Ray Lopez.
9 Second by Anthony Askounis.

10 Questions/Comments: None.

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

13 MR. BAKOTA: Check Warrant 051820 CD in the amount of
14 \$366.07.

15 Motion to approve Check Warrant 051820 CD made by Joseph
16 Ochoa. Second by Ray Lopez.

17 Questions/Comments: None.

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

20 MR. BAKOTA: Check Warrant 051820 WB in the amount of
21 \$376,461.49.

22 Motion to approve Check Warrant 051820 WB made by Anthony
23 Askounis. Second by Ray Lopez.

24 Questions/Comments: None.

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

APPROVAL OF PAYROLL WARRANTS:

MR. BAKOTA: Next is Approval of Payroll Warrants.
Payroll Warrant 051520 in the amount of \$35,447.35. This is
payroll from 4/25/20 to 5/8/20.

Motion to approve Payroll Warrant 051520 Payroll 4/25/20 to
5/8/20 made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

1 Questions/Comments: None.

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

4 MR. BAKOTA: Payroll 051520 in the amount of \$26,995.72.
5 This is Utilities Payroll from 4/25/20 to 5/8/20.

6 Motion to approve Payroll Warrant 051520 Utilities Payroll
7 4/25/20 to 5/8/20 made by Ray Lopez. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

8 Questions/Comments: None.

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

11 FILTRATION REPORT: None.

12 WATER REPORT:

13 MR. BAKOTA: Water Report, Winna Guzman.

14 MS. GUZMAN: I just provided a report for some of the
15 activities in the last couple of months, March and April
16 activities.

17 MR. LOPEZ: I can't hear you. Can you speak louder?

18 MS. GUZMAN: I apologize. Winna Guzman, Water
19 Department Director. Just to advise that I provided a report
20 relating to activities for the Water Department for your
21 review.

22 Activity Report as far as collection-wise we
23 collected over \$1 million last month. We continue to issue
24 reminder notices versus the delinquent water shut off notices
25 to our customers which are really working. Customers are
bringing them in and paying their bills. We continue to do
that until such time we are able to shut off and restart the
delinquent water shut off notices procedure.

I'll have Ed talk about the service. He'll be
talking about Distribution. So some of this is relating to
Distribution.

I just wanted to let the Board know NWRN, that's an
organization that distributed reusable cloth masks to the
Water and Distribution Departments. So I sent an e-mail just
to thank them for their generosity. And we distributed them

1 to Distribution and some to our front office staff.

2 As far as Bakertilly we continue our analysis for
3 our reconciliation issues. And I will provide the Board with
4 an update. Currently we're still providing information or
5 reports to them at this time. And so we will provide the
6 Board with updates as they come about.

7 And basically that completes my report.

8 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you, Winna. Any questions for Winna
9 on that report?

10 DISTRIBUTION REPORT:

11 MR. BAKOTA: We'll move on to Distribution Report, Ed
12 Santen.

13 MR. SANTEN: Thank you, Mr. President and Board. This
14 evening I don't really have anything new to report as far as
15 the last submittal two weeks ago regarding what we're doing
16 in our Distribution Department.

17 I would like to note that one of our members came
18 down with the Covid 19. He has been out of work now. The
19 remaining staff members were tested last week. All of us are
20 negative. So one person is down. We have six employees in
21 that Department.

22 I don't have anything else new to report.

23 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you, Ed.

24 MR. SANTEN: Thank you.

25 NEW BUSINESS WATER:

MR. BAKOTA: We're moving on to New Business. We have
Emergency Hessville Plumbing, 400 East Chicago Avenue. The
cost \$4,820.

Motion to approve Hessville Plumbing 400 East Chicago Avenue
Emergency made by Ray Lopez. Second by Anthony Askounis.

Questions/Comments:

MS. GUZMAN: I just want to note that this is relating
to the work here at the Water Department near the rear
building. We installed a new fire hydrant there.

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

3 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Hessville Plumbing 3716 Deodar
4 Street, \$2,830.

5 Motion to approve Hessville Plumbing 3716 Deodar Street
6 Emergency made by Anthony Askounis. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

7 Questions/Comments: None.

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

10 MR. BAKOTA: Next on the agenda you'll see Calumet City
11 Plumbing. That's been struck from the agenda. Let it be
12 noted.

13 We'll move on to Hasse Construction. If there is
14 no objection, I will go through all of Hasse Construction.
15 And then we'll give time for you to scrutinize it if you have
16 any questions on either one.

17 If you'll follow through with your packet, I will
18 read them all off. And then we'll vote as a group. Is that
19 all right?

20 MR. LOPEZ: Okay.

21 MR. OCHOA: Yeah.

22 MR. ASKOUNIS: Okay.

23 MR. BAKOTA: This is Hasse Construction. East Chicago
24 High School Fire Hydrant Replacement, \$5,620.

25 Next is 140th and Carey Street Fire Hydrant
Replacement, \$5,620.

Next is Michigan Avenue Fire Hydrant Replacement,
\$21,250.

Next is Columbus Drive Water Main Repair, \$27,800.

Next is Indianapolis Boulevard Hydrant Repair,
\$26,750.

Next is McShane and Indy Boulevard 16 Inch Insert
Valve, \$65,000.

1 Next is 4506 Cline Avenue Waterline Repair,
2 \$30,665.

3 Next is Chicago Avenue and Canal Street Water Main
4 Repair, \$21,275.67.

5 MS. GUZMAN: Mr. President, can I just note that all of
6 the items referenced except the last item is an invoice. The
7 only one with the invoice is \$21,275.67. And that was an
8 emergency repair, 16 inch water main at Chicago and Canal
9 Street. The rest of them are proposals I would like the
10 Board to approve.

11 MR. BAKOTA: Did the Board hear Winna?

12 MR. SANTEN: Can I interject? This is Ed Santen.

13 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

14 MR. SANTEN: Those are cost estimates for work. And we
15 haven't gotten any other bids for some of those jobs with
16 Hasse. So I wouldn't recommend approving those until I get
17 other prices at this time. And you folks as a Board can do
18 whatever you wish. But I don't have any other estimates.

19 MR. ASKOUNIS: Was the job done on these?

20 MR. SANTEN: The job on Columbus, the 16 inch water
21 main, that was done. And I have no problem approving the
22 repair price for that. But the other ones are just
23 estimates. And I'm still going out getting prices on those
24 repairs.

25 MR. LOPEZ: I withdraw my motion to approve.

 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Hold on. Allegretti here. Can I ask a
 question? These are not finished projects?

 MR. SANTEN: No, they're not.

 MS. GUZMAN: These are all proposals.

 MR. BAKOTA: They're all proposals except for the 16
 inch.

 MR. LOPEZ: I withdrew my approval.

 MR. ALLEGRETTI: That's not clear. Why are they on the
 agenda?

1 MS. GUZMAN: We're going to have to table these.

2 MR. ALLEGRETTI: We need to have a contract on these
3 things. If they're under \$25,000, we can do telephone
4 quotes. But we have to have multiple quotes. We cannot just
do one favored contractor.

5 Let's have a meeting tomorrow and we'll figure this
6 all out. This is not the right way to do it. I'm not being
a critical person, Winna. You're doing a great job.

7 MR. BAKOTA: Okay, Ed. Thanks. I am going to put it to
the Board that we table this until further bids are accepted.

8 DR. ZEHRAOUI: This is Abdul. The work that has been
done should be approved today. The rest should be tabled.

9 MR. BAKOTA: That's that 16 inch?

10 MR. ALLEGRETTI: That's right. We're going to approve
11 the one that's already accomplished. We're going to extend
them until we have an invoice. The portions of the agenda
12 that are only proposals, those will be tabled, John Bakota,
if I may say.

13 MS. GUZMAN: Can I just note 4506 Cline Avenue, that is
14 Phase 2 of the repairs. And that's \$30,665.

15 MR. BAKOTA: That's been done?

16 MS. GUZMAN: No. It needs to be done. And we need to
17 get that approved so we can move forward with getting that
Phase 2.

18 MR. BAKOTA: Let me get this straight. McShane and Indy
19 Boulevard 16 Inch Insert Valve, that was already done?

20 MR. SANTEN: That was for the repair on the 24 inch
waterline that's broken underneath the railroad tracks. Am I
21 right, Winna?

22 MS. GUZMAN: That's correct.

23 MR. SANTEN: So that's something that I would recommend
the Water Board's approval so we can get the 24 inch main
24 fixed. Hasse can only handle that job. So I recommend
approval.

25 BOARD MEMBER: Is that the one on Exchange and Union?

1 MR. SANTEN: No. Chicago Avenue at the Citgo Petroleum
2 Tank Farm. I don't know what the address is.

3 MS. GUZMAN: 4506.

4 BOARD MEMBER: Chicago Avenue and Canal Street, right?

5 MS. GUZMAN: No.

6 MR. SANTEN: No.

7 MS. GUZMAN: 4506 Cline Avenue.

8 MR. ASKOUNIS: 4506 Cline Avenue, correct?

9 MR. SANTEN: Yeah. That's the one that we need to get
10 authorized. And I recommend moving forward so we can fix
11 that water main.

12 MR. BAKOTA: That's the only one we'll address then. We
13 tabled everything. I'll bring up for the Board's
14 consideration 4506 Cline Avenue Waterline Repair. That's at
15 \$30,665.

16 Motion to approve 4506 Cline Avenue Waterline Repair made by
17 Anthony Askounis. Second by Ray Lopez.

18 Questions/Comments: None.

19 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.

20 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

21 (East Chicago High School Fire Hydrant
22 Replacement, 140th & Carey Street Fire Hydrant
23 Replacement, Michigan Avenue Fire Hydrant
24 Replacement, Columbus Drive Water Main Repair,
25 Indianapolis Boulevard Hydrant Replacement and
McShane and Indy Boulevard 16 Inch Insert Valve all
were tabled.)

MR. BAKOTA: Next is Resolution WD 20-05. This is an
additional Appropriation Resolution. It has been determined
that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was
appropriated in the annual budget Resolution WD 19-21 from
the East Chicago Water Department Fund.

MR. ALLEGRETTI: This is Joe Allegretti. This is the
\$2 million temporary loan authorized by the Common Council
last week. It's kind of a big number. I don't know if Bill

1 was on the call. But Bill prepared this Resolution. This is
2 authorizing the expenditures.

3 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you.

4 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Winna can explain. This is a big
5 number. She can explain what the uses and expenses are for
6 this matter.

7 MS. GUZMAN: There are various expenses to be incurred
8 relating to Distribution. We're going to be doing flushing,
9 flow testing through M.E. Simpson. We do have a contract in
10 here as well today for that. We also are upgrading our meter
11 system to have the ability for our customers to pay over the
12 phone. That's one of the items on that agenda.

13 And there's several other items as far as bills
14 that need to be paid relating to one of them that we just
15 spoke about, 4506 Cline Avenue which is \$255,000, the
16 emergencies that have occurred from the beginning of the year
17 to the present. So they will be within these items.

18 Also valve repairs and replacement, some repairs to
19 our elevated water tank. Also to include in this amount is
20 consulting engineer cost, some inventory and also surge
21 suppresser program. That would again be through
22 Distribution.

23 And I don't know if you want to elaborate a little
24 bit more on that, on some of the items that I just mentioned.

25 MR. SANTEN: Part of the short-term plan to address some
of the fluctuations in the water system pressure-wise, we're
going to have an engineering firm look at the operations,
look at our water tower, what it's doing, how all these
things are functioning, addressing these valves that are
broken, setting up some inventory system where if we have a
break, an emergency, we can get equipment quickly and readily
and pre-bid so we don't have to worry about the State
requirements bid-wise.

Surge suppressors throughout the system are
basically mini water power essentially. When we have a
break, we would install one to help minimize the waterhammer
that we're experiencing in the system.

So those are just a few of the items that we're
looking in to accomplishing along with some operational
things such as equipment that we're looking to obtain. So

1 that's just a brief synopsis.

2 MR. BAKOTA: Thanks, Ed.

3 MR. ALLEGRETTI: I need to give my Legal Report now.

4 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

5 MR. ALLEGRETTI: These are big expensive items. The
6 Utility Director, Dr. Abdul and I and our finance team which
7 is a large group have begun the process of filing a rate case
8 with the INRC. And it's ongoing. It's going to be time
9 consuming.

10 But I'm just reporting to the Board the staff is
11 working on solving these economic problems. We know that
12 rate insurances do not generate sufficient revenue to operate
13 the system and to make these repairs. But we're working on
14 it.

15 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you, Joe.

16 Motion to approve Resolution WD 20-05 made by Ray Lopez.
17 Second by Joseph Ochoa.

18 Questions/Comments: None.

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

21 MR. BAKOTA: Next we're going to Change Orders.
22 Contract Number 3 Change Order Number 2, Bowen Engineering.
23 It's \$740. I see it as an increase on the --

24 DR. ZEHRAOUI: This is Dr. Abdul. So this is for the
25 enhancement of controls for the pumping station.

Motion to approve Contract Number 3 Change Order Number 2
made by Anthony Askounis. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

Questions/Comments: None.

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

MR. BAKOTA: Next is a Contract Number 4 Change Order
Number 2. This is the tanks. This is \$334,187. It shows as
a decrease in the amount if I'm correct.

25

1 DR. ZEHRAOUI: This is money that has not been used
2 during the project which is good.

3 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you.

4 Motion to approve Contract Number 4 Change Order Number 2
5 made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

6 Questions/Comments: None.

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

9 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Contract Number 1 Change Order
10 Number 5. This is the tanks. It's \$27,375. This shows as
11 an increase in the contract agreement.

12 DR. ZEHRAOUI: This is dealing with (inaudible) so more
13 dirt. When we connect the pipe, we have to do something to
14 flush all that dirt and the water go into the tank. This is
15 one.

16 And second date if we have any future maintenance
17 we will drain all the tanks. We close the (inaudible) and we
18 open that hydrant. That would be easy for us.

19 So we include (inaudible). We think it is
20 necessary for the job. (Inaudible) that means all the
21 projects will be around 350,000.

22 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you.

23 MR. ALLEGRETTI: This could not have been anticipated.
24 So this is an appropriate Change Order.

25 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you.

Motion to approve Contract Number 1 Change Order Number 5
made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

Questions/Comments: None.

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

MR. BAKOTA: Next is Agreements. M.E. Simpson Fire
Hydrant Maintenance. From what I gather it's \$50
approximately per meter at 600 would be \$30,000 with an
attachment for a GPS attachment at \$10 each.

1 Motion to approve M.E. Simpson Fire Hydrant Maintenance
2 Agreement made by Anthony Askounis. Second by Ray Lopez.

3 Questions/Comments: None.

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

6 MR. BAKOTA: Next Agreement is Master Meter Allegro
7 Network Maintenance at \$13,379.14.

8 Motion to approve Master Meter Allegro Network Maintenance
9 Agreement made by Ray Lopez. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

10 Questions/Comments: None.

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

13 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Past Due Invoices. First one is
14 Gateway Triangle, Water, at \$24. The reason is invoices were
15 received on 4/6/2020.

16 Motion to approve Gateway Triangle Past Due Invoice made by
17 Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

18 Questions/Comments: None.

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

21 MR. BAKOTA: Next Past Due Invoice is Mechanical
22 Concepts, Water, at \$486.50. The reason was invoices were
23 under dispute by Water Department.

24 MR. OCHOA: So are they past already?

25 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

Motion to approve Mechanical Concepts Past Due Invoice made
by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

Questions/Comments: None.

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

MR. BAKOTA: Next is GPRS, Water, \$11,700. Explanation
here invoices were on hold due to pending funds transfer.

1 Motion to approve GPRS Past Due Invoice made by Joseph Ochoa.
2 Second by Anthony Askounis.

3 Questions/Comments: None.

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

6 REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL: None.

7 FINANCIAL REPORT:

8 MR. BAKOTA: Financial Report. That was in your packet
9 for your own review.

10 UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

12 * Next Regular Meeting Date: June 1, 2020
13 @ 5:00 p.m.

14 MR. BAKOTA: I wish all Board Members stay healthy
15 through this virus. If the Board Members have any other
16 comments, you can comment now.

17 MR. LOPEZ: I'd like to thank everybody for
18 participating. At least we can keep business moving.

19 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you.

20 Motion to adjourn was made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by
21 Anthony Askounis.

22 * Meeting ended at 5:35 p.m.
23
24
25

Approval of the Meeting Minutes of
Monday, May 18, 2020
Approved and Signed _____



John Bakota, President



Henry Ventura, Vice President



Joseph Ochoa, Member



Anthony Askounis, Member



Ray Lopez, Member



Anthony Herrera, Board Secretary

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 27th day of May, 2020.



Lisa Pena

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