

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
BOARD OF SANITARY COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEMBERS

Miguel (Mike) Rivera, President
Alojzy (Ben) Moricz, Vice-President
Tia Cauley, Member
Loreto Gonzalez, Member
Steven Flowers, Member

Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 4, 2020, at 4:30 p.m.

Reported for Fissinger & Associates, Ltd

By: Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR

Call to Order: 4:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Miguel Rivera

Telephonic: Tia Cauley
Loreto Gonzalez
Ben Moricz
Steve Flowers

Also Present: Anthony Herrera, Secretary

Dr. Abdul Zehraoui, Director of Utilities

Telephonic: Joseph Allegretti, Legal Counsel

MR. RIVERA: I'll now call to order the meeting of the Board of Sanitary Commissioners. This is June 4, 2020. This meeting will be conducted via phone conference.

We can also stipulate that the members delegate the president the authority to execute all warrants, documents, minutes, etcetera, on behalf of the Commission eliminating the need to collect signatures from the members participating electronically.

A motion is needed to approve the minutes of meeting held May 21, 2020. Is there a motion to accept the minutes of May 21, 2020?

Motion to approve minutes of May 21, 2020, made by Ben Moricz. Second by Steve Flowers.

Questions/Comments: None

MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.

(All signify aye.)

1 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.
2 Next item is Check Warrants,
3 Sanitary District, Wastewater Division.

4 WARRANT 06040 SR - \$145,427.00

5 Motion to approve Warrant 060420 SR, in the amount of
6 \$145,427.00, made by Ben Moricz. Second by Loreto
7 Gonzalez.

8 Questions/Comments: None

9 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.
10 (All signify aye.)

11 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.
12 Next is Warrant 060420 SW.

13 WARRANT 060420 SW - \$96,921.70

14 Motion to approve Warrant 060420 SW, in the amount of
15 \$96,921.70, made by Loreto Gonzalez. Second by Ben
16 Moricz.

17 Questions/Comments: None

18 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.
19 (All signify aye.)

20 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.
21 Next we have Warrant 052920,

22 Sanitary Board Payroll.

23 WARRANT 052920 - Sanitary Board Payroll
24 Dates of 5-8-20 to 5-22-20.

25 Motion to approve Warrant 052920, Sanitary Board
Payroll, for dates of 5-8-20 to 5-22-20, made by Ben
Moricz. Second by Loreto Gonzalez.

Questions/Comments: None

MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.
(All signify aye.)

MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.
Next is Warrant 052920 Utilities

Payroll.

Motion to approve Warrant 052920, Utilities Payroll, for
dates of 5-9-20 to 5-22-20, made by Loreto Gonzalez.

1 Second by Ben Moricz.

2 Questions/Comments: None

3 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.
(All signify aye.)

4 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.
Next, Warrant 052920, Wastewater
5 Payroll.

6 Motion to approve Warrant 052920, Wastewater Payroll,
for dates of 5-9-20 to 5-22-20, made by Steve Flowers.
7 Second by Loreto Gonzalez.

8 Questions/Comments: None

9 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.
(All signify aye.)

10 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.
Next Sanitary District, Solid Waste
11 Division. Warrant 060420 SS, amount of \$23,859.59.

12 WARRANT 060420 SS - \$23,859.59

13 Motion to approve Warrant 060420 SS, in the amount of
\$23,859.59, made by Ben Moricz. Second by Loreto
14 Gonzalez.

15 Questions/Comments: None

16 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.
(All signify aye.)

17 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.
Next, Warrant 052920, Solids

18 Payroll.

19 WARRANT 052920 - Solids Payroll
Dates of 5-9-20 to 5-22-20

20 Motion to approve Warrant 052920, Solids Payroll, for
21 dates of 5-9-20 to 5-22-20, made by Loreto Gonzalez.
Second by Steve Flowers.

22 Questions/Comments: None

23 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.
(All signify aye.)

24 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.
25 Next report from Wastewater

1 division -- Dr. Zehraoui -- and Utilities Division.

2 DR. ZEHRAOUI: I just want to share with
3 you what is happened on May 23rd, May 24th and 25th. So
4 for that storm that hit our region, maybe two to three
5 inches of rain, which is equivalent to around 735
6 million gallons in 20 minutes. So, no system can get
7 rid of this event. And also the weather didn't send
8 those flood warnings until maybe seven minutes before.

9 So once we receive the calls from
10 residents, me and Ben and all the team, we were making
11 sure all the pumping stations, they were working fine;
12 which has been done. We lost maybe the power -- not the
13 power -- but the PAC at the Roxana, but we were on time
14 to make sure that the pumps got working well for 145th
15 Street. We went there and turned on -- manually -- that
16 second pump. So this has been done and we are good.

17 The thing that I can assure for you
18 today, the City has been closed, the bonus is that we
19 needed the 8.3 million. So tomorrow we can get the fund
20 and we can start the project. So this is -- we can
21 start the project with 13 million. The fund is on here
22 today. This is all except maybe for the emergency.

23 We used -- if you go to the
24 emergency, we have two companies. One company that we
25 called for the tower, because the generator was not
working on tower, we put on gas. It was working on fuel
for maybe from 23rd to 26th. Then we called -- we
called maybe 3 to 5 companies. No one came because some
of the companies, they were out of business. So we have
one that they fix the generator. That is like \$3,000,
that you have in the packet. So this is done.

17 And the other one is we fix the
18 gearbox at the aerator number 2 and 4. And you can see
19 in the package, you have three quotes. And the lowest
20 one was 14,000 something, that is just rebuilt aerator
21 because new one cost 100,000. So if you have any
22 questions, I am here to respond.

23 MR. RIVERA: Any questions for Dr.
24 Zehraoui?

25 MR. FLOWERS: Dr. Z, going back to the
tower generator, the radio went out, and the \$3,000;
what was the actual problem?

DR. ZEHRAOUI: We lost power. So then we
have generator, because we have the HAC, ten seconds it
should start, which has been good. So it started ten

1 seconds, but we worked on fuel from Saturday until
2 Tuesday. So then the guys, they came and fixed the
aeration.

3 MR. RIVERA: Any more questions? (None)

4 DR. ZEHRAOUI: Thank you.

5 MR. RIVERA: Next item is Mr. Martinez.
6 No report. Report from solid Waste, Keith Selvie. No
report. Report from Financial Consultant, Bill Biller.
7 No Report. Report from legal counsel, Joe Allegretti.

8 MR. ALLEGRETTI: As Dr. Z has said, we
9 did get close on our interim financing to finish the
Phase 2 for the long term CSO plan control project. I
10 just received yesterday a draft of a modified contract
of the general contractor. The time did not permit me
11 to review that. It's not a good policy and the board
doesn't want last minute items on the agenda.

12 I'm planning on having the approval
of the slightly amended contract with Kokosing -- the
13 general contractor -- ready for the agenda two weeks
from today.

14 What is contemplated is a Notice to
Proceed will go out once the contract is signed. And I
15 think what is contemplated -- Dr. Z can correct me if
I'm wrong -- is that the construction will begin first
16 week in July. And then the only loose ends we have to
deal with is the Indiana Department of Environmental
17 Management, about why we are not -- just to explain why
we haven't met the timetable contained in the agreed
18 judgment, but we think we can get passed that. Anyway,
that's my report.

19 DR. ZEHRAOUI: I already talked with Tina
from Kokosing, and she said she was very happy. But she
20 told me she has to go back to the contractor to get the
new prices for equipment. So this is the latest, what I
can tell.

21 MR. ALLEGRETTI: We'll have something on
22 the agenda for two weeks from today. We'll get the
dollars sorted out by then.

23 MR. RIVERA: All right. The next item is
24 New Business. We have the emergencies.

25 Cummins - \$3,000.00, purchase order.
The project was emergency repair of the radio tower

1 generator in the amount of \$3,000.

2 Motion to approve payment of Cummins in the amount of
3 \$3,000.00, made by Steve Flowers. Second by Loreto
4 Gonzalez.

4 Questions/Comments: None

5 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.
(All signify aye.)

6 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.

7 The other one is Meccon Industries.
8 This one is a purchase order for the amount of
9 \$28,988.00. The project was removal and installation of
10 aeration gearbox.

9 DR. ZEHRAOUI: So, I already talked about
10 about this once. We change number 2 and number four.
11 The new one, each one cost 100,000. We cannot afford.
12 So we use one spare that was on the site for 20 years,
13 so it was good. So we have like three quotes. We have
14 14,000, 20,000, and Hasse was 50,000 each. So the
15 lowest one is this 14,000, which makes it like times
16 two, \$28,900. So this is the cheapest one we can do and
17 I already told you they are working right now.

14 MR. RIVERA: Any questions for Dr. Z?
15 You are requesting the \$28,988.00?

16 DR. ZEHRAOUI: Yes. There is one 14,000
17 each and this one from Hasse is 50,000.

17 MR. RIVERA: Any more questions for Dr.
18 Zehraoui? (None) Is there a motion to accept the
19 purchase order from Meccon Industries?

19 Motion to approve payment for purchase order to Meccon
20 Industries, in the amount of \$28,988.00, made by Tia
21 Cauley. Second by Loreto Gonzalez.

21 Questions/Comments: None

22 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.
(All signify aye.)

23 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.

24 Next item is past due invoice,
25 Faegre Drinker, in the amount of \$10,000. It states
here that the delinquency reason -- it says, invoice is
dated February 25, 2020, but was not received by the Law

1 Department until May 4, 2020. The invoice is for
2 services through January 2020.

3 MR. ALLEGRETTI: This is -- I think the
4 plan is to get this approved, authorize the expenditure
5 by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners. However, the
6 actual bill will be paid by the Law Department.

7 This is for lobbying services
8 getting that very important bill passed, giving us the
9 opportunity to file a rate case, instead of depending on
10 the Common Council for fee modifications. I am
11 requesting that the Board of Sanitary Commissioners
12 approve this.

13 Motion to approve past due invoices from Faegre Drinker,
14 amount of \$10,000.00, made by Steve Flowers. Second by
15 Ben Moricz.

16 Questions/Comments: None

17 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.

18 (All signify aye.)

19 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.

20 Next items are the adjustments for
21 the Water Department. Mr. Herrera is here and he will
22 have the floor in a second.

23 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Let me say that our
24 rules allow Winna Guzman to make these adjustments. She
25 has advised Mr. Herrera and me that all these
adjustments have been vetted and she approves them. And
our procedure is that her recommendations be final
approval by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners. Winna
is not her, but Anthony has the paperwork.

MR. HERRERA: If the President can just
go through them, and if anybody has any question, I can
elaborate on them.

MR. RIVERA: All right. First is 5015
Alexander. Recommendation to adjust for the billing
period referenced. Is there a motion for adjustment for
5015 Alexander?

Motion to approve adjustment to 5015 Alexander, made by
Steve Flowers. Second by Ben Moricz.

Questions/Comments: None

1 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.
(All signify aye.)

2 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.

3 Next is 4202 Baring. The
4 recommendation that the payment made toward the account
5 10567 be reversed, in the amount of \$28.05, and to be
6 applied correctly towards account 10549, in an amount of
7 \$28.05, including adjustment, removal of forty cent
8 penalty.

9 Motion to accept adjustment for 4204 Baring, made by
10 Steve Flowers. Second by Ben Moricz.

11 Questions/Comments: None

12 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.
(All signify aye.)

13 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.

14 The next one is 4117 Grand
15 Boulevard, and the recommendation of this one says, that
16 this account be adjusted for the billing period
17 referenced.

18 Motion to accept the adjustment for 4117 Grand
19 Boulevard, made by Steve Flowers. Second by Ben Moricz.

20 Questions/Comments: None

21 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.
(All signify aye.)

22 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.

23 Next is 3834 Drummond. The
24 recommendation is that the payment made inadvertently by
25 People's Bank be returned, in the amount of \$23.70, and
the account be corrected as such.

Motion to accept adjustment for 3834 Drummond made by
Steve Flowers. Second by Loreto Gonzalez.

Questions/Comments: None

MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.
(All signify aye.)

MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.

Next item is Resolution SD 20-06.
This is a resolution of the Board of Sanitary
Commissioners of the East Chicago Sanitary District
amending the District's Household Flood Protection Plan,
not to exceed a total reimbursement of \$750.00 and

1 reimbursement of up to 75 percent of the cost of
2 installation, up to \$1500, for a backflow prevention
3 device, shutoff valve, or other improvements done by a
4 licensed plumber.

5 MR. ALLEGRETTI: This is an outgrowth of
6 the May 23rd very severe, intense storm, where there
7 were a lot of basement backups. It's been recommended
8 that the old amount allocated for the program be
9 enlarged to 75 percent of improvements by a licensed
10 plumber, not to exceed \$1500.00 improvement, which a
11 total amount eligible would be 75 percent of \$1500.00,
12 which is 1125 or whatever it is. Because as Mr. Wright
13 has indicated, that the plumbing -- the cost of the
14 installation of a check valve or backup device has gone
15 up, and this is kind of to keep up with inflation.

16 MR. RIVERA: Thank you, Mr. Allegretti.
17 Is there a motion to accept Resolution SD 20-06?

18 MS. CAULEY: I have a question. Attorney
19 Allegretti, so you are saying the shutoff valve is
20 \$1500.00?

21 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Yeah. What is
22 contemplated by this, the maximum expenditure that we
23 will pay is 75 percent for a job, not exceeding 1500.
24 If it's \$3,000, we are only going to pay 75 percent of
25 1500. That's what is contemplated.

And the other restriction is, it's
only homeowners, full time occupant/owners are eligible
for participating in the program.

MS. CAULEY: Well, who would be able to
participate prior to, the renter or the landlord?

MR. ALLEGRETTI: Probably unlikely that a
renter would make a capital improvement on a house he's
renting, but the beneficiary would be the landlord.

I'm kind of the messenger here.
This is what was recommended by City Hall after getting
input from various people, staff people, including Mr.
Wright.

MR. FLOWERS: I also have a question.
Attorney Allegretti, you called them shutoff valves or
backup water valves, and I am familiar with them. When
the water enters the home or the basement, somebody cuts
it off and reroutes it, and goes back out of the home,

1 correct?

2 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Well, it's a backflow
3 preventer. It allows the water to go one way, out of
4 the house, but has a check valve on it so the water --
5 when the sewer on the street is surging and there's
6 nowhere for the water to go, the water can't back up
7 into the basement.

8 The other cheaper kind of thing is a
9 standpipe screwed into a storm drain, which is also very
10 effective. And the expensive one is overhead plumbing
11 with an ejector pump and that's multiple thousands of
12 dollars for an improvement.

13 MR. FLOWERS: Well, that water valve
14 definitely works. I have one in my property in Chicago.
15 How many homes are damaged over there, one particular
16 home or several homes that need 75 percent?

17 MR. ALLEGRETTI: They get a
18 reimbursement. And in my experience these programs,
19 people get really excited when their basement backs up
20 and they have short memories, and they don't want to
21 make an initial investment, even though there's the
22 opportunity for reimbursement to make the investment,
23 hire the plumber to install these safety measures to
24 prevent these basement backups. That's what
25 historically has happened. And not only in East
Chicago, but in other communities where I do work with
the Sanitary District.

MR. FLOWERS: It's an ideal investment to
keep the water out of the home. But as you mentioned,
people don't want to pay the excess cost and so forth.

MR. ALLEGRETTI: I agree with you
completely, Mr. Flowers. There have been inspections
and we have a data base containing all the backups, all
the basement backup events. They also have to be
reported to the Department of Environmental Management.
So we have a data base showing the names, property
owners, address where these instances happen, and -- you
know -- for reporting purposes.

And also it's going to be helpful --
you know -- if these happen -- unfortunately -- if they
happen in the future. If the same person makes the
complaint, you know, the obvious question is, gee, we
wish you would have taken advantage of the program and
installed a backup preventer system, which would prevent

1 recurrence of the problem. You never know when the
stuff is going to happen again.

2 My understanding was this was an
3 185-year rain, meaning the intensity happens only
happens one in 185 years. We know these things are
4 happening way more frequently than that.

5 Motion to approve Resolution SD 20-06 made by Steve
Flowers. Second by Tia Cauley.

6 Questions/Comments: None

7 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.
(All signify aye.)

8 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.

9 Next item is Unfinished Business --
None. Public comment -- None.

10 Our next meeting date is June 18,
2020, at 4:30 p.m.. Is there a motion for adjournment?

11 Motion to adjourn meeting made by Tia Cauley. Second by
Loreto Gonzalez.


12 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.
(All signify aye.)

13 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.

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15 ***** Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m. *****
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Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 4, 2020

Approved and signed _____



Miguel Rivera, President

/s/ Loreto Gonzalez

Loreto Gonzalez, Vice-president

/s/ Tia Cauley

Tia Cauley

/s/ Alojzy Moricz

Alojzy (Ben) Moricz - vice president

/s/ Steve Flowers

Steve Flowers



Anthony Herrera

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Peggy S. LaLonde, 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 the said proceedings taken at said time and place, so ordered to be transcribed.

Dated at Munster, Indiana, this 9th day of June, 2020.

Peggy S. LaLonde



Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR