

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting Minutes  
June 15, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

STAFF:

Winna Guzman  
Anthony Herrera  
Joseph Allegretti  
Bill Biller  
Edward Santen

Reported by: Fissinger & Associates, Ltd.  
By: Peggy S. LaLonde

Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Present: John Bakota, Anthony Askounis  
Present Telephonic: Henry Ventura, Ray  
Lopez, Joseph Ochoa, Joseph Allegretti  
Staff Present: Winna Guzman  
Staff Present Telephonic: Edward Santen,  
Bill Biller  
Ben El Harit

MR. BAKOTA: First item, Board's approval  
of meeting minutes of May 18, June 1, and June 4th  
Special Meeting.

Motion to approve all minutes as presented made by  
Joseph Ochoa. Second by Ray Lopez.

MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by  
saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
Next is check warrants.

WARRANT 061920 WB - \$3,143,009.22

Motion to approve Warrant 061920 WB, in the amount of  
\$3,143.009.22, made by Ray Lopez. Second by Henry  
Ventura.

Comments/Questions: None

1 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by  
saying aye?

2 (All signify aye.)

3 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
WARRANT 061520 WB - \$511,393.63.

4 Motion to approve Warrant 061520 WB, in the amount of  
\$511,393.63, made by Henry Ventura. Second by Ray  
5 Lopez.

6 Comments/Questions: None

7 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by  
saying aye?

8 (All signify aye.)

9 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
WARRANT 061520 WF - \$594,984.00

10 Motion to approve Warrant 061520 WF, in the amount of  
\$594,984.00, made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Henry  
11 Ventura.

12 Comments/Questions: None

13 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by  
saying aye?

14 (All signify aye.)

15 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
WARRANT 061520 WT - \$1,000,000.00

16 Motion to approve Warrant 061520 WT, in the amount of  
\$1,000,000.00, made by Ray Lopez. Second by Anthony  
17 Askounis.

18 Comments/Questions: None

19 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by  
saying aye?

20 (All signify aye.)

21 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
WARRANT 061520 CD - \$61.10

22 Motion to approve Warrant 061520 CD, in the amount of  
\$61.10, made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Henry Ventura.  
23

24 Comments/Questions: None

25 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by  
saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

Next are Payroll Warrants.

WARRANT 061220 - \$34,584.58 - Dates of 5/23/20 to 6/5/20

Motion to approve Payroll Warrant 061220, in the amount of \$34,584.58, for dates of 5/23/20 to 6/5/20, made by Henry Ventura. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

Comments/Questions: None

MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

WARRANT 061220 - \$26,447.80 - Utilities Payroll

Dates of 5/23/20 to 6/5/20

Motion to approve Payroll Warrant 061220, in the amount of \$26,447.80, Utilities Payroll, for dates of 5/23/20 to 6/5/20, made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

Comments/Questions: None

MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

Next we have Filtration Report.

MR. EL HARIT: So we changed the modules off the main brain for filtration. We tested before when we had the leak, and then basically we don't use that much water in the City of East Chicago in the winter. We are going with program, like for preventative maintenance for membrane. So basically so we can extend the life of them and production as well. So we already have contract with company to take care of all that good stuff. We are doing maintenance on membranes and also the processing of the chemicals, that may extend the life.

We have high service rate, so basically we are going to have like alarms if any -- for example -- over eight million. And let's say we are pushing more, so that means there is a leak or something off. So that sends a text message or e-mail to find the problem, that we are pushing more water and you need to check that. That's one of the things, we'll get

1 notified and we'll take care of that.

2 The only other thing is working with  
3 Nipsco on changing rate for Nipsco. We have to do that  
4 every year. So hopefully we can get more money --  
5 paying less money to Nipsco. I am in the process of  
6 also doing that.

7 The only thing, we have been  
8 surprised is Tom, which we retained, has been almost  
9 \$2,000 a month. We really were not planning on paying  
10 that much. We thought between 6 or 700. So we are  
11 looking at that so we get something to take care of  
12 that.

13 For the whole plant basically we do  
14 fiberoptic there. Basically in the future we want to  
15 include the old plant so we can get all the data from  
16 there to the new plant, hopefully. And right now we are  
17 using the old plant three times a week. We are just  
18 using old plant that much. We are using it just because  
19 we have to disinfect filters. So basically we use it  
20 Monday, Wednesday and Friday. But average is two  
21 million gallons a day, so like six million gallons a  
22 week.

23 Other than that, do you have any  
24 questions? (None) Thank you.

25 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you. Water Report,  
Winna Guzman.

MS. GUZMAN: Winna Guzman, Director of  
East Chicago Water Department. I submitted to the Board  
the monthly report relating to departmental activity.  
If you have any questions or see anything you would like  
me to answer or discuss, I'll be happy to do so.

MR. VENTURA: Thank you, Winna.

MR. BAKOTA: Distribution Report, Ed  
Santen.

MR. SANTEN: I have no report at this  
time.

MR. BAKOTA: Under New Business we have  
Resolution WD 20-07. It's a transfer of money from  
contractual services to meter and meter installation.  
That's \$2,640, and miscellaneous expense at 10,000. The  
total is \$12,640.00. Do I have a motion?

Motion to adopt Resolution WD 20-07 made by Anthony

1 Askounis. Second by Ray Lopez.

2 Comments/Question: None

3 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by  
4 saying aye?

4 (All signify aye.)

5 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

5 Next is emergencies. This is  
6 Calumet City Plumbing, Safety Kleen, amount of  
6 \$14,688.60.

7 Motion to approve Calumet City Plumbing emergency charge  
8 made by Henry Ventura. Second by Anthony Askounis.

8 Comments/Questions: None

9  
10 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by  
10 saying aye?

11 (All signify aye.)

11 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

12 Hessville Plumbing, 708 W. 143rd  
12 Street, amount of \$3,843.00.

13 Motion to approve Hessville Plumbing emergency charge  
14 made by Ray Lopez. Second by Henry Ventura.

14 Comments/Questions: None

15  
16 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by  
16 saying aye?

17 (All signify aye.)

17 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

18 Hasse Construction, 16-inch water  
18 main on Michigan, amount of \$154,570.66.

19 Motion to approve Hasse Construction emergency charge  
20 made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

21 MS. GUZMAN: That's also a past due  
21 notice and I need to get it approved -- would like to  
22 get it approved as well.

22  
23 MR. BAKOTA: For Hasse Construction,  
23 that's an emergency?

24 MS. GUZMAN: Yes. So we can process it,  
25 we are addressing it as an emergency. If I can get it  
25 approved, because the delay in submitting the payment

1 was for the reason that funding was pending.

2 MR. BAKOTA: It's not on past due  
3 invoices?

4 MS. GUZMAN: No, but if I can ask the  
5 Board to approve that as well.

6 MR. BAKOTA: That's what we read. That's  
7 what they approved. We are addressing it as I read.

8 MS. GUZMAN: But can the Board entertain  
9 it being approved as being late as well?

10 MR. BAKOTA: As being late. Okay, that  
11 approval was also addressing that the payment was late.  
12 Is that understood?

13 MR. ASKOUNIS: Yes.

14 MR. BAKOTA: We'll address as past due.  
15 I need a motion to approve the emergency and pay the  
16 past due invoice for 16-inch water main on Michigan.  
17 Motion to approve emergency and pay past due invoice to  
18 Hasse Construction, made by Anthony Askounis. Second by  
19 Henry Ventura.

20 Comments/Questions: None

21 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by  
22 saying aye?

23 (All signify aye.)

24 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

25 Next is Hasse Construction, again,  
1510 Columbus Drive, amount of \$14,569.62.

Motion to approve Hasse Construction emergency on  
Columbus Drive, made by Ray Lopez. Second by Anthony  
Askounis.

Comments/Questions: None

MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by  
saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

Next is Hasse Construction, Main and  
Chicago Avenue, \$21,275.67.

1 Motion to approve Hasse Construction emergency on Main  
2 and Chicago Avenue, made by Henry Ventura. Second by  
Joseph Ochoa.

3 Comments/Questions: None

4 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by  
saying aye?

5 (All signify aye.)

6 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

7 Next is Crawford Door & Sales,  
overhead door repair. I see a total of zero on that.  
Is that --

8 MS. GUZMAN: At this time we do not have  
9 the cost on that. The vendor hasn't submitted the  
invoice, but just wanted to advise the Board of the  
repair.

10 MR. BAKOTA: They haven't received the  
11 invoice?

12 MS. GUZMAN: This was for repair of the  
13 door. This was the service door in the back.

14 MR. BAKOTA: So are we voting on this  
without the invoice?

15 MS. GUZMAN: No, I would just say it's a  
16 notification until we receive the invoice.

17 MR. BAKOTA: We are waiting to receive  
the invoice on it.

18 MR. LOPEZ: So we take no action on that?

19 MR. BAKOTA: No, it shouldn't have been  
20 on the agenda.

21 Next is Master Meter, Octave  
four-inch replacement, \$1,890.62.

22 Motion to approve Master Meter proposal made by Joseph  
Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

23 Comments/Questions: None

24 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by  
25 saying aye?

1 (All signify aye.)

2 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

3 Next is De-Vine Landscape for lawn  
4 services. That's \$105.00 per cut. The address on that  
5 is not the right address. It's addressed for 4225 Tod  
6 and that pump station is on the 4500-block. I'm not  
7 exactly sure of the exact address.

8 MR. EL HARIT: It's the new pump station  
9 by City Hall.

10 MR. BAKOTA: They list it at 4225 Tod.  
11 And I know what station it is, but we don't have a  
12 correct address on it; that's the only thing. I'm still  
13 asking for a vote, we understand what it is.

14 MR. EL HARIT: Thanks.

15 MR. BAKOTA: Do I have a motion?

16 Motion to approve De-Vine Landscape proposal for grass  
17 cutting, made by Ray Lopez. Second by Anthony Askounis.

18 Comments/Questions: None

19 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by  
20 saying aye?

21 (All signify aye.)

22 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

23 Next is Calumet City Plumbing -- is  
24 this the one we are suppose to strike?

25 MS. GUZMAN: I would like to table that,  
please.

MR. BAKOTA: We are tabling Calumet City  
Plumbing, 4245 Railroad --

MS. GUZMAN: Yes, that's correct.

MR. BAKOTA: That's the only one we are  
tabling?

MS. GUZMAN: Well, all three, 4245  
Railroad, 428 W. Columbus Drive, 459 Cline Avenue.

MR. VENTURA: So we are tabling all  
three?



1 MS. GUZMAN: Yes, please.

2 MR. BAKOTA: Disregard the three for  
3 Calumet City Plumbing. We'll go on to Austgen Electric,  
4 rate sheet. This is Filtration.

5 MR. EL HARIT: So basically we use them  
6 for our maintenance, so they just do maintenance for us.  
7 We do use them for couple years now.

8 MR. BAKOTA: Do I have a motion Board  
9 members?

10 Motion to approve rate sheet for Austgen Electric, made  
11 by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Henry Ventura.

12 Comments/Questions: None

13 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by  
14 saying aye?

15 (All signify aye.)

16 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
17 Next is Midwestern Electric, rate  
18 sheet, for Water.

19 Motion to approve rate sheet for Midwestern Electric,  
20 made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Henry Ventura.

21 Comments/Questions: None

22 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by  
23 saying aye?

24 (All signify aye.)

25 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
Next is rate sheet for ATS, Water.

Motion to approve rate sheet for ATS, made by Henry  
Ventura. Second by Anthony Askounis.

Comments/Questions: None

MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by  
saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
Next is Utility Supply Company, two  
hydrants, Water.

Motion to approve Utility Supply Company, 2 hydrants,

1 made by Anthony Askounis. Second by Henry Ventura.

2 Comments/Questions: None

3 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by  
4 saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

5 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

6 Next is Heil 2, Inc., rate sheet,  
7 Water.

8 Motion to approve Heil 2, Inc. rate sheet, made by Henry  
9 Ventura. Second by Anthony Askounis.

10 Comments/Questions: None

11 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by  
12 saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

13 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

14 MS. GUZMAN: I just want to note, on  
15 Heil, we'll be submitting to the Controller's Office a  
16 sole proprietorship form along with this for approval.

17 MR. BAKOTA: So we'll process it then?

18 MS. GUZMAN: Yes.

19 MR. BAKOTA: On the proposals, I missed  
20 one. Rate sheet for HVAC Masters, Water.

21 Motion to approve rate sheet for HVAC Masters, made by  
22 Henry Ventura. Second by Anthony Askounis.

23 Comments/Questions: None

24 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by  
25 saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

Next we have past due invoices.

Ferguson, for \$236.00. The reason was invoice was under  
dispute between Fire Department and Water Department.  
Issue has been resolved.

Motion to approve past due invoice to Ferguson, \$236.00,  
made by Ray Lopez. Second by Henry Ventura.

1 Comments/Questions: None

2 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by  
3 saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

4 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

5 Next, Ferguson, \$1,911.96, Water.  
6 The reason is vendor sent invoice on 6/4/2020.

7 Motion to approve past due invoice to Ferguson,  
8 \$1,911.06, made by Ray Lopez. Second by Henry Ventura.

9 Comments/Questions: None

10 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by  
11 saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

12 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

13 Next is Ferguson, again, at \$800.00.  
14 Reason invoice was on hold for review pending credit.

15 Motion to approve past due invoice to Ferguson, \$800.00,  
16 made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

17 MR. LOPEZ: I got 800 on the bill and on  
18 the sheet we have 900, is that a misprint?

19 MR. BAKOTA: I see that now.

20 MS. GUZMAN: They gave us a credit.

21 MR. BAKOTA: They show minus 200 on the  
22 last sheet.

23 MS. GUZMAN: There's a credit on the last  
24 sheet of \$200.00, at the bottom of the third sheet. The  
25 actual amount was 300 per item and not 400, so we were  
disputing it, and that was delaying the process.

MR. BAKOTA: But we are addressing the  
800.

MR. HERRERA: They are not re-invoicing  
us because we have the credit. So they issued the  
credit so we can apply it.

MR. BAKOTA: We were addressing it at  
800, as it reads. I already have a motion and second.

1 All in favor signify by saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

2 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

3 Next is Hessville Plumbing,  
\$3,843.00.

4 Motion to approve past due invoice to Hessville  
5 Plumbing, made by Anthony Askounis. Second by Joseph  
Ochoa.

6 Comments/Questions: None

7 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by  
saying aye?

8 (All signify aye.)

9 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

People's Bank, \$5.80, Water.

10 Motion to approve past due invoice to People's Bank,  
11 made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Henry Ventura.

12 Comments/Questions: None

13 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by  
saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

14 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

15 Next is Usalco, \$5,216.85.

16 Motion to approve past due invoice to Usalco, made by  
Ray Lopez. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

17 Comments/Questions: None

18 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by  
saying aye?

19 (All signify aye.)

20 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

21 We have report from Legal Counsel,  
Joseph Allegretti.

22 MR. ALLEGRETTI: No report, John.

23 MR. BAKOTA: Financial report, Bill  
Biller.

24 MR. BILLER: John, you have a report in  
25 your packet. The only thing, if there is any questions  
I will be happy to answer them.

1 MR. BAKOTA: I'd like to ask the Board  
2 members now, that the next meeting we attend in person  
3 here, if that's okay with the Board.

4 MR. OCHOA: Yes, I can.

5 MR. LOPEZ: I will be by phone. Lopez by  
6 phone.

7 MR. VENTURA: I could do in person.

8 MR. ASKOUNIS: I can do in person.

9 MR. BAKOTA: We'll attend in person, do  
10 separation of six-foot, and wear masks. We are not  
11 doing this any more.

12 Our next Board meeting, which is  
13 July 7th, we will attend here, in person, except for Ray  
14 Lopez, who will attend by phone. We'll address the  
15 six-foot separation from Board members and please wear a  
16 mask, and I think our meetings will go much smoother.  
17 How about the time of the meeting?

18 MR. HERRERA: We don't know yet.

19 MR. BAKOTA: The time of the meeting is  
20 to be determined. You will be notified.

21 Is there any Unfinished Business?  
22 (None) Public Comment? (None)

23 Like I said, our next meeting will  
24 be here with the Board members appearing in person,  
25 six-foot separation and please wear a mask. Your  
26 temperature will be taken at the door and there is hand  
27 sanitizer, if you wish to use it. So we will meet again  
28 on the 7th, time to be determined.

29 Motion to adjourn meeting made by Anthony Askounis.  
30 Second by Henry Ventura.

31 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by  
32 saying aye?

33 (All signify aye.)

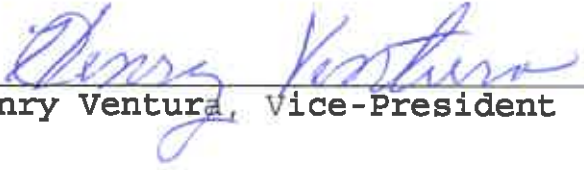
34 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
35 Meeting adjourned.

\*\*\*\*\* Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.\*\*\*\*\*

Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of  
June 15, 2020

Approved and signed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Bakota, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Henry Ventura, Vice-President

*/s/ Joseph Ochoa*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph Ochoa, Member

*/s/ Ray Lopez*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ray Lopez, Member

*/s/ Anthony Askounis*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony Askounis, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony Herrera, Secretary

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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 19th day of June, 2020.

*Peggy S. LaLonde*



Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR