

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)
Tuesday, July 7, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m.

Reported for Fissinger & Associates
By: Lisa Pena

CALL TO ORDER: 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Henry Ventura.
Present Via Telephone Conference: Anthony
Askounis, Joseph Ochoa, Ray Lopez.
Also Present: Anthony Herrera.
Also Present Via Telephone Conference: Joseph
Allegretti, Ben El Harit, Edward Santen.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 15, 2020

Motion to approve June 15, 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. VENTURA: Next we have Approval of Check Warrants.
Check Warrant 061720 WB in the amount of \$45,921.66.

Motion to approve Check Warrant 061720 WB made by Joseph
Ochoa. Second by Ray Lopez.

Questions/Comments: None.

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

1 MR. VENTURA: Check Warrant 070720 WF in the amount of
2 \$21,646.20.

3 Motion to approve Check Warrant 070720 WF made by Ray Lopez.
4 Second by Joseph Ochoa.

5 Questions/Comments: None.

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

8 MR. VENTURA: Next we have Check Warrant 070720 WB in
9 the amount of \$356,840.90.

10 Motion to approve Check Warrant 070720 WB made by Joseph
11 Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

12 Questions/Comments: None.

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

15 APPROVAL OF PAYROLL WARRANTS:

16 MR. VENTURA: Payroll Warrant 062620 in the amount of
17 \$33,761.72. Payroll dated 6/6/20 to 6/19/20.

18 Motion to approve Payroll Warrant 062620 6/6/20 to 6/19/20
19 made by Ray Lopez. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

20 Questions/Comments: None.

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

23 MR. VENTURA: Payroll Warrant 062620 in the amount of
24 \$26,495.03. This is for Utilities Payroll 6/6/20 to 6/19/20.

25 Motion to approve Payroll Warrant 062620 Utilities Payroll
6/6/20 to 6/19/20 made by Ray Lopez. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

Questions/Comments: None.

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

FILTRATION REPORT: None.

WATER REPORT: None.

1 DISTRIBUTION REPORT: None.

2 NEW BUSINESS WATER:

3 MR. VENTURA: Next on the agenda under New Business we
4 have Resolution WD 20-08 which is a Resolution of the Board
5 of Trustees of the East Chicago Water Department authorizing
6 the transfer of appropriations into different budget
7 categories.

8 Anthony is going to explain this one.

9 MR. HERRERA: As you know, Board, a month or so back
10 there was \$2 million borrowed from Gaming Funds. And once we
11 allocated that money we transferred it into two separate
12 funds, Administrative and Distribution.

13 However there are certain items like supplies,
14 capital, et cetera that we need some money disbursed in. And
15 this is just a transfer from that \$2 million. That's all.

16 MR. VENTURA: Any questions for Anthony?

17 Motion to approve Resolution WD 20-08 made by Ray Lopez.
18 Second by Joseph Ochoa.

19 Questions/Comments: None.

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

22 MR. HERRERA: Also, Board, there is 10,000 coming from
23 the Utilities Reimbursement Account as well. It's a separate
24 account that we're transferring some money around. That's
25 all. Nothing technical.

MR. OCHOA: You don't need an approval on that, do you?

MR. HERRERA: No.

MR. VENTURA: Information only for that one?

MR. HERRERA: Yes. Just information.

MR. VENTURA: Next on the agenda is Items. First one is
F.E. Moran, Annual Testing and Inspection for Filtration
Plant. And the amount of that is \$5,975. Any questions on
this?

1 MR. OCHOA: Was this work completed?

2 MR. EL HARIT: Yes. This is annual inspection. I mean
3 we do it every year. We check the sprinklers. I mean the
4 fire pump and all that good stuff.

5 MR. VENTURA: Ben, this is Ventura. Did you guys add
6 the visual part of the contract to it too? Does that include
7 the 320?

8 MR. EL HARIT: Yeah.

9 MR. VENTURA: That's all in there? Thank you.

10 MR. EL HARIT: Should be everything there, yeah. It
11 should be there.

12 MR. VENTURA: I see it. Okay. Any further questions?

13 Motion to approve F.E. Moran Annual Testing & Inspection
14 made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Ray Lopez.

15 Questions/Comments: None.

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

18 MR. VENTURA: Next on Items we have Tyler Technologies
19 Munis Upgrades for Water. And this is for three quotes for
20 Munis Programs for \$57,500, \$12,600, \$16,710. And the total
21 for these three would be \$86,810. Any questions or comments?

22 MR. LOPEZ: You said 86?

23 MR. VENTURA: Yeah. 86,810.

24 MR. LOPEZ: I only got a sheet here for 67,000. Is
25 there another sheet?

MR. HERRERA: 86,810. 57,000 plus the 29,400. Hang on.
So you're taking the 23,100 plus 57,500 and that gives you
80,600. And then you're going to add 5,000 to that on the
first sheet.

MR. VENTURA: I got 57,500, 12,600 and 16,710. Those
are the three.

MR. HERRERA: Ray, if you take those numbers, the number
one, two and three under Billing System in Winna's report, it

1 equals the 86,810.

2 MR. LOPEZ: 16,710?

3 MR. HERRERA: Yes. That's an additional upgrade to the
4 system. Then you're taking the 12,600 for IVR Gateway. It's
5 an additional upgrade. And then the IBUCIS upgrade is the
6 57,500. And that will give you a total of 86,810.

7 And these are just upgrades we need for our billing
8 system and our cashiering system and anything else that
9 involves the billing here at the Water Department. Just
10 upgrades that we need every year or every other year.

11 MR. LOPEZ: I didn't see it here on my paper. Okay.

12 Motion to approve Tyler Technologies Munis Upgrades made by
13 Ray Lopez.

14 Questions/Comments: None.

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

17 MR. VENTURA: Next item is Devine Landscaping. And this
18 is only a rate sheet for us to approve.

19 Motion to approve Devine Landscaping Rate Sheet by Ray Lopez.
20 Second by Anthony Askounis.

21 Questions/Comments: None.

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

24 MR. VENTURA: Next on the agenda we have Korellis
25 Roofing. This is an emergency repair for \$756.

26 Motion to approve Korellis Roofing Emergency Repair made by
27 Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

28 Questions/Comments: None.

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

31 MR. VENTURA: Next on the agenda we have Tierra
32 Environmental Services. This was a water main break at
33 Guthrie and Michigan. And this was for \$15,437.50.

1 Motion to approve Tierra Environmental Services for Water
Main Break at Guthrie and Michigan made by Joseph Ochoa.
2 Second by Anthony Askounis.

3 Questions/Comments: None.

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

5 MR. VENTURA: Next on the agenda we have Crawford Door &
6 Sales. This is another emergency for Water. And the amount
for this is \$278.

7 Motion to approve Crawford Door & Sales Emergency made by
8 Joseph Ochoa. Second by Ray Lopez.

9 Questions/Comments: None.

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

11 MR. VENTURA: Next we have Calumet City Plumbing. And
12 this was for the Distribution Garage, four drains in the
garage area. This is for \$1,656 for Calumet City Plumbing.

13 Motion to approve Calumet City Plumbing Distribution Garage
14 Drains made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

15 Questions/Comments: None.

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

17 MR. VENTURA: Next on the agenda is Calumet City
18 Plumbing, 4303 Kennedy Avenue. This is for Distribution.
And the amount was for \$19,980.

19 MR. OCHOA: 19,000? What did you do, clean the main?

20 MR. VENTURA: \$19,980. Let's see.

21 MR. HERRERA: Ed, are you on the phone?

22 MR. SANTEN: Yeah. I'm here.

23 MR. VENTURA: This is at 4303 Kennedy.

24 MR. SANTEN: That was for a repair before I started over
25 on Kennedy Avenue by Praxair Company. And that was for our

1 portion of the work that was in the City's right-of-way. And
2 there was actually almost another 10,000 that was billed to
Praxair.

3 MR. OCHOA: So how much of this is ours?

4 MR. SANTEN: 19,000 is ours. I had Calumet City
5 separate out the portion for Praxair which I understand they
paid. And ours is that 19,000 and change figure.

6 MR. VENTURA: \$19,980.

7 MR. SANTEN: That's our portion.

8 Motion to approve Calumet City Plumbing for 4303 Kennedy
9 Avenue made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Ray Lopez.

10 Questions/Comments: None.

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

13 MR. VENTURA: Next on the agenda we have Hydrant
14 Replacements. And this is for Central High School for
\$3,600. And we have another one at Drummond Street and Carey
15 Street for \$3,600. The total amount for these two hydrants
is \$7,200. And this is Calumet City Plumbing.

16 Motion to approve Calumet City Plumbing Hydrant Replacements
made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

17 Questions/Comments:

18 MR. SANTEN: I'll just comment again that Calumet City
19 Plumbing was the low bid. And also those hydrants are on our
replacement list. So we're working on that list to bring
that amount of deficiencies down. But that's what those
hydrants are for.

20 MR. VENTURA: Any other questions for Ed?

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

23 MR. VENTURA: Next on the agenda, this is in relation to
24 the Water Meter Replacement Project. And this is under
Calumet City Meter Replacements. We have three items.

25 First one is Marinowar, Incorporated, 4245

1 Railroad. That's for \$4,915. Then we have the second one,
2 Buckeye Pipeline, 428 West Columbus Drive, \$2,750. And the
3 third one is AMG Resource Corp., 459 Cline Avenue. That
4 amount is \$7,885.

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

7 MR. VENTURA: Next on the agenda we have some Past Due
8 Invoices. First one we have is Thomas Kowal for \$60. The
9 reason the invoice is delinquent was given to the secretary
10 today.

11 Motion to approve Thomas Kowal Past Due Invoice made by
12 Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

13 Questions/Comments: None.

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

16 MR. VENTURA: Second Past Due is Microbac for \$150. And
17 the reason for the delinquency is invoices were being sent to
18 former AP Clerk who was no longer employed with the City of
19 East Chicago and it was e-mailed to Wastewater.

20 Motion to approve Microbac Past Due Invoice made by Joseph
21 Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

22 Questions/Comments: None.

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

25 MR. VENTURA: Next Past Due is Tierra. And this is for
\$15,437.50. And the reason for it being late is invoices
were received from the Sanitary District on 6/24/2020.

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

Questions/Comments:

MR. LOPEZ: Question from Lopez. On your invoice it
says that there was an error by operator. Can you explain
that, Ed?

MR. HERRERA: That would be Ben.

1 MR. SANTEN: We're assuming something occurred somehow
2 with that water break on Michigan Avenue there. The day that
it happened there was some sort of surge or something in the
system, pressure surge.

3 MR. LOPEZ: Your note said operator error.

4 MR. HERRERA: No. That was for the Past Due.

5 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Ray Lopez, this is Allegretti. I read
6 that question too in my e-mail back to Ed. And that was
reproduced I saw and put in the packet.

7 There is no identity of anybody that did anything.
8 I think Ed was making -- go ahead.

9 MR. SANTEN: No. It was basically my observation that
10 the water operator in my perspective. I don't know who did
it or if anyone did anything.

11 MR. LOPEZ: Okay. Well, thank you, Eddy, for bringing
12 attention to it because that's a big amount. At least you're
on top of it. Thank you.

13 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Let me just say that Ed has been
14 spending a lot of resources and energy in identifying and
eliminating pressure surges which I think conventional wisdom
is contribute to an opportunity for main brakes.

15 MR. LOPEZ: Okay, Joe. Thank you.

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

18 MR. VENTURA: Next we have Calumet City Plumbing. The
19 past due amount is \$25,975. And the delinquency reason is
invoices were not sent to AP Clerk until requested.

20 Motion to approve Calumet City Plumbing Past Due Invoice made
by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

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

23 MR. VENTURA: Next we have Core & Main for \$1,100.60.
24 And the reason for delinquency is vendor did not send invoice
until the end of June 2020.

25

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

3 Questions/Comments: None.

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

6 MR. VENTURA: Next on the agenda we have EC Auto for
7 \$300. And the delinquency reason is invoices were sent to
8 the wrong department. Water Department received this on
9 6/23/20.

10 Motion to approve EC Auto Past Due Invoice made by Joseph
11 Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

12 Questions/Comments: None.

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

15 MR. VENTURA: There is one more item. It was Brown
16 Equipment Company. And this is under Distribution. And this
17 is for \$10,180. And this is for valve exercising equipment.
18 Anthony is going to explain what happened there.

19 MR. HERRERA: It's in Winna's packet. I didn't list it
20 on the agenda. However it was listed on Winna's agenda. If
21 you look inside of her report, you'll see that it's in there.
22 And if Ed wants to elaborate on it if anybody has any
23 questions.

24 MR. SANTEN: Yes. The City owns a valve turning piece
25 of equipment that must have been purchased quite sometime
ago. It's hydraulically operated.

So the invoice that you have there is to make the
hydraulic units electrical operated and also purchase another
unit for Distribution. So Filtration has one operation of
valve turner and the Distribution side would have one
operation valve turner electrical.

And the main reason you need that is some of these
valves are, believe it or not, almost 300 turns or more, the
bigger ones. But it's safer to do that for the employees to
not ruin their backs. And I recommend that you purchase that
equipment for this valve.

MR. LOPEZ: What was the invoice?

1 MR. SANTEN: The total amount I don't have it in front
of me.

2 MR. VENTURA: The total amount is \$10,180.

3 MR. LOPEZ: I don't have any information. So was that
4 an emergency?

5 MR. EL HARIT: I do agree with Ed. We do need this
equipment. I mean like for example like he said 300 turns to
6 500 turns. So I recommend that we get it.

7 MR. SANTEN: We need the equipment. I am not sure
emergency. But if we don't have it we can't operate the
8 system. So I'm not sure how I could answer that.

9 MR. LOPEZ: I suggest at the next meeting you send us a
copy of the invoice because I don't have anything in front of
10 me.

11 MR. SANTEN: I gave that to Winna. But I will make sure
I give you all the information. That's not problem.

12 MR. HERRERA: Raymond, it's inside of Winna's packet.
13 Look inside of Winna's. It's in there.

14 MR. SANTEN: Okay. Good. That's the background then.

15 MR. LOPEZ: It's not in my pocket. In my packet I've
got 37 blank sheets. Somebody made a mistake or double
16 copied. I don't know. But I have 37 blank sheets. And I
checked every one of them. I don't have that one.

17 MR. HERRERA: It's the last item.

18 MR. LOPEZ: This was not on the agenda, was it? It was
19 not on the agenda?

20 MR. HERRERA: It's in the packet. But it wasn't listed
on the agenda.

21 MR. LOPEZ: I don't have it in the packet.

22 MR. HERRERA: It's the last item in Winna's, the
23 Waterworks Board, her notes that she makes out, her report.

24 MR. LOPEZ: Give me a minute.

25 MR. HERRERA: Henry just showed me. Look towards the

1 end of the packet right before Calumet City. Ray, it's
2 called Bec Brown.

3 MR. VENTURA: It's like three-quarters of the way into
4 the package.

5 MR. LOPEZ: Okay. I got it now okay. Thank you.

6 MR. VENTURA: You're welcome.

7 Motion to approve Brown Equipment Company made by Joseph
8 Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

9 Questions/Comments: None.

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

11 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

12 REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL:

13 MR. VENTURA: Do we have any report from counsel?

14 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Just very briefly the due diligence for
15 our rate case is ongoing. There's lots of work to be done.
16 We anticipate some significant resistance from not only the
17 IURC, but from maybe our industrial community. But our
18 consultants are working diligently.

19 There's lots of things going on. But the other
20 item that I was recently involved in, the Lead Service Water
21 Replacement Project is ongoing. Ed will correct me. But
22 there's another million dollar plus SRS money to be spent.

23 I think our consultant -- I'm trying to think of
24 our consultant.

25 MR. SANTEN: His name is George.

MR. ALLEGRETTI: Pardon me?

MR. SANTEN: George, right?

MR. ALLEGRETTI: Yeah, George. I'm going blank on the
name of the company.

MR. SANTEN: First Group.

MR. ALLEGRETTI: First Group Engineering is preparing an
order for future consideration by the Board modifying the

1 terms of our current contract with Calumet City Plumbing.
2 And that will be coming up. And the ongoing explanation will
3 also be there. That's my report.

4 MR. VENTURA: Thank you.

5 FINANCIAL REPORT: None.

6 UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT:

8 MR. LOPEZ: Tell Wilma thank you for the 37 blank
9 sheets. But I could use the extra paper. Thank you.

10 * Next Regular Meeting Date: July 20, 2020
11 @ 5:00 p.m.

12 Motion to adjourn was made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by
13 Anthony Askounis.

14 * Meeting ended at 5:37 p.m.

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1 Approval of the Meeting Minutes of
2 Tuesday, July 7, 2020
3 Approved and Signed _____

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6 _____
7 John Bakota, President

8
9 /s/ Henry Ventura
10 _____
11 Henry Ventura, Vice President

12 /s/ Joseph Ochoa
13 _____
14 Joseph Ochoa, Member

15 (s/ Anthony Askonis
16 _____
17 Anthony Askounis, Member

18
19 /s/ Ray Lopez
20 _____
21 Ray Lopez, Member


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23 
24 _____
25 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 15th day of July, 2020.



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



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