

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting Minutes  
May 3, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

STAFF:

Joseph Allegretti  
Winna Guzman  
Anthony Herrera  
Edward Santen  
Dr. Abdul Zehraoui

Reported by: Fissinger & Associates, Ltd.

By: Peggy S. LaLonde

Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Present in Chambers: Henry Ventura, Joseph  
Ochoa, John Bakota, Anthony Askounis  
Present via Phone: Ray Lopez

STAFF Present in Chambers: Winna Guzman  
Present via Phone: Joseph Allegretti,  
Bill Biller

MR. VENTURA: Meeting of the East Chicago  
Department of Waterworks Board come to order. Entertain  
a motion to approve minutes of April 19, 2021.

MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

MR. OCHOA: Second.

MR. VENTURA: Any comments or questions?

(None)

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
Opposed: None

MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.  
Check Warrants - Warrant 042021 WF,  
amount of \$175,392.47. Do I have a motion to approve?

MR. OCHOA: Motion to approve.

1 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

2 MR. VENTURA: Any comments or questions?  
3 (None)

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

6 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.  
7 Check Warrant 042021 WB, amount of  
8 \$48,017.00. Do I have a motion to approve?

9 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to approve.

10 MR. OCHOA: Second.

11 MR. VENTURA: Any comments or questions?  
12 (None)

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

15 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.  
16 Check Warrant 050321 WB, in the  
17 amount of \$168,184.42. Do I have a motion to approve?

18 MR. OCHOA: Motion to approve.

19 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

20 MR. VENTURA: Any comments or questions?  
21 (None)

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

24 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.  
25 Next we have approval of Payroll  
Warrant 043021, \$37,111.13, payroll dates of 4/10/21 to  
4/23/21. Do I have a motion to approve?

MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

MR. BAKOTA: Second.

MR. VENTURA: Any comments or questions?  
(None)

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

1 Opposed: None

2 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.  
Payroll Warrant 043021, \$17,773.14,  
3 Utilities Payroll, dates of 4/10/21 to 4/23/21. Do I  
have a motion to approve.

4 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

5 MR. OCHOA: Second.

6 MR. VENTURA: Any comments or questions?  
7 (None)

8 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
Opposed: None

9

MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.  
10 Next on the agenda we have  
Filtration Report, Dr. Abdul. No Report.  
11 Next we have Water Report, Miss  
Winna Guzman.

12

MS. GUZMAN: Good evening, Board members,  
13 Winna Guzman, Water Department. I have submitted a  
report related to Water Department activities. If you  
14 have any questions on this, I would be happy to answer.

15 MR. VENTURA: Any questions for Winna?

16 MR. BAKOTA: In your pamphlet it shows a  
blue tag was put. What is a blue tag? I know they have  
17 the red tag.

18 MS. GUZMAN: It's to change the account  
because the house was sold or the property was sold, so  
19 we blue tag to contact us for notification, to touch  
base.

20

MR. BAKOTA: Thanks.

21

MR. VENTURA: Thank you, Winna.

22

MS. GUZMAN: You're welcome. Any other  
23 questions? (None)

24 MR. VENTURA: Next we have -- is there a  
Distribution Report.

25

1 MS. GUZMAN: No.

2 MR. VENTURA: New business. First under  
3 New Business, we have a bid award and the award goes to  
4 Hasse Construction Company, for a bid amount of  
\$119,085.00, water main slip lining project at CSX  
railroad.

5 MR. ALLEGRETTI: This is Allegretti. Jim  
6 Dean, the engineer that designed this project, was on  
the call. Jim, are you on the call?

7 MR. DEAN: I am.

8 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Mr. President, if you  
9 care to hear some detail, he's free to answer any  
questions about this.

10 MR. VENTURA: Sure. Are there any  
11 questions for Jim about the project or the bid award?

12 MR. BAKOTA: I'd like to know what it is,  
slight details.

13 MR. VENTURA: Question is posed about  
14 exactly what that project is or takes.

15 MR. DEAL: Sorry about that. Thanks.  
16 This bid was for repair of the 24-inch water main. It  
was approximately a year ago, I believe, that we had a  
17 leaking water main at the railroad that was causing some  
settlement on their tracks and ponding. So Hasse  
18 Construction at the time isolated the main between the  
north and south side of the track and the repair was  
19 near the tracks -- within about six feet -- and this  
project avoided excavation right at their track because  
it was a hazard to traveling trains.

20 So, the project repair included  
excavation outside of the right-of-way intersecting the  
21 existing 24-inch water main, that I believe it was 70,  
80 years old, and cutting it out at each end of the  
22 opposite -- well, at the north right-of-way, left side,  
and then south of the tracks at a fair and safe  
23 distance. This will be installing a 20-inch HDPE type  
or plastic pipe, fuseable and sliding it through the  
24 existing 24-inch and reconnected to the cast iron main.

25 So that repair ended up to be a low

1 bid by Hasse for \$119,085.00 as noted.

2 MR. LOPEZ: Was that a temporary bid?

3 MR. DEAL: I'm sorry?

4 MR. LOPEZ: That's a temporary repair?

5 MR. DEAL: No, this is a permanent repair  
6 for this and this existing water main will act like a  
7 casting type. It has been permitted with the CSX  
8 railroad, so we are good with this. It's a permanent  
9 solution to the joints that were leaking and we won't  
10 have to rely on any repair clamps and the old main any  
11 more underneath the railroad tracks. It will be a new  
12 20-inch main that will add the same -- fairly the same  
13 capacity. Definitely more than required in this short  
14 length of a 120 feet.

15 MR. LOPEZ: Thank you.

16 MR. OCHOA: So you went from a 24-inch to  
17 a 20-inch?

18 MR. DEAL: That's right, but the  
19 existing, there is an coefficient C factor of the pipe  
20 and for that pipe that's that old, it's probably a C  
21 value of 100. So there is a lot more friction than the  
22 HDPE pipe that's very smooth and usually has a C factor  
23 of 150. So by the time you calculate hydraulic capacity  
24 of each, there was hardly any reduction, especially when  
25 you are only talking 120 feet at 7,000 gallons a minute.  
It was less than a tenth of a PSI drop through that  
pipe.

MR. OCHOA: All right. Thank you.

MR. VENTURA: Any further questions for  
Mr. Dean? (None) No further questions. Thank you so  
much, Mr. Dean.

Do we have a motion -- this is  
regarding the Hasse Construction bid award -- do I have  
a motion to approve?

MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

MR. VENTURA: Any comments or questions?

1 (None)

2 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
Opposed: None

3

MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.

4 Next we have a proposal and this is  
from Calumet City Plumbing. And this is in regard --  
5 it's in your packet -- an extension of term through  
6/30/2021, regarding the water meter replacement  
6 project. Is there anybody that's explaining this?

7 MS. GUZMAN: This is basically a change  
order requesting extension of time through June 30th, of  
8 2021. Basically to finalize this project and to get  
everything paid up under this program.

9

MR. VENTURA: Any questions for Winna?

10

11 MR. OCHOA: So everything stayed the same  
as far as cost?

12

MS. GUZMAN: Yes.

13

MR. VENTURA: Any comments or questions?

(None)

14

MR. ASKOUNIS: So moved.

15

MR. OCHOA: Second.

16

MR. VENTURA: Roll call.

17

18 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
Opposed: None

19

MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.

20 Next on the agenda, we have a change  
order and this regarding the DN Tanks contract #4,  
Change Order #3. Is there is John Phipps here?  
21 What would be the status on this project or do we table  
it?

22

Winna, you want to speak on this?

23

24 MS. GUZMAN: I think I'd rather have Dr.  
Abdul present so he can discuss this matter. He's  
overseeing that project.

25

MR. VENTURA: I recommend then tabling

1 this so Dr. Abdul can explain and speak on this. Do I  
2 have a motion to table?

3 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to table.

4 MR. BAKOTA: Second.

5 MR. VENTURA: Any comments or questions?  
(None)

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

8 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.  
9 Next we have Resolution WD 21-06.  
10 This is a resolution of the Board of Trustees of the  
11 East Chicago Water Department authorizing the transfer  
12 of appropriations into different budget categories.  
13 Anyone to speak on this?

14 MR. BILLER: This is a resolution  
15 requesting a transfer from salaries into vehicle repair  
16 for \$10,000 and into accounting services of \$25,000 to  
17 cover some of our outside accounting services on the  
18 cost to surface study.

19 MR. VENTURA: Any questions for Bill?  
20 (None) Do I have a motion?

21 MR. LOPEZ: Make a motion to approve.

22 MR. OCHOA: Second.

23 MR. VENTURA: Any comments or questions?  
24 (None)

25 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
Opposed: None

MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.  
Next on agenda, we have a rate sheet  
for Heil 20, and this is seems like eight-inch  
generation model and then 36-inch diameter U.S. made  
version generation model, and 14-inch suppress with  
flange for filling station. Any questions?

MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

1 MR. VENTURA: Any comments or questions?  
(None)

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

4 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.  
We have proposals from Core and Main  
5 for eight hydrants at a cost of \$20,800.00. And a  
second proposal from Core and Main regarding seven  
6 hydrants, at a cost of \$18,725.00.

7 MS. GUZMAN: For each item, right on top  
it says Core and Main 179340, that's the proposal  
8 number. There is actually two quotes. One is from Core  
and Main in the amount of \$20,800.00. The second quote  
9 is from Utilities Supply Company in the amount of  
\$25,040.00. And I would like to propose or recommend  
10 that Core and Main be awarded this proposal for  
\$20,800.00.

11 MR. VENTURA: Second one is a different  
12 one. So, motion to accept Core and Main proposal for  
\$20,800, for eight hydrants. Do I have a motion to  
13 approve?

14 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to approve.

15 MR. OCHOA: Second.

16 MR. VENTURA: Any comments or questions?  
(None)

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

19 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.  
We have a second proposal for seven  
20 hydrants, at a cost of \$18,725.00, from Core and Main.

21 MS. GUZMAN: Again, this is a different  
-- differs in size from the first quote. So this one I  
22 am looking to purchase seven hydrants. We received two  
quotes. One from Core and Main at \$18,725.00. Second  
23 quote from Utility Supply Company, in the amount of  
22,500 five. I recommend that the proposal 1696974 in  
24 the amount of the \$18,725, for Core and Main.

25 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to accept Core and



1 Main.

2 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

3 MR. VENTURA: Any comments or questions?  
4 (None)

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

7 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.  
8 Next we past due accounts. First  
9 one is Burke Engineering, for \$2,616. And the reason  
10 for the delinquent invoice, were given to AP clerk in  
11 late April. Do I have a motion to accept?

12 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

13 MR. OCHOA: Second.

14 MR. VENTURA: Any comments or questions?  
15 (None)

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

18 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.  
19 Next is GPRS, in the amount of  
20 \$4,075. Reason for delinquency, invoices weren't sent  
21 to AP clerk until requested. Do I have a motion to  
22 approve?

23 MR. OCHOA: Motion to approve.

24 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

25 MR. VENTURA: Any comments or questions?

MR. OCHOA: Why is this even past due?

MR. HERRERA: There is a reason on there.

MR. OCHOA: I mean the AP clerk  
requested. Now who requested them?

MR. HERRERA: AP clerk.

MR. OCHOA: So he knew about it. It's  
been known that we had to pay this eventually, why

1 couldn't it just be paid when it went through?

2 MR. HERRERA: Because they never sent it  
3 to the AP clerk. AP clerk doesn't keep track of what is  
4 going out in operations. They keep track of what is  
5 coming in.

6 MR. OCHOA: Okay.

7 MR. VENTURA: Any further questions?

8 (None)

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

11

12 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.

13 Next past due is for \$775.74,  
14 Utility Supply. Delinquency reason was invoices were  
15 received on 4/28/21. Do I have a motion to approve?

16 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

17 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

18 MR. VENTURA: Any further questions?

19 MR. LOPEZ: How come it's dated from last  
20 year? It took that long to get here?

21

22 MR. HERRERA: The invoices were sent and  
23 received by the department this year, in April. The  
24 work must have been performed last year. The invoice  
25 was dated in October. The work was performed, but they  
never sent out the invoice, I guess, to the proper  
person, who's suppose to handle them. They were  
received later in April of this year and we didn't have  
any control over it.

MR. ALLEGRETTI: Director Lopez, let me  
just say this, we do this exercise at the request of the  
controller's office for unpaid invoices over the  
90 days. It's their interpretation of guidance from the  
State Board of Accounts. Actually the legitimate  
perfectly good question of the inquiry, was the service  
performed and satisfied with the invoice. And that's  
what we determined. So sometimes these things are a  
little silly, but I guess that's the exercises we go  
through.

25

1 MR. LOPEZ: It makes us look bad.

2 MR. ALLEGRETTI: There's not much that we  
can do about it. We live with it.

3 MR. VENTURA: Any further questions?

4 (None)

5 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
Opposed: None

6 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.  
7 Next past due is Ferguson and there  
is the amount of \$1,980. Reason for delinquency,  
8 invoices were found in junk mail. Do I have a motion to  
approve?

9 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

10 MR. OCHOA: Second.

11 MR. VENTURA: Any further questions?

12 (None)

13 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
Opposed: None

14 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.  
15 Next on the agenda, we have an  
adjustment for 1100 West Columbus Drive, in the amount  
16 of \$5,326.12, and I believe this is for Central High  
School. Winna will speak on this.

17 MS. GUZMAN: This is in reference to  
18 account 18608, location is 1100 Columbus Drive West,  
that's how we have it in our system. The reason for  
19 adjustment, meter readings came in with no usage. They  
were at zero consumption. We called the account  
20 customer being assessed -- reflecting a credit of  
negative \$10,857.52. So we have to contact you in  
21 assisting with correcting this and contacted Ferguson  
for adjusting the issue with zero consumption. They are  
22 working on adjusting that situation. And at this time I  
am recommending adjustments of bill number 1345941 to  
23 reflect correct usage and amount billed of \$5,326.12.  
We actually went out there and took an actual reading  
24 off the meter so we can get an actual usage, and  
properly billed the customer.

25

1 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
Opposed: None

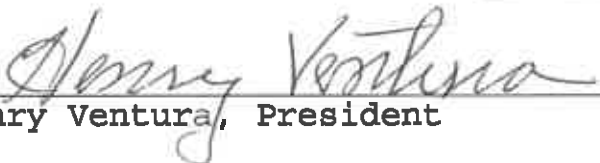
2  
3 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries. Meeting  
adjourned.


4 \*\*\*\*\* Meeting adjourned \*\*\*\*\*

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7  
8

Approval of the Meeting Minutes of  
May 3, 2021

9  
10 Approved and signed \_\_\_\_\_

11   
12 Henry Ventura, President

13   
14 Joseph Ochoa, Vice-President

15 \_\_\_\_\_  
16 John Bakota, Member

17   
18 Anthony Askounis, Member

19   
20 Ray Lopez, Member

21   
22 Anthony Herrera, Secretary

23  
24  
25

1 MR. VENTURA: Do you have any questions  
for Winna?

2 MR. BAKOTA: So the meter was working,  
3 but wasn't sending out?

4 MS. GUZMAN: Somehow sending out zero.  
When Marie produced the bill, it produced a negative  
5 amount owed or credit. So we had it corrected right  
away to get the bill out so we can get paid.

6 MR. OCHOA: Could this have been caught?

7 MS. GUZMAN: Yes, but she did not catch  
8 it in time.

9 MR. VENTURA: Any further questions for  
Winna? (None) Do I have a motion to approve?

10 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

11 MR. OCHOA: Second.

12 MR. VENTURA: Any further questions?  
13 (None)

14 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
Opposed: None

15 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.

16 Next we have report from Legal  
Counsel, Attorney Joseph Allegretti.

17 MR. ALLEGRETTI: No report.

18 MR. VENTURA: Thank you.

19 Next, Financial Report, Bill Biller.

20 MR. BILLER: No report.

21 MR. VENTURA: Any unfinished business?  
(None) Public Comment? (None)

22 Next meeting will be May 17, 2021,  
5:00 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall.

23 Do I have a motion to adjourn?

24 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to adjourn.

25 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

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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 4th day of May, 2021.

*Peggy S. LaLonde*

Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR

