

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

STAFF:

Joseph Allegretti
Winna Guzman
Allan Lee
Ateria Allen

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

Call to Order: 4:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

STAFF Present in Chambers: Rebecca Sliger,
Ateria Allen, Winna Guzman, Joseph Allegretti
(John Bakota chaired meeting.)

MR. BAKOTA: Call to order the meeting of
the East Chicago Board of Waterworks, January 5, 2023.

First item, approval of the minutes
of December 19, 2022. Do I have a motion?

MR. VENTURA: Motion to approve minutes
as written.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

MR. BAKOTA: Any comments or questions on
the motion? (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

Approval of Warrants.

Payroll-Warrant 122322, amount of \$11,456.13, Utilities
Payroll, dates of 12-3-22 to 12-16-22.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

1 MR. VENTURA: Second.

2 MR. BAKOTA: Any comments or questions on
3 the motion? (None) All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

4 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

5 Warrant 122322, amount of
\$46,758.57, Payroll, dates of 12-3-22 to 12-16-22.

6 MR. VENTURA: Motion to accept.

7 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

8 MR. BAKOTA: Any comments or questions on
the motion? (None) All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

9 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

10 Reports: Filtration Report.

11 MS. GUZMAN: Just to note that the
manager is not available today, he's working again. We
12 are still short staffed. Also one of the Filtration
plant operators, actually the chief operator, Thomas
13 Covalt is retiring. I just wanted to inform the Board.
I'll get a card for him so the Board can sign off and we
14 can send it out to him.

15 MR. BAKOTA: How long has been here?

16 MS. GUZMAN: 46 years. It's amazing and
I was very happy that he stayed during that time of
17 need, but we are still continuing to interview. We had
one interview today and next week we have, I believe, a
18 couple more. So we'll keep the Board apprised as far as
operators and I'm sure Obed is going to provide a report
19 at the next meeting, even if it's written. Right now
he's having to work till six, that's why he hasn't been
20 here.

21 MR. VENTURA: Thank you.

22 MR. BAKOTA: Water Report.

23 MS. GUZMAN: I just came back from
vacation so I will have a report next meeting for you.

24 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you. Distribution
25 Report: Allan Lee.

1 MS. GUZMAN: Allan was unable to attend
2 today, and he will be providing a report, updated report
at the next meeting.

3 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you. Legal Counsel,
4 Joseph Allegretti.

5 MR. ALLEGRETTI: I spoke with our bond
6 counsel today, Scott Peck. The rate case before the
IURC is underway. The plan is to do an interim
7 borrowing, a bond anticipation note. Our rate case
includes a request for portion of our rate to pay debt
8 service for future capital improvements, which we have
discussed in the past.

9 The next meeting, probably first
10 meeting in February, we'll advertise for a public
hearing and a document, a resolution for interim
11 borrowing, so-called bond anticipation note, which then
we will be able to repay once we, hopefully, we
12 successfully conclude our rate case and get sufficient
additional revenue to pay the bond principal and
13 interest and debt service, and take out the interim
financing. But it's a work in progress and will be
happening over the next 30 days. It's developing now
14 and I will report on it in the future. That's all.
Thank you.

15 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you. Financial
Report: Bill Biller.

16 MS. SLIGER: We have no report.

17 MR. BAKOTA: New Business. We have
18 several proposals and unless there is an objection by
the Board members, I will go through them all and then
19 you can question it or comment on it, and then vote on
it.

20 MR. ASKOUNIS: Okay.

21 MR. BAKOTA: Calumet City Plumbing, water
22 service repair at 4933 Indianapolis Boulevard,
\$12,750.00.

23 Calumet City Plumbing, water service
repair at 4941 White Oak Avenue, \$3,800.00.

24 Calumet City Plumbing, water service
repair at 3556 Block Avenue, \$6,625.00.

25 Calumet City Plumbing, water service
repair at 5013 Alexander Avenue, \$5,375.00.

1 Calumet City Plumbing. B-box repair
at 5008 Olcott Avenue, \$3,375.00.

2 Calumet City Plumbing, valve repair
at Lincoln Street and Block Avenue, \$8,400.00.

3 Calumet City Plumbing, valve repair
at Parrish Avenue and Chicago Avenue, \$12,150.00.

4 Calumet City Plumbing, meter pit at
4026 Euclid Avenue, \$4,375.00.

5 Calumet City Plumbing, meter pit at
4720 Magoun Avenue, \$7,175.00.

6 Calumet City Plumbing, water main
repair at 4021 Elm Street, \$8,150.00.

7 Calumet City Plumbing, water leak at
4845 Grasselli Avenue, \$6,625.00.

8 Calumet City Plumbing, water service
disconnect at 514 West 148th Street, \$8,595.00.

9 R & D Construction, emergency road
patch repair for 2500 East Chicago Avenue, \$7,771.01.

10 That concludes the list of proposals
under New Business.

11 MR. VENTURA: I'll make a motion to
12 approve the proposals as read.

13 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

14 MR. BAKOTA: Any comments or questions on
the motion? (None) All in favor?

15 (All signify aye.)

16 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

17 Next is agreements. Faegre Drinker,
updated engagement letter for 2023, Water.

18 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Mr. President, Faegre
Drinker as we know, as the Board is well aware, is our
19 rate counsel. Bakertilly is the second engagement
letter the Board will consider on the agenda, is our
20 financial adviser. This is our finance team that's
putting together our rate case before the Indiana
Utilities Regulatory Commission.

21 MR. BAKOTA: So this is the agreement for
22 the new year?

23 MR. ALLEGRETTI: These are engagement
24 letters for 2023 and for this process which has begun.

25 MR. BAKOTA: Do I have a motion to accept
both engagements letters for 2023 from Faegre Drinker

1 and Bakertilly?

2 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

3 MR. VENTURA: Second.

4 MR. BAKOTA: Any comments or questions on
5 the motion? (None) All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

6 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
7 All right, next is rate sheets.
8 USALCO, 2023 rates for liquid aluminum, Filtration. Do
9 I have a motion?

10 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

11 MR. VENTURA: Second.

12 MR. BAKOTA: Any comments or questions on
13 the motion? (None) All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

14 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
15 Next we have Calumet Waste &
16 Recycling Inc., 2023 rates for asphalt and concrete
17 repair. The list is in your packet.

18 MR. ALLEGRETTI: As we discussed earlier
19 on, these rate sheets, the Board will still approve each
20 individual contract for concrete repair, asphalt repair,
21 as it is needed. But this is just kind of preliminary
22 activity, which really isn't all that meaningful. We
23 typically approve these rate sheets.

24 Also, the record should reflect that
25 Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Ochoa have joined
our meeting.

MR. BAKOTA: Do I have a motion?

MR. VENTURA: Make a motion to approve.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

MR. BAKOTA: Any comments or questions on
the motion? (None) All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
Next is reimbursements, Sanitary
Department. This is from Water. This shows an invoice
for claim paid by Sanitary District July 11, 2022, for

1 Faegre Drinker, amount of \$14,556.00. Claim is paid
2 from Fund 609, construction. Bakertilly was verifying
3 payment to be reimbursed by SRF. They noted that the
invoice was for services in regards to Water Department
not Sanitary District.

4 Do I have a motion?

5 MR. ASKOUNKIS: Motion to accept.

6 MR. VENTURA: Second.

7 MR. BAKOTA: Any comments or questions on
the motion? (None) All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

8 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

9 Past due invoice: Calumet Electric
Supply, Filtration. Reason, they said invoice was
10 missing and the company contacted me and resent it to
me. It's \$135.02.

11 MR. VENTURA: Motion to approve.

12 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

13 MR. BAKOTA: Any comments or questions on
the motion? (None) All in favor?
14 (All signify aye.)

15 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

16 Next we have election of officers.
The nominations for president are now open.

17 MR. OCHOA: I nominate John Bakota.

18 MR. BAKOTA: Are there any other
nominations for president? (None) Nomination for
president is now closed.

19 MR. ASKOUNIS: I second the nomination.

20 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor?
21 (All signify aye.)

22 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries. Thank you
for the vote of confidence:
23 Nominations for Vice-president is
now open.

24 MR. ASKOUNIS: I would nominate Henry
Ventura a for Vice-president.
25

1 MR. BAKOTA: Are there any other
2 nominations for vice-president? (None) Nominations for
3 Vice-president are closed.

4 MR. LOPEZ: I second the nomination.

5 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

6 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
We have a new Vice-president.

7 MR. VENTURA: I accept.

8 MR. BAKOTA: Nominations for secretary is
9 now open.

10 MR. ASKOUNIS: I nominate Ateria Allen
11 for secretary.

12 MR. BAKOTA: Any other nominations for
13 secretary? (None) Nominations for secretary are
14 closed.

15 MR. VENTURA: I second the nomination.

16 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

17 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
18 Congratulations Ateria.

19 MS. ALLEN: Thank you.

20 MR. BAKOTA: That concludes the election
21 of officers.

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

23 Our next meeting will be Thursday,
24 January 19th, note the change in day there. Do I have a
25 motion for adjournment?

MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to adjourn.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

MR. BAKOTA: All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
Meeting adjourned.

**** Meeting adjourned ****

Approval of the Meeting Minutes of
January 5, 2023

Approved and signed January 19, 2023



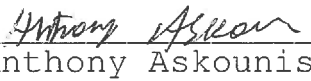
Joseph Ochoa, President



John Bakota, Vice-President



Henry Ventura, Member



Anthony Askounis, Member

Ray Lopez, Member



Ateria Allen, 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 7th day of January, 2023.

Peggy S. LaLonde



Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR