CITY OF EAST CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS:
Joseph Ochoa, President
Esteban (Steve) Hernandez, Vice-President
John Bakota, Member
Anthony Askounis, Member
Ray Lopez, Member

STAFF:
Joseph Allegretti
Winna Guzman
Allan Lee
Rebecca Sliger
Alysia Dunbar

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

Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Present in Chambers: Joseph Ochoa, Steve Hernandez, Anthony Askounis, Ray Lopez,

Staff Present in Chambers: Alysia Dunbar, Secretary

Staff Present via Zoom: Joseph Allegretti, Legal Counsel

MR. OCHOA: The meeting of the East Chicago Department of Waterworks Board of Directors will now come to order for January 5th, 2026.
Can I get a motion to approve minutes from the December 22nd, 2025 meeting as written?

MR. OCHOA: Motion to approve.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

MR. OCHOA: All in favor?
(All signify aye.)
MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
First on agenda is election of officers. Nominations for president.

MR. LOPEZ: I nominate Joseph Ochoa.

MR. OCHOA: Are there any other nominations? (None) I accept.

MR. ASKOUNIS: I nominate Steve Hernandez for Vice-President.

MR. OCHOA: Any other nominations for Vice-President? (None)

MR. HERNANDEZ: I accept. I nominate Ms. Dunbar as our recording secretary.

MR. OCHOA: Any other nominations? (None)

MS. DUNBAR: I accept.

MR. OCHOA: Can I get a motion to accept Joseph Ochoa as President, Steve Hernandez as Vice-President, and Alyssa Dunbar as recording secretary for the 2026 calendar year?

MR. HERNANDEZ: Make a motion.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

MR. OCHOA: All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries. Congratulations everyone. Next is approval of the minutes from December 22nd, 2025 as written.

MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Second.

MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions? (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries. Approval of Warrants: Payroll Warrant 010226, amount of $37,223.29, payroll dates of 12-13-25 to 12-26-25; Payroll Warrant 010226, amount of $17,162.50, payroll dates of 12-13-25 to 12-26-25. Do I have a motion?

MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

MR. LOPEZ: Second.

MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions? (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Reports: Water Report: Winna Guzman. Not present.

Distribution/Filtration Report: Allan Lee. Not present.

Legal Counsel: Joseph Allegretti.

MR. ALLEGRETTI: No report, Mr. President.

MR. OCHOA: Financial Report: Rebecca Sliger. Not present, but report is inserted in our packets.

Resolution WD 26-01, East Chicago Utilities Administration Fund Appropriation (Water).

Do I have a motion?

MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Second.

MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions? (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Agreements: 120 Water - EBR - renewal 2026 - East Chicago Waterworks, $19,800.00 (Water).

Christopher Burke - Professional Engineering Services 2026, not-to-exceed $50,000.00.

Do I have a motion?

MR. HERNANDEZ: Motion to approve.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions? (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Proposal and Quotations: Hasse Construction. - waterline repair near Canal and Riley,

$26,073.18 (Water).

Hasse Construction - 16-inch insert valves Columbus Drive, $214,000.00 (Water).

Do I have a motion?

MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions? (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Rate Sheets: Microbac Service Proposal - East Chicago Filtration drinking water lead - not-to-exceed $2,000.00 (Water/Filtration).

Shannon Chemical Corp. - 2026 Citric Acid/Phosphate pricing removal, not-to-exceed $230,000.00 (Water).

Air Services Company - labor rates 10/10/25, not-to-exceed $100,000.00 (Water).

SDI hourly rates, not-to-exceed $10,000.00 (Water).

Do I have a motion?

MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Second.

MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions? (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Past Due: Cintas - invoice #4246934542, $113.02 (Water). Explanation: Invoice was received on December 19th, 2025 after request was made upon review of the account statement. Invoice is dated 10/17/25.

Do I have a motion?

MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Second.

MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions? (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Mechanical Concepts - invoice

#SD11746 - amount of $1,212.35 (Water). Explanation: invoice received on December 19, 2025, after request was made upon review of the account statement. Invoice dated 11/13/25.

Do I have a motion?

MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Second.

MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions? (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Altorfer - invoice #E1704801, amount of $147,989.99 (Water). Explanation: Invoice was received in late September but project was not completed until December 19, 2025.

Do I have a motion?

MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Second.

MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions? (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Cathodic Protection Management - invoice #10959, amount of $1,450.00 (Water). Explanation: Invoice received on December 31, 2025, after multiple attempts were made requesting that it be sent. Upon research the vendor realized they had the wrong e-mail address in their system. Invoice dated 11/14/25.

Do I have a motion?

MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Second.

MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions? (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Unfinished Business: None

Public Comment: None

Our next meeting date is Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., here in East Chicago

Council Chambers.

Do I have a motion for adjournment?

MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to adjourn.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Second.

MR. OCHOA: All in favor?
(All signify aye.)
MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
Meeting adjourned. Thank you.

***** Meeting Adjourned *****

Approval of the Meeting Minutes of
January 5, 2026

Approved and signed January 22, 2026

Joseph Ochoa, President

Steve Hernandez, Vice-President

John Bakota, Member

Anthony Askounis, Member

Ray Lopez, Member

Alysia Dunbar, Recording Secretary

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, 2026.

Peggy S. LaLonde

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