

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS:

John Bakota, President
Henry Ventura, Vice-President
Joseph Ochoa, 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: 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Present in Chambers: John Bakota, Joseph
Ochoa, Ray Lopez, Henry Ventura, Anthony Askounis
STAFF Present in Chambers: Rebecca Sliger,
Ateria Allen, Winna Guzman, Joseph Allegretti

MR. BAKOTA: Call to order the meeting of
the East Chicago Board of Waterworks, January 19, 2023.

First item, approval of the minutes
of January 5, 2023. 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.

Payroll Warrants: Warrant 010623,
amount of \$12,041.98, Utilities Payroll, dates of
12-17-22 to 12-30-22.

MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to accept.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

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

2 (All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

3 Warrant 010623, amount of
4 \$51,752.95, payroll, dates of 12-17-22 to 12-30-22.

5 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to accept.

6 MR. VENTURA: Second.

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

8 (All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

9 Accounts Payroll: Warrant 011023
WB, amount of \$135,629.69.

10 MR. VENTURA: Make a motion to approve.

11 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

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

13 (All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

14 Warrant 011923 WD, amount of
15 \$176,455.69.

16 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

17 MR. VENTURA: Second.

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

19 (All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

20 Warrants 011923 CD, amount of
\$325.48.

21 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

22 MR. VENTURA: Second.

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

24 (All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

25 Reports: Filtration Report.

1 MS. GUZMAN: Winna Guzman. Just to let
2 you know, Obed did submit his report. He's not able to
3 be here today because he's working till six. He
4 provided his report in writing. If you have any
5 questions I'll be happy to answer or forward that
6 information to him.

7 MR. OCHOA: Has Hasse come out and looked
8 at that raw sample?

9 MS. GUZMAN: I think they are working on
10 it. I believe they are having a hard time trying to
11 find the part or parts, but I'll have him give you an
12 update on that at the next meeting.

13 MR. BAKOTA: Any other questions? (None)
14 Next is Water Report, Winna Guzman.

15 MS. GUZMAN: I provided a report for your
16 review. If you have any questions, I'll be happy to
17 answer them.

18 MR. BAKOTA: No questions. Next is
19 Distribution Report, Allan Lee.

20 MS. GUZMAN: Mr. Lee was unable to make
21 it today and he provided a report for your review, and I
22 also provided the large meter evaluation report from
23 M.E. Simpson which was completed. Also the valve
24 assessment from M.E. Simpson, which was also completed,
25 as well as there is also another M.E. Simpson report
which is the hydrant maintenance for 2022.

MR. BAKOTA: Any questions? (None)
Next, legal counsel, Joe Allegretti.

MR. ALLEGRETTI: If you recall, on
December 8th the Board adopted a declaratory resolution
concerning plan improvements to the distribution system
and the filtration system. I think the Public Works
project identified that as the Roxana Extension, the
expansion of the membrane, skids, new water tower, and
the lead service line project. It's a two-step process.

Our bond council has caused the
advertisement of a public hearing at the February 6th
meeting at 5:00 o'clock, inviting persons, and
taxpayers, and residents, to comment on the proposed
financing and bond issue. After that there will be what
is called a confirmatory resolution confirming the

1 declaratory resolution put on the agenda for the Board
2 to consider.

3 I'm just giving you a heads up.
4 Winna reminded me to advise you of that and I thank you
5 for that. I guess we'll cross that bridge on
6 February 6th.

7 MR. BAKOTA: Financial Report: William
8 Biller and Rebecca Sliger.

9 MR. BILLER: No report.

10 MS. SLIGER: No report.

11 MR. BAKOTA: New Business: Compliance
12 Requirement Storm Water Pollution Management, that's
13 just general information in your packet, it doesn't
14 require action.

15 Next is proposals. Unless there is
16 an objection from the Board, I will go through them and
17 then we'll deal with one motion.

18 Hasse Construction, emergency, raw
19 plant remove, take apart and investigate possible
20 repairs for sample well, \$2,000.

21 Hasse Construction, emergency,
22 16-inch main on Chicago Avenue, \$37,707.23.

23 Calumet City Plumbing Company Inc.,
24 water service repair at 3515 Fir Street. Amount of
25 \$10,375.00.

Calumet City Plumbing Company Inc.,
water main break at 5523 Northcote Avenue. Cost of
\$7,150.00.

Calumet City Plumbing Company Inc.,
water main break at Roxana Drive and Indianapolis
Boulevard. Cost of \$8,100.00.

Calumet City Plumbing Company, Inc.,
emergency service line and meter pit leak repair at 3606
Fire Street. Cost of \$6,375.00.

Calumet City Plumbing Company, Inc.,
emergency meter pit leak repair at 4113 Fir Street.
Cost of \$6,125.00.

Pro Therm Industries, emergency
flange immersion heater. Cost of \$11,200.00.

That concludes the list of
proposals. Do I have a motion?

MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

MR. OCHOA: Second.

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

2 (All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

3 Next is rate sheets. Brenntag Great
4 Lakes, rates for Brennfloc, sodium bisulfite, sodium
hydroxide, waterworx, not-to-exceed \$150,000.00.

5 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

6 MR. VENTURA: Second.

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

8 (All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

9 Austgen Electric Inc., 2023 service
10 rate.

11 MS. SLIGER: There should be a
not-to-exceed \$150,000.00 for that. Like we said, these
12 are rate sheets. We are going to use several quotes
from several different places, depending on who actually
13 has the product. But we utilize our rate sheets then to
verify when we get invoices that they are actually
14 charging us the correct rate that they agreed upon for
the year.

15 MR. BAKOTA: So we have the option to use
it or not?

16 MS. SLIGER: We always solicit multiple
17 vendors, unless there is a product that is only carried
by a certain vendor, so then there is no option for that
18 then.

19 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you. Do I have a
20 motion?

21 MR. VENTURA: Motion to approve.

22 MR. OCHOA: Second.

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

24 (All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

25 Next is past due invoices. Calumet
Electric Supply, Filtration. This was an invoice that

1 was missing and the company contacted me and resent it
2 to me. This is cost of \$135.02.

3 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

4 MR. VENTURA: Second.

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

7 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
8 United Rentals, Filtration. Reason,
9 received invoice when books were closed. This is cost
10 of \$2,198.95.

11 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to accept.

12 MR. VENTURA: Second.

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

15 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
16 Next is M.E. Simpson, Water.
17 Reason, invoice was received on January 11, '23 along
18 with the finalized report. This is for \$46,172.00.

19 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

20 MR. VENTURA: Second.

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

23 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
24 Next is Master Meter, Water. Order
25 was placed for three meters, upon receipt of said
meters, RMA, return merchandise authorization, was cost
of \$6,250.00.

MR. VENTURA: 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.

1 Next we have Memorandum from the
2 East Chicago City Controller - additional encumbered
3 appropriations, balance available year/end 2022. This
4 is just a matter of information.

5 Unfinished Business: None

6 Public Comment: None

7 Next meeting will be Monday,
8 February 6th, here in the council chambers at 5:00 p.m..
9 Do I have a motion for adjournment?

10 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to adjourn.

11 MR. VENTURA: Second.

12 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor?

13 (All signify aye.)

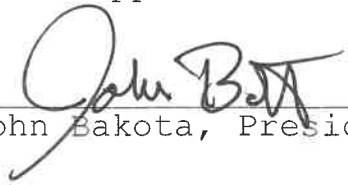
14 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

15 Meeting adjourned.

16 **** Meeting adjourned ****
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Approval of the Meeting Minutes of
January 19, 2023

Approved and signed February 6th, 2023



John Bakota, President

Henry Ventura, Vice-President

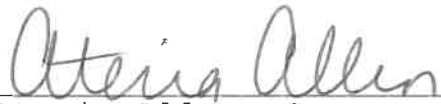


Joseph Ochoa, Member

Anthony Askounis, Member



Ray Lopez, Member



Ateria Allen, 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 23rd day of January, 2023.

Peggy S. LaLonde



Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR