

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS:	STAFF:
John Bakota, President	Winna Guzman
Henry Ventura, Vice-President	Ben El Harit
Joseph Ochoa, Member	Ed Santeen
Anthony Askounis, Member	Joseph Allegretti
Ray Lopez, Member	Esperanza Ceja-Ramirez

Reported by: Fissinger & Associates, Ltd.

By: Peggy S. LaLonde

Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Present: John Bakota, Henry Ventura
Present Telephonic: Joseph Ochoa

Staff Present: Winna Guzman

Staff Present Telephonic: Ed Santen, Joseph Allegretti, Dr. Zehaoui, and Ben El Harit

MR. BAKOTA: We have a quorum. Now we'll go to election of officers. We are going to have a nomination for president, vice-president, and secretary. So nominations for president are now open.

I nominate Henry Ventura for president.

MR. BAKOTA: Any other nominations?
(None) Being none, nominations for president is now closed.

Next, nomination for Vice-president is now open.

MR. VENTURA: I nominate Joseph Ochoa.

MR. BAKOTA: Are there any other nominations? (None) Being none, nominations for vice-president are now closed.

Nominations for secretary is now open.

1 MR. VENTURA: I nominate Anthony Herrera.

2 MR. BAKOTA: Are there any other
3 nominations? (None) Being none, nominations for
4 secretary are now closed.

5 We have a nomination of Henry
6 Ventura for president. All in favor signify by saying
7 aye?

8 (All signify aye.)

9 MR. BAKOTA: Nomination carries. Next is
10 Joseph Ochoa as Vice-president. All in favor signify by
11 saying aye?

12 (All signify aye.)

13 MR. BAKOTA: Nomination carries. Next is
14 Anthony Herrera as secretary. All in favor signify by
15 saying aye?

16 (All signify aye.)

17 MR. BAKOTA: Nomination carries.
18 That being said, I'm going to turn
19 everything over to our new president, so he could take
20 over the meeting.

21 MR. VENTURA: Thank you, John. Okay. We
22 are going to start first with approval of the minutes
23 from December 21, 2020, as written. Do I have a motion
24 to approve?

25 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion.

MR. BAKOTA: Second.

MR. VENTURA: Any questions or comments?
(None) All in favor signify by saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.
Next approval of Check Warrants.
WARRANT 012021 CD, amount of \$387.74.

MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

MR. BAKOTA: Second.

MR. VENTURA: Any questions or comments?
(None) All in favor signify by saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.
WARRANT 011921 WB, amount \$135,649.45.

MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

1 MR. OCHOA: Second.

2 MR. VENTURA: Any questions or comments?

(None) All in favor signify by saying aye?

3 (All signify aye.)

MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.

4 WARRANT 123120 WF, amount \$64,884.00

5 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

6 MR. OCHOA: Second.

7 MR. VENTURA: Any questions or comments?

(None) All in favor signify by saying aye?

8 (All signify aye.)

MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.

9 WARRANT 011321 WB, amount \$153.60.

10 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion.

11 MR. BAKOTA: Second.

12 MR. VENTURA: Any questions or comments?

(None) All in favor signify by saying aye?

13 (All signify aye.)

MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.

14 WARRANT 012021 WB, amount \$159,974.41

15 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

16 MR. OCHOA: Second.

17 MR. VENTURA: Any questions or comments?

(None) All in favor signify by saying aye?

18 (All signify aye.)

MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.

19 Next we have approval of payroll
warrants.

20 PAYROLL WARRANT 010821 - \$36,724.55

Dates 12-19-20 to 1-1-21

21

MR. OCHOA: Make a motion.

22

MR. BAKOTA: Second.

23

MR. VENTURA: Any questions or comments?

24 (None) All in favor signify by saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

25 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.

1 PAYROLL WARRANT 122320 - Utilities Payroll - \$22,333.74
2 Dates 12-5-20 to 12-18-20

2

MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

3

MR. OCHOA: Second.

4

5 MR. VENTURA: Any questions or comments?
(None) All in favor signify by saying aye?
(All signify aye.)

6

MR. VENTURA:
7 PAYROLL WARRANT 010821 - Utilities Payroll - \$19,398.47
8 Dates of 12-19-20 to 1-1-21

7

MR. OCHOA: Make a motion.

8

9

MR. BAKOTA: Second.

10

MR. VENTURA: Any questions or comments?
(None) All in favor signify by saying aye?
(All signify aye.)

11

MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.

12

Next we have Filtration report, Ben
13 El Harit.

13

MR. EL HARIT: No report at this time.

14

MR. VENTURA: Next is Water report, Winna
15 Guzman.

16

MS. GUZMAN: Winna Guzman, Director of
17 Water Department. I have submitted my report to the
Board. If you have any questions on that I would be
happy to answer.

18

MR. VENTURA: Any questions for Winna?
19 (None) Thank you.

Distribution report, Ed Santen.

20

MR. SANTEN: I have no report at this
21 time, Mr. President.

22

MR. VENTURA: New business. Resolution
23 WD 21-01. This is a resolution of the Board of Trustees
of the East Chicago Water Department amending Resolution
24 WD 20-17, being a resolution establishing a salary and
wage schedule for the employees of the City of East
Chicago Utility Division, for fiscal year 2021.

25

1 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

2 MR. OCHOA: Second.

3 MR. VENTURA: Any questions or comments?
(None) All in favor signify by saying aye?

4 (All signify aye.)

5 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.

6 Next we have COEC Memorandum from
the City of East Chicago controller's office, regarding
encumbered appropriations and balances for year 2020.
Are there any questions?

7

8 MR. BAKOTA: Make a motion this be
recorded on our minutes.

9 MR. OCHOA: Second.

10 MR. VENTURA: All in favor signify by
saying aye?

11 (All signify aye.)

12 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.

13 Next we have agreements. The first
agreement is for Calumet City Plumbing: 429 Cline
Avenue, fire hydrant installation, in the amount -- I
believe it's \$14,990. Next is for West 151st and
14 Northcote, that's four-inch meter vault, at Kosciuszko
Park. The next one is 1005 E. Chicago Avenue, again
15 four-inch meter vault at Riley Park. And the last one
is 400 East Chicago Avenue, this is for a pressure
16 washer. Do I have a motion to accept these agreements
with Calumet City Plumbing?

17

18 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

19

MR. OCHOA: Second.

20

MR. VENTURA: Any questions or comments?
(None) All in favor signify by saying aye?

21 (All signify aye.)

MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.

22 Next we have GPS, 2021 agreement,
for waterline locates in East Chicago. Do I have a
motion to accept?

23

24 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to accept.

25

MR. BAKOTA: Second.

25

1 MR. VENTURA: Any questions or comments?
2 (None) All in favor signify by saying aye?
(All signify aye.)

3 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.
4 Next we have Bosak Ford, premium
5 maintenance plan. Do I have a motion to accept?

6 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to accept.

7 MR. OCHOA: Second.

8 MR. VENTURA: Any questions or comments?
9 (None) All in favor signify by saying aye?
(All signify aye.)

10 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.
11 Next we have Bakertilly, 2021
12 general accounting services. Do I have a motion to
13 approve?

14 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

15 MR. BAKOTA: Second.

16 MR. VENTURA: Any questions or comments?
17 (None) There is a not to exceed amount of \$52,500.00.
18 All in favor signify by saying aye?

19 (All signify aye.)

20 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.
21 Next is Shannon Chemical, citric
22 acid agreement for the Filtration Plant. Do I have a
23 motion to approve?

24 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

25 MR. OCHOA: Second.

MR. VENTURA: Any questions or comments?
(None) All in favor signify by saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.
Next is Brenntag Great Lakes, poly
aluminum chloride agreement. Do I have a motion to
approve?

MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

MR. BAKOTA: Second.

MR. VENTURA: Any questions or comments?

1 (None) All in favor signify by saying aye?
(All signify aye.)

2 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.

3 Next we have Resolution 2021-56.
4 This is regarding Highland Glass, and that's for
\$16,885.00. Also there's Corelis Roofing for
5 \$15,793.00. This is for both?

6 MS. GUZMAN: Yes. We are requesting
7 both.

8 MR. VENTURA: Do I have a motion to
9 approve?

10 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve
11 both.

12 MR. BAKOTA: Second.

13 MR. VENTURA: Any questions or comments?

14 (None) All in favor signify by saying aye?
(All signify aye.)

15 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.

16 Next is Resolution 2021-31,
17 water/sewer hydrant flushing, a not to exceed \$43,500.
18 Do we have a motion to approve this?

19 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

20 MR. OCHOA: Second.

21 MR. VENTURA: Any questions or comments?

22 (None) All in favor signify by saying aye?
(All signify aye.)

23 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.

24 Next we have a small purchasing
25 policy, revised. And this is revising -- amending the
City of East Chicago small purchasing policy from 1,500
to 5,000, maximum amount of \$25,000.

MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

MR. OCHOA: Second.

MR. VENTURA: Any questions or comments?

(None) All in favor signify by saying aye?
(All signify aye.)

MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.

Next we have two adjustments.

1 First one is 3816 Drummond Street, and second one is
2 4752 Drummond. Do we have a motion to accept?

3 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to accept.

4 MR. BAKOTA: Second.

5 MR. VENTURA: Any questions or comments?
(None) All in favor signify by saying aye?
(All signify aye.)

6 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.
Next we have past due accounts.

7 First one is Eurofins, Filtration, for \$100.00. The
8 reason for delinquent invoice, it was overlooked.

9 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

10 MR. OCHOA: Second.

11 MR. VENTURA: Any questions or comments?
(None) All in favor signify by saying aye?
(All signify aye.)

12 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.
Next we have Gateway, from
13 Filtration, for \$12.00. The reason for the delinquency,
14 the invoice was given to department on January 7th,
2021.

15 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

16 MR. OCHOA: Second.

17 MR. VENTURA: Any questions or comments?
(None) All in favor signify by saying aye?
(All signify aye.)

18 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.
19 Compliance report: None
20 Legal Counsel report?

21 MR. ALLEGRETTI: No report.

22 MR. VENTURA: Financial report, Bill
23 Biller.

24 MR. HERRERA: I would request to remove
the report till the next meeting, it's not the correct
25 report.

MR. VENTURA: Any Unfinished Business?

1 (None) Public Comment? (None)

2 Next meeting will be in the Council
3 Chambers, on February 1st, at 5:00 p.m. Do I have a
4 motion to adjourn?

5 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to adjourn.

6 MR. OCHOA: Second.

7 MR. VENTURA: All in favor signify by
8 saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

9 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries. Meeting
10 adjourned.

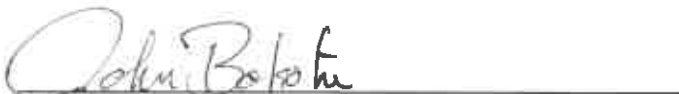
11 ***** Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.*****

12 Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of
13 January 20, 2021

14 Approved and signed _____

15 
16 Henry Ventura, President

17 (S) Joseph Ochoa
18 Joseph Ochoa, Vice-President

19 
20 John Bakota, Member

21 (S) Raymond Lopez
22 Ray Lopez, Member

23 
24 Anthony Askounis, Member

25 
26 Herrera, Secretary

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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 25th day of January, 2021.

Peggy S. LaLonde

Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR

