CITY OF EAST CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 2, 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, John Bakota, Anthony Askounis, Ray Lopez

Staff Present in Chambers: Alysia Dunbar, Secretary
Winna Guzman, Director Water
Allan Lee, Director Operation

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 February 2nd, 2026.
Can I get a motion to approve minutes from the January 22nd, 2026 meeting as written?

MR. HERNANDEZ: Motion to approve.

MR. LOPEZ: Second.

MR. OCHOA: All in favor?
(All signify aye.)
MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Electronically signed by Peggy LaLonde (301-364-327-3860)

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Approval of Warrants: Payroll Warrant 013026, amount $42,082.16, payroll dates of 1/10/26 to 1/23/26.

Warrant 013026, amount $17,486.63, payroll dates of 1/20/26 to 1/23/26.

Do I have a motion?

MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

MR. BAKOTA: Second.

MR. OCHOA: All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Accounts Payable: Warrant 123125 WC, $15.00; Warrant 123125 WB, $202,413.00; Warrant 123125 WF, $2,274,728.00; Warrant 012726 WB, $226,655.60; Warrant 020226 WT, amount $14,502.50; Warrant 020226 WD, $189,052.09; Warrant 020226 WB, $146,907.52.

Do I have a motion on these Accounts Payable warrants?

MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

MR. OCHOA: All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Reports - Water Report: Winna Guzman.

MS. GUZMAN: Mr. President, I did submit to each Board member a copy of my report. If you have any questions, you can feel free to give me a call or inquire at the next meeting. Thank you.

MR. OCHOA: Distribution/Filtration Report: Allan Lee.

MR. LEE: Same as last meeting's report.

MR. OCHOA: Okay. Legal Counsel, Joseph Allegretti.

MR. ALLEGRETTI: No report, Mr. President.

MR. OCHOA: Financial Report: Rebecca Sliger. Not present.

MS. GUZMAN: There is a financial report within the packet.

MR. OCHOA: Resolution WD 26-03, a Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the East Chicago Water Department authorizing the transfer of appropriations into different budget categories (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.

Agreements - Alert Alarm - Alarm Monitoring Agreement, not-to-exceed $700.00 (Water)

Alert Alarm - Alarm Monitoring Agreement, rear of the building, not-to-exceed $700.00 (Water).

Arrow Services,Inc. - annual monthly service agreement - First year total $629.96, not-to-exceed $700.00 (Water).

Arrow Services, Inc. - annual monthly service agreement - First year total $738.77, not-to-exceed $700.00 (Water/Distribution).

A T & T Participation Agreement, not-to-exceed $5,000.00 (Water).

BSI Subscription Agreement - annually, not-to-exceed $995.99 (Water).

Cintas - East Chicago Waterworks, estimated average annual cost, $13,410.00, not-to-exceed $10,000.00 (Water).

Cintas - East Chicago Waterworks - Service Location 0319, not-to-exceed $10,000.00 (Water).

Cintas - Location Agreement 210422387, not-to-exceed $5,000.00 (Water/Filtration).

Cintas - Location Agreement 210422387, not-to-exceed $10,000.00 (Water).

First Merchants Payment Transaction Agreement, $0.25 per payment (Water).

Flowpoint, not-to-exceed $1,500.00 (Water).

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MR. OCHOA: Do I have a motion to approve?

MR. ALLEGRETTI: If we could have the following, Alert Alarm Agreements, the Arrow Services Agreement, the Cintas Agreements be tabled, but that the Board consider adopting the remaining contracts. If I can make that suggestion, that be made in the form of a motion, that the items you just described and identified be approved, except for Alert Alarm, Arrow Services, and the Cintas agreements. We have to make some adjustments.

MR. BAKOTA: I make a motion the aforementioned items be tabled and the others approved.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

MR. OCHOA: All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries. Those items have been tabled and the remaining others ones have been approved.

Proposal and Quotations: Calumet City Plumbing, 4748 Kennedy Avenue, $6,500.00 (Water).

Calumet City Plumbing, 4730 Kennedy Avenue, $7,500.00 (Water).

Calumet City Plumbing, 4726 Kennedy Avenue, $6,000.00 (Water).

Calumet City Plumbing, 5046 Walsh Avenue, $6,000.00 (Water).

Calumet City Plumbing, 3917 Catalpa Street, $6,000.00 (Water).

Calumet City Plumbing, 508 School Street, $9,000.00 (Water).

Calumet City Plumbing, 3801 Drummond Street, $5,000.00 (Water).

Calumet City Plumbing, 139th Street and Indianapolis Boulevard, $18,000.00 (Water).

Ferguson Waterworks, Bid #B289032, $31,302.00 (Water).

Ferguson Waterworks, Bid #B289033, $6,518.00 (Water).

Thomas Irrigation - Estimate #260031, not-to-exceed $2,000.00 (Water).

M.E. Simpson - 2026 proposal for fire hydrant maintenance, $30,000.00 (Water).

M.E. Simpson - proposal for a water distribution leak survey, $25,960.00 (Water).

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M.E. Simpson - 2026 Proposal for a water distribution system valve exercising program, $11,952.00 (Water).

Faegre Drinker - Updated Engagement letter for 2026 (Water).

Do I have a motion on these proposals and quotations?

MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

MR. LOPEZ: Second.

MR. OCHOA: Rate sheets: Unifirst Customer Service Agreement, not-to-exceed $15,000.00 (Water/Filtration).

Unifirst Customer Service Agreement, not-to-exceed $15,000.00 (Water/Filtration).

Terpstra's Sales Service & Rental, not-to-exceed of $5,000.00 (Water).

Is there a motion on the rate sheets?

MR. BAKOTA: Motion to accept.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Second.

MR. OCHOA: All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Change Orders: Morrison Construction - #3 - change amount $11,775.34 (Water/Filtration).

Morrison Construction - #2 - change amount $26,526.18 (Water/Filtration).

FE Moran - #2 - change amount $4,095.30 (Water/Filtration).

Do I have a motion on these change orders?

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.

Past due invoice: 610 Auto, invoice #5180, invoice date of 11/18/25. The amount of the

invoice is $97.81.

Do I have a motion on this one?

MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

MR. OCHOA: All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

WGN - Invoice #67992. Invoice received on January 27, 2026 via UDS by way of Controller's office. Invoice date of 11/13/25, in the amount of $250.00.

Do I have a motion?

MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Second.

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

(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Past due has been accepted.

Adjustments: Hipolito DeJesus, 4124 Wegg Avenue. The amount is $1.00 (Water/Filtration). Strack & Van Til lost owner information and was waiting for someone to claim the money. Owner had late fees, not owner;s fault.

Do I have a motion?

MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Second.

MR. OCHOA: All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Informational is an Adjustment Report (Water).

Unfinished Business: None

Public Comment: None

Our next meeting date is Monday, February 16, 2026, 5:00 p.m., here in the Chambers.

Do I have a motion for adjournment?

MR. BAKOTA: 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
February 2nd, 2026

Approved and signed 2/16/2026

Joseph Ochoa, President

Steve Hernandez, Vice-President

John Bakota, Member

Anthony Askounis, Member

Ray Lopez, Member

Alysia Dunbar, Recording Secretary.

Electronically signed by Peggy LaLonde (301-364-327-3860)

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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 5th day of February, 2026.



Peggy S. LaLonde

Electronically signed by Peggy LaLonde (301-364-327-3860)

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