

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO  
DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS

BOARD MEMBERS

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

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 6, 2023 @ 5:00 p.m.  
Reported for Fissinger & Associates  
By: Lisa Pena

CALL TO ORDER: 5:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLIANCE:

ROLL CALL: Present in Chambers: John Bakota, Joseph Ochoa,  
Ray Lopez

STAFF PRESENT: In Chambers: Ateria Allen, Winna Guzman,  
Joseph Allegretti, Rebecca Sliger

On Zoom: Bill Biller.

PUBLIC HEARING: Declaratory Resolution

MR. BAKOTA: Declare opening of Public Hearing.

MR. ALLEGRETTI: If I may say the Confirmatory  
Resolution recites the fact that we previously adopted  
Resolution 22-32 being the Declaratory Resolution.

And part of the process, statutory process, for  
financing Public Works requires publication of a Notice of  
Public Hearing which is being held now inviting comments from  
the public and the tax payers on the issues and the  
declarations made in the Declaratory Resolution whereas  
describing to the public the project, that it is important  
for public health and welfare of the persons within the  
district and it is desirable and useful expenditures of  
public money and a public utility.

And I would just refresh, Mr. President, that you  
invite any persons here for the Public Hearing to address the

1 Board.

2 MR. BAKOTA: Any comments on the Declaratory Resolution  
3 from the public?

4 Hearing no comments we declare the Declaratory  
5 Resolution Hearing closed.

6 APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 19, 2023

7 Motion to approve January 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes made by  
8 Joseph Ochoa. Second by Ray Lopez.

9 Comments/Questions: None.

10 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
11 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

12 APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:

13 Payroll

14 MR. BAKOTA: Approval of Warrants Payroll. 012023 in the  
15 amount of \$12,184.73. This is Utilities Payroll from  
16 12/31/22 to 1/13/23.

17 Motion to approve Warrant 012023 Utilities Payroll 12/31/22  
18 to 1/13/23 made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Ray Lopez.

19 Comments/Questions: None.

20 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
21 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

22 MR. BAKOTA: 012023 in the amount of \$62,044.04.  
23 Payroll 12/31/22 to 1/13/23.

24 Motion to approve Warrant 012023 Payroll 12/31/22 to 1/13/23  
25 made by Ray Lopez. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

Comments/Questions: None.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

MR. BAKOTA: Warrant 020323 in the amount of \$12,011.65  
Utilities Payroll 1/14/23 to 1/27/23.

1 Motion to approve Warrant 020323 Utilities Payroll 1/14/23 to  
2 1/27/23 made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Ray Lopez.

3 Comments/Questions: None.

4 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
5 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

6 MR. BAKOTA: Warrant 020323 in the amount of \$44,643.51  
7 Payroll 1/14/23 to 1/27/23.

8 Motion to approve Warrant 020323 Payroll 1/14/23 to 1/27/23  
9 made by Ray Lopez. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

10 Comments/Questions: None.

11 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
12 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

13 Accounts Payable

14 MR. BAKOTA: Accounts Payable. 123022 WB in the amount  
15 of \$170,725.53.

16 Motion to approve Warrant 123022 WB made by Joseph Ochoa.  
17 Second by Ray Lopez.

18 Comments/Questions: None.

19 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
20 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

21 MR. BAKOTA: Accounts Payable 012423 WB in the amount of  
22 \$180.10.

23 Motion to approve Warrant 012423 WB made by Joseph Ochoa.  
24 Second by Ray Lopez.

25 Comments/Questions: None.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

MR. BAKOTA: Accounts Payable 012623 WB in the amount of  
\$29,209.12.

1 Motion to approve Warrant 012623 WB made by Ray Lopez.  
2 Second by Ray Lopez. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

3 Comments/Questions: None.

4 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
5 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

6 MR. BAKOTA: Accounts Payable 020623 WB in the amount of  
7 \$412,020.09.

8 Motion to approve Warrant 020623 WB made by Ray Lopez.  
9 Second by Joseph Ochoa.

10 Comments/Questions:

11 MR. OCHOA: We're making Calumet rich people, Calumet  
12 City Plumbing. Just alone on this voucher they had \$162,200.  
13 There's got to be a better way of doing this. It's making  
14 the City broke too.

15 MR. ALLEGRETTI: You don't have the ability to perform  
16 it inhouse. And our infrastructure is aging quickly.

17 MS. GUZMAN: And can I just add that it's just not the  
18 one bill. It's various bills that are compiled together.  
19 And they're basically for emergencies.

20 MR. OCHOA: We need to do something about it.

21 REPORTS:

22 Filtration Report None

23 MS. GUZMAN: Winna Guzman, Water Department Director.  
24 Just to advise the Board that Mr. Perez is unable to be here  
25 today as he is in the plant until 6:00.

That's the reason why he hasn't been here until we  
get certified operators on staff. Then he will be able to  
attend the meetings.

MR. BAKOTA: Thank you.

MS. GUZMAN: You're welcome.

Water Report None

Distribution Report

1 MS. GUZMAN: Mr. Lee has submitted a written report.  
2 And if you have any questions, I will be happy to answer or  
3 you can make a notation and have him respond accordingly.

4 MR. BAKOTA: Any questions on Allan Lee's report?  
5 Legal Counsel None

6 Financial Report None

7 NEW BUSINESS:

8 Resolutions

9 MR. BAKOTA: Resolution WD 23-01 a Resolution of the  
10 Board of Directors authorizing the write-off of certain  
11 delinquent water charges and penalties.

12 That's in your packet. On the backside is the list  
13 of write-offs.

14 Motion to approve Resolution WD 23-01 made by Joseph Ochoa.  
15 Second by Ray Lopez.

16 Comments/Questions:

17 MR. OCHOA: Can we turn these into a collection agency  
18 at some kind of price?

19 MR. ALLEGRETTI: We have done that. Our only recourse,  
20 Water Utility's only recourse is to just shut off, terminate  
21 service.

22 We've increased the amount of the security deposit  
23 new customers have to post in order to be new customers.

24 These bad debts have been determined by staff to be  
25 uncollectible and that the persons responsible not subject to  
jurisdiction.

It is not practicable to pursue them either  
through debt collection or some litigation.

Our write-offs are within a good accounting  
percentage. Well below 1 percent. We're good at collecting  
our money that people owe us because we can just terminate  
their service.

They're tenants. The Landlord Association, just to

1 talk about it more than maybe you want me to, they have a  
2 strong political lobby. And they've lobbied the General  
Assembly, the Republican General Assembly.

3 And we can no longer hold landlords, the property  
4 owners responsible for water utility obligations incurred by  
their tenant. We have to deal contractually only with the  
tenant, the persons that consume the water.

5  
6 In the old days we would stick the landlord. We're  
not able to do that anymore.

7 Whether you think that's right or wrong I guess  
8 that's subject to debate. But that contributes to our  
collection, our delinquency collection.

9 MR. LOPEZ: Is that a State law now?

10 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Yes.

11 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Well, there's a certain equity to it.  
12 But that's the reality we deal with.

13 MR. OCHOA: So that's basically a rental property,  
14 right?

15 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Virtually all these bad debts are  
16 tenants who left, broke their leases or hightailed it out of  
town. And that's why they're not collectable. And we can't  
attached the property owner.

17 MR. BAKOTA: Next is WD 23-02. It's a Confirmatory  
18 Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Department of  
Waterworks of the City of East Chicago, Indiana regarding the  
19 rebuilding, repairing, extending and improving the waterworks  
system of the City.

20 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Mr. President, we discussed this at the  
onset of the Public Hearing. This confirms the public  
21 utility of these projects which are described in the  
subsequent resolution which is additional storage facilities,  
22 water main replacement, expansion and replacement of filters  
in the Membrane Treatment Plant, lead copper line replacement  
and related waterworks improvements.

23  
24 And the purpose of the resolution is to confirm the  
utility by holding the Public Hearing, the opportunity for  
25 people to be heard, that we think these projects are  
worthwhile.

1 Motion to approve Resolution WD 23-02 made by Joseph Ochoa.  
2 Second by Ray Lopez.

3 Comments/Questions: None.

4 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
5 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

6 MR. BAKOTA: Resolution WD 23-03. A Resolution  
7 authorizing the acquisition, construction, installation and  
8 equipping by the Department of Waterworks of the City of East  
9 Chicago, Indiana certain improvements and extensions to the  
10 City's waterworks, the issuance and sale of Revenue Bonds to  
11 provide funds for the payment of the costs thereof, the  
12 issuance and sale of Bond Anticipation Notes in anticipation  
13 of the issuance and sale of such bonds and the collection,  
14 segregation, distribution of the revenues of such waterworks  
15 and other related matters.

16 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Just very briefly this is the so-called  
17 Bond Resolution that authorizes the Department to issue bonds  
18 not to exceed the sum of \$30 million and also if needed to  
19 issue BANs or Bond Anticipation Notes in an amount not to  
20 exceed \$2,280,000.

21 We still have some outstanding bonds from 2017.  
22 And earlier it recites the outstanding amounts of those  
23 bonds.

24 And because those previous bonds pledge revenue,  
25 ongoing revenue generated within the Department to pay the  
debt service on those bonds, you're required to say that by  
issuing new debt you don't jeopardize your ability to pay  
previously existing debt.

It's just part of the boilerplate of the thing.

It authorizes the sale of these bonds to the  
Indiana Bond Bank or private sale in some other fashion  
authorized by statute.

It recites what the project is which I described  
earlier. And it authorizes you to sell bonds in an amount  
not to exceed 6 percent.

The rest of the 60 pages are kind of boilerplate on  
bonds issues. And that's pretty much what it's all about.

MR. BAKOTA: The limit is 6 percent?

1 MR. ALLEGRETTI: No more than 6 percent. We certainly  
2 expect ours to be significant less than that. These are tax  
3 exempt bonds. Interest has gone up.

4 MR. BAKOTA: What is the maturity of that bond, 30  
5 years?

6 MR. ALLEGRETTI: I think 20.

7 Motion to approve Resolution WD 23-03 made by Joseph Ochoa.  
8 Second by Ray Lopez.

9 Comments/Questions: None.

10 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
11 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

12 Proposals

13 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Proposals. We actually have 22 of  
14 them. I will go through and I will number them 1 to 22.

15 You can follow on your page, mark them 1 to 22.  
16 That way you can refer to that number. So if there's  
17 questions or comments, it will be less confusing.

18 So just number them as I go. And I will call out  
19 the number as I read them. Unless there's an objection that  
20 I read them all? No objection I'll read them.

21 Proposals. Number 1, M.E. Simpson, proposal for  
22 fire hydrant maintenance not to exceed \$26,400 for 2023 and  
23 \$27,000 for 2024. Water.

24 Number 2, M.E. Simpson proposal for large meter  
25 testing not to exceed \$35,000.

Number 3, M.E. Simpson proposal for a water  
distribution system leak survey not to exceed \$21,560.

Number 4, M.E. Simpson proposal for a water audit  
and validation services not to exceed \$15,000.

Number 5, Calumet City Plumbing emergency service  
line repair at 4009 Melville Avenue \$7,425.

Number 6, Calumet City Plumbing emergency service  
line repair at 1117 East 138th Street \$8,275.



1           Number 7, Calumet City Plumbing emergency B-Box  
2           repair at 601 West Chicago Avenue \$6,200.

3           Number 8, Calumet City Plumbing emergency service  
4           line leak repair at 410 Prospect Street \$8,450.

5           Number 9, Calumet City Plumbing emergency  
6           disconnect at 412 Prospect Street \$6,700.

7           Number 10, Calumet City Plumbing emergency  
8           disconnect at 4802 Alexander \$7,150.

9           Number 11, Calumet City Plumbing emergency leak  
10          repair at 444 East Chicago Avenue \$5,250.

11          Number 12, Calumet City Plumbing emergency meter  
12          pit repair at 4125 Olcott Avenue \$4,875.

13          Number 13, Calumet City Plumbing emergency meter  
14          pit repair at 4025 Drummond Street \$5,225.

15          Number 14, Calumet City Plumbing emergency meter  
16          pit repair at 4026 Pulaski Street \$4,625.

17          Number 15, Calumet City Plumbing emergency service  
18          repair and meter pit at 3902 Butternut \$7,450.

19          Number 16, Calumet City Plumbing emergency service  
20          repair and meter pit at 4211 Baring Avenue \$5,625.

21          Number 17, Calumet City Plumbing emergency hydrant  
22          repair at East Chicago Avenue Citgo Gate 17A \$7,750.

23          Number 18, Calumet City Plumbing emergency hydrant  
24          leak repair at 145th and Olcott Avenue \$8,775.

25          Number 19, Calumet City Plumbing emergency service  
            line leak repair at 4721 Kennedy Avenue \$7,625.

            Number 20, Halo Brands educational material not to  
            exceed \$55,345.

            Number 21, GPRS 2023 proposal not to exceed  
            \$25,000.

            Number 22, Griffin emergency purchase of 3 inch sub  
            pump \$5,600. That's Filtration.

            That concludes the list.

1 Motion to approve Aforementioned 22 Proposals made by Ray  
Lopez. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

2  
3 Comments/Questions:

4 MS. SLIGER: Mr. President, please let the record show  
that the emergency repairs for Calumet City Plumbing that  
multiple contractors are actually contacted.

5  
6 They're assigned to Calumet City Plumbing because  
at this point they're the only ones available to do the jobs.

7 Several of the other companies are on bigger  
8 projects related to the City and don't have the manpower to  
be able to separate to do these smaller things.

9 Right now Calumet City is the only one that's been  
able to handle most of it for us.

10  
11 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you. Any other comments or  
questions?

12 Comments/Questions: None.

13 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
14 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

15 Agreement

16 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Penney Advisory Services, LLC for  
2023 accounting and financial operations and generating and  
17 creating customer SQL Reports. Water. That's \$85 an hour  
not to exceed \$6,800.

18 Motion to approve Penney Advisory Services, LLC Agreement  
made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Ray Lopez.

19 Comments/Questions: None.

20 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
21 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

22 Rate Sheets

23 MR. BAKOTA: Rate sheets. Alexander Chemical  
24 Corporation 2023 rates for chemical needs. That's  
Filtration.

25

1 Motion to approve Alexander Chemical Corporation 2023 Rate  
Sheet made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Ray Lopez.

2  
3 Comments/Questions: None.

4 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

5 Change Orders

6 MR. BAKOTA: Next is change Orders. Calumet City  
Plumbing Change Order Number 1 for 144th and Magoun Avenue.  
7 The original was \$9,500. The increase is \$712.28. Total  
change is \$10,212.28.

8  
9 Motion to approve Calumet City Plumbing Change Order Number 1  
made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Ray Lopez.

10 Comments/Questions: None.

11 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

12 Past Due Invoices

13  
14 MR. BAKOTA: Past Due Invoices. I know on the list here  
Calumet Electric we're not addressing.

15 MR. OCHOA: Is that a tabled matter?

16 MR. BAKOTA: No. We addressed it before.

17 MS. SLIGER: Correct. It was at the previous meeting.

18 MR. BAKOTA: Altorfer Cat Industries, Filtration,  
\$621.46. The reason is I received this statement that has  
19 been past due. I even have their email. Read their invoice.

20 Motion to approve Altorfer Cat Industries Past Due Invoice  
made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Ray Lopez.

21 Comments/Questions: None.

22 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
23 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

24 MR. BAKOTA: Anderson Process for Filtration. It's  
\$1,359.25. Invoice was sent to me on 2/1/2023 due to them  
25 waiting on a payment.

1 Motion to approve Anderson Process Past Due Invoice made by  
Ray Lopez. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

2 Comments/Questions: None.

3 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
4 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

5 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Allan Lee for Water. \$742.94.  
6 The reason is it was past the deadline for 2022. 2023 we are  
7 waiting the transfer of funds by the Controller's Office to  
Travel Expense Account. We request a PO.

8 Motion to approve Allen Lee Past Due Invoice made by Joseph  
9 Ochoa. Second by Ray Lopez.

10 Comments/Questions: None.

11 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
12 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

13 MR. BAKOTA: AMI Investments, Water. \$1,622.49.  
14 Invoice was received on 12/22/22 but is dated 10/15/22.

15 Motion to approve AMI Investments Past Due Invoice made by  
16 Joseph Ochoa. Second by Ray Lopez.

17 Comments/Questions: None.

18 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
19 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

20 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Calumet City Plumbing \$54,985.52.  
21 Funds were not available in 2022 to obtain a PO.

22 Motion to approve Calumet City Plumbing Past Due Invoice made  
23 by Ray Lopez. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

24 Comments/Questions: None.

25 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

MR. BAKOTA: Faegre Drinker Biddle Reath, Water.  
\$42,093.50. Invoice 31199106-A and B were received on  
12/2/22 at which time remaining amount on the PO could not  
cover the invoice. Invoice 31200653 was not received until  
January 24, '23.

1 Motion to approve Faegre Drinker Biddle Reath Past Due  
Invoices made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Ray Lopez.

2  
3 Comments/Questions: None.

4 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

5 MR. BAKOTA: Smartbill, Water. The amount is \$3,643.62.  
6 Invoice was initially processed on time. However the check  
7 was lost and the Re-Issuance Affidavit was completed and sent  
8 to the Controller's Office.

9 At this time the invoice is now past due. And the  
10 initial PO was closed.

11 Motion to approve Smartbill Past Due Invoice made by Joseph  
12 Ochoa. Second by Ray Lopez.

13 Comments/Questions: None.

14 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
15 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

16 Adjustments

17 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Adjustments. 3926 Grand Boulevard.  
18 Payment was applied to incorrect account 16040 on 9/6/22 in  
19 the amount of \$27.88 and it was adjusted.

20 Motion to approve 3926 Grand Boulevard Adjustment made by  
21 Joseph Ochoa. Second by Ray Lopez.

22 Comments/Questions: None.

23 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
24 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

25 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Adjustment 4857 Homerlee.

MS. GUZMAN: Mr. President, if you like to me to read  
them, I can.

MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

MS. GUZMAN: This is for the location of 4857 Homerlee.  
Account Number 10126. Reason for the adjustment is owner's  
reading on meter was inadvertently transposed during bill  
run.

1           So recommendation is to approve the adjustment to  
correct bill number 139416 dated 12/6/2022.

2           And we submitted the paperwork to justify that  
3 request.

4           MR. LOPEZ: What's the adjustment? How much?

5           MS. GUZMAN: Well, the adjustment was 12/16 because of  
the reading when it was entered. 63,000. So we had to  
6 adjust it to make the adjustment right away. It ended up  
being \$22.23.

7  
8 Motion to approve 4857 Homerlee Adjustment made by Joseph  
Ochoa. Second by Ray Lopez.

9 Comments/Questions: None.

10 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

11           MR. BAKOTA: Next is a ArcelorMittal Schulman HTI  
12 Logistics Cline Avenue.

13           MS. GUZMAN: There are several accounts or bill numbers  
that I've also attached. That would be the second sheet to  
14 the Adjustment Report.

15           It was noted that an additional penalty was entered  
inadvertently.

16           Recommendation to the Board is to approve  
17 adjustments to correct, remove the additional penalties.

18           And we've identified them on the sheet there as  
well. We provided the reports to show the additional penalty  
19 that was added.

20 Motion to approve ArcelorMittal Schulman HTI Logistics  
Adjustment made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Ray Lopez.

21 Comments/Questions: None.

22 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
23 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

24           MR. BAKOTA: Next is Bluff City Materials.

25           MS. GUZMAN: This was a hydrant bill. Account Number

1 010496. Reason for the adjustment in reviewing the account  
2 it was noted that an adjustment was required due to the  
penalty amount, \$365.95, being generated incorrectly.

3 The correct penalty amount \$11.02. The customer's  
4 bill was due on 10/21/22 and payment was not received until  
11/1/22.

5 And this is around the time that we had that  
6 upgrade. And we've had several issues that we have  
encountered that had to be corrected. And this was one of  
7 them.

8 So the recommendation is to approve the adjustment  
to correct the penalty amount.

9 Motion to approve Bluff City Materials made by Joseph Ochoa.  
10 Second by Ray Lopez.

11 Comments/Questions: None.

12 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

13 MS. GUZMAN: Thank you.

14 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you.

15 Other

16 MR. BAKOTA: Other. Indiana Utility Regulatory  
17 Commission. Petition of the City of East Chicago, Indiana  
for authority to issue bonds, notes or other obligations for  
18 authority to increase its rates and charges for water service  
and for approval of new schedules of water rates and charges.

19 MR. ALLEGRETTI: This is just informational,  
Mr. President. I don't think it needs any Board action.

20 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you.

21 UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

22 PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

23  
24 \* Next Regular Meeting Date: Monday, February 20,  
25 2023 @ 5:00 p.m.

1 Motion to adjourn made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Ray Lopez.

2 Questions/Comments: None.

3 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.  
4 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

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6 \* Meeting ended at 5:37 p.m.

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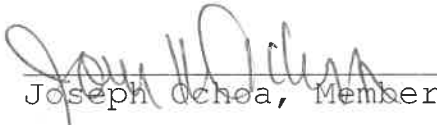
1 Approval of the Meeting Minutes of  
2 Monday, February 6, 2023  
3 Approved and Signed February 20, 2023

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5   
6 \_\_\_\_\_

John Bakota, President

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9 \_\_\_\_\_

Henry Ventura, Vice President

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12   
13 \_\_\_\_\_

Joseph Ochoa, Member

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Anthony Askounis, Member

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20 \_\_\_\_\_  
Ray Lopez, Member

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23   
24 \_\_\_\_\_

Ateria Allen, Board Secretary

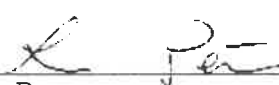
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Lisa Pena, 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 said proceedings taken at said time and place, so ordered to be transcribed.

Dated at Portage, Indiana, this 17th day of February, 2023.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Pena  
Notary Public Porter County  
Certified Shorthand Reporter  
License Number 084-003483

