CITY OF EAST CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 16, 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

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

MR. OCHOA: The meeting of the East Chicago Department of Waterworks Board of Directors will now come to order for March 16th, 2026.

Can I have a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2nd, 2026 meeting as written?

MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

MR. OCHOA: All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Approval of Payroll: Warrant 031326, amount of $40,367.18, payroll dates of 2-21-26 to 3-6-26; Warrant 031326, amount of $16,906.78, payroll

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dates of 2-21-26 to 3-6-26.
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.
Accounts Payable: Warrant 031026 WB, amount of $218,792.95; Warrant 031026 WF, amount of $9,525.00; Warrant 031026 WU, amount of $2,496,652.90; Warrant 031626 CD, amount of $319.41; Warrant 031626 WB, amount of $295,774.71; Warrant 031626 WD, amount of $677,810.00; Warrant 031626 WM, amount of $48,083.78.
Do I have a motion for Accounts Payable?

MR. HERNANDEZ: Motion to approve.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

MR. OCHOA: All in favor?
(All signify aye.)
MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
Water Report: Winna Guzman
MS. GUZMAN: No report, Mr. President.
MR. OCHOA: Distribution/Filtration Report: Allan Lee, Director of Operations.

MR. LEE: I gave you the minutes.

MR. OCHOA: Legal Counsel, Joseph Allegretti.
MR. ALLEGRETTI: No report, Mr. President.

MR. OCHOA: Financial report: Rebecca Sliger. It's inserted in our packet.
New Business: Certificate regarding PILOTS (Water).
MS. GUZMAN: Mr. President, we have Courtney Holliday from BakerTilly, our financial adviser, on Zoom. She will list the documents with the

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Board.

MS. HOLLIDAY: This is a requirement with the 2024 Bond issuance, that any time the Water Utility would like to transfer funds for the PILOT payment, that it be approved by SRF.

This report that you have in front of you just kind of demonstrates that the Water Department does have the funds to make a PILOT payment and it will maintain appropriate debt coverage service level, which is a requirement through SRF.

So, like I said, any time we want to transfer money it will be a similar process. There is an exhibit that needs to be signed and submitted to SRF.

If there are any specific questions, I'm happy to answer those. I should note, the amount that we have slotted in there for the annual PILOT -- a payment was approved in the order with what can be supported by the rates. So the payment tonight that we were proposing would cover half of that payment. So we are assuming, you know, two quarters of the payment and then we make the other two evenly throughout the year.

MR. ALLEGRETTI: Courtney, what is that amount?

MS. HOLLIDAY: $1,788,900.00 is the total.

MS. GUZMAN: The amount for the first and second quarter of this year is $895,000.00, if I'm not mistaken.

MS. HOLLIDAY: Yes, that's correct.

MR. ALLEGRETTI: The Board will recall having our rate case approved by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, this is the amount we are paying in lieu of taxes, since we are a tax exempt government entity. This was built into our rate and we are now complying with the order approving our rate established by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission. And by the President signing that, we are complying with those requirements of the IURC and the City will be very happy to get our money.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Courtney.

MR. OCHOA: Move to opening of the bids.

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MS. GUZMAN: Grant will be opening the bids.

MR. ENGELHARD: Grant Engelhard, Christopher B. Burke Engineering. We are doing the bid openings. We have the lead service area line, Area 1 and 2; raw water improvements, and the plate settling improvement. I'll start with Area 1.

First up we have National Industrial Maintenance Incorporated.

MR. ALLEGRETTI: Where are they from?

MR. ENGELHARD: From East Chicago, Indiana.

MR. HERNANDEZ: So what was the name of the company again?

MR. ENGELHARD: National Industrial Maintenance Incorporated from East Chicago, Indiana. They have the required bid bonds. As read, amount of $5,484,536.98.

MR. OCHOA: How many bids for this one project?

MR. ENGELHARD: Four bids.

MR. ENGELHARD: Next is H & G Underground Utilities, from LaPorte, Indiana. As read amount of $5,522,388.19. Again, that is $5,522,388.19. And they have the required bid bonds.

Next is Hasse Construction from Calumet City, Illinois. They have the required bid bonds. As read amount of $5,470,830.00.

Next up we have Calumet City Plumbing, from Calumet City, Illinois. They have required bid bonds. As read amount of $5,829,148. That's all for Area 1.

These are for Area 2. First one is from National Industrial Maintenance, from East Chicago Indiana. They have the required bid bonds. As read amount of $5,472,840.28.

Next is Hasse Construction from Calumet City, Illinois. As read amount of $5,660,130.00. And they have the required bid bonds.

Lastly we have Calumet City Plumbing from Calumet City, Illinois. They have the required bid

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bonds. As read amount of $5,877,818.00. That's all for Area 2.

Next we have the Raw Water Improvements, raw water pump improvements. The first one is from Thieneman, from Westfield, Indiana. They have the required bid bonds. As read amount of $2,275,000.00.

Next we have Independent Mechanical Industries from Elk Grove Village, Illinois. They have the required bid bonds. As read amount of $2,785,500.00.

Next we have Dahmi Mechanical Industries of Arlington Heights, Illinois. As read amount of $2,194,888.00. And they have the required bid bonds.

Ayres Incorporated, from Joliet, Illinois. They have the required bid bonds. As read amount of $2,980,000.00. That's all for the raw water.

Next we have Plate Settler Improvements. First one is from Dahmi Mechanical Industries of Arlington Heights, Illinois. They have the required bid bonds. As read amount of $1,058,888.00.

Next we have Ayres from Joliet, Illinois.

MR. OCHOA: What company was that?

MR. ENGELHARD: Ayres Incorporated. They have the required bid bonds. As read amount of $1,374,750.00.

Next we have Thieneman from Westfield, Indiana. We have the required bid bonds. As read amount of $1,182,000.00.

Next we have Independent Mechanical Industries from Elk Grove Village, Illinois. They have the required bid bonds. As read amount of $1,129,950.00. That's all for the plate settling improvement.

That's everything. Now we'll take those back and submit our recommendation later.

MR. ALLEGRETTI: The bids can be reviewed by anybody in the room after the meeting, if you like. They are all public documents now.

MR. OCHOA: Proposal and Quotations: De-Vine Property Management, invoice #0004584, amount of $9,250.00 (Water).

Do I have a motion?

MR. HERNANDEZ: Motion.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

MR. OCHOA: Any questions? (None)
All in favor?
(All signify aye.)
MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
Bray Sales Midwest, Quote #QQ-3173274-00, amount of $5,791.70 (Water/Filtration).
Do I have a motion?

MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Second.

MR. OCHOA: Any questions? (None)
All in favor?
(All signify aye.)
MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
Bobcat, Quotation #TS1696456, amount of $95,387.17 (Water).
Do I have a motion?

MR. HERNANDEZ: Motion to approve.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

MR. OCHOA: Any questions? (None)
All in favor?
(All signify aye.)
MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
Request for Purchase Order: Hasse Construction - Extra Work Orders, amount of $46,804.31 (Water).
Do I have a motion?

MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to approve.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Second.

MR. OCHOA: Any questions? (None)
All in favor?
(All signify aye.)
MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
Semcor - Quote #260309F-rev1, amount of $11,829.00 (Water).

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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 18th day of March, 2026.



Peggy S. LaLonde

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

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Do I have a motion?

MR. HERNANDEZ: Motion to approve.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

MR. OCHOA: Any questions? (None)
All in favor?
(All signify aye.)
MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
Rate Sheets: The Idea Factory 2025 Consumer Confidence Report published in 2026, not-to-exceed $8,000.00 and not-to-exceed $12,000.00 (Water).
Do I have a motion?

MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to approve.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Second.

MR. OCHOA: Any questions? (None)
All in favor?
(All signify aye.)
MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
Unfinished Business: None
Public Comment: None
Our next regular scheduled meeting is Monday, April 6, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.
Do I have a motion for adjournment?

MR. BAKOTA: Motion to adjourn.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second

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

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

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Approval of the Meeting Minutes of
March 16th, 2026

Approved and signed 4/6/2026

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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