

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
March 20, 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: Ateria Allen,  
Winna Guzman, Rebecca Sliger

STAFF Present via Zoom: Joseph Allegretti

MR. BAKOTA: Call to order the meeting of  
the East Chicago Board of Waterworks, March 20, 2023.

First item, approval of the minutes  
of March 6, 2023. Do I have a motion?

MR. LOPEZ: Motion to the approve.

MR. OCHOA: Second.

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

(All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

Next, approval of warrants.

Payroll: 031723, \$11,649.48, Utility Payroll, dates of  
2-25-23 to 3-10-23.

MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

MR. VENTURA: 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 031723, \$49,407.37, payroll  
4 for dates of 2-25-23 to 3-10-23.

5 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

6 MR. ASKOUNIS: 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 payable: 031323 WB,  
\$136,015.19.

10 MR. VENTURA: Make a motion to approve.

11 MR. OCHOA: Second.

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

13 (All signify aye.)

14 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

Warrant 031423 WU, amount OF  
15 \$3,140,387.10.

16 MR. OCHOA: Motion to approve.

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 Warrant 032023 WB, amount  
\$47,183.12.

21 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

22 MR. VENTURA: Second.

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

24 (All signify aye.)

25 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

Filtration Report: Obed Perez.

1 MS. GUZMAN: I submitted his report.

2 MR. BAKOTA: Any questions on that? It's  
3 in the packet that you have. (No questions.)

4 Water Report: Winna Guzman

5 MS. GUZMAN: Good evening, Winna Guzman.  
6 I submitted my report for your review. If you have any  
7 questions, please feel free to ask and I'll be happy to  
8 answer.

9 MR. BAKOTA: Any questions?

10 MS. GUZMAN: I also submitted, for the  
11 record, Mr. Allan Lee's report. He was unable to come  
12 as well. So if you have any questions, again you can  
13 feel free to ask us or call the office. Thank you.

14 MR. BAKOTA: Next is the Distribution  
15 Report, Allan Lee. You can review that handout.

16 Moving on, legal counsel, Joseph  
17 Allegretti.

18 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Good evening. The  
19 resolution is the next item on the agenda, Resolution  
20 23-05, which concerns the bond anticipation note sale.  
21 The last item on the agenda was communication from our  
22 financial adviser, Bakertilly will be disclosing or  
23 showing the results of our bid and acceptance,  
24 recommended acceptance of the proposal from People's  
25 Bank, the local bank, I think in Munster. I think it  
indicates the interest rate is 5.26, right within the  
ballpark with respect to interest. The rates are going  
up again, so better we did this now than two weeks from  
now.

The resolution next on the agenda is  
WD23-05, is an appropriation ordinance requested by the  
Controller's office, which appropriates the bond  
anticipation note proceeds and allows us to spend them.  
And as we indicated earlier from our bond resolution,  
the purpose of these bond proceeds is to finance the  
soft cost for the Public Works cost that are going to be  
financed by the bond that's going to be taken out by the  
bond anticipation note within the next 12 months, just  
to explain that. And that's all I have. Happy to  
answer a question or clarify.

MR. LOPEZ: Thank you, Joe.

25

1 MR. BAKOTA: Moving on to Financial  
Report, William Biller or Rebecca Sliger.

2 MS. SLIGER: No report.

3 MR. BAKOTA: WD 23-05, a resolution of  
4 the Board of Trustees of the East Chicago Water  
Department authorizing additional appropriations.

5 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

6 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

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

9 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

10 Next is proposals. I will, unless  
there is an objection, I will rundown all these and then  
we'll ask for a motion. There is total of seven. I  
11 will number them 1 to 7 as we go along.

12 One, Calumet city Plumbing,  
emergency meter pit at 4140 Olcott Avenue, \$4,125.00.

13 Calumet City Plumbing, emergency  
service line leak at 1312 West Chicago Avenue,  
\$10,875.00.

14 Calumet City Plumbing, emergency --  
there a discrepancy there.

15 MS. SLIGER: The corrected figure is in  
16 fact \$9,100.00.

17 MR. BAKOTA: Number 3, Calumet City  
Plumbing, emergency meter pit leak repair at 4838  
18 Indianapolis Boulevard, \$5,875.00.

19 Calumet City Plumbing, emergency  
water main break at 3802 Fir Street, 10,700 to 15,100.

20 MS. SLIGER: That incorrect also, sir.  
The actual amount is only \$10,700.00. There is no  
21 range.

22 MR. BAKOTA: Calumet City Plumbing,  
emergency service line leak repair at 702 143rd Street,  
23 amount of \$8,950.00.

24 Hessville Plumbing, emergency water  
main leak repair at 2608 East 140th place, \$3,440.00.

25 MS. SLIGER: That, sir, also has a

1 correction. It's actually \$3,440.50.

2 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Christopher B. Burke  
3 Engineering, Ltd., proposal for professional engineering  
4 services (water). Is there a limit on this?

5 MS. SLIGER: There should be a  
6 not-to-exceed amount of \$49,500 as stated on page 2 of  
7 their document.

8 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you. That concludes  
9 the proposals.

10 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

11 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

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

15 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
16 Next is past due invoices. Austgen  
17 Electric, Filtration, \$4,258.28.

18 MS. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

19 MR. LOPEZ: Second.

20 MR. BAKOTA: The reason, waiting on  
21 Controller's Office to transfer the funds.

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

25 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
26 Microbac, Filtration, \$169.50.  
27 Waiting on Controller's Office to transfer the right  
28 amount.

29 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

30 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

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

34 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

35 MR. VENTURA: What's that amount again?

1 MR. BAKOTA: \$169.50.  
2 Bray, Filtration, \$4,059.93. The  
3 reason, invoice was missing. Contacted the company for  
4 them to e-mail it to me.

5 MR. VENTURA: Make a motion to approve.

6 MR. OCHOA: Second.

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

10 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
11 NIPSCO, Filtration, \$56,426.39. We  
12 are awaiting transfer to be complete in excess funds so  
13 PO can be requested.

14 MR. VENTURA: Motion to approve.

15 MR. LOPEZ: Second.

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

19 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
20 Here listed as Other, it's FYI.  
21 Bakertilly, Municipal Advisors, Waterworks District  
22 Revenue Bond Anticipation Notes Services 2023.

23 MR. ALLEGRETTI: That's all, Mr. Bakota.  
24 That's only informational. We are not asking the Board  
25 to adopt any formal motion, just to accept the  
information.

MR. BAKOTA: Okay, thank you. Is there  
Unfinished Business? None. Public comment:

MS. FERNANDEZ: I have a question.

MR. BAKOTA: Please approach the podium  
and identify yourself.

MS. FERNANDEZ: Rose Fernandez, I live in  
the City of East Chicago. I'm not if this is the right  
meeting, but I knew there was a meeting here today. I  
have four questions. One is, how long can a bill go out  
to the consumer as an estimated bill?

MR. BAKOTA: Winna, you want to give

1 information on that?

2 MS. GUZMAN: That's something that I have  
3 to research.

4 MR. BAKOTA: Did you go to the office  
5 with your problem?

6 MS. FERNANDEZ: These meeting here today  
7 --

8 MS. GUZMASN: We have a meeting Wednesday  
9 that I scheduled something, I believe it's your  
10 daughter. So we have some meetings scheduled at  
11 1:00 o'clock.

12 MR. BAKOTA: This wasn't on our agenda,  
13 but do you have more questions?

14 MS. FERNANDEZ: I have four.

15 MR. BAKOTA: Go ahead.

16 MS. FERNANDEZ: The second, when a credit  
17 is given on a bill, is the meter reading adjusted and  
18 moved backwards for the next billing cycle?

19 The third question is, how are the  
20 estimates figured?

21 And number four, what is the current  
22 rate per gallon?

23 MR. BAKOTA: You know, I could plead  
24 ignorance on that all of that, I'm sorry.

25 MS. FERNANDEZ: I just knew there was a  
meeting today and I just wanted to come in and see if  
someone can answer. If not, that's fine.

MR. BAKOTA: That meeting with Winna, she  
will be able to answer all of your questions at that  
meeting.

MS. FERNANDEZ: That's okay. Appreciate  
your time.

MR. BAKOTA: Thank you. Any other public  
comments? (None)

Our next meeting will be Monday,  
April 3rd, here in Council Chambers at 5:00 o'clock.

1 Can we have a motion for  
2 adjournment?

3 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to adjourn.

4 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second

5 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor?  
(All signify aye.)

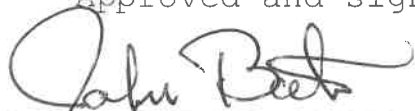
6 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
7 Meeting adjourned.

8 \*\*\*\* Meeting adjourned \*\*\*\*

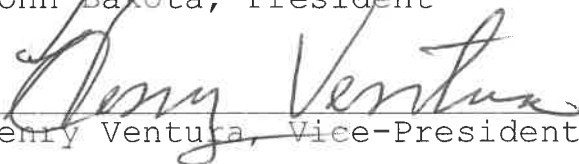
9  
10 Approval of the Meeting Minutes of  
11 March 20, 2023

12 Approved and signed

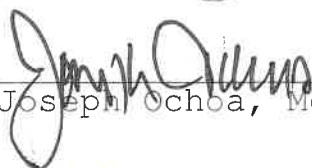
13 April 3, 2023

14 

15 John Bakota, President

16 

17 Henry Ventura, Vice-President

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19 Joseph Ochoa, Member

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21 Anthony Askounis, Member

22 Ray Lopez, Member

23 

24 Ateria Allen, Secretary.

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 22nd day of March, 2023.

*Peggy S. LaLonde*



Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR