

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

STAFF:

Joseph Allegretti
Alysia Dunbar
Bill Biller
Winna Guzman

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, John
Bakota, Henry Ventura, Anthony
Askounis, Ray Lopez

STAFF Present in Chambers: Winna Guzman,
Allan Lee, Obed Perez, Joseph Allegretti

STAFF Present Telephonic: Bill Biller

MR. OCHOA: Call to order the meeting of
the Board of Waterworks of March 21, 2022. First item,
approval of the minutes of March 7, 2022. Do I have a
motion?

MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

MR. VENTURA: Second.

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

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Approval of Warrants, Payroll.

Warrant 030422, amount of \$13,008.92, Utilities Payroll,
dates of 2-12-22 to 2-25-22. Do I have a motion?

MR. VENTURA: Make a motion to approve.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on

1 the motion? (None) All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

2 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
Warrant 030422, amount of
3 \$41,090.09, Payroll, dates of 2-12-22 to 2-25-22. Do I
have a motion?

4 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

5 MR. VENTURA: Second.

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

8 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
Accounts Payable, Warrant 031422 WB,
9 amount of \$13,947.75. Do I have a motion?

10 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to approve.

11 MR. VENTURA: Second the motion.

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

14 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
Warrant 032122 WB, amount of
\$231,193.85. Do I have a motion?

15 MR. VENTURA: Motion to approve.

16 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

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

19 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
Warrant 032122 WF, amount of
20 \$5,700.00. Do I have a motion?

21 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

22 MR. VENTURA: Second the motion.

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

25 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
Warrant 032122 WU, amount of

1 \$3,097,795.42. Do I have a motion?

2 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

3 MR. VENTURA: Second.

4 MR. BAKOTA: I have a question. Is this
5 payment of a debt?

6 MS. GUZMAN: Yes, it is.

7 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Debt service for the
8 membrane filtration part.

9 MS. GUZMAN: That's to the Bank of New
10 York. That's a debt payment.

11 MR. BAKOTA: That's our payment?

12 MR. ALLEGRETTI: That's our State
13 revolving loan.

14 MR. BAKOTA: Okay, thank you.

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

18 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
19 Filtration report, Obed Perez.

20 MR. PEREZ: While we were working on the
21 elevated tank a while back, we noticed there is a lot of
22 corrosion going on. We scraped off all the old paint
23 and repainted to prevent further corrosion happening.
24 At the membrane there's four meters, PH meters and one
25 trip meter. We worked on the actuator, the pump wasn't
able to run, wasn't able to open, and the pump, we had
to replace the actuator, so that work was done.

We are now looking throughout the
membrane plant for any type of corrosion going on in
there to prevent any bursting of pipes in the future.
We are going through the whole place and hitting all the
nuts and bolts. The settler hasn't been working for
quite sometime, that's our next focus in trying to get
that up and running with Austgen Electric.

Our work site set plan is set
with Luis Garcia as well who is helping us.

MR. BAKOTA: Are these pictures from the

1 membrane plant?

2 MR. PEREZ: Yes.

3 MR. BAKOTA: Is there humidity control
4 there?

5 MR. PEREZ: I don't think so, especially
6 during the summertime, it gets really humid.

7 MR. BAKOTA: The old one had humidity
8 problems and they had a rust problem. You wouldn't
9 believe it. I made a couple tours through there in the
10 basement, it was horrible. I mean I don't know how
11 expensive a humidity control would be.

12 MR. PEREZ: That's something I can look
13 into. Right now we are just painting all the flanges
14 and bolts to have that done by the end of the year.

15 MR. BAKOTA: I see the pumps all rusty
16 and they're either leaking or it's humidity.

17 MR. PEREZ: We are painting it, and if
18 there's a leak through the piping, we are redirecting
19 the water from there.

20 MR. OCHOA: What kind of paint did you
21 use?

22 MR. PEREZ: Rust-Oleum.

23 MR. BAKOTA: Do they check the humidity?

24 MR. PEREZ: I have no idea.

25 MR. BAKOTA: Just a question. I know
that the old plant went to hell, one of the reasons was
because of that. It would actually have raindrops
coming off the building and the humidity was that high.

MR. PEREZ: We're trying to prevent that
from happening at the new plant.

MR. BAKOTA: Thank you.

MR. OCHOA: Water report, Winna Guzman.

MS. GUZMAN: No report at this time.

1 MR. OCHOA: Distribution report, Allan
2 Lee.

3 MR. LEE: We've been working on the HBP,
4 fused all the pipe together last week. This week is the
5 second week and they projected to have the job done in
6 three weeks.

7 We are still right there at the
8 shutoffs, waiting on the money and inventory. Valve
9 boxes same way. If you notice the hydrants went down to
10 32 instead of 34 because two of those hydrants didn't
11 belong to us. They belong to Cleveland Cliffs and they
12 have been notified and they can take care of their
13 hydrants. There is going to be some new printing put in
14 the GIS to account for that because those represent
15 ours. Still have 87 to fix. We are going to do
16 in-house 40. Still waiting on inventory, which really
17 seems like that third of the inventory we didn't get, we
18 really need it. But, you know, we are going one brick
19 at a time.

20 Giant painted 288. It says we have
21 260 left. We are probably at 240, after today we
22 probably have 240. We do it part-time now, one guy. So
23 we are painting one or two days a week. He's got to
24 learn the other jobs too.

25 Still waiting to get the meters
tapped. I called Hasse and Simpson, so they can talk
and see what they need to get to the plant to make that
happen. Told them we need to get on that. Everything
else is still inventory.

If you look in the back, I've given
you a little idea of where I am at. These are all the
jobs, so you can look and see if it is in your
neighborhood and sort of see what we do, what was
leaking. These are all the leaks since the 1st. And if
you notice, Friday was a little busy again on Chicago
Avenue because we had three more leaks that popped up.
We have to watch them guys on the pumps maybe because
it's mostly rotten pipe there. We've got three more, so
that's seven leaks on Chicago Avenue alone this year and
there was seven other leaks since 1974. So we are
passing what we did in the last 20 years. The pipes are
pretty rotten.

MR. OCHOA: All centrally located, those
leaks?

MR. LEE: No, they are just popping up.
The joints are rotted on the hubs. So that's one of the

1 things on our project list that we have noticed, one of
2 the mains to get replaced, there is a 14 up on Riley and
3 Dickey Road. Those are the three mains that looks like
4 it had lots of leaks that we should investigate and
5 replace. I mean we are getting a new main on Homerlee
6 because Hasse is replacing those streets. So slowly
7 through the city we are replacing a lot of mains. All
8 right. That's what I got. Anything else?

9 MR. OCHOA: Were there any problems with
10 those two meters -- two hydrants from Cleveland Cliffs?

11 MR. LEE: Yeah, they broke. They don't
12 work. They are out of service, but we took our stuff
13 off. It's not our problem. They recognize that it's
14 theirs. There was some change with the pump house, so
15 we got all the prints and went over them actually today
16 and we are all good. Our valve stops right there at
17 Riley and Dickey Road, and from that point on belongs to
18 Cleveland Cliffs.

19 MR. BAKOTA: Question on valve boxes. We
20 have 800 in the City?

21 MR. LEE: Not sure. We have a lot. I
22 don't know for sure. I'm not going to quote on
23 something I don't know for sure.

24 MR. BAKOTA: What portion of them have
25 been checked?

MR. LEE: They have went through them
over the years and we are getting ready to do our valve
program. They will be checking all of them this year.
So if it's covered, if they go to the valve that's
suppose to work and it's covered up, they check the box
that it's covered up. And then that's how the list
grows. They get on the valve list and they work it.
And then when they break it, they wrote broke and that
goes on the list. And that's how the list grows.

MR. BAKOTA: They actually exercise the
valve?

MR. LEE: So it either works or it don't.

MS. GUZMAN: Just so you know, they did
do Roxana, and they started -- I think that was the
first phase. But it was halted until we were able to

1 get more material. So they did do pretty much all of
2 Roxana and we have the data for that.

3 MR. OCHOA: Those valves are bolted in
4 or --

5 MR. LEE: They are bolted in. You still
6 got to cut the pipe to pull it out. Most of those bolts
7 it's easier to cut and put new bolts in, put a valve in,
8 little piece of pipe and a sleeve. A lot of people say,
9 well, it's not just a valve, replace a valve. You get a
10 valve, a piece of pipe, a sleeve, a valve box and then
11 what I call the trimmings, that's the rings and bolts to
12 hold it all together.

13 MR. BAKOTA: Is it isolated by one city
14 block then?

15 MR. LEE: Well, here there is a valve
16 every two blocks, sometimes every block. But there is a
17 lot of them like two blocks, so you shutoff and you get
18 two blocks.

19 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you.

20 MR. OCHOA: Resolution WD 22-04, a
21 Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the East Chicago
22 Water Department authorizing the transfer of
23 appropriations into different budget categories.

24 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

25 MR. LOPEZ: Second.

MR. BAKOTA: I have a question, are these
four different groups here or they are all the same?

MR. BILLER: They are different
categories. If you see they are different funds and
they represent different categories. So we are going to
move this money over to where it says vehicle repairs
when we are lacking funds in those areas, in those three
accounts. So pretty much will be going into 606.

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

(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries. Resolution
has been accepted.

1 Resolution WD 22-05, additional
2 appropriation resolution, East Chicago Water Utility
3 Construction fund, 0605.

4 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

5 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

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

9 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

10 Agreements: Bakertilly - Addendum
11 2022 General Accounting Services. Do I have a motion?

12 MS. GUZMAN: This is Bakertilly addendum
13 addendum to the general accounting services agreement
14 with this firm for the Water Department and I am
15 requesting that the Board entertain approving this
16 addendum. I am asking for a not to exceed amount of
17 \$44,500 at this time.

18 MR. VENTURA: Make a motion to approve.

19 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

20 MR. BAKOTA: What period of time does
21 this cover, a year?

22 MS. GUZMAN: Well, it may be ongoing
23 because we are working with -- this is everything
24 related to SRF. So they are helping us with that, so
25 there is a lot of expenses, preparing the report that
needs to be filed and things like that. It's on page 6 of
10 you will see the services that they would be
rendering.

MR. LOPEZ: They are financial advisers,
right? They advise us to get money for grants and stuff
like that?

MR. ALLEGRETTI: They are doing our rate
case for the IURC for the increase which we are going to
be filing next month to provide sufficient revenue to
successfully and adequately run utilities. The rate
case will take 300 days -- never any shorter time -- so
there is a lot of work.

MR. OCHOA: We have a motion and second.

1 Any further comments or questions on the motion? (None)
All in favor?

2 (All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

3 Alarm Services Monitoring Agreement.

4 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

5 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

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

7 (All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

8 De-Vine Landscaping and Property
Management. Do I have a motion?

9 MS. GUZMAN: Mr. President, I would just
10 like to add a note to exceed amount for the Tod Street
Water Filtration location, which is \$5,000.00.

11 MR. OCHOA: How come the amount?

12 MS. GUZMAN: It's a smaller area.

13 MR. BAKOTA: We've had them for sometime,
14 right?

15 MS. GUZMAN: Yes.

16 MR. BAKOTA: Are you happy with their
17 work?

18 MS. GUZMAN: Yes, we are.

19 MR. BAKOTA: Did they do the snow removal
also?

20 MS. GUZMAN: Yes, but this is not for the
snow removal.

21 MR. BAKOTA: I had a few people tell me
22 their snow removal was lousy. I didn't look, but they
23 said there is a problem with this company with snow
removal.

24 MS. GUZMAN: This is not for snow
25 removal. They have done maintenance with us for
sometime.

1 MR. ALLEGRETTI: The City had six outside
2 vendors contracted that assisted in snow removal, and
3 some were better than others.

4 MS. GUZMAN: There was just a lot of snow
5 too.

6 MR. OCHOA: Do I have a motion?

7 MR. VENTURA: Motion to approve.

8 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

9 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on
10 the motion?

11 MR. ALLEGRETTI: They also do Sanitary
12 District and we used to overlap, but we are not doing
13 that here. This is strictly water utility property.

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

15 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
16 De-Vine Landscaping and Property
17 Management for Water Department. I think this is the
18 for 3455 Pennsylvania Avenue.

19 MS. GUZMAN: Mr. President, I'd like to
20 add not to exceed amount of \$30,000. This is a larger
21 area they need to cover and I am going based on what we
22 expended last year.

23 MR. OCHOA: Do I have a motion for the
24 3455 Pennsylvania Avenue?

25 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

MR. LOPEZ: I have a question. There is
a lot of stuff that they are going to charge you for.
Who looks at the building?

MS. GUZMAN: Sharma is the secretary over
at Filtration and Obed oversees that. I do sign off on
it as well.

MR. LOPEZ: Just want to make sure it's
not way up in the air if you don't want it.

1 MS. GUZMAN: We'll be meeting with them
this week too.

2 MR. OCHOA: On both of those?

3 MS. GUZMAN: We'll be meeting with
4 De-Vine to go over the areas that they need to cover and
5 the additional items they will be directed by the
manager.

6 MR. LOPEZ: I trust you.

7 MR. OCHOA: Do I have a limit on this
8 one?

9 MS. GUZMAN: Yes, we do, and I'm looking
at \$19,500 not to exceed amount.

10 MR. OCHOA: Do I have a motion?

11 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to accept.

12 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

13 MR. BAKOTA: I have a question. The
14 second statement here says under services, install
flowers. Flowers are not included?

15 MS. GUZMAN: Yes, right in front of the
16 office, on the side, and by the rocks over on the west
side, also in the rear building. We have a little
17 section where we have them plant and last year we had
them plant across the street, we have a bed there also.

18 MR. BAKOTA: It's more than just that
19 front?

20 MS. GUZMAN: Yes, it is. And they pick
up the flowers and they install and they remove them.

21 MR. OCHOA: I have a motion and second.
22 All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

23 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

24 Next Fluid Conservation Systems,
Inc., for the amount of \$5,290. Is there a limit on
this?

25 MS. GUZMAN: No, this is that total

1 amount of the unit, including the training within
2 30 days of purchase. So that is \$5,290 total.

3 MR. OCHOA: Do I have a motion?

4 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to approve.

5 MR. VENTURA: Second the motion.

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

8 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
Next Calumet City Plumbing Company,
9 Inc., rate sheet for 2022.

10 MS. GUZMAN: This is Calumet City
11 Plumbing Company, Inc., the schedule is for cost related
12 distribution, repair, replacement work, such as
13 repairing or replacing water main, valves, hydrants,
14 restoration type work, buffalo boxes for the year 2022.
15 I recommend that the Board approve this rate sheet and
16 not to exceed amount of \$35,000 with this.

17 MR. OCHOA: Do I have a motion on this
18 one?

19 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

20 MR. LOPEZ: Second.

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

23 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
Hamady's Services document has been
24 removed from the agenda today.

25 MS. GUZMAN: Thank you. Inadvertently it
was provided for the agenda, but we already approved
that. Thank you.

MR. OCHOA: Request for purchase order.
First one is Calumet City Plumbing, amount of \$3,302.20
emergency leak repairs.

MS. GUZMAN: The first one is emergency
leak repairs at 3714 and 1/2 Pennsylvania Avenue and the
cost is \$3,302.20. I also provided the invoice

1 requesting the information relative to the work
performed.

2 MR. OCHOA: Do I have a motion?

3 MR. VENTURA: Make a motion to approve.

4 MR. BAKOTA: Second.

5 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on
6 the motion? (None) All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

7 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
8 Request for purchase order March 16,
'22, emergency leaks.

9 MS. GUZMAN: This is for another
10 emergency leak repair at East Chicago Avenue and
Grasselli, for the amount of \$5,127.00 and I have
11 included the information relating to that emergency
repair which was performed on March 1, 2022.

12 MR. OCHOA: Do I have a motion?

13 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

14 MR. VENTURA: Second.

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

17 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
18 Past due amount: PO wasn't printed
out with the freight charges on it, so it wasn't enough
19 on it. Invoice number 821443, invoice date 12-15-21,
invoice amount is \$12.54. Do I have a motion?

20 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

21 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

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

23 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
24 Financial report is in the packet if
you guys want to take a look at it. Do you have any
25 statements to make, Mr. Biller?

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MR. BILLER: No, sir.

MR. OCHOA: Any Unfinished business?
(None) Public Comment? (None)

Next meeting is Monday, April 4,
2022, at 5:00 p.m., here in the East Chicago Council
Chambers.

Do I have a motion for adjournment?

MR. BAKOTA: Motion to adjourn.

MR. VENTURA: Second.


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

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries. Meeting
adjourned. Thank you very much.

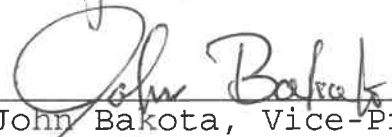
**** Meeting adjourned ****

Approval of the Meeting Minutes of
March 21, 2022

Approved and signed April 4, 2022




Joseph Ochoa, President



John Bakota, Vice-President



Henry Ventura, Member



Anthony Askounis, Member



Ray Lopez, Member



Alysia Dunbar, Secretary.

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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 28th day of March, 2022.

Peggy S. LaLonde



Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR