CITY OF EAST CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 6, 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
Rebecca Sliger, Financial

Staff Present via Zoom: Joseph Allegretti, Legal

MR. OCHOA: The meeting of the East Chicago Department of Waterworks Board of Directors will now come to order for April 6th, 2026.

Can I have a motion to approve the minutes of the March 16th and March 30th, 2026 meetings as written?

MR. HERNANDEZ: Motion to approve.

MR. BAKOTA: Second.

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

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MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
Approval of Payroll: Warrant 032726, amount of $41,300.41, payroll dates of 3-7-26 to 3-20-26; Warrant 032726, amount of $15,858.06, payroll dates of 3-7-26 to 3-20-26.
Do I have a motion?

MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

MR. OCHOA: All in favor?
(All signify aye.)
MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
Accounts Payable: Warrant 032526 WF, amount of $308,387.00; Warrant 032526 WB, amount of $43,283.30, Warrant 040126 WB, amount of $2,000.00; Warrant 040626 WB, amount of $236,010.06; Warrant 040626 WD, amount of $33,687.83; Warrant 040626 WM, amount of $32,663.24; Warrant 040626 WT, amount of $6,757.50.
Can I get a motion?
MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.
MR. HERNANDEZ: Second.
MR. OCHOA: All in favor?
(All signify aye.)
MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
Water Report: Winna Guzman.

MS. GUZMAN: Good afternoon Board members. I did provide you with a brief report of water activities -- Water Department activities -- for your review. If you have any questions today or following the meeting, please let me know.

MR. LOPEZ: Question? In the report you gave us on the Billing Division a State program where the City can replace sewer liens by collection of income tax. How does that work?
MS. GUZMAN: I'm not sure. I put that on there because I am looking into it. I received information from the Controller's office that maybe through the State income tax or it will be like the refunds you get when you file your taxes, it's State related. And I believe it's sewer, it may be water, I have to check into it. I wanted to let you know we are

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looking into it, to be able to see if we can do that.

MR. LOPEZ: We don't have that now?

MS. GUZMAN: We don't have it now. I just found out about this from Kim, at the Controller's office, and I'll get further information as it develops to see if we can participate in that program where we can possibly get some of delinquent accounts paid, receive some money from that.

MR. LOPEZ: Thank you.

MS. GUZMAN: You're welcome.

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

MR. LEE: I gave you the report, but a couple of quick things. The two new membranes are still not online. We had to get some parts on order. So hopefully by the end of the month we'll have those two running. When they come online, then we can add our new cyber security or server and all that, that we are getting updated. We can't update until the new ones on the old software, then we'll transfer everything to the new software, so that's what is going on with that.

And Distribution, we are trying to get -- Redevelopment is going to do ten more hydrants that are leaking. We are slowly getting those meters, the old meters, changed over. Most of it is in the report.

MR. OCHOA: Where are these hydrants leaking at?

MR. LEE: Some leak when they turn them on and stuff like that. When we had our hydrant inspection, they make a little report to let us know. Many of the hydrants are only leaking when they turn them on. They sort of leak anyway when you put out fires.

MR. LOPEZ: Thank you.

MR. OCHOA: Legal Counsel, Joseph Allegretti.

MR. ALLEGRETTI: Good afternoon. Just

one item, on the Resolution 26-08, which is on the agenda. This is a resolution accepting the amended Preliminary Engineering Report that was presented at our Special Meeting last week. That was presented by John Caruso of Christopher Burke. It just recites that the PER was submitted to the Board, that public hearing was held as required, pursuant to notice published in the newspaper. That the public hearing was held and anybody -- no one actually appeared and remonstrated or commented, but this occurred and now this resolution just concludes that.

This is just another box we have to check towards concluding our financing with the State Revolving Loan Fund and securing that loan. So I would recommend that the Board adopt Resolution 26-08. That's all. Thank you.

MR. OCHOA: Financial Report: Rebecca Sliger.

MS. SLIGER: No report at this time, Mr. President.

MR. OCHOA: Resolution WD 26-08, Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Department of Waterworks of the City of East Chicago, Indiana, accepting the amended Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) prepared by Christopher B. Burke Engineering Ltd. (Water).

Do I have a motion?

MR. HERNANDEZ: Motion to accept.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

MR. OCHOA: All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Resolution WD 26-09, a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the East Chicago Department of Waterworks authorizing the disposal of surplus property (Water).

Do I have a motion?

MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

MR. OCHOA: All in favor?

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(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Next we have Agreements. Arrow Services, Inc., Termite Agreement - first year total is $1,976.00 (Water).

BakerTilly - addendum to the Municipal Advisory Services dated 9/20/2023, not-to-exceed of $80,000.00 (Water).

Do I have a motion?

MR. BAKOTA: Motion to accept.

MR. LOPEZ: Second.

MR. OCHOA: All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Proposal and Quotation: BSI Online, survey options for the City of East Chicago, not-to-exceed $2,500.00 (Water).

Korellis, preventative maintenance, not-to-exceed $12,000.00(Water/Filtration).

Austgen Electric, lighting under the membrane filters, $10,382.87 (Water/Filtration).

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.

Change Order: Hasse Construction, revised Change #2. Change amount of $65,520.00 (Water).

Do I have a motion?

MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

MR. OCHOA: All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Past Dues: Berey Brothers, Invoice #94315, amount of $294.78 (Water). Explanation: Invoice was received on March 20, 2026, after inquiry of vendor stated that they were having a problem within their accounting system and found that it was not generating

invoices. The problem is now being corrected.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Motion to approve.

MR. LOPEZ: Second.

MR. OCHOA: All in favor?
(All signify aye.)
MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
Chicago Tire, Invoice #342135, amount of $532.20 (Water). Explanation: Invoice was received on February 25, '26. However funds were not available at the time. Transfer of appropriations was submitted which would allow us to increase the PO and the transfer was made on April 1st, 2026, in the amount of $532.20 for Chicago Tire.

MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

MR. OCHOA: All in favor?
(All signify aye.)
MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
Unfinished Business: None
Public Comment: None.
Next meeting date is Monday, April 20, 2026, at 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 *****

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Approval of the Meeting Minutes of
April 6th, 2026

Approved and signed 4/20/2026

Joseph Donoa, 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)

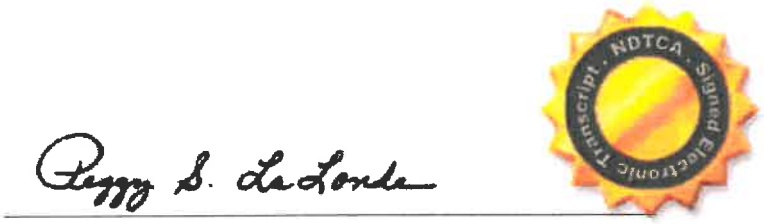
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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 7th day of April, 2026.



Peggy S. LaLonde

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