

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 1, 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, Rebecca Sliger, Joseph Allegretti

MR. BAKOTA: I would call to order the meeting of the Water Board for May 1, 2023. We'll move on to approval of minutes of April 17th, as written.

MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

MR. VENTURA: Second.

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

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

Next is Payroll Warrants: Warrant 042823, amount of \$12,028.91, Utilities Payroll, for dates of 4-8-23 to 4-21-23.

MR. VENTURA: Make a motion to approve.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

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

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

1 Warrant 042823, amount of
2 \$44,495.08, Payroll, dates of 4-8-23 to 4-21-23.

3 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

4 MR. OCHOA: Second.

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

7 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
8 Accounts Payable: Warrant 042123
9 WB, amount of \$27,660.88.

10 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

11 MR. OCHOA: Second.

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

14 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
15 Warrant 050123 WB, amount of
16 \$11,338.97.

17 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

18 MR. VENTURA: Second.

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

21 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
22 Filtration report, Obed Perez. No
23 report.

24 Water Report, Winna Guzman. No
25 report.

 Distribution Report, Allan Lee.
MS. SLIGER: It's included in your
packet.

 MR. BAKOTA: Legal Counsel, Joe
Allegretti.

 MR. ALLEGRETTI: There's been some
developments in our rate case we have pending before the
Indiana Utilities Regulatory Commission. We reached a
tentative settlement with the interested parties, who
are the three industrial customers who filed a petition
to intervene in the case, and also the Office of
Commission Accounts that represents the public at large

1 and act as the go between and advocate for resisting
rate cases and representing the public.

2 We have a tentative agreement, which
I think is good news. Which means we are going to reach
3 a conclusion and get our needed revenue sooner rather
than later. The terms are being worked on now. Let me
4 just tell you have briefly there is going to be about a
40 percent increase in water rates across our classes of
5 customers. It's in three phases.

The first phase will produce
6 additional \$2.5 million. The second phase, an
additional \$2.5 million, and the third phase an
7 additional \$1.2 million; for total of \$6.2 million of
revenue which we badly need. Also approving the
8 issuance of bond issue to pay for our capital project
that we discussed, pay off the bond anticipation note
9 that was issued recently.

10 So when all is over, the conclusion,
overall net revenue requirement to our utility is
\$12,348,000.00. So this is good news in contrast to all
11 the trouble and contentiousness that the Sanitary
District had in its rate case, particularly with its
12 industrial community. In that case five of them had
intervened.

13 Rebecca and I will have more details
in the next -- I hope by the next meeting with some
14 specific details and refresh everyones memory what the
rate case was all about. And that's all I have to say.
15

16 MR. BAKOTA: And that rate increase is
over a period of three years?

17 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Yes, three phases.

18 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you.

19 Financial Report, William Biller or
Rebecca Sliger.

20 MS. SLIGER: Nothing at this time.

21 MR. BAKOTA: New business. Resolution WD
23-10. A resolution amending the contract for legal
22 services, not-to-exceed \$12,000.00.

23 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

24 MR. VENTURA: Second.

25 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor?

1 (All signify aye.)

2 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

3 Next is contracts. J.M. Bennett &
4 Associates, LLC, Financial advisor consultant contract
5 for 2023. Also not-to-exceed \$12,000.00.

6 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to accept.

7 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

8 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor?

9 (All signify aye.)

10 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

11 Next is proposals. As we have done
12 in the past, I'll number them -- there is 11 of them --
13 I will number them. And if you want to keep track by
14 the number to avoid confusion if there is questions on
15 any specific one.

16 1. Calumet City Plumbing, meter pit
17 repair at 4918 Indianapolis Boulevard, \$4500.00.

18 2. Calumet City Plumbing, meter pit
19 repair at 5030 Indianapolis Boulevard, \$4500.00.

20 3. Calumet City Plumbing, meter pit
21 repair at 3919 McCook Avenue, \$4875.00.

22 4. Calumet City Plumbing, meter pit
23 repair at 4850 Wegg Avenue, \$5125.00.

24 5. Calumet City Plumbing, B-box
25 repair at 510 Spring Street, \$6950.69.

6. Hessville Plumbing, meter pit
repair at 4715 Baring Avenue, \$1220.00.

7. Hessville Plumbing, meter pit
repair at 4608 Tod Avenue, \$4004.50.

8. Hessville Plumbing, meter pit
repair at 612 West 143rd Street, \$3440.50.

9. Hasse Construction Company,
repair broken water main at 151st and Homerlee Avenue,
\$6210.13.

10. De-Vine Landscaping, inside
window cleaning, \$350.00.

11. Thomas Irrigation, maintain
water sprinkler system, not-to-exceed \$1,000.00,
Filtration. That concludes the proposals.

MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

MR. VENTURA: Second.

MR. BAKOTA: All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

1 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

2 Next is agreements. Indiana 811
3 Membership Agreement.

4 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

5 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

6 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Before you vote, we
7 always resisted the entry into the 811 agreement for the
8 reason that, you know, we only care about our service
9 lines and our utilities in the public rights of way. We
10 don't really want to be asked to do locates on private
11 property. The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission --
12 we had a disagreement and I was not successful. They
13 insisted that as a condition to favorably resolve our
14 rate case, that we join. So that's in a nutshell why we
15 are now members of the 811. Probably a good thing
16 overall. It protects the infrastructure. We will only
17 again do locates in our publicly owned service lines and
18 water mains. We are not going on private property.

19 MR. BAKOTA: Do they do service for gas
20 also?

21 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Well, it's basically an
22 operation run by NIPSCO to protect NIPSCO, that's how it
23 started. We have sewers. We have fiberoptic lines and
24 we have our waterlines to protect. So all in all that's
25 all we care about as far as the City is concerned and
26 it's the City joining, not just the Water Department,
27 it's City-wide. The cost is minimal when we are sharing
28 it with everybody.

29 MR. BAKOTA: I have a motion and a
30 second. All in favor?

31 (All signify aye.)

32 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

33 Next is Shot Spotter, authorization
34 for placement of equipment at the Water Department.

35 MR. OCHOA: So this is at the building
36 itself?

37 MR. ALLEGRETTI: We are cooperating with
38 the Police Department.

39 MR. OCHOA: I think we should table this
40 until we get more information on it.

1 MR. ALLEGRETTI: I think they are looking
2 to place this at the Water Department.

3 MS. SLIGER: Whatever their equipment is
4 that they have, I don't understand exactly how the
5 equipment works. That's all they are wanting to do is
6 place their equipment on our property. And what the
7 Shot Spotter does, it basically helps, with the
8 positioning of the other equipment, to help triangulate
9 when shots are fired somewhere, to help narrow it down
10 where they are coming from a little bit faster and
11 easier. I guess our location, for whatever reason, must
12 be a key spot for them to help cover certain areas.

13 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Of course, we try to
14 cooperate with law enforcement.

15 MR. OCHOA: I make a motion to approve
16 then.

17 MR. LOPEZ: Second.

18 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor?

19 (All signify aye.)

20 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

21 De-Vine Landscaping, authorization
22 for the release of property. Was there an accident?

23 MS. SLIGER: Yes. During the wintertime
24 they were there to plow. They slid on ice when they
25 were plowing back where the Distribution garage door is.
They were plowing in that area, clearing all of that out
so the trucks could get in and out. I guess the truck
slid and it hit the side of the building. So you will
see, about where the top of the blades are and the
bottom, you will see the indentation into the building.
So it's like aluminum or steel siding on the outside of
the Distribution building garage area is buckled and
bent in.

26 MR. BAKOTA: Cost is \$7,790.00.

27 MS. SLIGER: Well, that was what the
28 estimated repair was suppose to be. Now it's coming to
29 you to release De-Vine Landscaping, since they're the
30 ones that did it, so it is their insurance company who
31 is involved with this. They are trying to get the
32 payment released to us.

1 MR. VENTURA: Auto Owners Insurance.

2 MS. SLIGER: Yes, that's De-Vine's
3 provider.

4 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

5 MR. VENTURA: Second.

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

7 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
Next is Adjustments. First one is
8 Otoniel Lauriano, 4926 Olcott Avenue, \$661.80. Do I
have a motion?

9 MR. VENTURA: Motion to approve.

10 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

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

12 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
Next, Antonia Page, 3917 Alexander
13 Avenue. Originally was \$66.16, adjusted to \$56.16.

14 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

15 MR. OCHOA: Second.

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

17 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
Next is East Chicago Marina, 010489,
18 3301 Aldis, hydrant usage. Original was 528, it's
adjusted to 336.

19 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

20 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

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

22 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
East Chicago Marina, 010385, 3301
23 Aldis, hydrant usage. Original was \$678.94, adjusted to
24 \$486.94.

25 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

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MR. OCHOA: Second.

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

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
East Chicago Marina, 168999, 3301
Aldis, hydrant usage. Original was 528, adjusted is
336.

MR. VENTURA: Motion to approve.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

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

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
Any Unfinished Business: None
Public Comment: None
Next meeting will be here in the
Council Chambers, May 15, at 5:00 p.m.
Is there a motion for adjournment?

MR. OCHOA: Motion to adjourn.

MR. ASKOUNIS second.

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

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
Meeting adjourned.

**** Meeting adjourned ****

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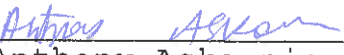
Approval of the Meeting Minutes of
May 1, 2023


Approved and signed May 15, 2023

John Bakota, President


Henry Ventura, Vice-President


Joseph Ochoa, Member


Anthony Askounis, Member


Ray Lopez, Member


Ateria Allen, 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 5th day of May, 2023.

Peggy S. LaLonde



Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR