CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
BOARD OF SANITARY COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEMBERS

Steve Flowers, President
Henry Ventura, Vice-President
Alojzy (Ben) Moricz, Member
Tia Cauley, Member
Jawann Jones, Member

Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 7, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

Reported for Fissinger & Associates, Ltd.
By: Peggy S. LaLonde

Call to Order: 4:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Present In Chambers: Steve Flowers, Henry Ventura, Ben Moricz, Tia Cauley, Jawann Jones

Staff Present in Chambers: Lilia Ramos, Secretary
Allan Lee, Utilities Director
Rebecca Sliger, Financial
Joseph Allegretti, Legal

MR. FLOWERS: I will now call to order the regular meeting of the Sanitary Board of Commissioners of East Chicago for May 7th, 2026.
I need a motion to approve minutes from the April 16th, 2026 meeting as written.

MR. JONES: Motion for approval.

MR. VENTURA: Second.

MR. FLOWERS: All in favor signify aye.
(All signify aye.)
MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.
Next we have check warrants. They're relatively small, so I'll put the two together and then take a motion to accept.
Check Warrants: Sanitary District

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Wastewater Division: Warrant 050726 SR, amount of $6,235.00; Warrant 050726 SW, amount of $42,118.01.

MR. VENTURA: Make a motion to approve.

MS. CAULEY: Second.

MR. FLOWERS: All in favor signify aye.
(All signify aye.)
MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.
Payroll Warrants: Warrant 042426 Sanitary Board payroll, dates of 4-4-26 to 4-17-26; Warrant 042426 Wastewater payroll, dates of 4-4-26 to 4-17-26, Warrant 042426 Utility payroll, dates of 4-4-26 to 4-17-26.

MS. CAULEY: Make a motion.

MR. VENTURA: Second.

MR. FLOWERS: All in favor signify aye.
(All signify aye.)
MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.
Sanitary District, Solid Waste Division: Warrant 050726 SS, amount of $225,926.64; Warrant 042426 Solids payroll, dates of 4-4-26 to 4-17-26.

MR. JONES: Make a motion for approval.

MR. VENTURA: Second.

MR. FLOWERS: All in favor signify aye.
(All signify aye.)
MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.
Report from Solid Waste: Jaylan Robinson. Not present.
Report of Field Operations: Allan Lee, Utility Director.

MR. LEE: Just a couple things. IDEM and EPA were out Thursday at our plant, there was a discharge. We were fined and the EPA was checking, which they were very happy that it didn't make it past the clarifiers. We got a letter, I think yesterday, from IDEM. They were also happy with the two things. Our regular inspection will be this Fall from the EPA and IDEM. Everything looks pretty good.

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MR. FLOWERS: Thank you, Mr. Lee.
Next we have report from Financial Consultant: Rebecca Sliger.
MR. SLIGER: No report at this time.
MR. FLOWERS: Thank you, Miss Sliger.
Report from Legal Counsel: Joe Allegretti.
MR. ALLEGRETTI: Just the public hearing that is on the agenda. The design engineer is here. The public hearing was properly advertised and public notice was in the local newspapers. It's a hearing on the proposed PER, Engineering Report.
Mr. Irwin will have a short presentation, with your permission, Mr. President, outlining the projects that are approved and proposed to be financed from our loan from the State Revolving Loan Fund. It's required when participating in the loan program.
Mr. President, if you would be so kind to bang the gavel and open the public portion of meeting. Then Mr. Irwin can give his presentation.

MR. FLOWERS: All right. I'd like to open the public hearing for the Preliminary Engineering Report.

MR. IRWIN: Good afternoon. Tory Irwin, from Donohue & Associates Engineering. I'm here as the East Chicago engineer representative for the State Revolving Loan Fund, Preliminary Engineering Report that has been submitted for the East Chicago Water Treatment Plant Improvement projects.
MR. ALLEGRETTI: We ask that anyone in the audience please sign in the attendance here.
The agenda will be as follows: Brief description of the project, opening of the public hearing for public comments. During this segment we ask that you come to the podium, state your name, address, and provide your comments. Comments will be accepted before and after the meeting and directed to Tory Irwin at tirwin@donohue-associates.com through Tuesday May 12, 2026. Comments will be recorded and submitted to the State Revolving Loan Fund as part of the Preliminary Engineering Report. A brief response to any questions will by provided by Donohue, who will answer any

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questions as best as possible.

Following public comment and response, we will close the public hearing. We thank you for doing the Preliminary Engineering Report commonly referred to as PER, which will be currently available through May 12 for review at the East Chicago Sanitary District, located at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

MR. IRWIN: This project is being submitted to the Indiana Clean Water, State Revolving Fund, for their review for potential funding. Project will be a low interest loan. The project will make improvements to the wastewater treatment plant to replace and upgrade equipment and processes that have reached the end of their useful life and expand the redundancy for backup. The project will involve various components. The station sanitary pump and discharge piping, oxidation ditch, concrete repairs, sludge press and polymer system replacement, release system replacement, return activate pump replacement, and finally the clarifying component replacement, replacement of sanitary filtration for disc filters and one final clarifier and return.

The chunk of the work for this project will be the site of the existing wastewater treatment plant and station. Each project will provide necessary maintenance of these facilities and are continued to provide treatment in compliance with the NGDS permit guidelines. The replacing of this station's component is anticipated, will be bid and constructed in 2026. And to clarify, the reimbursement of the State Revolving Loan wastewater treatment plant component design will be in 2026, with benefitting potential in the first half of 2027. The construction will be beginning in the second half of 2027 and likely last through 2028. Future phases are possible beyond those years.

MR. ALLEGRETTI: This concludes the summary and needs for the project. We would now ask the public hearing be opened up for public comment and request that anyone in the audience who would like to speak come up to the podium.

MR. FLOWERS: Thank you. Any other comments?

MR. ALLEGRETTI: Mr. President, it

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doesn't appear there are any persons that are in the room that wish to comment or make any public comments. If I may suggest, I think you are free to bang the gavel and close the public hearing portion of the meeting.

MR. FLOWERS: We'll close the public hearing comments. Moving on. Resolution SD 2611, a Resolution of the East Chicago Sanitary Board authorizing additional appropriations to the East Chicago Sewage Utility Operating Fund 6201.

MS. SLIGER: We are asking that Resolution SD 26-11 be removed from the agenda as we are waiting to meet with BakerTilly on May 20th for further discussion involving the financing for the Sanitary and Storm Water Division.

MS. CAULEY: Make a motion.

MR. VENTURA: Second.

MS. CAULEY: Mr. Allegretti, is this going to be pre bonds where we borrow money from one entity to the other or will it just be separate?

MR. ALLEGRETTI: Ultimately -- so the bond anticipation notes, they can last as long as five years before they have to be paid. Typically if we do issue bond anticipation notes, it's for some interim financing or usually due to the administrative expenses and fees incurred in designing and initiating the Public Works project. What is contemplated with the issuance of bonds, those are going to be purchased by the State Revolving Loan Fund at a subsidized rate. Typically those bonds run for a term of 20 years. That's typically what the bond issue is. And the debt will be paid by the increase in sewer user charges previously approved by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission. So, we don't issue tax back bonds anymore. These are so-called revenue bonds, which are already built into the rate that was recently approved by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission.

MS. CAULEY: My other question is, that means they are not going to have to borrow money from

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Sanitary?

MR. ALLEGRETTI: Well, any money -- the longer that we are authorized to make the improvements, the funds will be from the State Revolving Loan Fund.

MS. CAULEY: Okay. Are we going to make sure this is closed out this time, because when we were at the meeting, they told us we didn't close it out at the proper time.

MR. ALLEGRETTI: The State Revolving Loan Fund, in the past, they don't like it when the money is not drawn down and when there is delay in the project and delay in using the money for the project because they like the money to be used, paid back, recirculated, and let out again to other projects. That's always been a problem, and not just to us as the Sanitary District. We cannot anticipate the designs are going to be ready to go, they are going to come in on budget and on time.

MS. CAULEY: Thank you.

MR. ALLEGRETTI: Famous last words.

MR. FLOWERS: Motion made and second. All in favor signify aye.

(All signify aye.)

MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.

Moving on to Agreements. Agreements/Proposals/Quotes/Rate Sheets: A-1 Alternative Fuel Systems, not-to-exceed $25,000.00 (Solids).

MS. CAULEY: Make a motion.

MR. VENTURA: Second.

MR. FLOWERS: All in favor signify aye.

(All signify aye.)

MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.

Johnson Controls Proposal and Service Agreement - $10,563.53 (Solids).

MR. VENTURA: Make a motion to approve.

MS. CAULEY: Second.

MR. FLOWERS: All in favor signify aye.

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(All signify aye.)
MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.
Industrial Repair Service Quote - #Q283893, amount of $6,502.00.

MS. CAULEY: Make a motion.

MR. VENTURA: Second.

MR. FLOWERS: All in favor signify aye.
(All signify aye.)
MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.
R & D Construction 2026 rate sheet not-to-exceed $150,000.00 (Cooperation with Engineering resurfacing Project First Group Agreement).

MS. CAULEY: Make a motion.

MR. VENTURA: Second the motion.

MR. FLOWERS: All in favor signify aye.
(All signify aye.)
MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.
Past Due Memo: Department of Water Works, $165.77. Explanation: Invoice e-mailed from the Water Department April 16, 2026.

MS. CAULEY: Make a motion

MR. VENTURA: Second.

MR. FLOWERS: All in favor signify aye.
(All signify aye.)
MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.
Past Due Memo: National Power Rodding, amount of $42,322.50. Explanation: Invoices were mailed from National Power Rodding May 1st, 2026.

MR. VENTURA: Make a motion to approve.

MR. JONES: I'll second the motion.

MR. FLOWERS: All in favor signify aye.
(All signify aye.)
MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.
Altofer - CAT - $1,433.79. Explanation: Invoice was mailed May 1st, 2026.

MS. CAULEY: Make a motion.

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MR. VENTURA: Second.

MR. FLOWERS: All in favor signify aye.
(All signify aye.)
MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.
Public Comment: None
Next scheduled meeting is May 21, 2026 at 4:00 p.m., in Chambers.
Is there a motion to adjourn?

MS. CAULEY: Make a motion.

MR. JONES: Second.

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

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Approval of the Meeting Minutes of Thursday May 7th, 2026

Approved and signed _____

_____
Steve Flowers, President

_____
Henry Ventura, Vice-President

_____
Tia Cauley

_____
Ben Moricz

_____
Jawann Jones

_____
Lilia Ramos, Recording 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 18th day of May, 2026.



Peggy S. LaLonde

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