

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS

BOARD MEMBERS

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

Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 19, 2023 @ 5:00 p.m.
Reported for Fissinger & Associates
By: Lisa Pena

CALL TO ORDER: 5:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLIANCE:

ROLL CALL: Present in Chambers: John Bakota, Henry Ventura,
Joseph Ochoa, Anthony Askounis, Ray Lopez

STAFF PRESENT: In Chambers: Ateria Allen, Winna Guzman,
Allan Lee, Rebecca Sliger

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 5, 2023

Motion to approve June 5, 2023 Meeting Minutes made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Henry Ventura.

Comments/Questions: None.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:

Payroll

MR. BAKOTA: Next is Approval of Warrants, Payroll.
060923 in the amount of \$21,242.21. This is Utilities
Payroll from 5/20/23 to 6/2/23.

1 Motion to approve Warrant 060923 Utilities Payroll 5/20/23 to
2 6/2/23 made by Henry Ventura. Second by Ray Lopez.

3 Comments/Questions: None.

4 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
5 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

6 MR. BAKOTA: Warrant 060923 in the amount of \$47,291.94.
7 This is Payroll from 5/20/23 to 6/2/23.

8 Motion to approve Warrant 060923 Payroll 5/20/23 to 6/2/23
9 made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Ray Lopez.

10 Comments/Questions: None.

11 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
12 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

13 Accounts Payable

14 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Accounts Payable. 061923 WF in the
15 amount of \$338,214.33.

16 Motion to approve Warrant 061923 WF made by Ray Lopez.
17 Second by Joseph Ochoa.

18 Comments/Questions: None.

19 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
20 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

21 MR. BAKOTA: Account 061923 WT in the amount of \$682.01.

22 Motion to approve Warrant 061923 WT made by Joseph Ochoa.
23 Second by Ray Lopez.

24 Comments/Questions: None.

25 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

MR. BAKOTA: Account 061923 CD in the amount of
\$3,025.97.

1 Motion to approve Warrant 061923 CD made by Ray Lopez.
2 Second by Henry Ventura.

3 Comments/Questions: None.

4 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
5 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

6 MR. BAKOTA: Account 061923 WB in the amount of
7 \$146,532.01.

8 Motion to approve Warrant 061923 WB made by Anthony Askounis.
9 Second by Henry Ventura.

10 Comments/Questions: None.

11 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
12 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

13 MR. BAKOTA: Account 063023 WB in the amount of
14 \$3,144,729.69.

15 Motion to approve Warrant 063023 WB made by Ray Lopez.
16 Second by Joseph Ochoa.

17 Comments/Questions: None.

18 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
19 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

20 REPORTS:

21 Filtration Report: None.

22 Water Report: None.

23 Distribution Report:

24 MR. BAKOTA: Distribution Report.

25 MR. LEE: These are the projects that we want to get
done this year. Hopefully if not at the end of the year,
first of next year.

Got some critical valves that need to be fixed.
Also on the other sheet these are our hydrants that's going
on in the field where we're at. We're chopping away on those
too a little bit.

1 So to pick up on number 4, 56 items, right around
2 there, maybe 57, on Walsh and Homerlee that don't have
meters.

3 They're copper. But looks like we're working on
4 the funding for that. And hopefully in the next month or two
they'll have a real meter.

5 MS. LOPEZ: Depends on how much you're using?

6 MR. LEE: We're estimating.

7 MR. LOPEZ: Estimating until we get new meters?

8 MR. LEE: A lot of them never had meters. The
9 contractor put in a new water main. They put in new
services, but forgot to put in a new meter.

10 They put in the new copper wire though. They just
11 didn't put a meter in.

12 MR. BAKOTA: Was that part of the contract?

13 MR. LEE: It's been too long. Just finding stuff that's
14 underneath the carpet. We're getting it fixed. Looks like
they cut funding for us somewhere.

15 Hasse has given us a bid. And we're going to take
16 care of it.

17 MR. OCHOA: Are these indoor meters?

18 MR. LEE: Well, there's no meters. They're going to be
19 outside of the pit. That's where the meters are going. But
there's no meters inside or out.

20 MR. OCHOA: So they're going to go outside?

21 MR. LEE: Outside of the pit instead of inside. No more
22 inside.

23 MR. OCHOA: No more inside?

24 MR. LEE: No.

25 MR. OCHOA: Why is that?

 MR. LEE: Because I'm here. I'll tell you why. You go
into the houses. People don't like to do extra stuff in the

1 house.

2 If the meter is outside by the curb, you've got
3 control. I don't need you to come to the house and take off
4 a whole day of work. I can take care of the meter. I can
5 get in there.

6 I don't have to go in your house if I have Covid or
7 he has Covid. I don't have to do that. There's a lot of
8 benefits to that.

9 You have a utility company and they say oh, the
10 meter sometime between 8:00 and 12:00. You took off work.
11 You don't have to do that if the meter is outside. We can
12 handle our business all outside.

13 We're chopping away. We've got 89 valves. We did
14 talk to the Mayor about that, about working some Saturdays to
15 get those.

16 They're on the list. But we sort of put something
17 else above that. You know, just go around it.

18 We bid out five more hydrants with Calumet City
19 Plumbing. They've replaced two of the five. There's still
20 three left. You can find them on the page.

21 Then we found two more hydrants at the Marina.
22 They're original hydrants from the City. Probably 100 years
23 old. Maybe a little more. Maybe a little less. We added
24 those to the list.

25 We still have meters in the box. Those are the
ones that have broken rods. So that's under the universe.

We got all the meters that weren't getting read.
We're reading on time. We've addressed a few of the high
bills. Everyone now is getting a nice up-to-date bill.

There's about 50 that are broke, can't read. We're
addressing those slow. We did four pits today. The meters
were broken. We fixed them. So it's a process.

Let's see. On the back we had 153 repaired so far
this year, leaks. People are addressing water leaks. I
think when we get where we need to be, we won't be giving out
as much water as we think.

We tested 100 meters last year. Right now we're at

1 140 meters tested. We're still wanting to do some tests.
2 We're moving right along.

3 Our goal is 200 meters tested this year. That is
4 our goal. We were at 50. 100 last year. 200 this year.

5 We have about 1,000 meter pits. Hopefully we'll be
6 getting funding for that too. We'll get rid of those and put
7 a nice new one, proper inside of a lid.

8 Still working to get Ray into the permanent
9 position. And working on him to run the heavy equipment.

10 Still have some other things we need to do. I
11 still need a Bobcat and a convert.

12 Working on a storage material yard. Probably going
13 to put it in the old distribution plant. I got a bid from
14 Hasse. I want to see about somebody else.

15 Property box, we're limited right now on what we
16 can do inhouse because we don't have a place to put the
17 concrete to dig on, the stone. We don't have any of that.

18 So we're going to build a yard so we can have all
19 our dirt and stone and be able to load it out. We'll dig a
20 hole and get the stone out of here. So we're working on
21 that.

22 Both bathrooms at the Marina aren't metered. So
23 we're working on that issue.

24 One of the bathrooms is the laundry. All those
25 people go do their portion of clothing and dryer. It's like
\$4 a load.

I'm looking into like we did with American Water
down in the future. Maybe working with the Fire Department
to get a little money too.

Because as we replace new hydrants, we have the
nozzles. But you can buy the nozzles and put them on all the
old hydrants. When the hydrant is replaced, you can take the
nozzle off. Something to look forward to in the future.

Still need two pickups and a dump truck.

And we're working now on the Sanitary Department to
get everything metered like we did Public Works. One meter

1 inside the building and all that. So we're working with
2 that.

3 And we have 32 leaky meter pits in the month of
4 May. And 15 of them are repaired inhouse by our guys. We're
5 slowly getting there.

6 MS. LOPEZ: The wish list, right?

7 MR. LEE: No wishes. We've got to do better. We've got
8 to get to work on it.

9 MR. OCHOA: How many guys do you have for a full crew?

10 MR. LEE: We have a foreman and a helper. Mark has been
11 helping if a job is real bad once in awhile.

12 We're working on it. We're going to get positions
13 filled. We're going to try to add a few more so we can build
14 most of the stuff inhouse.

15 We're doing a little more each month now. Ronny
16 got hired full time. Jerry is full time. And Ray is full
17 time. We only have the two. You know, based on Mark has
18 been there quite awhile. So we're getting there.

19 Still have to do all the other stuff, the meter
20 changes and all the meter shop work and all that. So we're
21 getting there.

22 MR. BAKOTA: I've got to tell the Board I stopped at the
23 Maintenance Building today and Allen showed me through it. I
24 mean if you have a chance to do it at Allen's convenience
25 because he's busy, but I think you will be impressed the way
that place looks now.

I mean it's orderly. Big change from when I went
through there last sometime ago. But got to give Allen
credit. It really does look good.

Legal Counsel: None.

Financial Report: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolutions:

MR. BAKOTA: Resolution WD 23-13. A resolution of the

1 Board of Directors of the East Chicago Department of
2 Waterworks authorizing a temporary transfer to a depleted
3 fund, Water.

3 And Resolution W 23-13. Therefore be it resolved
4 by the Water Board of Directors of the City of East Chicago
5 that the Chief Fiscal Officer is authorized to make a
6 temporary transfer of \$1,100,000 from Water Tank Refurbishing
7 Fund 6106 to East Chicago Water Utility Fund 6101 which shall
8 be refunded on or before December 13, 2023 and now which by
9 passing both voids and rescinds Resolution W 23-12 dated June
10 5, 2023.

7 Motion to approve Resolution WD 23-13 and Resolution W 23-13
8 made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Henry Ventura.

9 Comments/Questions: None.

10 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
11 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

12 Proposals:

13 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Proposals. We have three. I'll
14 number them.

14 First one is Hessville Plumbing, a meter pit repair
15 at 4822 Olcott Avenue \$3,180. Hessville Plumbing meter pit
16 repair at 4313 Elm Street \$3,100. Number 3 is Filmtec
17 Corporation 2023 Process Audit \$19,020.

17 That concludes the Proposals.

18 Motion to approve Hessville Plumbing 4822 Olcott Avenue Meter
19 Pit Repair Proposal, Hessville Plumbing 4313 Elm Street Meter
20 Pit Repair Proposal and Filmtec Corporation 2023 Process
21 Audit Proposal made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony
22 Askounis.

21 Comments/Questions: None.

22 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
23 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

24 MR. BAKOTA: On this Resolution for Filmtec Corporation
25 they still have Rich Carr.

25 MS. SLIGER: I have to talk to Carla about it and have
her contact them and tell them they need to update all of our

1 information.

2 MR. BAKOTA: Because he has been gone a long time.

3 Other:

4 MR. BAKOTA: Other. All this is FYI from what I can
5 see.

6 MS. GUZMAN: Yes.

7 MR. BAKOTA: It's all in your packet. Unless you want
8 me to read it, you can digest it at your whim.

9 UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

10 PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

11

12 * Next Regular Meeting Date: Monday, July 3, 2023
13 @ 5:00 p.m.

14

15

16 Motion to adjourn made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Henry
17 Ventura.

18

19 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.

20

21 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

22

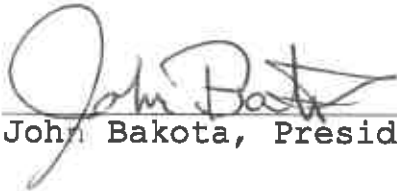
23

24 * Meeting ended at 5:20 p.m.

25

Approval of the Meeting Minutes of
Monday, June 19, 2023

Approved and Signed July 3rd, 2023



John Bakota, President



Henry Ventura, Vice President



Joseph Ochoa, Member



Anthony Askounis, Member



Ray Lopez, Member




Ateria Allen, Board Secretary

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Lisa Pena, 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 said proceedings taken at said time and place, so ordered to be transcribed.

Dated at Portage, Indiana, this 25th day of June, 2023.



Lisa Pena
Notary Public Porter County
Certified Shorthand Reporter
License Number 084-003483

