

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
BOARD OF SANITARY COMMISSIONERS

BOARD MEMBERS

Steve Flowers, President
Alojzy (Ben) Moricz, Vice-President
Tia Cauley, Member
Miguel (Mike) Rivera, Member
Jawann Jones, Member

Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 1, 2021, at 4:30 p.m.
Reported for Fissinger & Associates, Ltd
By: Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR

Call to Order: 4:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Roll Call: Present In Chambers: Steve Flowers
Present Telephonic Conference: Tia Cauley,
Ben Moricz, Miguel Rivera, Jawann Jones

Staff Present in Chambers: Anthony Herrera,
Joseph Allegretti

MR. FLOWERS: The meeting will now come to order. This is the meeting of the East Chicago, Indiana, Board of Sanitary Commissioners. This is July 1st, 2021, 4:30 p.m., City Hall Chambers. The meeting is being conducted via phone conference. We'll also stipulate the members delegate the president the authority to execute all warrants, documents, minutes, etcetera, on behalf of the Commission, eliminating the need to collect signatures from the members participating electronically.

First item, approval of the minutes of meetings held on June 17, 2021. Is there a motion?

MR. RIVERA: Make a motion.

MS. CAULEY: Second.

MR. FLOWERS: Any questions on the motion? (None) All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.

1 MR. FLOWERS: Any questions on the
motion? (None) All in favor?

2 (All signify aye.)

MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.

3 SANITARY DISTRICT - SOLID WASTE DIVISION
WARRANT 070121 SS - \$53,528.82.

4 MR. RIVERA: Motion to approve.

5 MR. MORICZ: Second.

6 MR. FLOWERS: Any questions on the
7 motion? (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

8 MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.

9 WARRANT 062521 - Solids Payroll
Dates of 6-5-21 to 6-18-21.

10 MS. CAULEY: Make a motion.

11 MR. MORICZ: Second.

12 MR. FLOWERS: Any questions on the
motion? (None) All in favor?

13 (All signify aye.)

MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.

14 Next we have reports.

Field Operations: No report.

15 Solid Waste: No report.

Financial Consultant: No Report

16 Legal Counsel: Joe Allegretti

17 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Good afternoon. A
18 couple things. In the Council Chambers today is Jim
19 Metros, in a previous life he was the former mayor of
the City of Crown Point, he now is here as
representative of Republic Services.

20 As the Board recalls, we opened
21 competitive, sealed bids at our last meeting. I was
hoping to have not only a report, but also a signed
22 contract with the obvious low bidder, which was Republic
Services. I have exchanged forms of contract documents
23 with their representatives and I expect to have a signed
agreement for the Board's authorization at our next
meeting.

24 Mr. Metros, are you interested in
talking or commenting to anything?

25 MR. METROS: You are doing a fine job and

1 we appreciate your business.

2 MR. ALLEGRETTI: And there are two
3 different features of the bid, I may as well talk about
4 it -- I will talk about it the next time. There is a
5 couple other things, which I guess I will just discuss
6 as they come up on the agenda. That's my report.

7 MR. FLOWERS: Thank you.
8 New Business. First item is SD
9 21-06 resolution.

10 MR. ALLEGRETTI: This is a resolution
11 amending our salary resolution adopted at the beginning
12 of the fiscal year, which was the first meeting in
13 January. This modifies the compensation pay to our
14 superintendent. I guess he's called Director of
15 Wastewater Operations, Ken Myers. This represents an
16 increase to his compensation of \$15,000 annually. This
17 is, I think City Hall agrees, this is an appropriate
18 compensation amount. It's commensurate with what a
19 typical person with those responsibilities is paid in
20 the industry at other wastewater treatment plants in
21 Northwest Indiana, and it is recommended by staff that
22 the Board act favorably on this resolution.

23 MR. FLOWERS: Thank you, Mr. Allegretti.
24 Is there a motion?

25 MS. CAULEY: Make a motion.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. FLOWERS: Any questions on the
motion? (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.

Next, Hasse Construction - Sanitary
Sewer Repair - invoices 11607, 11680, 11590, and that's
in the packet here. These are dated June 22nd from the
construction company. There's a letter enclosed with an
explanation. This was due to a Sanitary District
emergency, in January, that required immediate attention
in the Roxana area, at the intersection of Indianapolis
Boulevard and Shell Street. Due to the nature of the
situation the Sanitary District hired Hasse Construction
to immediately resolve the emergency repair of
Indianapolis Boulevard and Shell Road. Funding was not
available at the time of billing, so the Sanitary

1 District is asking for approval to proceed with payment
2 of these invoices. Is there a motion?

3 MS. CAULEY: Make a motion.

4 MR. MORICZ: Second.

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

7 MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.

8 Next is Donohue - Long Term Control
9 Plan 2021 Project Upgrade (Amended). Mr. Allegretti?

10 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Our consent judgment
11 with the Department of Environmental Management requires
12 us to adhere to our so-called Long Term CSO Control
13 Plan. The Plan is required of all CSO communities. We
14 have combined sewers. As we all know, wastewater is
15 discharged into the receiving stream, in our case the
16 Grand Calumet River. In order to reduce the amount of
17 discharges during wet weather, discharges of combined
18 wastewater, we are required to have a long term CSO
19 Control Plan designed to reduce those discharges, those
20 wet weather discharges.

21 Our plan is 15 years old and is in
22 need of significant updating and review. We have hired
23 Donohue to perform that analysis and to propose updates.

24 For example, one of the features of
25 our existing Long Term Control Plan is the sewer
26 operation separation for Michigan Avenue, at an
27 estimated cost at the time -- 15 years ago -- of
28 \$15,000,000.00. The current estimated cost is
29 \$60 million.

30 Since that time there has been
31 technological developments for treating in place rather
32 than sewer separations, which are more cost effective
33 and more environmental friendly. This is one example of
34 some potential savings that we can realize in real
35 dollars by reviewing and modifying the long term CSO
36 Control Plan. So that's the underlying purpose for this
37 expense.

38 MR. FLOWERS: Thank you, Mr. Allegretti.
39 Is there a motion?

40 MS. CAULEY: Make a motion.

41 MR. RIVERA: Second.

1 MR. FLOWERS: Any questions on the
motion? (None) All in favor?

2 (All signify aye.)

MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.

3 Next on agenda is Austgen Electric
4 Inc. - Scada & Hardware, in the amount of \$138,199.23.

5 MR. ALLEGRETTI: You know, I should have
my grandchild here to discuss this technology because I
6 am obviously not qualified. And the best person to talk
about this is Ken Myers, but he's on vacation which is
7 why he's not participating.

8 Our Scada system is not complete,
which creates some hardship for the plant operators.
9 This is designed to finish off and attach that portion
of our remote pump station to the system so that we can
10 get real time information for the operators, which is
necessary to operate these pump stations and lift
11 stations, particularly during wet weather. And these
are improvements that have been put off and are
desperately and sorely needed by the plant.

12 MR. RIVERA: Make a motion to approve.

13 MS. CAULEY: Second.

14 MR. FLOWERS: Any questions on the
motion? (None) All in favor?

15 (All signify aye.)

MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.

16 Next is Austgen Electric Inc., Plant
17 Testing, amount of \$39,924.45. Mr. Allegretti?

18 MR. ALLEGRETTI: I apologize for talking
so much. These are additional electrical upgrades that
19 are necessary. It's been deferred maintenance and these
are for electrical improvements at the plant.

20 MR. JONES: Make a motion.

21 MR. RIVERA: Second.

22 MR. FLOWERS: Any questions on the
23 motion? (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.

24 Sewer Adjustments at 4244
25 Indianapolis Boulevard, and that's in the packet. I saw
that.

1 MR. ALLEGRETTI: These are normally
2 recommended by Winna Guzman. She is also on vacation
3 this week and these are her recommendations for
4 adjustment to a sewer bill.

5 MR. RIVERA: Make a motion to approve the
6 recommendation of 4244 Indianapolis Boulevard.

7 MS. CAULEY: Second.

8 MR. FLOWERS: Any questions on the
9 motion? (None) All in favor?

10 (All signify aye.)

11 MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.

12 Unfinished Business: Best
13 Equipment, 3 one-arm garbage trucks, amount of
14 \$689,439.00.

15 MR. ALLEGRETTI: As you may remember
16 Board members, this item was tabled at the last meeting
17 until today's meeting. Rene Cid, from Public Works is
18 here to talk about the specific need for these vehicles.
19 What I am reporting to you is that the purchase and the
20 price of these vehicles has been vetted by our financial
21 advisor, Mr. Bennett, and by the controller's office.
22 There is money in Sanitary Solids Fund to pay cash for
23 these. We don't need to do a lease purchase. I spoke
24 with Mr. Bennett today and he confirms that.

25 Any questions about the physical
need for the trucks that can be answered by Mr. Cid, who
is also in the room.

MR. CID: Good evening, Board.

MR. RIVERA: Mr. President, I have a
question for Mr. Allegretti. At our last meeting when
we tabled this matter, you stated that the Mayor was not
aware of this. Is he aware of it now?

MR. ALLEGRETTI: Absolutely. And
apparently he was aware of it, but I was not aware that
he was aware. So the lack of awareness was all on my
doing.

MR. CID: I would just like to go over
what you have -- maybe you have it attached there. We
are requesting approval to purchase three new one-arm
garbage trucks. The 313 is the oldest garbage truck
currently in our fleet. Attached trucks are the exact

1 same trucks we got in your approval of 2019. We would
2 purchase the garbage trucks from the same vendor as
before, Best Equipment.

3 Please note that we have one quote
4 attached, as this vendor is a part of the Source Well
5 Program. That's a government sponsored program. The
6 quote and specs with the garbage trucks are attached in
7 this packet. So I am asking the Board for approval of
8 this project, which is the amount of \$689,439.00.

9 MR. FLOWERS: Thank you, Mr. Cid.

10 MR. RIVERA: Make a motion to approve the
11 purchase of the three new garbage trucks.

12 MR. JONES: Second that motion.

13 MR. FLOWERS: Any questions on the
14 motion? (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

15 MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.

16 Public Comment: None

17 Next meeting date is July 15, 2021,
18 at 4:30. Mr. Allegretti, will we be meeting in person
19 coming up soon or do we need to address that?

20 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Apparently the Governor
21 made an additional Executive Order today extending the
22 Pandemic emergent protocols. I have not reviewed that
23 in detail. I think the rule provides that the Board
24 should -- all Boards or agencies such as ours -- should
25 meet in person. The Board is free to adopt a resolution
providing that half of the Board members, that is two
and a half people, can participate remotely --
electronically -- for two meetings in a row only. And
must -- beyond that point -- must participate in person,
but the remote electronic participation must be of the
nature that not only can their voice be heard, they must
be seen. We do have a big monitor in the Council
Chambers, but we would need help from the IT Department
where we can participate zoom.

So maybe we should kind of take a
pole, Mr. President, see what the wishes are of the
Commission members going forward, if anybody wants to
comment.

MR. FLOWERS: Any comment, Commissioners?

MS. CAULEY: I say yes. We should meet

1 in person. I'm all for it.

2 MR. RIVERA: Yes.

3 MR. JONES: Yes.

4 MR. FLOWERS: I'm here anyway. I have to
5 be present, so I have no problems with it. So, Mr.
6 Allegretti, do we need a motion?

7 MR. ALLEGRETTI: I'm going to take it
8 this meeting, that the Board is not receptive to
9 entertaining a motion for remote electronic
10 participation. So, I guess, on July 15th -- well, it's
11 not for me to say.

12 MR. FLOWERS: So I guess moving forward
13 we are going to see all the Commissioners here July 15,
14 2021, at 4:30 here in the chambers.

15 MS. CAULEY: But for those, Mr.
16 President, those who have not gotten their COVID shots,
17 if we have the quota and the quorum, we can switch off.
18 I'm fine with that. I'm just saying now that I'm back
19 in town most of the time now, I have no problem with
20 coming to the chambers. I mean we can do it either way.
21 I know we've got some that might have medical issues, as
22 well as age, which is all of us over fifty. I feel like
23 I'm 80. Like I said, we can do it that way too,
24 whatever you want to do.

25 MR. FLOWERS: Well, should I ask people
if they have had their vaccination? I don't know what
the protocol is.

MS. CAULEY: I think that's confidential.
I think if we decide to go that other route, Attorney
Allegretti, as long as half of us are at the Board
meeting, that still suffice as of right now, correct?

MR. ALLEGRETTI: Agreed. Yes, ma'am.

MS. CAULEY: Okay. Among us, once we get
off the conference call, we can work it out that two or
more show up with you, and we can switch off.

MR. FLOWERS: Thank you.

MS. CAULEY: Is that agreeable to the

1 Commissioners though? I'm speaking for me.

2 MR. JONES: I don't have a problem coming
3 in.

4 MS. CAULEY: Okay. So we can do it like
5 that and that's how we'll work it out. Then that way
6 once they open up everything, that will be further down
7 the line, even if the president is not able to attend,
8 then one of us can chair the meeting, like I have done
9 in the past.

10 MR. FLOWERS: That's fine with me.
11 Okay -- moving on. Thank you, Commissioner Cauley.

12 MS. CAULEY: I'll be there on the 15th.
13 I'll be one of the ones to show up on the 15th.

14 MR. RIVERA: I'll be there.

15 MR. JONES: I'll be there too.

16 MR. FLOWERS: Thank you, Commissioners.
17 Can I have a motion to adjourn?

18 MS. CAULEY: Make a motion.

19 MR. JONES: Second.

20 MR. FLOWERS: All in favor say aye?
21 (All signify aye.)

22 MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.
23 Meeting adjourned.

24 ***** Meeting adjourned *****
25

Approval of the Meeting Minutes of Thursday
July 1, 2021

Approved and signed _____



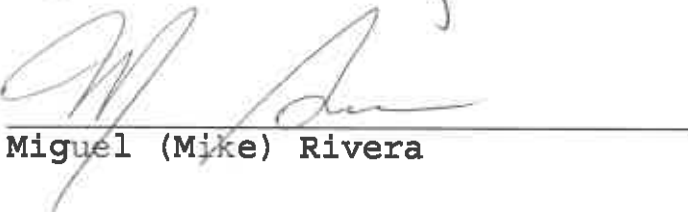
Steve Flowers, President



Ben Moricz, Vice-President



Tia Cauley



Miguel (Mike) Rivera

/s/ Jawann Jones

Jawann Jones



Anthony Herrera

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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 12th day of July, 2021.

Peggy S. LaLonde



Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR