

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting Minutes  
July 3, 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

STAFF Present via Zoom: William Biller.

MR. BAKOTA: I would call to order the  
meeting of the Water Board for July 3rd, 2023. We'll  
move on to approval of minutes of June 19th, as written.

MR. LOPEZ: Make a motion to approve.

MR. VENTURA: Second.

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

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

Next, approval of warrants.

Payroll: Warrant 062323, amount of \$12,892.14,  
Utilities Payroll dates of 6-3-23 to 6-16-23.

MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

MR. VENTURA: Second.

1 MR. BAKOTA: Any questions or comments?  
(None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

2 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
3 Warrant 062323, amount of  
4 \$43,116.37, payroll dates of 6-3-23 to 6-16-23.

5 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion.

6 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

7 MR. BAKOTA: Any questions or comments?  
(None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

8 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
9 Warrant 063023, amount of  
\$16,375.00, Utilities Payroll, dates of 6-30-23 to  
6-30-23.

10 MR. VENTURA: Make a motion to approve.

11 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

12 MR. BAKOTA: Any questions or comments?  
13 (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

14 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
15 Warrant 063023, amount of  
\$35,750.00, payroll dates of 6-30-23 to 6-30-23.

16 MR. ASKOUNIS: Make a motion to approve.

17 MR. OCHOA: Second.

18 MR. BAKOTA: Any questions or comments?  
(None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

19 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
20 Next Accounts Payable: Warrant  
062723 WT, amount of \$1,000,000.00.

21 MR. OCHOA: Motion to approve.

22 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

23 MR. BAKOTA: Any question or comments?  
24 (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

25 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

1 Warrant, 062723 WB, amount of  
\$30,727.33.

2 MR. OCHOA: Motion to approve.

3 MR. LOPEZ: Second.

4 MR. BAKOTA: Any questions or comments?  
5 (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

6 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
Warrant 070323 WT, amount of

7 \$250.00.

8 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

9 MR. OCHOA: Second.

10 MR. BAKOTA: Any questions or comments?  
11 (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

12 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
Warrant 070323 WC, amount of

13 \$25,191.00.

14 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

15 MR. VENTURA: Second.

16 MR. BAKOTA: Any question or comments?  
17 (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

18 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
Warrant 070323 WB, amount of

\$77,558.98.

19 MR. VENTURA: Motion to approve.

20 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

21 MR. BAKOTA: Any questions or comments?  
22 (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

23 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
Reports. Filtration Report: Obed

Perez. No report.

24 Water Report: Winna Guzman. No  
25 report.

1 Distribution Report: Allan Lee. No  
report.

2 Legal Counsel: Joseph Allegretti.

3 MR. ALLEGRETTI: After the last meeting  
4 just a recap and summary, actually more than a summary  
of our new rate structure. I think the new rates will  
5 be in place within the next 45 days. I'll have more  
comments at the next meeting. I think we have final  
6 hearing conducted by IURC and we're good to go.

7 MR. BAKOTA: Was that our proposal?

8 MR. ALLEGRETTI: That was a compromise, a  
settlement agreement with the OMCC and with the  
9 petitioner intervener, the industrial customers that  
filed a petition. And so it basically gives us what we  
10 want, just a little bit of deferred enjoyment of the  
money. But expedience kind of dictates that we accept  
11 the answer and move on.

12 MR. BAKOTA: So the first rate may be  
next year?

13 MR. ALLEGRETTI: First rate will be as  
soon as it's finalized. And then two consecutive years  
14 after that. Actually I think they are going to be in  
January. So first one will be going in effect now and  
15 each year on June 1st thereafter.

16 MS. SLIGER: What we were shooting is for  
the initial rates were suppose to take place in  
17 September initially but the hearing kept getting moved  
and pushed back. I'm not sure if it's actually going to  
18 take effect in September yet or not, or if it might just  
be later time this year. I haven't heard anything  
19 further.

20 MR. ASKOUNIS: And pushed back by who?

21 MR. ALLEGRETTI: The IURC. There was  
22 technical reasons concerning publication of the new  
rates.

23 MR. BAKOTA: There's no resistance?

24 MR. ALLEGRETTI: No. Actually they were  
cooperative. We expected something like we experienced  
25 for the Sanitary District with the sewer charges, but

1 this was much friendlier. Our rates are pretty  
2 reasonable. With Hammond there was a dramatic increase  
across the water zoning.

3 MR. BAKOTA: Okay, thank you.  
4 Financial Report: William Biller or  
Rebecca Sliger.

5 MS. SLIGER: No report at this time.

6 MR. BAKOTA: Next is resolutions.  
7 Resolution WD 23-16. A Resolution of the Board of  
8 Trustees of the East Chicago Water Department  
authorizing the transfer of appropriations into  
different budget categories.

9 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

10 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

11 MR. BAKOTA: Any question or comments?  
12 (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

13 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
14 The transfer is in the amount of  
\$33,000.00.

15 Resolution WD 23-17. A resolution  
16 of the Board of Trustees of the East Chicago Water  
Department authorizing the transfer of appropriations  
into different budget categories. The value of this  
transfer is \$134,872.00.

17 MR. VENTURA: Motion to approve.

18 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

19 MR. BAKOTA: Any comments or questions?  
20 (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

21 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
22 Next is rate sheets. Shannon  
Chemical Corporation, 2023 rates for  
poly-orthophosphate and citric acid. Not-to-exceed  
\$150,000.00.

23 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

24 MR. VENTURA: Second.  
25

1 MR. BAKOTA: Any comments or questions?  
(None) All in favor?

2 (All signify aye.)

3 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

4 Next is Proposals. As I've done in  
the past, I'll number them one through 6 for a matter of  
reference.

5 1. Calumet City Plumbing, valve  
repair at Chicago Avenue, Citgo 17A, \$17,000.00.

6 2. Calumet City Plumbing, water  
service main to Bbox at 3941 Alder Street, \$15,500.00.

7 3. Calumet City Plumbing, meter pit  
repair at 522 West 144th Street, amount of \$7,450.00.

8 4. Calumet City Plumbing, water  
disconnect at Michigan Avenue and Grand Boulevard,  
\$17,900.00.

9 5. Hessville Plumbing, Bbox repair  
at 3805 Ivy Street, in the amount of \$3,739.00.

10 6. Hasse Construction, block  
containment wall at old filtration plant, amount of  
11 \$7,415.00.

12 That concludes the proposals.

13 MR. OCHOA: Number 4, Calumet City  
Plumbing, why the large amount of \$17,900.00?

14 MS. SLIGER: That's something Allan would  
15 have to tell you. It has to do with the whole project,  
I guess where it's located at and what they are having  
16 to do. They have to dig up something they are trying to  
get to. Allan would be able to tell us a little bit  
17 more information on that. If you'd like, you can table  
it. I can get you more information to get a little more  
18 in depth what they are having to do. We don't have the  
funding to even get the PO for this yet, so it would be  
perfectly fine to table it till the next meeting.

19 MR. LOPEZ: I make a motion to table  
20 number 4, it's Calumet City Plumbing at Michigan Avenue  
and Grand Boulevard.

21 MR. VENTURA: I'll second that.

22 MR. BAKOTA: Also need a motion to  
23 approve the other five.

24 MR. LOPEZ: I make a motion to approve  
the others and table number 4.

25

1 MR. VENTURA: Second.

2 MR. BAKOTA: Any questions or comments?  
(None) All in favor?

3 (All signify aye.)

4 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

5 Next is Change Orders. Calumet City  
6 Plumbing, Change Order #1 for 4850 Wegg Avenue. The  
7 original amount was \$5,125.00 and the change amount is  
8 \$5,210.00. There is an increase of charge of \$85.00.

9 MR. VENTURA: Make a motion to approve.

10 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

11 MR. BAKOTA: Any questions or comments?  
(None) All in favor?

12 (All signify aye.)

13 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

14 Next, Calumet City Plumbing, change  
15 order #1 for 4802 Alexander Street. The original amount  
16 was \$7,150.00. There is an increase of \$27.50, so the  
17 new amount is \$7,177.50.

18 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

19 MR. VENTURA: Second.

20 MR. BAKOTA: Any questions or comments?  
(None) All in favor?

21 (All signify aye.)

22 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

23 Next, Calumet City Plumbing, change  
24 order #1 for 2023 fire hydrant and hydrant valve  
25 replacement. This is -- there is no charge here. What  
they did is rather than do the work at Olcott Avenue,  
they decided to do a change order on it and it's 140th  
Place. That's the change order. There is no changes in  
charges. The original price on the change was  
\$43,980.00.

MR. VENTURA: Make a motion to approve.

MR. LOPEZ: Second.

MR. BAKOTA: Any comments or questions?  
(None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

1 Past due invoices: Marco Supply  
Company, Filtration. Reason for delinquency is invoice  
2 wasn't sent to the Filtration Department. The rate on  
this is \$47.32.

3 MR. VENTURA: Make a motion to approve.

4 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

5 MR. BAKOTA: Any questions or comments?  
6 (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

7 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
Eurofins, Filtration. Reason  
8 delinquent is invoice was misplaced, had to call the  
company to resend. The amount is \$375.00.

9 MR. OCHOA: Motion to approve.

10 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

11 MR. BAKOTA: Any questions or comments?  
12 (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

13 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
Atlas Copco, Filtration. Reason  
14 delinquent, says I received invoice today. The amount  
is \$12.80.

15 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

16 MR. VENTURA: Second.

17 MR. BAKOTA: Any questions or comments?  
18 (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

19 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
Atlas Copco, Filtration. Reason for  
20 delinquency, I received this invoice today \$1,797.98.

21 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

22 MR. VENTURA: Second.

23 MR. BAKOTA: Any questions or comments?  
24 (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

25 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.



1                                   Hasse Construction, Filtration.  
Reason for delinquency, invoice was sent today asking  
2 for payment. Amount is \$2,000.00.

3                                   MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

4                                   MR. VENTURA: Second.

5                                   MR. BAKOTA: Any questions or comments?  
(None) All in favor?

6   (All signify aye.)

7                                   MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

                                  Any Unfinished Business: None

                                  Public Comment: None

8                                   Our next meeting will be Monday,  
July 17, 2023, at 5:00 p.m., here in the Council  
9 Chambers

                                  Motion for adjournment?

10                                   MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to adjourn.

11                                   MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

12                                   MR. BAKOTA: All in favor?

13   (All signify aye.)

14                                   MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

                                  Meeting adjourned. Thank you.

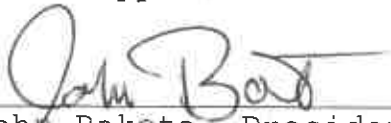
15   \*\*\*\* Meeting adjourned \*\*\*\*


16   \* \* \* \* \*

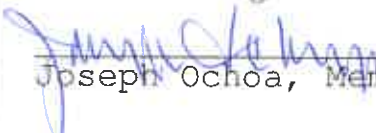
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Approval of the Meeting Minutes of  
July 3 2023

Approved and signed July 17, 2023

  
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John Bakota, President

  
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Henry Ventura, Vice-President

  
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Joseph Ochoa, Member

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Anthony Askounis, Member

  
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Ray Lopez, Member

  
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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 8th day of July, 2023.

*Peggy S. LaLonde*



Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR