

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO  
DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS

BOARD MEMBERS

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

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, July 7, 2022 @ 5:00 p.m.  
Reported for Fissinger & Associates  
By: Lisa Pena

CALL TO ORDER: 5:10 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLIANCE:

ROLL CALL: Present in Chambers: John Bakota, Anthony  
Askounis, Ray Lopez

STAFF PRESENT: In Chambers: Alysia Dunbar, Winna Guzman,  
Joseph Allegretti, Bill Biller.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 6, 2022  
June 20, 2022

Motion to approve June 6, 2022 and June 20, 2022 Meeting  
Minutes made by Ray Lopez. Second by Anthony Askounis.

Comments/Questions: None.

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

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:

Payroll

MR. BAKOTA: Next Approval of the Warrants, Payroll.  
062422 in the amount of \$11,724.10. This is Utilities  
Payroll from 6/4/22 to 6/17/22.

Motion to approve Payroll Warrant 062422 Utilities Payroll  
6/4/22 to 6/17/22 made by Anthony Askounis. Second by Ray  
Lopez.

1 Comments/Questions: None.

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

4 MR. BAKOTA: Payroll Warrant 062422 in the amount of  
5 \$40,286.70. This is Payroll 6/4/22 to 6/17/22.

6 Motion to approve Payroll Warrant 062422 Payroll 6/4/22 to  
7 6/17/22 made by Anthony Askounis. Second by Ray Lopez.

8 Comments/Questions: None.

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

11 Accounts Payable

12 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Accounts Payable. 070722 WB in the  
13 amount of \$68,864.40.

14 Motion to approve Accounts Payable Warrant 070722 WB made by  
15 Anthony Askounis. Second by Ray Lopez.

16 Comments/Questions: None.

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

19 MR. BAKOTA: Accounts Payable 070722 WT in the amount of  
20 at \$150.

21 Motion to approve Accounts Payable Warrant 070722 WT made by  
22 Ray Lopez. Second by Anthony Askounis.

23 Comments/Questions: None.

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

REPORTS:

Filtration Report None.

Water Report

MR. BAKOTA: Water Report, Winna Guzman.

MS. GUZMAN: Good evening, Board Members. Winna Guzman

1 for the record.

2 Just two items I'd like to report on. Just to note  
3 that we lost a total of two certified treatment plant  
4 operators and one that was in training in the past few weeks.

5 So I just wanted to notify the Board Obed is unable  
6 to make it today as he is operating and manning the plant or  
7 plants.

8 And we are attempting, just to inform the Board, we  
9 are attempting to contact outside entities, engineering  
10 firms, other organizations to seek assistance.

11 Currently we have two certified operators and one  
12 in training. We are also in the mist of interviewing a few  
13 potential candidates for these positions as well.

14 So I will keep the Board apprised.

15 IDEM has been notified and informed and are aware  
16 of the situation at hand.

17 And again we'll keep the Board apprised as to the  
18 same.

19 And also I provided you a copy of the cautionary  
20 boil advisory issued on July 3, 2022 as a result of a power  
21 outage at the membrane plant which resulted in the system  
22 dropping below 20 PSI. And as required by the State public  
23 notice was issued notifying customers of the occurrence.

24 The advisory has since been lifted as of July 5.  
25 And public notice was issued to the residents as to the same.

That completes my report. Thank you. If you have  
any questions?

MR. BAKOTA: Thank you.

Distribution Report None.

Legal Counsel None.

Financial Report None.

NEW BUSINESS WATER:

Proposals

1 MR. BAKOTA: New Business we have Proposals. First one  
2 is 9400 Calumet City plumbing. It's 11/8/21 to 4/27/22  
3 Valve.

4 This is restorations relating to emergency valve  
5 work that occurred between 11/8/21 and 4/27/22 and was not  
6 included in the original proposal and could not be performed  
7 at the time of the emergency repair due to inclement weather.  
8 The amount is \$6,360.

9 Motion to approve 9400 Calumet City Plumbing Valve  
10 Restorations Proposal made by Ray Lopez. Second by Anthony  
11 Askounis.

12 Comments/Questions: None.

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

15 MR. BAKOTA: Calumet City Plumbing Emergency  
16 Restorations Water. And this is restorations relating to  
17 emergency leak work that occurred between 11/8/21 and 4/27/22  
18 and was not included in the original proposal and could not  
19 be performed at the time of emergency repair due to inclement  
20 weather. And this amount is \$20,855.

21 Motion to approve 9400 Calumet City Plumbing Leak  
22 Restorations Proposal made by Ray Lopez. Second by Anthony  
23 Askounis.

24 Comments/Questions: None.

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

MR. BAKOTA: Proposal Department Number 309. Same  
thing. Restoration relating to emergency B-Box work that  
occurred between 11/8/21 and 4/27/22 and was not included in  
the original proposal and could not be performed at the time  
of the emergency repair due to inclement weather at a cost of  
\$31,865.

Motion to approve 9400 Calumet City Plumbing B-Box  
Restorations Proposal made by Anthony Askounis. Second by  
Ray Lopez.

1 Comments/Questions: None.

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

4 MR. BAKOTA: Proposal, this was a compressor. It's  
5 listed on your thing. It's install new compressor and the  
6 usual maintenance of installing a new compressor, check  
7 system and so on at a cost of \$8,040.

8 Winna, is this the office?

9 MS. GUZMAN: I am sorry. What item are you on? I  
10 apologize. The Mechanical Concepts?

11 MR. BAKOTA: Yeah. Compressor.

12 MS. GUZMAN: This is I believe the Filtration Plant.  
13 This is relating to the Filtration Plant. Give me one  
14 second.

15 No. Actually the Filtration Plant had also some  
16 issues. I did refer Mechanical concepts to them. But this  
17 is actually relating to the Water Department.

18 We have been waiting for the parts to come in. We  
19 declared an emergency because we had no AC. And we have  
20 staff on a daily basis there. So we needed to get it as soon  
21 as possible and put in that order.

22 MR. BAKOTA: Do we retain them for a yearly checkup?

23 MS. GUZMAN: Yes, we do.

24 MR. BAKOTA: Same company?

25 MS. GUZMAN: Yes, we do.

Motion to approve 10632 Mechanical Concepts Compressor  
Proposal made by Ray Lopez. Second by Anthony Askounis.

Comments/Questions: None.

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

MR. BAKOTA: Next is Austgen Electric Number 102,  
Filtration. This is test and repair mechanical functions of  
the plate settler in the amount of \$10,682.14.

1 Motion to approve Austgen Electric Number 102 Proposal made  
by Ray Lopez. Second by Anthony Askounis.

2 Comments/Questions: None.

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

5 Request for Po, Proposal & E-Mail Approved-Only

6 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Request for Proposal and E-Mail  
Approval. This is emergency. First is 4113 Fir Street,  
7 Water.

8 It's emergency B-box repair at 4113 Fir Street,  
\$7,550. This is Calumet City Plumbing.

9 Motion to approve 9400 Calumet City Plumbing 4113 Fir Street  
10 Emergency Repair made by Anthony Askounis. Second by Ray  
Lopez.

11 Comments/Questions: None.

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

14 MR. BAKOTA: This is Calumet City Plumbing also. 4112  
Dearborn Street, Water. This is an emergency B-box repair at  
15 \$3,750. This is also emergency.

16 Motion to approve 9400 Calumet City Plumbing 4112 Dearborn  
Street Emergency Repair made by Anthony Askounis. Second by  
17 Ray Lopez.

18 Comments/Questions: None.

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

21 MR. BAKOTA: Next is 1005 West 144th Street, Water.  
Also emergency B-box repair. This is Calumet City Plumbing  
also at a cost of \$4,350.

22  
23 Motion to approve 9400 Calumet City Plumbing 1005 West 144th  
Street Emergency Repair made by Anthony Askounis. Second by  
24 Ray Lopez.

25

1 Comments/Questions: None.

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

4 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Calumet City Plumbing 3810 Carey  
5 Street. Also emergency B-box repair. Emergency at a cost of  
6 \$3,550.

7 Motion to approve 9400 Calumet City Plumbing 3810 Carey  
8 Street Emergency Repair made by Ray Lopez. Second by Anthony  
9 Askounis.

10 Comments/Questions: None.

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

13 MR. BAKOTA: Next is 3812 Carey Street, Water.  
14 Emergency B-box repair Calumet City Plumbing, \$3,750.

15 Motion to approve 9400 Calumet City Plumbing 3812 Carey  
16 Street Emergency Repair made by Anthony Askounis. Second by  
17 Ray Lopez.

18 Comments/Questions: None.

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

21 MR. BAKOTA: Next is 4130 Ivy Street, Water. Calumet  
22 City Plumbing emergency B-box repair. Cost is \$3,750.

23 Motion to approve 9400 Calumet City Plumbing 4130 Ivy Street  
24 Emergency Repair made by Anthony Askounis. Second by Ray  
25 Lopez.

Comments/Questions: None.

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

Change Orders

MR. BAKOTA: Change Orders. This is Nies Engineering  
Change Order Number 5 for Contract 18-536, Water.

And this looks like it's an increase of \$3,000.  
And it's required additional engineering effort to include

1 East Chicago employee hiring and training. Also it's Nies  
Engineering.

2  
3 Motion to approve 8826 Nies Engineering Change Order Number 5  
made by Anthony Askounis. Second by Ray Lopez.

4 Comments/Questions:

5 MS. GUZMAN: Can I just add the net increase in contract  
6 price for this change order is \$29,174. And also it extends  
the time to complete the work to 7/30/22. The revised time  
7 for completion is 7/30/2022.

8 MR. BAKOTA: What is that \$3,000 added? \$3,000 added to  
the \$26,000?

9 MS. GUZMAN: Let me see what I have. That's allowance  
10 for additional services which may be required to be billed if  
needed.

11 So that's just in case. That was the reason. But  
12 the total net increase would be the \$29,174 for a contract  
price of \$510,632.

13 This should be the final change order.

14 MR. BAKOTA: As corrected I will ask for a new motion.  
15 Motion to approve 8826 Nies Engineering Change Order Number 5  
made by Ray Lopez. Second by Anthony Askounis.

16 Comments/Questions: None.

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

19 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Calumet City Plumbing Change Order  
20 Number 1. And there is no change in cost or time.

21 It's remove from the proposal form location 4135  
Lombardy hydrant and replace with the location of Alder and  
22 Cardinal Drive.

23 MS. GUZMAN: Change of location.

24 MR. BAKOTA: Just changed one for the other?

25 MS. GUZMAN: Yes. Because the other, the 4135 Lombardy  
hydrant was done under emergency. So that was previously



1 done. So we changed or added one.

2 MR. BAKOTA: So there is no change in cost or time?

3 MS. GUZMAN: No. None. We just need to approve the  
4 change.

5 Motion to approve 9400 Calumet City Plumbing Change Order  
6 Number 1 made by Ray Lopez. Second by Anthony Askounis.

7 Comments/Questions: None.

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

10 MS. GUZMAN: Thank you.

11 UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

12 MR. BAKOTA: Is there any Unfinished Business?

13 MS. GUZMAN: Yes. So the 2022 Request for Proposals  
14 Distribution Valve Replacement Number 2, the bids were  
15 accepted and opened at the last meeting. So I just want to  
16 follow-up.

17 We noted that we would review the proposals or bids  
18 received and then bring the recommendations before this  
19 Board.

20 So in reviewing this with Mr. Allan Lee,  
21 Distribution Supervisor, we are requesting or recommend that  
22 the Board reject the two proposals received, one from Hasse  
23 Construction and one from Calumet City Plumbing.

24 And the reason why is it is more than what was  
25 estimated. So we're requesting that and we're going to  
entertain this in a different manner. Possibly doing it  
inhouse.

So that's the reason why. So I ask the Board to  
entertain a motion.

MR. BAKOTA: Entertain a motion to reject the two?

MS. GUZMAN: Yes.

MR. BAKOTA: Entertain a motion to reject the two  
contracts that were bid on because of pricing?

1 MS. GUZMAN: Yes.

2 Motion to Reject Hasse Construction and Calumet City Plumbing  
3 2022 Distribution Valve Replacement Number 2 Bids made by  
4 Anthony Askounis. Second by Ray Lopez.

4 Comments/Questions: None.

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

7 MS. GUZMAN: Thank you.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

9 \* Next Regular Meeting Date: Monday, July 18,  
10 2022 @ 5:00 p.m.

11 Motion to adjourn made by Anthony Askounis. Second by Ray  
12 Lopez.

12 Questions/Comments: None.

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

15 \* Meeting ended at 5:32 p.m.

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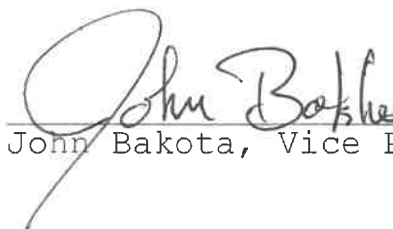
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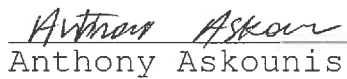
Approval of the Meeting Minutes of  
Thursday, July 7, 2022

Approved and Signed July 18, 2022

  
Joseph Ochoa, President

  
John Bakota, Vice President

  
Henry Ventura, Member

  
Anthony Askounis, Member

  
Ray Lopez, Member

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Alysia Dunbar, Board Secretary

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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 13th day of July, 2022.

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

