

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
August 7, 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, Henry Ventura, Anthony Askounis,  
Ray Lopez

STAFF Present in Chambers: Ateria Allen  
Rebecca Sliger

STAFF Present via Zoom: Joseph Allegretti

MR. BAKOTA: I would call to order the meeting of the Water Board for August 7, 2023. We'll move on to approval of minutes of July 17th, as written.

MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

MR. VENTURA: Second.

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

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

Next on the agenda is Approval of Warrants. There's been a change on the dollar amount for Warrant 070723 to \$12,582.89, Utilities Payroll, dates of 6-17-23 to 6-30-23.

MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

1 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

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

3 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
Next is Warrant 070723, amount is  
4 \$46,844.84, payroll dates of 6-17-23 to 6-30-23.

5 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

6 MR. LOPEZ: Second.

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

8 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
Warrant 080423, amount of  
9 \$12,884.23, Utilities Payroll, dates of 7-15-23 to  
7-28-23.

10 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

11 MR. VENTURA: Second.

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

13 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
Warrant 080423, amount of  
14 \$44,452.93, Payroll, dates of 7-15-23 to 7-28-23.

15 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

16 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

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

18 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
Accounts Payable: Warrant 072423  
19 WB, amount of \$28,324.74.

20 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

21 MR. OCHOA: Second.

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

23 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
Warrant 080723 WB, amount of  
24 \$85,178.44.

25

1 MR. VENTURA: Motion to approve.

2 MR. LOPEZ: Second.

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

4 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
Warrant 080723 WT, amount of  
5 \$54,412.49.

6 MR. OCHOA: Motion to approve.

7 MR. VENTURA: Second.

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

9 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
Warrant 080723 WC, amount of  
10 \$30,419.44.

11 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

12 MR. OCHOA: Second.

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

14 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
Filtration Report, Obed Perez. No  
15 Report.  
Water Report, Winna Guzman. No  
16 Report,  
17 Distribution Report, Allan Lee.

18 MS. SLIGER: It's in your packet.

19 MR. BAKOTA: Legal Counsel, Joseph  
20 Allegretti.

21 MR. ALLEGRETTI: No report, Mr.  
President.

22 MR. BAKOTA: Financial Report, William  
23 Biller or Rebecca Sliger.

24 MS. SLIGER: It's inserted in your  
packet. If you have any questions, please let me know.

25 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you. New Business.

1 Resolution WD 23-19: A Resolution of the Board of  
2 Directors of the East Chicago Department of Waterworks  
authorizing a temporary transfer to depleted fund  
(Water).

3 This is a temporary transfer of  
4 \$100,000 from the water tank refurbish fund to the water  
utility fund, increasing the temporary loan to  
5 \$1,100,000 which shall be refunded on or before  
December 31, 2023.

6 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

7 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

8 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

9 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

10 Next we have Proposals. As in the  
past, I'll number them as a matter of reference and  
entertain one motion.

11 1. Hasse Construction, meter replacement  
12 at Washington Park/Parrish and 144th Street, amount of  
\$5,100.00.

13 2. Hessville Plumbing, water meter,  
meter vault, and B-box replacement at 3910 Euclid  
Avenue, amount of \$3,595.00.

14 3. Calumet City Plumbing, asphalt  
restoration at 5517 Walsh Avenue, amount of \$1,850.00

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

16 5. Calumet City Plumbing, meter pit  
repair at 3726 Grand Street, amount of \$7,500.00.

17 6. Calumet City Plumbing, meter pit  
repair at 4726 Alexander Avenue, amount of \$5,500.00.

18 7. Calumet City Plumbing, meter pit  
repair at 4854 Alexander Avenue, amount of \$7,500.00.

19 That concludes the proposals.

20 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

21 MR. OCHOA: Second.

22 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

23 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

24 Past Due invoice from Atlas Copco  
\$840.00, Filtration. The reason is, I received this  
25 invoice on today.

1 MR. VENTURA: Make a motion to approve.

2 MR. OCHOA: Second.

3 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

4 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

5 Past Due: Eurofins, \$325.00,  
Filtration. Reason is invoice must have been overlooked  
somehow.

6 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

7 MR. VENTURA: Second.

8 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

9 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

10 Next is an FYI, Indiana Utility  
Regulatory Commission. Petition of the City of East  
11 Chicago, Indiana for authority to issue bonds, notes, or  
other obligations for authority to increase its rates  
12 and charges for water services and for approval of new  
schedules of water rates and charges.

13 We don't need to take any action on  
14 this, it's just a matter of information?

15 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Yes. If I may just say,  
Mr. President. A form of order has been submitted to  
16 Indiana Regulatory Commission approving our settlement  
agreement and authorizing the modification of our water  
17 rates. We expect it to be signed between now and our  
next meeting, and then I guess once we get that, we'll  
18 know exactly when Winna can cause the increase to be  
instituted, which is going to be phased in as the Board  
19 knows, over three years. When it is phased in it will  
appear on the next water bill. Thanks.

20 MR. BAKOTA: Joe, you said that increase  
21 would be on the next water bill?

22 MR. ALLEGRETTI: No. The order hasn't  
actually been formally approved yet by the Indiana  
23 Utility Regulatory Commission. We expect that to occur  
between now and our next meeting, and then we will be  
24 able to advise when it will appear on the next water  
bill. We hope within the next 45 days.

25 MR. BAKOTA: Okay, thank you.

1 Unfinished Business: Under other we  
2 have Hasse Construction. This is approval to accept  
3 stone donation. We had this tabled and we have been  
4 requested to keep it on the table until a letter is sent  
5 to clarify the donation. So we'll just leave it as is  
6 and it will stay on the table.

7 MS. SLIGER: From what I'm understanding  
8 is that Hasse may not even donate the stone now. So we  
9 may have to do nothing with this.

10 MR. OCHOA: How much stone are we  
11 talking?

12 MS. SLIGER: They were talking about a  
13 truck load. And it has to do with -- I believe we  
14 passed at the last meeting for CCP to install the stone  
15 walls, which are the barriers for them to be able to  
16 dump stone in and house that at the old filtration  
17 plant. Until the stone barriers are actually put in  
18 place and the storage facility is ready, they can't  
19 really get the stone. So, I mean, last I heard Hasse  
20 might not even donate it at this point any longer.

21 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you.

22 Public Comment: (None)

23 Our next meeting will be Monday,  
24 August 21st, this year, at 5:00 o'clock, here in East  
25 Chicago Council Chambers.

Do I have a motion for adjournment?

MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to adjourn.

MR. VENTURA: Second

MR. BAKOTA: All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

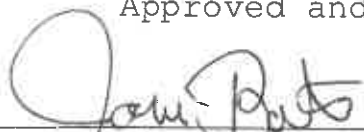
Meeting adjourned. Thank you.

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

\* \* \* \* \*

Approval of the Meeting Minutes of  
August 7, 2023

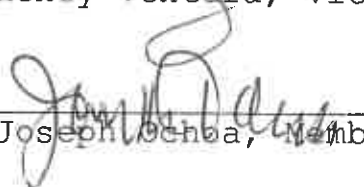
Approved and signed August 21, 2023



John Bakota, President



Henry Ventura, Vice-President



Joseph Ochoa, Member



Anthony Askounis, Member



Ray Lopez, Member



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 14th day of August, 2023.

*Peggy S. LaLonde*



Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR