

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 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

STAFF Present in Chambers: Ateria Allen,
Winna Guzman, Bill Biller, Rebecca Sliger,
Joseph Allegretti

STAFF Present via Zoom: Obed Perez

MR. BAKOTA: I would call to order the
meeting of the Water Board for September 7, 2023. We'll
move on to approval of minutes of August 21st, as
written.

MR. VENTURA: Make a motion to approve.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

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

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

Next is Warrants. Payroll: Warrant
090123, amount of \$12,986.26, Utilities payroll, dates
of 8/12/23 to 8/25/23.

MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

MR. VENTURA: Second.

1 MR. BAKOTA: Any question or comments on
the motion? (None) All in favor?
2 (All signify aye.)

3 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
Payroll Warrant 090123, amount of
4 \$43,890.75, payroll dates of 8/12/23 to 8/25/23.

5 MR. VENTURA: Make a motion to approve.

6 MR. OCHOA: Second.

7 MR. BAKOTA: Any question or comments on
the motion? (None) All in favor?
8 (All signify aye.)

9 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
Next Accounts Payable: Warrant
082923 WB, amount of \$38,229.67.

10 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

11 MR. VENTURA: Second.

12 MR. BAKOTA: Any question or comments on
the motion? (None) All in favor?
13 (All signify aye.)

14 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
Warrant 090723 WU, amount of
15 \$315,869.15.

16 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

17 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

18 MR. BAKOTA: Any question or comments on
the motion? (None) All in favor?
19 (All signify aye.)

20 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
Warrant 090723 WT, amount of
\$125.00.

21 MR. VENTURA: Motion to approve.

22 MR. OCHOA: Second.

23 MR. BAKOTA: Any question or comments on
the motion? (None) All in favor?
24 (All signify aye.)

25 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
Warrant 090723 WC, amount of

1 \$13,981.00.

2 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

3 MR. VENTURA: Second.

4 MR. BAKOTA: Any question or comments on
5 the motion? (None) All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

6 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
Warrant 090723 CD, amount of

7 \$400.00.

8 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

9 MR. VENTURA: Second.

10 MR. BAKOTA: Any question or comments on
the motion? (None) All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

11 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
Warrant 090723 WB, amount of

12 \$147,413.06.

13 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

14 MR. VENTURA: Second.

15 MR. BAKOTA: Any question or comments on
16 the motion? (None) All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

17 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
Filtration report.

18 MR. PEREZ: Just an update on the plant.
19 It's currently down. We had some electrical issues.
Currently Austgen Electric is working on that project.
20 We talked to them recently, as of today, they can
startup Tuesday of next week is what we are hoping for.

21 Also the new plant issues with the
cycle lift station. I believe it's a sensor and we're
22 looking to repairing that soon. Also caused a problem
with the plate center because of the cycle lift station.
They work in tandem, so if one is down, the other one
23 won't be working. We are going to get that fixed soon.

24 Also we are looking to replace our
membranes for the new plant.

25 Also I have placed my resignation
in as of September 10th. Thank you to the Board for

1 everything, as well as the City of East Chicago. For
2 the time being Thomas Kowal, who has 26 years of
experience, will be the interim plant manager.

3 MR. BAKOTA: Well, thank you for your
4 service. We appreciate it.

5 MR. OCHOA: Good luck on the next job.

6 MR. BAKOTA: Any questions from the
Board? (None) Thank you.

7 Next is Water report, Winna Guzman.

8 MS. GUZMAN: No report.

9 MR. BAKOTA: Distribution report, Allan
Lee. No Report.

10 Legal Counsel, Joseph Allegretti.

11 MR. ALLEGRETTI: The last item in the
packet is a memorandum of a phone conference that
12 Director Guzman and I had with the Indiana Financial
Authority concerning financing of our next group of
13 Public Works projects, which includes a \$5,000,000
grant, that's the lead line replacement. And another
14 part of that is a \$5,000,000 no interest loan and also
some other conventional financing, long fund financing
15 for the other projects which we have discussed. It's in
the works and we plan on closing around Thanksgiving.
16 So we'll be talking about it as time goes on before the
closing with more specifics. Thank you.

17 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you. Any questions
from the Board? (None)

18 Financial report: William Biller.

19 MR. BILLER: No report.

20 MS. SLIGER: No report at this time.

21 MR. BAKOTA: We'll move on to proposals.
22 Like in the past, I will number them and ask for one
motion.

23 1. Calumet City Plumbing, meter pit
repair at 4856 Baring Avenue, \$7,500.00.

24 2. Calumet City Plumbing, water
leak/disconnect at 151st Street and Tod Avenue,
\$9,850.00.

25 3. Calumet City Plumbing, meter

1 pit/leak repair at 3909 McCook Avenue, \$7,500.00.

2 4. Hasse Construction, emergency
water main repair on Canal Road, \$95,125.24.

3 5. Hasse Construction, revised
proposal for meter installation at Washington
Park/Parrish and 144th Street, \$6,205.50.

4 6. Austgen Electric, emergency
repair work, replace breaker boxes at the old water
5 plant, \$89,507.00

6 That concludes the proposals.

7 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve the
proposals.

8 MR. VENTURA: Second the motion.

9 MR. BAKOTA: Any question or comments on
the motion? (None) All in favor?

10 (All signify aye.)

11 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

12 I have one comment. Just to show
what happens with the water leak on the infrastructure.
13 Number 4, which is Hasse Construction, which is the
water main break. The total contract was \$95,000. The
14 patch and repair was 61,000. Just as a matter of
comment, that the actual repair of the pipe was 34,000
15 and the damage the water leak had done was 61,000. So
that's one reason why these big leaks of 12-inch piping
cost so much with the infrastructure.

16 MS. GUZMAN: We also had a car that fell
right into that area. So, you know, that's another
17 thing.

18 MR. OCHOA: The street gave out?

19 MS. GUZMAN: Yes.

20 MR. BAKOTA: Any other comments or
questions? (None)

21 Next is an agreement. This for
Thomas Kowal, temporary employment agreement for acting
22 plant manager. That's in your packet.

23 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

24 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

25 MR. BAKOTA: Any question or comments on

1 the motion?

2 MS. GUZMAN: There is a not-to-exceed on
3 the agreement that I would like to note, which I believe
4 is \$35,000 per year.

5 MR. BAKOTA: Any further comments?
6 (None) All in favor signify aye.

7 (All signify aye.)

8 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
9 We have past due invoices. First is
10 Q-Mation, amount of \$14,213.00, Filtration. Reason, I
11 don't know how this invoice got missed.

12 MR. OCHOA: Motion to approve.

13 MR. VENTURA: Second.

14 MR. BAKOTA: Any question or comments on
15 the motion? (None) All in favor?

16 (All signify aye.)

17 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
18 Next is Atlas Bobcat, \$1,790.74,
19 Water. Invoice was received at Water Department on
20 August 24th. It was originally sent to Wastewater.

21 MR. VENTURA: Make a motion to approve.

22 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

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

25 (All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
Next is Cintas, \$33.28. Invoice was
short paid by the Controller's office.

MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

MR. BAKOTA: Any question or comments on
the motion? (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
As Mr. Allegretti already explained
the FYI. It's the Financial Assistance Agreement memo
that's in your packet. If you have any questions --
None.

1 Under New Business, this was handed
2 to us today at the beginning of the meeting, Resolution
3 WD 23-22. This is for funds being transferred to the
4 Water Department for plant miscellaneous equipment. The
5 amount of \$550,000.00. Do I have a motion?

6 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

7 MR. VENTURA: Second the motion.

8 MR. BAKOTA: Any question or comments on
9 the motion? (None) All in favor?

10 (All signify aye.)

11 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

12 Next is price quotes.

13 MS. GUZMAN: Winna Guzman, Water
14 Department Director. There is actually two quotes. And
15 this is to purchase what Obed Perez mentioned. There
16 are two module, membrane modules that need to be
17 purchased and the amount actually is \$591,800.00. They
18 have sales tax on here that I'm excluding. And then
19 that is under order number 41162062. This is an
20 emergency. We have to put these on order so we need to
21 move money around and get a PO for these, so that's the
22 reason for it being inserted on today's agenda. We
23 apologize for that, but we do need to get these
24 approved.

25 And then the second item, order
41164531, and this is for the installation of the
modules.

MR. BAKOTA: That's \$52,160.00.

MS. GUZMAN: Yes. That we also need a PO
prior to the end of the month or as soon as possible.
There's a \$68,000 savings that we may be able to obtain.

MR. BAKOTA: On the installation?

MS. GUZMAN: On both, all together.

MR. OCHOA: How many membranes?

MS. GUZMAN: Two units. So there is a
total of 480, that's the total of them but we call them
units, membrane module units. But they are expensive
and we need to install them before December -- before
the end of the year, so that's the rush. We need to get

1 them ordered because it's going to take a little bit of
2 time to get here. They are going to be delivered by air
3 obviously, I imagine. Normally it's shipped, but they
4 are going to deliver it by that manner.

5 MR. BAKOTA: What is the life expectancy
6 of our membranes?

7 MS. GUZMAN: 7 to 8 years. And, Obed,
8 you can correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe 7 to
9 8 years.

10 MR. PEREZ: Yes, that's right.

11 MR. BAKOTA: Okay. We'll address this as
12 one item in the packet. If I can have a motion?

13 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to approve.

14 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

15 MR. BAKOTA: Any question or comments on
16 the motion? (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

17 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

18 MS. GUZMAN: Thank you for entering that.

19 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you.

Unfinished Business: None

Public Comment: None

20 Next meeting date is September 18th,
21 here in Council Chambers at 5:00 o'clock.

Do I have a motion for adjournment?

22 MR. OCHOA: Make a motion to adjourn.

23 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

24 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

25 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned. Thank you.

**** Meeting adjourned ****

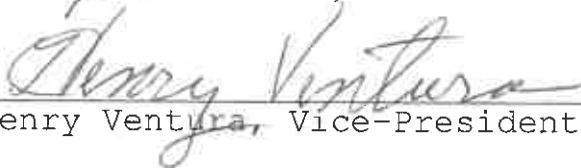
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Approval of the Meeting Minutes of
September 7, 2023

Approved and signed September 18, 2023



John Bakota, President



Henry Ventura, Vice-President



Joseph Chochoa, 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 11th day of September, 2023.

Peggy S. LaLonde



Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR