

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Joseph Ochoa, President
John Bakota, Vice-President
Henry Ventura, 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: Joseph Ochoa, John
Bakota, Henry Ventura, Anthony Askounis

STAFF Present in Chambers: Winna Guzman,
Allan Lee, Rebecca Sliger, Ateria Allen

Present Remotely: Joseph Allegretti

MR. OCHOA: Call to order the meeting of
the East Chicago Board of Waterworks, September 19,
2022.

First item, approval of the minutes
of September 1, 2022. Do I have a motion?

MR. VENTURA: Make a motion to approve.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

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

(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Approval of Warrants, Payroll
Warrants. Warrant 090222, amount of \$12,253.84,
Utilities payroll, dates of 7-30-22 to 8-12-22. Do I
have a motion?

MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

1 MR. VENTURA: Second.

2 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on
the motion? (None) All in favor?

3 (All signify aye.)

4 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

5 Warrant 090222, amount of
\$47,551.78, payroll dates of 7-30-22 to 8-12-22. Do I
have a motion?

6 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

7 MR. VENTURA: Second.

8 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on
the motion? (None) All in favor?

9 (All signify aye.)

10 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

11 Warrant 091622, amount of
\$12,243.11, Utilities payroll, dates of 8-7-22 to
9-9-22. Do I have a motion?

12 MR. VENTURA: Motion to approve.

13 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

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

15 (All signify aye.)

16 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

17 Warrant 091622, amount of
\$51,775.53, payroll dates of 8-27-22 to 9-9-22.

18 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

19 MR. VENTURA: Second.

20 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on
the motion? (None) All in favor?

21 (All signify aye.)

22 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

23 Accounts Payable, Warrant 091322 WB,
amount of \$135,598.15. Do I have a motion?

24 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

25 MR. VENTURA: Second.

MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on

1 the motion? (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

2 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

3 \$119,687.08. Do I have a motion?

4 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

5 MR. VENTURA: Second.

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

(All signify aye.)

8 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

9 \$150.00. Do I have a motion?

10 MR. VENTURA: Motion to approve.

11 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

12 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on
13 the motion? (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

14 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

15 \$26,175.00. Do I have a motion?

16 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

17 MR. VENTURA: Second.

18 MR. BAKOTA: I have a question. This is
19 just labeled, Engineer. I don't see a company name on
20 there.

21 MS. GUZMAN: Winna Guzman, Water
22 Department Director. You are referencing the Warrant
23 091922 WF?

24 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

25 MS. GUZMAN: That's Neis Engineering, and
that is relating to the State Resolving Funds. So these
are items that need to be paid and they go back from
June 30th.

MR. BAKOTA: All right, thank you.

1 MR. OCHOA: Any other comments or
questions on the motion? (None) All in favor?

2 (All signify aye.)

3 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
4 Filtration Report: Obed Perez. Not
here.

5 MS. GUZMAN: Can I just note, he
submitted a report as he is working today as an
operator. So that's been the case these past few
6 months, so when we get additional staff to assist in the
plant, then he'll be able to come to the meetings.

7 MR. OCHOA: When will that be?

8 MS. GUZMAN: We're trying. We did hire
9 two additional staff. However, they have to work
alongside of a certified operator. So, you know, they
10 can't be left alone until they are certified and they
take the test, which is administered by the State.

11 MR. OCHOA: Water Report, Winna Guzman.

12 MS. GUZMAN: No report at this time.

13 MR. OCHOA: Distribution report, Allan
14 Lee.

15 MR. LEE: Not too much to report. The
reports I gave you before are pretty much the same. I
16 gave you a little information about what we are doing
with the hydrants. You can see what we have replaced.
17 I want you to notice that one sheet, all those hydrants
were repaired in-house. You see that list there? Think
18 how much it cost to fix each one, that was all done
in-house. And then the other one is my working on it
19 list. Gives you a little idea what is wrong with the
hydrants and where we are.

20 That second list are things we bid
out. The number one list is done. That's where we are.

21 MR. VENTURA: Thank you.

22 MR. OCHOA: Legal Counsel, Joseph
23 Allegretti.

24 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Good afternoon, I'm
participating remotely. Everybody in my apartment has
25 tested positive for COVID and is home sick. I haven't

1 been out. I have no symptoms, but I thought I would
2 avoid exposing, potentially exposing anybody. Other
3 than that I have nothing to add, thank you.

4 MR. OCHOA: Thank you, Mr. Allegretti.
5 Financial Report: William Biller.

6 No report.

7 Resolution WD 22-19, a Resolution of
8 the Board of Directors of the East Chicago Waterworks
9 approving the write off of certain reconciling items to
10 the Department cash account. Do I have a motion?

11 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

12 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

13 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on
14 the motion? (None) All in favor?
15 (All signify aye.)

16 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

17 We are tabling Resolution WD 22-20.
18 Do I have a motion?

19 MR. BAKOTA: I make a motion to table WD
20 22-20.

21 MR. VENTURA: Second.

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

25 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Proposal: FirstNet, purchase of
Ipads and hot spot, Water Department.

MR. BAKOTA: Can you explain it?

MS. GUZMAN: Actually this is with A T &
T. These are charges associated with looking to
purchase two Ipads and for the related services for the
Distribution staff members so they can go out in the
field and download or take pictures, whatever they need
to do. GIS related matters.

MR. BAKOTA: That's a good idea.

MS. GUZMAN: So it's recommended that the
Board approve this.

1 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you.

2 MR. VENTURA: Make a motion to approve.

3 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

4 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on
the motion? (None) All in favor?

5 (All signify aye.)

6 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

7 Price Quote: Brenntag Great Lakes
increasing price on sodium hydroxide effective 9-1-22.
Do they have a difference here?

8 MS. GUZMAN: No, we do not. I didn't get
9 what was being charged and the current charges. But we
do, Mr. President, note that we will check to make sure,
10 but I believe we have supplies till the end of the year.
This is just in case we need anything, that we request
11 that the Board approve this.

12 MR. BAKOTA: This is on a future order we
may have?

13 MS. GUZMAN: Yes.

14 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

15 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

16 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on
the motion? (None) All in favor?

17 (All signify aye.)

18 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

19 Request for proposal and e-mail
approved only. This is an emergency for Hessville
20 Plumbing, at 4823 Alexander Avenue, B-box repair. This
needed to be declared as an emergency at the next Water
Board meeting. Do I have a motion? The price is 3595.

21 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

22 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

23 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on
the motion? (None) All in favor?

24 (All signify aye.)

25 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Past Due invoice: Communication

1 Company. Delinquent because invoice was overlooked,
2 invoice 20637, invoice date of 6-23-22, invoice amount
of \$660.00. Do I have a motion?

3 MR. VENTURA: Make a motion to approve.

4 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

5 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on
6 the motion? (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

7 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Any Unfinished Business? (None)

8 Public Comment: (None)

9 Next meeting is Monday, October 3,
2022, at 5:00 p.m., here in the chambers. Do I have a
motion for adjournment?

10 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to adjourn.

11 MR. VENTURA: Second.

12 MR. OCHOA: All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

13 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned.

14 ***** Meeting adjourned *****
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Approval of the Meeting Minutes of
September 19, 2022

Approved and signed October 3, 2022



Joseph Ochoa, President



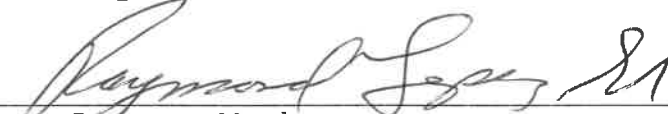
John Bakota, Vice-President



Henry Ventura, 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 21st day of September, 2022.

Peggy S. LaLonde



Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR