

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
October 2, 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, 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 October 2, 2023. We'll  
move on to approval of minutes of September 18th, as  
written.

MR. LOPEZ: Make a motion to approve.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

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

(All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

Next is approval of Warrants.

Payroll: Warrant 092923, amount of \$12,884.95,  
Utilities Payroll, for dates of 9-9-23 to 9-22-23.

MR. VENTURA: Motion to approve.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

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

(All signify aye.)

2 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
3 Warrant 092923, amount of  
4 \$56,167.97, payroll, dates of 9-9-23 to 9-22-23.

5 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

6 MR. VENTURA: Second.

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

(All signify aye.)

8 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
9 Accounts Payable: Warrant 092623  
WB, amount of \$31,113.77.

10 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

11 MR. VENTURA: Second.

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

(All signify aye.)

13 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
14 Warrant 100223 WB, amount of  
15 \$68,716.44.

16 MR. VENTURA: Motion to approve.

17 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

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

(All signify aye.)

19 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
20 Warrant 100223 WT, amount of  
\$250.00.

21 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

22 MR. VENTURA: Second.

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

(All signify aye.)

24 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
25 Warrant 100223 WC, amount of

1 \$33,865.10.

2 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

3 MR. VENTURA: Second.

4 MR. BAKOTA: Any comments or questions?

(None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

5 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

6 Filtration Report: Thomas Kowal,  
No report.

7 Water Report: Winna Guzman. No  
Report.

8 Distribution Report: Allan Lee. No  
Report.

9 Legal Counsel: Joseph Allegretti.

10 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Good afternoon,  
11 Directors. If you recall the last meeting Ateria was  
12 kind enough to give you copies of our four advertised  
13 bid solicitations. We have a Special Meeting scheduled  
14 for October 12th, which I hope has been cleared with  
15 your schedules. At that time we were going to be  
16 opening, hopefully opening and receiving bids for our  
17 projects, being the Roxana Project, the lead service  
18 lines, the high service pumps, and that fire suppression  
19 system. Those are the four items that have been  
20 advertised for receiving bids at our Special Meeting on  
21 October 12th. And I will make sure, of course I will be  
22 there in-person. John Caruso will also be there for the  
23 bid opening. We expect to get some good competitive  
24 bids so we spend our money wisely. Thank you.

18 MR. LOPEZ: Thank you, Joe.

19 MR. BAKOTA: Any questions for Joe?  
20 (None) Thank you.

21 Financial report: Rebecca Sliger.

22 MS. SLIGER: No report at this time.

23 MR. BAKOTA: Next is New Business.  
24 Resolutio WD 23-25, a Resolution of the Board of  
25 Trustees of the East Chicago Water Department  
authorizing the transfer of appropriations into  
different budget categories. Amount being transferred  
is \$131,860.00.

1 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

2 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

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

4 (All signify aye.)

5 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
Resolution WD 23-26, a Resolution of  
6 the Board of Trustees of the East Chicago Water  
Department authorizing the transfer of appropriations  
7 into different budget categories.

8 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

9 MR. VENTURA: Second.

10 MR. BAKOTA: The amount of this transfer  
is \$264,477.00. Any comments or questions? (None) All  
in favor?

11 (All signify aye.)

12 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
Next we have proposals. As in the  
13 past I will number them as a matter of reference.

14 1. Filmtec Corporation, tool needed  
to remove Memcor module at Filtration Plant, \$18,285.60.

15 2. Calumet City Plumbing Company,  
Inc., remove and replace water meter, transmitter, and  
antenna at 4400 Kennedy Avenue, \$16,900.00.

16 3. Calumet City Plumbing Company,  
Inc., meter pit repair at 4224 Euclid Avenue, \$4,750.00.

17 4. Calumet City Plumbing Company,  
Inc., valve repair at 141st and Grace Streets,  
\$9,500.00.

18 5. Calumet City Plumbing Company,  
Inc., meter pit repair at 1203 West 150th Street,  
19 \$8,500.00.

20 6. Calumet City Plumbing Company,  
Inc., water disconnect at 3730 Pulaski Street,  
\$7,500.00.

21 7. Calumet City Plumbing Company,  
Inc., water leak repair at 4829 Carey Street,  
22 \$10,750.00.

23 8. Calumet City Plumbing Company,  
Inc., meter pit repair at 5024 Olcott Avenue, \$9,750.00.

24 9. Calumet City Plumbing Company,  
Inc., meter pit repair at 5025 White Oak Avenue,  
\$5,750.00.

25 10. Calumet City Plumbing Company,

1 Inc., water leak repair at 606 144th Street, \$17,250.00.  
2 11. Calumet City Plumbing Company,  
3 Inc., meter pit repair at 3942 Alder Street, \$5,750.00.  
4 That completes the proposals.

5 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to except all  
6 proposals, 1 through 11.

7 MR. VENTURA: Second.

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

10 (All signify aye.)

11 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

12 Next is Agreements, unless there is  
13 disagreement from the Board, I will number these also as  
14 a matter of reference.

15 1. Alert Alarm, 2024 Alarm  
16 Monitoring Agreement, office building, not-to-exceed  
17 \$700.00.

18 2. Alert Alarm, 2024 Alarm  
19 Monitoring Agreement, Distribution building,  
20 not-to-exceed \$700.00.

21 3. Bakertilly, 2024 General  
22 Advisory Services, Securities Issuance, and State  
23 Revolving Fund Application advisory, not-to-exceed  
24 \$130,000.00.

25 4. Bakertilly, 2024 Parity Report  
Services, not-to-exceed \$10,000.

5. Bakertilly, 2024 multi year  
capital asset financial planning, not-to-exceed \$40,000.

6. Bakertilly, 2024 quarterly  
reconciliations consulting services, not-to-exceed  
\$35,000.00.

7. Bakertilly, 2024 accounting and  
reporting support consulting services, not-to-exceed.  
\$13,000.00.

8. Bakertilly, 2024 additional  
agreed upon support services, not-to-exceed \$20,000.00.

9. Bakertilly, 2024 quarterly  
reconciliations consulting services Sanitary District  
and Solids Waste, not-to-exceed \$13,000.00

That concludes the Agreements.

MR. VENTURA: Make a motion to accept all  
nine Agreements as read.

MR. LOPEZ: Second.

1 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Mr. President, the  
2 larger one here will be out of bond proceeds. I know we  
3 spend a lot of money on financial consultants and some  
4 of the municipal financing unfortunately is kind of  
5 highly specialized activity requiring the need for  
6 participants like we are engaging, qualified, high  
7 priced consultants. That's the world we live in.

8 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you. Any other  
9 comments or questions? (None) All in favor?  
10 (All signify aye.)

11 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
12 Next is rate sheets. Devine  
13 Landscaping, 2024 lawn maintenance rates, not-to-exceed  
14 \$25,000.00.

15 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

16 MR. VENTURA: Second.

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

19 (All signify aye.)

20 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
21 Devine Landscaping, 2024 lawn  
22 services for tank area, not-to-exceed 5,000.00.

23 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

24 MR. VENTURA: Second.

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

(All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
Devine Landscaping, 2024 lawn  
service rates for Aldis Street Water Filtration,  
not-to-exceed \$18,900.00.

MR. LOPEZ: Motion to accept.

MR. VENTURA: Second.

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

(All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
Devine Landscaping, 2024 lawn  
service rates for Pennsylvania Street Water Filtration,

1 not-to exceed \$18,225.00.

2 MR. VENTURA: Motion to accept.

3 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

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

5 (All signify aye.)

6 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
Devine Landscaping, 2024 lawn  
7 service rates for Tod Street Water Filtration,  
not-to-exceed \$4,550.00.

8 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to accept.

9 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

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

11 (All signify aye.)

12 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
That concludes rate sheets.  
Under Other, we have IDEM,  
13 appointment of Filtration Plant Manager, Jose Cisneros.

14 MS. ALLEN: That doesn't need a vote of  
action, it's informational only.

15  
16 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Well, it does require,  
Mr. President, to mention that Mr. Cisneros comes from  
the Sanitary District where he has served several years  
17 as the compliance manager dealing with municipal  
government and dealing with regulators. He was also  
18 head of the Storm Water Department. So I think the  
Administration believes he's going to be a welcome asset  
19 to our team.

20 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you.  
Any unfinished business? (None)

21 Public Comment: (None)  
Our next regular meeting will be  
22 October 16th. As Mr. Allegretti already stated, we have  
a Special meeting for bid opening set on October 12th.  
23 That's 5:00 o'clock. Originally it was scheduled for  
10:00 o'clock and we changed it to 5:00 o'clock. So  
24 note that for October 12th. Our regular meeting will be  
October 16th, here in the Council Chambers.

25 Do I have a motion for adjournment?

1 MR. AKOUNIS: Motion to adjourn.

2 MR. VENTURA: Second.

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

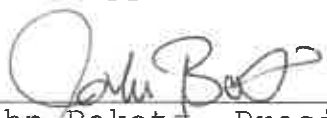
4 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
Meeting adjourned. Thank you.


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

6 \* \* \* \* \*


7  
8  
9 Approval of the Meeting Minutes of  
October 2, 2023

10 Approved and signed October 16, 2023

11   
12 \_\_\_\_\_  
John Bakota, President

13   
14 \_\_\_\_\_  
Henry Ventura, Vice-President

15   
16 \_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph Ochoa, Member

17   
18 \_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony Askounis, Member

19   
20 \_\_\_\_\_  
Ray Lopez, Member

21   
22 \_\_\_\_\_  
Ateria Allen, Secretary.

23  
24  
25



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 9th day of October, 2023.

*Peggy S. LaLonde*



Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR