

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

STAFF:

Joseph Allegretti
Alysia Dunbar

Reported by: Fissinger & Associates, Ltd.

By: Peggy S. LaLonde

Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Present in Chambers: Henry Ventura, Joseph
Ochoa, John Bakota

STAFF Present in Chambers: Alysia Dunbar
Joseph Allegretti,
Winna Guzman
Bill Biller

MR. VENTURA: Meeting of the East Chicago
Department of Waterworks Board will come to order.
Entertain a motion to approve minutes of September 20,
2021.

MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

MR. OCHOA: Second.

MR. VENTURA: Any comments or questions?

(None)

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None

MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.

We have minutes from the Special
Meeting held September 23, 2021. Do I have a motion to
approve?

MR. OCHOA: Motion to approve.

1 MR. BAKOTA: Second.

2 MR. VENTURA: Any comments or questions?
3 (None)

4 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
5 Opposed: None

6 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.
7 Next Warrant 091721, amount of
8 \$37,208.90, Utilities Payroll, dates of 8-28-21 to
9 9-10-21. Do I have a motion to approve?

10 MR. OCHOA: Motion to approve.

11 MR. BAKOTA: Second.

12 MR. VENTURA: Any comments or questions?
13 (None)

14 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
15 Opposed: None

16 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.
17 Warrant 090321, amount of
18 \$11,386.23, Payroll for dates of 8-28-21 to 9-10-21.

19 MR. OCHOA: Motion to approve.

20 MR. BAKOTA: Second.

21 MR. VENTURA: Any comments or questions?
22 (None)

23 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
24 Opposed: None

25 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.
Warrant 100121, amount of
\$37,652.25, Utilities Payroll, dates of 9-11-21 to
9-24-21. Do I have a motion to approve?

MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

MR. OCHOA: Second.

MR. VENTURA: Any comments or questions?
(None)

1 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None

2

3 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.
Warrant 100121, amount of
4 \$11,350.01, Payroll dates of 9-11-21 to 9-24-21. Do I
have a motion to approve?

5 MR. OCHOA: Motion to approve.

6 MR. BAKOTA: Second.

7 MR. VENTURA: Any comments or questions?
(None)

8

9 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None

10

MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.
Warrant 100421 WF, amount of
11 \$526,919.00. Do I have a motion to approve?

12 MR. OCHOA: Motion to approve.

13 MR. BAKOTA: Second.

14 MR. VENTURA: Any comments or questions?
(None)

15

16 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None

17 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.
Warrant 100421 WB, amount
18 \$41,567.77. Do I have a motion to approve?

19 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

20 MR. OCHOA: Second.

21 MR. VENTURA: Any comments or questions?
(None)

22

23 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None

24 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.
Next, Filtration report, Obed Perez.

25

1 MR. PEREZ: Some things we are working on
2 is that we cleaned our backwash basin. We did receive
3 the citric. We have got our air compressor serviced.
4 CRT chlorine room, we were able to replace some CRT
5 components.

6 We are in the process of closing the
7 old plant as we talked about in the last meeting. And
8 before we close that place down, we kind of want to know
9 the life expectancy of the membrane. There is software
10 that goes to draw from our current SCADA and give us
11 better use, where we are at, and how long they might
12 last us for the future too. I am getting the
13 information on that as well.

14 Concerning the elevated tank, we
15 have received the parts to fix that. That's starting
16 this week. Concerning our lab, we did work on
17 deficiencies that they found and we officially are
18 certified by the Indiana Department of Health for one
19 year. And our new lab employee, Louis Garcia, he's
20 trained to get samples throughout the distribution
21 system and now entering the results.

22 MR. VENTURA: Any questions for Obed?
23 (None)

24 MR. PEREZ: Thank you.

25 MR. VENTURA: Next we have report from
Water, Winna Guzman.

MS. GUZMAN: No report.

MR. VENTURA: Report from Distribution,
Allen S. Lee.

MR. LEE: I'll go through the list, some
of this is the same as before, but few things have
changed. We are down to one master meter that's not
working. That's National Steel. We are waiting on a
part to come in for that.

The 24-inch main HP delayed because
of material. Looks like it's going to be November now.

All leaks repaired and also
restoration has been completed. We only have 37 meters
that are in our scope of this year, so that we will be
trying to get to where we need to be on that.

We have 113 shutoff non pays. We
fixed 38 of those and all those people came in and paid
them, so that's good.

1 The rest of the work will be divided up
2 between Hasse, Crown Point, and Hessville based on
3 cheapest to expensive. Hessville is a little bit
4 cheaper, but they are limited on what they can do. I
5 will be dividing it up, what can be done so we are done
6 by the end of the year on that.

7 Lock boxes have all been given out
8 to Crown Point and Hasse. Hopefully they will be
9 starting on that.

10 The four hydrants at Public Works
11 have been changed out and the thing is quiet. We moved
12 our sensors from Gary Road and locked up that hydrant.
13 So both those hydrants were locked now and sensors
14 inside Public Works.

15 We did our inventory, bunch of our
16 stuff, and in the process of getting three bids --
17 actually there is four sets of bids for critical stuff
18 that we don't have, stuff that we should have, and the
19 rest would be on the shelf inventory. So we are looking
20 at all that. We don't want to get too much of
21 something. We don't want it sitting on the shelf too
22 long, but we also want it on the shelf if we need it.

23 ME Simpson is suppose to start
24 October 6th repairing the hydrants. And then Giant will
25 be behind them. We are still looking into getting the
flow meter, prices on that with ME Simpson and the
residential flow meters. We have 15 hydrants that are
critical since 2019 and that work has been given out to
CCP and Hasse. And as of today, since I took over, we
have given out 108 jobs of valves, hydrants, and curb
boxes and pits to be repaired. That's it.

MR. VENTURA: Any further questions for
Mr. Lee?

MR. BAKOTA: I have a question. You have
37 meters that are qualified for testing out of 100?

MR. ALLEN: We have quite a few. That
meter shop, if you have been in there, you wouldn't be
too happy. I'm not happy with it. But it's on the
list.

MR. BAKOTA: Under that contract we are
-- you are going to have to get 13 more meters before
they pick them up? I thought they pick up at 50.

MR. ALLEN: We have to get 100. We only
have 37.

1 MR. BAKOTA: I thought they picked up on
2 50 meters.

3 MS. GUZMAN: Pick up 50 and then another
4 50.

5 MR. LEE: I know we are doing a hundred.
6 I didn't know they were doing 50/50.

7 MR. BAKOTA: I don't know. They won't
8 pick until you get 50, that's why couldn't we have made
9 an agreement to pick up 25, you know, but that's past.
10 The other meters were just old, mechanical?

11 MR. LEE: No, some of them are from 2017.
12 The place hasn't been cleaned. The place is a wreck.
13 It's unacceptable. So we need meters that were done
14 this year. Those meters that were all collected through
15 the building there were everywhere.

16 MR. BAKOTA: They weren't recently taken
17 out?

18 MR. ALLEN: We had to take meter numbers
19 and have the girls check them to see if they were taken
20 out this year. If they were, that's great. But 2019,
21 2018, even 2017, so all those had to be pulled and they
22 will be scrapped when we get a chance. So we have
23 37 meters.

24 MR. BAKOTA: Any idea what the life of a
25 meter is mechanically, where you would judge it not
operational, you just discard it? If you took a meter
out and it's ten years old, would it still go for
testing?

MR. LEE: All I know, where I come from,
over there regulators make you change them every ten
years, mandatory. So I don't know what the battery life
is. I am not up to snuff yet on the master meters yet.
I didn't use those, we had a different kind. I am on a
learning phase in the meter shop. Where I come from
that's a different department; there's the Distribution
Department and a Meter Service Department, and
Filtration Department. So those are all -- because it's
larger, so each one is a little separate.

MR. BAKOTA: Thank you.

1 MR. VENTURA: Any other questions for Mr.
Lee? (None) Thank you.
2 Do we have any report from legal
counsel?

3 MR. ALLEGRETTI: No report.

4 MR. VENTURA: Financial, Bill Biller.

5 MR. BILLER: No report.

6 MR. VENTURA: Under New Business. This
7 is for informational purposes, but we do have on the
phone speaker, John Caruso, and this is regarding
8 existing elevated tank removal and replacement of CBBEL
project number 200198. Any questions?

9 MS. GUZMAN: Mr. Caruso is on the line.
10 John, do you want to elaborate on this a little bit?
Mr. Caruso is from Christopher Burke Engineering, who
11 was contracted by the Water Department, and he is going
to reference the memorandum. I did also attach a copy
12 of the modeling report, water distribution analysis. So
he will be touching a little bit on that. So if you
13 would, please, John.

14 MR. CARUSO: John Caruso. So in the
memorandum we were asked to put together for both cost,
15 as well as phase requirements, for a new elevated tank
to replace the existing elevated tank. The existing
16 elevated tank was constructed in 1949, 1.5 million
gallon tank. And I believe it was originally sized for
17 water pressure system, distribution system pressure
considerably less than what the current water pressure
18 is at today. Therefore the overflow elevation of the
tank is less than the operating pressure in the system.
19 Normal operating pressure is about 58 PSI in this area.
Overflow elevation is approximately equal to about 45
20 PSI. So the water operators at the plant have to
basically turn off the pumps and dial down pressure so
21 that the water can turn over in the tank. Thus, you
know, normal operating pressure of 58 is lowered to
22 about 40 PSI to allow water to flow out of the tank, and
I believe this is turned over twice a week.

23 So, this memo details proposed cost,
budget cost that we received from Chicago Bridge and
24 Iron, who would furnish and install the tank. There was
three different options. The 3 million gallon
25 standpoint, and two million gallon elevated spheroid,

1 and two million drawn fluted column with the pricing you
2 see in the middle of the memorandum; 3.4 million for the
3 standpoint, 6.2 million for the spheroid, and 7.4
4 million for the fluted column.

5 There is enough space available on
6 the existing City owned parcel at Chicago Avenue, that
7 it would first of all need to be, the existing tank,
8 needs to be demolished and removed from the site, and
9 the new concrete foundation installed and the tank
10 erected out of steel, painting steel.

11 The duration of this project would
12 be approximately two years from design to construction
13 and would have to be phased so that it is finished up in
14 warmer weather, summer temperatures, so that the
15 exterior and interior of the tank can be painted in
16 temperatures above 45 degrees. I can turn this back to
17 Winna.

18 MR. VENTURA: Any questions for Mr.
19 Caruso?

20 MR. CARUSO: Thank you very much.

21 MR. VENTURA: Joe, you have anything to
22 add to that?

23 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Just maybe discuss -- we
24 were on the phone call today -- maybe, John, talk about
25 the time line and the back of the envelope cost
estimate.

MR. CARUSO: It would be approximately
two years from design, the bidding, and then
approximately 18-month construction period. And like I
said, you would want to finish it in the Summer and Fall
so that the tank could be painted in the temperatures
above 45 degrees. It's not, you know, imminent
construction right now. However, I believe the water
operators have to work around normal pressure in the
distribution system and lower those pressures from 58
PSI down to approximately 40 PSI so you can get water in
and out of tank and turn the water over for water
quality purposes, so the water doesn't remain stagnant.

This is not an ideal situation for
the distribution system to see pressure fluctuation of,
you know, plus or minus 20 PSI, from 40 PSI up to 60
PSI. So this should be on the City's wish list of
capital improvement projects moving forward in the next
five-year time frame for reconstruction of this tank.

1 MS. GUZMAN: John, do you want to touch a
2 little bit on the modeling, on your observation and
3 recommendation that's attached to your paper of today?

4 MR. CARUSO: I'm sorry, the what?

5 MS. GUZMAN: Water modeling, touch
6 briefly on that.

7 MR. CARUSO: So we are continuing to
8 refine the water model. The water model was used to
9 look at lower pressure as reported in south Roxana area
10 and we are looking at piping improvements to increase
11 pressure in that area. It's a single pipe right now and
12 we believe a looped system could improve pressure in
13 that area. As well as the water model can show us what
14 the elevated tank overflow elevation should be, the
15 proposed tank. And then any of the other capital
16 improvements that are being contemplated for water main
17 improvements, the water model will tell us the
18 appropriate size water main that should be replaced.

19 I think we also assisted in some of
20 the shutdown, proposed shutdowns for some of the large
21 diameter valves that were being proposed from some other
22 consultants to replace existing, I believe, 30-inch main
23 to the east of the new plant. So the water model is a
24 good tool to represent construction projects prior to
25 them being implemented.

MR. VENTURA: Thank you, John.

MR. ALLEGRETTI: I think the consensus
was, if we could, this project would be eligible for the
Rescue Act money. The City has another 21 million of
obligated Rescue Act money which has been awarded under
contract year end of 2024. Somehow talk to the powers
that be, about funding this project, we could do it
quickly. If that doesn't happen, we'll have to take
this matter of financing up at our -- at the next rate
case we file. It won't be in the current one. That's
all I have to say.

MR. OCHOA: So it would behoove us to
file this before the rate case, right?

MR. ALLEGRETTI: If you have any friends
in the Administration, I suggest you ask them about
financing this very worthy water tower project.

1 MR. VENTURA: No other questions, thank
2 you.

3 Agreements: ME Simpson 2022 water
4 audit, amount of \$19,000.00.

5 MR. BAKOTA: Could we get a little
6 explanation on this Winna?

7 MS. GUZMAN: So ME Simpson performed an
8 audit for us for 2019, which was required by the State
9 in order for us to be in compliance. It comes up again
10 next year for 2021. So every two years we have to
11 perform this audit and we are required by the State, so
12 this is part of that. So there is two phases and the
13 total would be 19,900, and I can recommend that the
14 Board approve this. Again, this is to identify and
15 control the water loss within our system. Basically
16 submit to the State the validation and once they receive
17 that, they approve and send it back to us certifying or
18 stating that we have complied with the State
19 requirements.

20 MR. VENTURA: Any other questions for
21 Winna? (None) Do I have a motion to approve?

22 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

23 MR. OCHOA: Second.

24 MR. VENTURA: Any comments or questions?
25 (None)

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None

MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.

Next we have Rate Sheet from Calumet
City Plumbing for 2022, and this is in your packet.

MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

MR. OCHOA: Second.

MR. VENTURA: Any comments or questions?
(None)

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None

1 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.
2 Next is Rate Sheet for Mechanical
3 Concepts for 2022. This is also in your packet.

4 MS. GUZMAN: This is for HVAC services.

5 MR. VENTURA: Do I have a motion?

6 MR. OCHOA: Motion to approve.

7 MR. BAKOTA: Second.

8 MR. VENTURA: Any comments or questions?
(None)

9 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None

10 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.
11 Next past due: Tierra
12 Environmental, amount of \$1200.00. This is relating to
13 water line repair at 4506 Cline Avenue. Reason for
delinquency, invoice not received until September 15,
2021. Do I have a motion to approve?

14 MR. OCHOA: Motion to approve.

15 MR. BAKOTA: Second.

16 MR. VENTURA: Any comments or questions?
(None)

17 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None

18 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.
19 Under Unfinished Business, we have a
20 rate sheet for 2022 for Hessville Plumbing. We are
going to table this until the next meeting.

21 MR. OCHOA: Motion to table.

22 MR. BAKOTA: Second. I would just make
23 the comment that we approved two rate sheets here that
were -- they were detailed. I don't know how they put a
24 rate sheet together, but they are talking total
materials \$200, and rocks \$350, and there's no
25 explanation of how many pounds or how many cubic feet or
cubic yards. If you go to Menard's, a bag is marked by

1 the yard or pounds or cubic foot, whatever. I think we
2 need an explanation.

3 MS. GUZMAN: I will explain that them. I
4 was trying to get them here today, or at least on the
5 phone. I left them a message and they haven't returned
6 my call. I will attempt to get them here for the next
7 meeting.

8 MR. VENTURA: Any further comments or
9 questions? (None) We have a motion to table this till
10 next meeting.

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

13 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries.
14 Do we have any public comment?
15 (None)

16 Next meeting, regular meeting, will
17 be October 18, 2021, at 5:00 p.m., in City Council
18 Chambers. Do I have a motion to adjourn?

19 MR. OCHOA: Motion to adjourn.

20 MR. BAKOTA: Second.

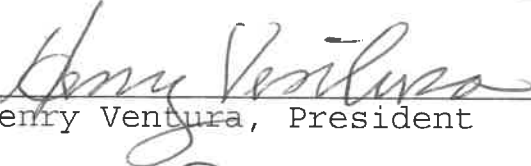
21 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
22 Opposed: None

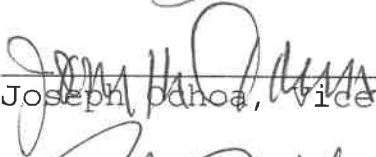
23 MR. VENTURA: Motion carries. Meeting
24 adjourned.

25 ***** Meeting adjourned *****

Approval of the Meeting Minutes of
October 4, 2021

Approved and signed October 18, 2021


Henry Ventura, President


Joseph Odhoa, Vice-President


John Bakota, Member


Anthony Askounis, Member


Ray Lopez, Member


Alysia Dunbar, Secretary.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
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 6th day of October, 2021.

Peggy S. LaLonde



Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR