

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF WATER  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Special Meeting Minutes  
January 24, 2020, at 10:35 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

STAFF:

Winna Guzman  
Anthony Herrera  
Ben El Harit  
Edward Santen  
Joseph Allegretti

Reported by: Fissinger & Associates, Ltd.

By: Peggy S. LaLonde

Call to Order: 10:35 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Present: John Bakota, Ray Lopez, Joseph  
Ochoa

MR. BAKOTA: First on the agenda is the Agreement with Edward Santen, Distribution Supervisor. You have the contract in front of you, do I have a motion?

Motion to approve Agreement with Edward Santen, Distribution Supervisor, made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Ray Lopez.

MR. BAKOTA: Any comments or questions?

MR. LOPEZ: On page 2, the duties of the Distribution Supervisor, the third one down, take responsibility for emergency repairs and daily activities of the water utilities. That mean at 1:00 o'clock in the morning, you go out?

MR. SANTEN: I think so.

MR. ALLEGRETTI: Maybe Mr. Santen should come up and introduce himself, give a brief history of his work. As background, we know Rocky is retiring and going to be going away pretty soon. So this gentleman is going to fill that need. And there is a couple unusual provisions in his agreement.

He's going to be a regular employee,

1 however he's not getting health benefits because he has  
2 that elsewhere. He's also entitled to six weeks of  
3 unpaid leave for 2021, which is a little different.  
4 Otherwise he's a regular employee of the union and will  
5 have his benefits as described in the Employee Handbook.

6 MR. SANTEN: Ed Santen, good morning.  
7 Thank you for allowing me to join your team today. I  
8 come before you with quite a bit of knowledge in the  
9 Public Works field.

10 I started in 1980, at 17-years-old,  
11 while I was in high school, and was in a work related  
12 program; that when I ended up graduating from high  
13 school, there was a position open in the Water  
14 Department, and I ended up staying there. Never knowing  
15 that I'd stay there 38 years.

16 I worked in a variety of different  
17 capacities, from school employment on to the water  
18 operator's position, eventually became assistant water  
19 superintendent. From there I became water  
20 superintendent at 21-years-old and I held that position  
21 till 1989. Then in 1989 there was a retirement in  
22 Public Works and I took that position as Water and  
23 Public Works Superintendent, and kept that position for  
24 the next 29 years.

25 I have a variety of water licenses.  
I have some tree knowledge/experience, some mechanical  
experience with trucks and operating a fleet, and all  
that sort of thing. Sanitary sewers were part of my  
career, maintaining and monitoring, not a treatment  
plant, but the actual sewer system. The Water  
Reclamation District of Chicago took care of our sewer  
treatment. We took care of our storm sewers. Just  
about anything you can name in the City, this is only on  
a smaller scale.

We did -- I was on-call 24 hours,  
7 days a week, for the entire period. We started out  
with pagers that never gave you a phone number. You had  
to scroll through a list of phone calls until you'd  
finally find out who called you.

But that being said, I am very  
excited. I have a great deal of knowledge that I wish  
to share with you folks, that I think can help us and  
save some money for your City here, and get you on a  
path of a plan. And pursuing this plan, I am confident  
we can bring the City to a much better place than maybe  
it is today.

I'm honored, I'm excited, and I'm  
grateful; and hope I can help you. Any time you need to

1 call or have a question, please call me. I don't want  
2 to overdo this statement, but I am here to help and I  
3 appreciate the opportunity. Please call on me if I can  
4 be of service.

5 MR. BAKOTA: We certainly welcome your  
6 experience. That's a good background.

7 MR. SANTEN: Thank you. We had to --  
8 like I was telling HR and Winna -- we do everything  
9 in-house mainly, so not only was I doing the paperwork  
10 on the Administration side, I was actually fixing the  
11 trucks, or in some cases fixing the membranes, digging  
12 with a machine; you name it. We had a small department,  
13 so basically you did what you had to do.

14 I worked with seven mayors, seven  
15 village managers, countless engineers and attorneys, and  
16 got along well with all of them -- and, you know -- work  
17 together to get the job done and get it done right. So  
18 that's what I look to do here.

19 MR. BAKOTA: Wonderful.

20 MR. LOPEZ: Welcome aboard and thank you  
21 for showing up.

22 MR. SANTEN: Thank you.

23 MR. LOPEZ: You are going to meet a lot  
24 of people.

25 MR. BAKOTA: Any other comments or  
26 questions? (None) All in favor signify by saying aye?  
27 (All signify aye.)

28 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries. Welcome to  
29 the crew.

30 MR. SANTEN: Thank you very much.

31 MR. BAKOTA: Next on the agenda is  
32 Eurofins Analytical Testing Agreement for 2020.

33 MR. EL HARIT: This is the regular  
34 contract for every year. We need this as soon as  
35 possible so we can get the PO, so we can start paying  
36 the people. Any questions for this?

37 MR. BAKOTA: This is for the year,  
38 calendar year?

1 MR. EL HARIT: Correct  
2 Motion to approve Eurofins Analytical Testing Agreement  
3 for 2020 made by Ray Lopez. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

4 MR. BAKOTA: Any comments or questions?  
5 (None) All in favor signify by saying aye?  
6 (All signify aye.)

7 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
8 Next on the agenda is the chemical  
9 contracts for 2020. First is Brenntag Great Lakes LLC.  
10 Motion to approve contract for Brenntag Great Lakes LLC  
11 made by Ray Lopez. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

12 MR. BAKOTA: Any comments or questions?  
13 (None) The chemical contract for poly aluminum chloride  
14 at \$0.30 a wet pound and it's for 3,600 pounds per  
15 shipment. All in favor signify by saying aye?  
16 (All signify aye.)

17 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
18 Next is Rowell Chemical Corporation,  
19 that's the contract for sulfuric acid at \$0.87 wet  
20 pounds, sodium hypochloride at \$0.64 wet pounds, and  
21 sodium hydroxide at \$0.11. Maybe I misquoted the cents  
22 eight and then six on the sulfuric and sodium. It's per  
23 shipment of 45,000 pounds.  
24 Motion to approve contract with Rowell Chemical  
25 Corporation made by Ray Lopez. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

MR. BAKOTA: Any comments or questions?  
(None) All in favor signify by saying aye?  
(All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.  
Next is Shannon Chemical Corp. is  
poly orthophosphate liquid, at \$0.51 a wet pound. And  
per shipment is 275-gallon tote.

MR. EL HARIT: We already ordered some  
from them because we needed it for the plant. We  
ordered with this contract.

MR. BAKOTA: That was with this contract?

MR. EL HARIT: Yes.

Motion to approve contract with Shannon Chemical Corp.  
made by Ray Lopez. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

1 MR. OCHOA: Do both plants take the same  
2 chemicals?

3 MR. EL HARIT: We use most of it in the  
4 new plant. Probably only one tote for old plant because  
5 we don't use the old plant that much. So probably for  
6 two, three months for one tote.

7 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by  
8 saying aye?

9 (All signify aye.)

10 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

11 Next is Usalco Ashtabula Plant, LLC,  
12 and it's for aluminum sulfite. Quantity for shipment is  
13 45,000 wet pounds at \$0.10 a pound. Do I have a motion?  
14 Motion to approve contract with Usalco Ashtabula Plant  
15 made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Ray Lopez.

16 MR. BAKOTA: Any comments or questions?  
17 (None) All in favor signify by saying aye?

18 (All signify aye.)

19 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

20 Next is Viking Chemical Company.  
21 Chemical name citric acid at quality per shipment is one  
22 to two totes per tote, 3,130 pounds, at \$0.50 a wet  
23 pound, sodium sulfite at \$0.17 1/2 a pound wet.  
24 Motion to approve contract with Viking Chemical Company  
25 made by Ray Lopez. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by  
saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

Next is Public Comment. (None)

Our next meeting is going to be  
January 29th, here in the Council Chambers, at  
5:00 o'clock. Do I have a motion for adjournment?  
Motion to adjourn meeting made by Joseph Ochoa. Second  
by Ray Lopez.

MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by  
saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.


Meeting adjourned.

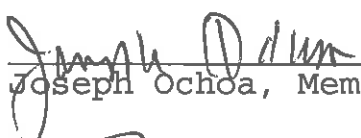
\*\*\*\*\* Meeting adjourned \*\*\*\*\*

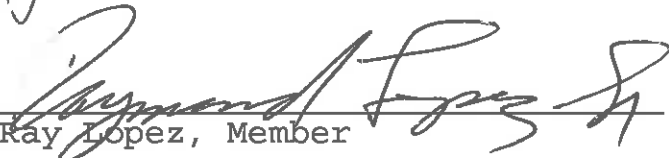
Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of  
January 24, 2020

Approved and signed \_\_\_\_\_

4   
5 \_\_\_\_\_  
6 John Bakota, President

7   
8 \_\_\_\_\_  
9 Henry Ventura, Vice-President

10   
11 \_\_\_\_\_  
12 Joseph Ochoa, Member

13   
14 \_\_\_\_\_  
15 Ray Lopez, Member

16   
17 \_\_\_\_\_  
18 Anthony Askounis, Member

19   
20 \_\_\_\_\_  
21 Anthony Herrera, 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 27th day of January, 2020.

*Peggy S. LaLonde*

Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR



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