

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
BOARD OF SANITARY COMMISSIONERS

BOARD MEMBERS

Miguel (Mike) Rivera, President
Alojzy (Ben) Moricz, Vice-President
Tia Cauley, Member
Loreto Gonzalez, Member
Steve Flowers, Member

Regular Meeting Minutes
(Via Telephone Conference)
Thursday, April 16, 2020 @ 4:30 p.m.

Reported for Fissinger & Associates
By: Lisa Pena

CALL TO ORDER: 4:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL: Present: Miguel Rivera.
Present Via Telephone: Alojzy Moricz, Tia
Cauley, Loreto Gonzalez, Steve Flowers.

Also Present: Dr. Abdul Zehraoui, Winna Guzman, Joe
Allegretti, John Martinez, Anthony Herrera.

MR. RIVERA: Before we go any further we're going to ask
each member to state his name before he speaks or votes to
help Kay do the minutes.

We can also state the stipulation that the members
delegate the President the authority to execute all
documents, minutes, et cetera on behalf of the Commission
eliminating the need to collect signatures from members
participating electronically.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 2, 2020

Motion to approve April 2, 2020 Meeting Minutes made by
Loreto Gonzalez. Second by Steve Flowers.

Questions/Comments: None.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

1 CHECK WARRANTS:

2 Sanitary District, Wastewater Division

3 MR. RIVERA: Next item is Check Warrants for the
4 Sanitary District, Wastewater Division. Warrant Number
5 041620 SW for the amount of \$44,705.62.

6 Motion to approve Check Warrant 041620 SW made by Loreto
7 Gonzalez. Second by Alojzy Moricz.

8 Questions/Comments: None.

9 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
10 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

11 MR. RIVERA: Next is Warrant Number 040320 Sanitary
12 Board Payroll 3/14/20 to 3/27/20.

13 Motion to approve Check Warrant 040320 Sanitary Board Payroll
14 3/14/20 to 3/27/20 made by Steve Flowers. Second by Alojzy
15 Moricz.

16 Questions/Comments: None.

17 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
18 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

19 MR. RIVERA: Next is Warrant Number 040320 Utilities
20 Payroll 3/14/20 to 3/27/20.

21 Motion to approve Check Warrant 040320 Utilities Payroll
22 3/14/20 to 3/27/20 made by Loreto Gonzalez. Second by Alojzy
23 Moricz.

24 Questions/Comments: None.

25 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

MR. RIVERA: Next is Warrant Number 040320 Wastewater
Payroll 3/14/20 to 3/27/20.

Motion to approve Check Warrant 040320 Wastewater Payroll
3/14/20 to 3/27/20 made by Loreto Gonzalez. Second by Alojzy
Moricz.

Questions/Comments: None.

1 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

2 Sanitary District, Solid Waste Division

3 MR. RIVERA: Next is Warrants for the Sanitary District,
4 Solid Waste Division. Warrant Number 041620 SS for the
amount of \$521,871.42.

5 Motion to approve Check Warrant 041620 SS made by Loreto
6 Gonzalez. Second by Alojzy Moricz.

7 Questions/Comments: None.

8 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

9 MR. RIVERA: Next is Warrant Number 040320 Solids
10 Payroll 3/14/20 to 3/27/20.

11 Motion to approve Check Warrant 040320 Solids Payroll 3/14/20
12 to 3/27/20 made by Loreto Gonzalez. Second by Alojzy Moricz.

13 Questions/Comments: None.

14 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

15 REPORT FROM UTILITY DIVISION MATTERS: None.

16 REPORT OF FIELD OPERATIONS: None.

17 REPORT FROM SOLID WASTE: None.

18 REPORT FROM FINANCIAL CONSULTANT:

19 MR. RIVERA: Next is Report from Financial Consultant,
20 Bill Biller. Cash Report for March 2020 I will read into the
record.

21 He has in his record of the March '20 Report March
22 Receipts are \$672,698. Disbursements \$379,799. March End
Cash Balance were Operations and Maintenance Fund \$2,188,758
23 and Replacement Fund \$1,829,969.

24 That concludes the Report from Mr. Bill Biller.

25 NEW BUSINESS:

1 MR. RIVERA: The next item is New Business. We have a
2 Resolution here. Resolution SD 20-02, a Resolution
3 authorizing the write-off of certain unpaid sewer bills by
4 the East Chicago Sanitary District.

5 Miss Winna Guzman has the floor.

6 MS. GUZMAN: Good evening. Winna Guzman, Water
7 Department Director. Basically we're going to be doing these
8 quarterly as we receive them and compile the information to
9 bring before the Boards.

10 So this is requesting unpaid sewer bills be written
11 off and removed from the books as they are uncollectible due
12 to bad debts, vacancies, bankruptcies, tax sales and/or the
13 issuance of sheriff deeds.

14 So I kind of broke down everything and I attached
15 the list. And just requesting the Board to approve this.

16 MR. RIVERA: The Resolution states for Water \$29,486.53,
17 Sewer \$25,999.39, Other \$1,526.72, Taxes \$1,476.50 for a
18 total to be written off of \$58,489.14.

19 Are there any questions for Miss Guzman?

20 I have one. I see there are five that state Other.
21 Why are there Other?

22 MS. GUZMAN: Those may be charges that are assessed,
23 late fees. I'm sorry. Not late fees. But shut offs. Say
24 they were turned on illegally, \$250 charge. So those are
25 some of the charges. Garbage may be in there too. So we put
them under Other so we can kind of separate them.

MR. RIVERA: Are there any more questions for
Miss Guzman?

Motion to approve Resolution SD 20-02 made by Tia Cauley.
Second by Steve Flowers.

Questions/Comments: None.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

MR. RIVERA: Next item is Emergencies. We have Electric
Motor Services for the Sanitary District for the amount of
\$11,996.

1 Mr. Martinez has the floor.

2 MR. MARTINEZ: Good afternoon. This emergency that we
3 see here on Electric Motor Services was one of our electric
4 motors that burned up. And we had to take it out and replace
5 it with another one. So this motor that we took out we're
6 going to send to rebuild it. That's the first emergency.

7 The second emergency is Roger & Son Locksmith from
8 Sanitary. Our maintenance people went to go open up the door
9 at one of our pump stations and the locks broke. I had to
10 get a locksmith out to replace that lock.

11 And we have another emergency here from Meccon.
12 Meccon, they're the ones that are going to change the
13 gearbox. Well, they started today. And we should have the
14 gearboxes --

15 MR. RIVERA: Mr. Martinez, we don't have that one on the
16 agenda, the third one. Let me see. Let me recheck.

17 I'm sorry. Go ahead. This one is actually under
18 Proposals.

19 MR. MARTINEZ: It should have been under Emergencies.

20 MR. RIVERA: This is why I couldn't see it. Go ahead.

21 MR. MARTINEZ: Meccon is the company that came out to
22 change our gearboxes that handle our aerators. Our aerators
23 are a big part of our Sanitary District. And this gearbox if
24 we didn't get it changed we were going to get fined by IDEM.
25 So that's why I declared it an emergency.

One more, I have Merismo, Clarifier Wells. These
are the wells that go around our clarifiers. And they've
been in the ground for 36 years. And it's time to redrill
them and get them fixed.

That's all I have at this time.

MR. RIVERA: Are there any questions from the Members?
We'll take one at a time.

Motion to approve Electric Motor Services Emergency made by
Tia Cauley. Second by Loreto Gonzalez.

Questions/Comments: None.

1 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

2 MR. RIVERA: We move down to the second one, Roger &
3 Son, the other emergency. That one is for \$196.50.

4 Motion to approve Roger & Son Locksmith Emergency made by
Loreto Gonzalez. Second by Steve Flowers.

5 Questions/Comments: None.

6 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
7 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

8 MR. RIVERA: The third one is Bakertilly Municipal
9 Advisors Accounting Services. It's here under Proposals.
But I guess mistakenly. It's also an emergency.

10 Motion to approve Bakertilly Municipal Advisors Accounting
11 Services Emergency made by Tia Cauley. Second by Loreto
Gonzalez.

12 Questions/Comments: None.

13 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
14 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

15 MR. RIVERA: The next one is Meccon Sanitary Emergency.
That one is for \$14,494.

16 Motion to approve Meccon Emergency made by Tia Cauley.
17 Second by Loreto Gonzalez.

18 Questions/Comments: None.

19 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

20 MR. RIVERA: The last one is the Merismo Emergency.
21 Merismo has an estimated value of \$38,445.

22 DR. ZEHRAOUI: We have to change that.

23 MR. RIVERA: Dr. Zehraoui has the floor at this time.

24 DR. ZEHRAOUI: Yes. So for those clarifiers the wells
25 that are surrounding the clarifiers should be changed because
the wells by the springtime we have to pump the water around
the clarifier so we can drain the clarifier for maintenance.

1 Otherwise there is no way for us because the water table is
2 over maybe by 3 or 4 feet. So if we pump the water then the
clarifier will go up.

3 So we have to fix these wells so we can do the
4 maintenance on the clarifiers.

5 MR. RIVERA: Are there any questions for Dr. Zehraoui?

6 Motion to approve Merismo Emergency made by Tia Cauley.
7 Second by Loreto Gonzalez.

8 Questions/Comments: None.

9 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

10 MR. RIVERA: Thank you, Dr. Zehraoui.

11 Next item is Past Due Invoices. All three are for
12 Butler Fairman & Seufert. The first one is for the amount of
\$5,310. And it states here delinquency reason invoices for
13 Project Number 597100.982SC00OP update on hold for Dr. Abdul.

14 DR. ZEHRAOUI: So what's happening Billing Department,
15 they are not maybe working with their Engineer. So sometimes
they're sending us the bills before we receive the Report.
So once we receive the Report then I make the payment.

16 So right now I received the Report. I can make the
payment.

17 MR. RIVERA: Now it's okay to pay it?

18 DR. ZEHRAOUI: Yes.

19 Motion to approve Butler Fairman Seufert Past Due Invoice
20 made by Tia Cauley. Second by Loreto Gonzalez.

21 Questions/Comments: None.

22 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

23 MR. RIVERA: The next one is also for Butler Fairman &
24 Seufert. Actually there are three of them. One for 3,000,
second one \$3,000, the third one for \$250 amounting to
25 \$6,250.

1 It states here the reason for delinquency invoices
2 for Project Number 597100.9803, Alder Street Pump Station and
3 Tributary on hold for Dr. Abdul.

4 DR. ZEHRAOUI: So to make it clear they're using a
5 contract that is dated from 2016. So I did not want to sign
6 it until I checked that contract is still valid.

7 So the reason that is something very early before I
8 came. So I say cannot sign this. But right now when I went
9 back I see there was money left in that contract. So I am
10 okay with this payment.

11 MR. RIVERA: Thank you. Any questions for Dr. Abdul?

12 Motion to approve Butler Fairman & Seufert Past Due Invoices
13 made by Steve Flowers. Second by Alojzy Moricz.

14 Questions/Comments: None.

15 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
16 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

17 MR. RIVERA: The next one is also for Butler Fairman &
18 Seufert. Actually there are eight of them totaling
19 \$32,358.50.

20 Dr. Abdul has the floor.

21 DR. ZEHRAOUI: So the same thing right now. If you can
22 go back and you see the bills, they're for final design. I
23 didn't receive any final design for electric.

24 So the one that works with electric is Kokosing.
25 So I was waiting for Kokosing. They were sending bills. But
I received an e-mail they were going to charge us 40,000 for
something that is called the Note to Proceed. So I was
feeling that Kokosing, they were charging me double. And
also BFS they were charging me.

 But what this e-mail suggest then, okay, we'll pay
the first six. But the last two ones should be tabled
because once the City Council, they canceled or they didn't
approve a date. So from November there is no Study or
anything.

 So we extended their contract to help this
transition between Kokosing and Jim Max for Administration.
So for the last two ones I am asking to table because they

1 didn't do any work and they charged us 6,000 and 8,966. The
2 last two should be tabled and pay just what has been done for
3 final design for the six first ones.

4 MR. RIVERA: So, Dr. Zehraoui, is the total still the
5 same?

6 DR. ZEHRAOUI: No. We should table the last two ones,
7 6,100 and 8,966.50. They didn't do any work and they charged
8 us for that. And the project is on hold. The last two.

9 MR. RIVERA: Only seven and eight?

10 DR. ZEHRAOUI: Yeah. The last two ones should be
11 tabled.

12 MR. RIVERA: So these are the only ones that are going
13 to be paid?

14 DR. ZEHRAOUI: No. The ones that should be paid are the
15 first six. So the ones that should be tabled is 87707,
16 87980. These two should be tabled.

17 This say Administration for what? There is no
18 work. There's not because contract is on hold.

19 MR. RIVERA: So what you're stating is the amount owed
20 here is the Invoice 87707 and 87980?

21 DR. ZEHRAOUI: Should be tabled.

22 MR. RIVERA: Should be paid?

23 DR. ZEHRAOUI: No. Should be tabled.

24 MR. RIVERA: Should be taken off?

25 DR. ZEHRAOUI: Yes. We pay just the first six ones.

MR. RIVERA: In other words we only have six of them,
the first six?

DR. ZEHRAOUI: Yeah. The first six. That's it. The
last two ones should be tabled because there is no work and
they charged us for Administration. There's no Study or
anything.

MR. RIVERA: So with that correction being made are
there any questions for Dr. Abdul?

1 MR. FLOWERS: Should this be modified since they didn't
do any work? On that line should it be changed?

2 MR. RIVERA: I believe so. Maybe perhaps we can table
3 this and have a new one made for the next meeting.

4 DR. ZEHRAOUI: That's fine.

5 MR. RIVERA: If it's okay with the other Members?

6 DR. ZEHRAOUI: That way we can adjust the differences.

7 MR. RIVERA: It is a little confusing. And we would
have to add these other ones.

8 DR. ZEHRAOUI: We can table everything until next.

9 MR. RIVERA: Members, do you think it would be advisable
10 to table this matter?

11 MR. FLOWERS: Yes.

12 Motion to Table Butler Fairman & Seufert Past Due Invoices
made by Steve Flowers. Second by Tia Cauley.

13 Questions/Comments: None.

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

16 UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

17 MR. RIVERA: Next item is Unfinished Business. We have
Revenue Bond Construction Report. Mr. Allegretti, is this
18 informational?

19 MR. ALLEGRETTI: I don't know what that is.

20 MR. RIVERA: You don't know anything about it?

21 MR. ALLEGRETTI: It's just a reconciliation. I don't
know. I don't know that there's anything to vote on,
22 Mr. President.

23 MR. RIVERA: It says here just for information.

24 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Just acknowledge it's received. Thank
you.

25

1 MR. RIVERA: Anything to be read into the record or no?

2 MR. ALLEGRETTI: I don't think so. I think just
3 acknowledge it for the record.

4 MR. RIVERA: Thank you. Next item is Adjustments. The
5 first one is 2000 Gary Road.

6 Miss Guzman has the floor.

7 MS. GUZMAN: Again Winna Guzman, Director of East
8 Chicago Water Department. This is regarding 2000 Gary Road,
9 Account Number 18736.

10 The reason for this adjustment request the property
11 was the scene of a fire back in August of 2019. Owner had
12 requested the water service be terminated.

13 Our Department attempted to terminate the water.
14 However the valves -- they attempted several times. And
15 because of that it kept coming back that there's water usage.

16 So because of that the owner has requested that
17 this adjustment for this time from August 15, 2019 through
18 March 5, 2020 be adjusted and only be charged the base flat
19 fees through these months.

20 MR. RIVERA: And the recommendation is that this account
21 be adjusted as requested by owner?

22 MS. GUZMAN: Yes.

23 Motion to approve 2000 Gary Road Adjustment made by Steve
24 Flowers. Second by Loreto Gonzalez.

25 Questions/Comments: None.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

MR. RIVERA: The next one is 2108 Cardinal Drive.

Ms. Guzman has the floor.

MS. GUZMAN: Yes. This is Account Number 18391. And
as stated 2108 Cardinal Drive is the address. The reason for
the adjustment is these bills were assessed sewer charges.

And because this is for an irrigation system when

1 we changed out the meter the charge code remained or attached
2 the sewer charge code. And we didn't catch it until recently
3 because the owner came in and said, hey, I am being charged a
4 sewer charge.

5 So we're requesting that this account be adjusted
6 to remove the sewer charges in the amount of \$61.11 for the
7 period of November 15, 2019 through February 14, 2020.

8 MR. RIVERA: Any questions for Miss Guzman?

9 Motion to approve 2108 Cardinal Drive Adjustment made by
10 Steve Flowers. Second by Alojzy Moricz.

11 Questions/Comments: None.

12 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
13 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

14 MR. RIVERA: The next one is 4010 Deal.

15 Miss Guzman has the floor.

16 MS. GUZMAN: Thank you. This is relating to Accounts
17 16846 and 16845. The address is 4010 Deal Street. The owner
18 is requesting payment be applied to the correct account.
19 Owner issued a payment to the incorrect account number and
20 has requested our office to correct that.

21 So I am asking the Board, the payment was for \$25,
22 to allow me to adjustment that to the correct account.

23 MR. RIVERA: Any questions for Miss Guzman?

24 Motion to approve 4010 Deal Adjustment made by Steve Flowers.
25 Second by Alojzy Moricz.

Questions/Comments: None.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

MS. GUZMAN: Thank you.

MR. RIVERA: Thank you, Miss Guzman.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

1 * Next Regular Meeting Date: Thursday, May 7,
2020 @ 4:30 p.m.

2
3 Motion to adjourn made by Tia Cauley. Second by Steve
Flowers.

4 Questions/Comments: None.

5 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
6 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

7 * Meeting ended at 5:13 p.m.

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Approval of the Meeting Minutes of
Thursday, April 16, 2020
Approved and Signed _____



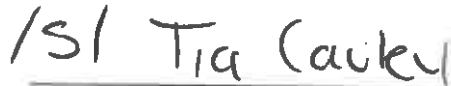
Miguel Rivera, President



Alojzy Moricz, Vice-President



Loreto Gonzalez, Member



Tia Cauley, Member



Steve Flowers, Member




Anthony Herrera, Board Secretary

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Lisa Pena, 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 said proceedings taken at said time and place, so ordered to be transcribed.

Dated at Portage, Indiana, this 25th day of April, 2020.



Lisa Pena
Notary Public Porter County
Certified Shorthand Reporter
License Number 084-003483



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