

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO  
BOARD OF SANITARY COMMISSIONERS  
BOARD MEMBERS

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

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, February 6, 2020, at 4:30 p.m.

Reported for Fissinger & Associates, Ltd

By: Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR

Call to Order: 4:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Present: Miguel Rivera  
Tia Cauley  
Ben Moricz  
Steve Flowers

Also Present: Anthony Herrera, Secretary  
Joseph Allegretti, Legal Counsel  
Dr. Abdul Zehraoui, Director of Utilities

MR. RIVERA: First item, a motion is  
needed to approve the minutes from December 19, 2019 and  
January 16, 2020.

Motion to approve meeting minutes as presented for  
December 19, 2019 and January 16, 2019 made by Ben  
Moricz. Second by Tia Cauley.

MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.  
(All signify aye.)

MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.  
Next is Check Warrants.

SANITARY DISTRICT - WASTEWATER DIVISION  
WARRANT 020620 SW - \$122,435.19

Motion to approve Warrant 020620 SW, in the amount of  
\$122,435.19 made by Ben Moricz. Second by Tia Cauley.

MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.  
(All signify aye.)

1 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.

2 WARRANT 011320 BI - \$472,306.26

3 Motion to approve Warrant 011320 BI, in the amount of  
4 \$472,306.26 made by Ben Moricz. Second by Tia Cauley.

5 WARRANT 012420 - Sanitary Board Payroll  
6 Dates of 1/4/20 to 1/17/20

7 Motion to approve Warrant 012420, Sanitary Board Payroll  
8 for dates of 1/4/20 to 1/17/20 made by Ben Moricz.  
9 Second by Steve Flowers.

10 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.  
11 (All signify aye.)

12 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.

13 WARRANT 012420 - Utilities Board Payroll  
14 Dates of 1/4/20 to 1/17/20

15 Motion to approve Warrant 012420, Utilities Board  
16 Payroll for dates of 1/4/20 to 1/17/20 made by Steve  
17 Flowers. Second by Ben Moricz.

18 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.  
19 (All signify aye.)

20 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.

21 WARRANT 012430 - Wastewater Payroll  
22 Dates of 1/4/20 to 1/17/20

23 Motion to approve Warrant 012420, Wastewater Payroll for  
24 dates of 1/4/20 to 1/17/20 made by Tia Cauley. Second  
25 by Steven Flowers.

MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.  
(All signify aye.)

MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.

WARRANT 020620 SS - \$825,555.01

Motion to approve Warrant 020620 SS, in the amount of  
\$825,555.01 made by Tia Cauley. Second by Steve  
Flowers.

MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.  
(All signify aye.)

MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.

1 WARRANT 012420 - Solids Payroll  
2 Dates of 1/4/20 to 1/17/20

3 Motion to approve Warrant 012420, Solids Payroll, for  
4 dates of 1/4/20 to 1/17/20 made by Steve Flowers.  
5 Second by Tia Cauley.

6 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.  
7 (All signify aye.)

8 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.  
9 Next Wastewater Division - No Report  
10 Utility Division - No Report  
11 Field Operations - No Report  
12 Solid Waste - No Report  
13 Financial Consultant - No Report  
14 Legal Counsel, Mr. Allegretti, your

15 report.

16 MR. ALLEGRETTI: I think the last meeting I  
17 talked about our working with our financial advisor to  
18 accomplish the financing for the last portion of our  
19 Phase 2 of the long term CSO plan. We have got work  
20 product from Baker Tilly, our financial advisor, and  
21 other consultants examining it. I hope -- I said this  
22 last time -- I hope at the next meeting we'll have some  
23 kind of plan to announce or some kind of planning which  
24 would not require legislative approval from Common  
25 Council, rather something the Board can accomplish on  
its own. And I hope to report on that at the next  
meeting.

It's also been -- as I indicated  
earlier -- some progress being made with our enforcement  
of our local pretreatment ordinance against Safety  
Clean. I think we have a history of some noncompliance  
with them for their cyanide limit. We hope to have that  
matter resolved within a short period of time.

I notice on here, one of the  
services being performed by our financial advisor, Baker  
Tilly, is for filing liens for delinquent sewer user  
charges. I found out what is going on in the General  
Assembly, for several sessions. The General Assembly  
has made it difficult for municipality utilities to file  
liens against property owners, where the utility  
customer is a tenant of the property owner. There is a  
bill in the General Assembly, reported by the Republican  
majority, which is going to make it impossible for a  
utility, such as ours, to file a lien to collect  
delinquent sewer user charges against a property owner  
that has a tenant. You can't hold the landowner

1 responsible and you can't lien his property for unpaid  
2 sewer charges or water utility charges.

3 Generally speaking, Commissioner  
4 Cauley knows better than I do, I think that as much as  
5 70 percent of our residential base is not  
6 owner/occupant, that is tenant occupied, which this new  
7 rule will have a big impact on us. And it's basically  
8 going to mean that our sole resource will be water  
9 shutoffs and there's been really aggressive shutoff  
10 activity by our water utility.

11 I talked to Winna Guzman about this,  
12 and she is aware of this. Furthermore there may be some  
13 suspicious credit worthy customers or people that have a  
14 history of nonpayment. Our recourse for signing up new  
15 water service, the statute is allowing us to increase  
16 the utility security deposit maybe 3 or fourfold, which  
17 is another arrow in your quiver, which we'll be able to  
18 do and reduce delinquencies for water and sewer. That's  
19 one of the things we are working on.

20 MR. RIVERA: Any questions for Mr.  
21 Allegretti?

22 MS. CAULEY: I do. When does this go in  
23 effect?

24 MR. ALLEGRETTI: It's in effect now, but  
25 the Bill that's going -- it's a short session this time.  
If they don't declare an emergency -- July 1st. If they  
declare an emergency, it goes in effect when signed by  
the Governor. It will be signed by the Governor in the  
next three weeks.

MR. RIVERA: Any more questions? (None)  
Thank you. Next item, report from Director of  
Utilities, Dr. Zehraoui.

DR. ZEHRAOUI: Good afternoon. So these  
two weeks -- mostly this week -- what has been  
happening. So both teams - Sanitary mostly -- has been  
working to make sure that all the water is not flooding  
Guthrie Street and any residences. So we are pumping  
from one main to another one for 24 hours, like for  
three days. So this is a 24-inch pipe that exploded. I  
never saw something like that. A chunk of the pump has  
been blown out from the pipe. So we were sending to  
filtration, from the old plant. But from the Sanitary  
part, we did what we should be doing to prevent any  
flooding from the nearby homes.

1 something else, we are working with  
2 City Engineer, helping him in his project, mostly on the  
3 design. You have that project, like on the boulevard,  
4 which that will be starting soon. This is mostly -- we  
5 are integrating our 25 percent increase with this  
6 project, so we cannot do other jobs. This is done for  
7 this report.

8 There is dig outs, but I don't have  
9 the list with me. Sewers, we have -- we talked with a  
10 company that will be coming tomorrow to start  
11 investigating all that part that has been damaged by the  
12 water. So we'll see if some cave in, then what repair  
13 should be done.

14 MR. RIVERA: Where is this again?

15 DR. ZEHRAOUI: This is Michigan Avenue  
16 with Guthrie, we have a big water leak. So mostly one  
17 manhole is gone because we opened up all that area,  
18 maybe like 50 feet, very large area.

19 MR. RIVERA: Any questions for Dr.  
20 Zehraoui? (None)

21 New Business. We'll start with  
22 opening bids for Analytical Services and Bio Solids  
23 Transport and Disposal.

24 MR. ALLEGRETTI: I'm not really familiar  
25 with the bid form. The first bid is from Microbac,  
26 proposal for analytical laboratory services. It appears  
27 all the forms are here. The total of the services  
28 testing for the parameters in this bid is \$40,673.00.

29 Next sealed bid for analytical  
30 services is from Element Materials Technology. Their  
31 bid for wastewater treatment plant testing services is  
32 \$4,527.00. They also have submitted a pretreatment  
33 collection system sampling, that bid number is  
34 \$48,676.00. Microbac submitted a bid for pretreatment  
35 collection system sampling also, which is \$46,995.00.  
36 Those are the two bids for those services.

37 I recommend these be referred to  
38 staff for tabulation and report at the next meeting.

39 MR. FLOWERS: What is the actual  
40 information, analytical biosolid transportation and  
41 disposal?

42 MR. ALLEGRETTI: I'm sorry, it's two  
43 different items being bid today. One is for analytical

1 services for wastewater and for the pretreatment  
2 testing and samples collected from significant  
3 industrial users.

4 Now we are going to open the bids  
5 for the sludge handling, sludge disposal. First bid is  
6 from G.E. Marshall Inc., of Valparaiso. Unit price --  
7 price per ton is \$57.95, no fuel surcharge applies.

8 There is an asteric here, counter  
9 proposal or qualifies the bid. We can determine what  
10 the statement assumes. I think there is a history of  
11 them taking our sludge.

12 The next bid is from Actin Inc.,  
13 East Chicago. The unit price per ton is \$60.00, no  
14 surcharge. If it's a land base application -- normally  
15 our sludge is not eligible for land base application --  
16 in the event, as an alternate event of land base  
17 application, the unit price per ton is \$51.50.

18 The last bid is from Synagro  
19 Industrial LLC, Baltimore, Maryland. The unit price per  
20 ton is \$60.95. That concludes the bids.

21 Similarly, Mr. President, I would  
22 suggest that you direct staff to tabulate the bids, make  
23 sure all the formal parts are present, and report back  
24 at the next meeting, make their recommendation for  
25 award.

MR. RIVERA: Okay. Next item is  
Agreements. First is Public Works, Lakeshore Ford,  
amount of \$68,384.

MR. HERRERA: I believe there is two  
vehicles that's Mr. Selvie wants to purchase through  
Government rates for the vehicles.

MR. ALLEGRETTI: If we buy them like  
that, we avoid the requirement for bidding. If we buy  
from an approved program, it's the exception to the  
Public Purchasing Statute. Normally under the Public  
Purchase Statute we can do anything we want. However,  
it's better practice to get competitive pricing, more  
economical in theory. If we buy from an approved  
program, which this is, and I do routinely, on behalf of  
the City, for vehicles, for public safety vehicles. If  
we buy through a price established by the State of  
Indiana, we can forego the bidding process, and that's  
what is proposed here.

MR. RIVERA: Is there a motion to accept  
Lakeshore Ford, total price of \$68,384?

1 MS. CAULEY: Mr. Allegretti, is this the  
actual truck, with the plow and everything?

2 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Right. And the spec was  
3 -- the goal is to have a truck that can help assist in  
4 plowing and assist public safety in the event you need  
additional snowplows. So it's fitted with a suitable  
5 plow for plowing public streets. That's the vehicle.

6 DR. ZEHRAOUI: This isn't the biggest  
one.

7 MS. CAULEY: You said that's not the  
biggest one?

8 DR. ZEHRAOUI: This is what is needed.  
9 This one has the space needed for the plow. You have to  
have heavy duty.

10 MR. FLOWERS: How was the price  
11 generated?

12 DR. ZEHRAOUI: Through the budget.

13 MR. ALLEGRETTI: That's the price by the  
State of Indiana, from a state approved vendor.

14 Motion to approve agreement with Lakeshore Ford, in the  
15 amount of \$68,384.00 made by Tia Cauley. Second by Ben  
Moricz.

16 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.  
17 (All signify aye.)

18 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.

19 Next item is Cronkhite Trailer, two  
trailers. The amount of \$12,800, so \$6400 each.

20 Motion to approve agreement with Cronkhite Trailer, in  
the amount of \$12,800.00 made by Tia Cauley. Second by  
21 Ben Moricz.

22 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.  
(All signify aye.)

23 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.

24 Next item is agreements for  
Sanitary. First one is 2020 City of East Chicago,  
vehicle maintenance.

25 MR. HERRERA: Every year the City

1 of East Chicago, on the civil city side, they approve a  
2 maintenance agreement with the vendors that are stated  
3 on the next page. So basically we go to those vendors  
4 for service, any emergency repairs or repairs we need.  
5 The Board of Works approves it and we just adopt it.  
6 Basically we have to go on a rotating list. We start  
7 alphabetically and go through each vendor. It's kind of  
8 a fair way of working with the businesses in the  
9 surrounding areas.

10 Motion to approve 2020 City of East Chicago Vehicle  
11 Maintenance made by Tia Cauley. Second by Ben Moricz.

12 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.

13 (All signify aye.)

14 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.

15 Next is Baker Tilly Municipal  
16 Advisors Quarterly Reconciliations/Accounting Services.

17 MR. HERRERA: So every year Baker Tilly  
18 performs -- it's called accounting services and  
19 reconciliations -- that are performed quarterly.  
20 Basically auditing and putting together analysis reports  
21 on sewer and water, your sewer and water bills. Taking  
22 all the numbers and matching each number with the usage  
23 and there is different analysis reports as well. And  
24 quarterly reconciliations are done on an annual basis  
25 every quarter. Again, these are just basically reports.  
We hire the company's Water Department and Sanitary  
District to perform the services.

Motion to approve agreement with Baker Tilly for  
quarterly reconciliations/accounting services made by  
Steve Flowers. Second by Tia Cauley.

MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.

(All signify aye.)

MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.

Next one is actually a purchase  
order, Baker Tilly, requisition for lien fee services,  
in the amount of \$4,800.00

MR. HERRERA: I believe this is just a  
remaining bill from 2019 because the companies had  
merged together. So the purchase order was closed out  
-- if I'm not mistaken -- if I remember what Lilia told  
me -- it was closed out and I believe she has to pay  
this amount due to a bill last year from Umbaugh to  
Baker Tilly. They are the same company now.



1 Motion to approve Baker Tilly requisition for services,  
2 in the amount of \$4,800.00 made by Tia Cauley. Second  
3 by Ben Moricz.

4 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.  
(All signify aye.)

5 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.

6 Next is Baker Tilley, lien data base  
7 invoice for \$1,300.00

8 MR. HERRERA: This is brought to the  
9 Board because we just approved the agreement a few items  
10 ago. This doesn't have a purchase order, but they had  
11 to perform this specific service for January -- July of  
12 2019. She has to pay -- the accounts clerk has to  
13 process this claim so they can receive their check, the  
14 company.

15 Motion to approve Baker Tilly lien data base invoice in  
16 the amount of \$1,300.00 made by Tia Cauley. Second by  
17 Steve Flowers.

18 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.  
(All signify aye.)

19 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.

20 Next item is Joseph Allegretti legal  
21 counsel services.

22 MR. ALLEGRETTI: This is a standard  
23 agreement. The standard hourly rate with the cap, not  
24 the exceed \$40,000. And I serve with the pleasure of  
25 the Board. The contract can be terminated any time the  
Board wishes. This is the standard contract for the  
kind of services performed.

26 Motion to approve agreement with Joseph Allegretti for  
27 legal services made by Tia Cauley. Second by Ben  
28 Moricz.

29 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.  
(All signify aye.)

30 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.

31 Next is Morrison Construction  
32 Company.

33 DR. ZEHRAOUI: We talked months ago about  
34 doing some work at the basins and valves. All these  
35 valves working and right now we are relying on check  
valves. So last time I talked to Tia, she said I had to

1 bring more proposals. We have two, one from Morrison  
2 and another one to do the job. This is the lowest bid  
and we'd like to go with Morrison, to approve this work  
to be done. So this is very lengthy program.

3 So what happened, as I explained  
4 last time, we have five basins. Down in the basin there  
is sludge that should be returned back to the front of  
the plant. This is previous design, so there is no  
5 bypass in case pump is not working. There is no way to  
bypass. We don't have much more area. We have valve,  
6 check valves, and they are all in the same room. If we  
want to work on one, we have to stop all the basins and  
7 work on one for six to eight hours. And then next week  
or next day, we have to work on another one.

8 We called maybe -- as I remember --  
9 four or five previous companies. They say this is very  
complicated, but Morrison, they did give a lower price.  
I want to go with this one.

10 MR. RIVERA: This is for one year?

11 DR. ZEHRAOUI: Not for one year, just for  
12 the project, to replace five pumps and the check valves,  
but it requires many weeks to do the job: Once the  
13 water is in the basin, all the sludge go down. You  
don't need -- we call it a sludge blanket. So the  
14 sludge blanket cannot be high. If it's like 6, 8,  
10-foot, then the water comes and takes the sludge back  
15 to the filtration, which makes more damage.

16 What we would be doing, we lower the  
sludge blanket to one foot. Then we close the pumps, so  
17 everything will be decontaminated four, six hours, then  
we are good. It doesn't reach four or five feet, then  
18 we are done with the system. This is how it should be  
done. And we have to do it when there is light, during  
the day. We don't need any surge in there. It's very  
19 complicated job, but we have to do it.

20 MR. FLOWERS: This is the company you  
recommend?

21 DR. ZEHRAOUI: He is the lower, that's  
22 what we want. We work with them before for filters.  
The grates, they are leaking for many years. No one  
23 could take it, even them, because of the operations. So  
once we finish with those pumps, we deal with the case  
24 for the filters. Because the filter, right now they  
have drains and we don't know if these drains are full  
25 of sand or not. And we have -- in March or May -- when

1 we have that flood, mostly like storm water because the  
2 filters should be one foot. Right now from the sand, we  
3 have less than nine inches. So we cannot do anything.  
4 The best way is to do it correctly.

5 MS. CAULEY: Well, my question is, you  
6 have worked with this company before?

7 DR. ZEHRAOUI: Yes. I talk with Ken and  
8 Mike Flores, and John Martinez, they say we use them  
9 before. We did like two, three meetings with them.  
10 They explained to us what is their policy and how we can  
11 proceed. So it's simple job, but it's complicated.  
12 Motion to approve agreement with Morrison Construction  
13 Company made by Tia Cauley. Second by Steve Flowers.

14 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.  
15 (All signify aye.)

16 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.

17 Next item, we have a few rate sheets  
18 here.

19 DR. ZEHRAOUI: I will explain the first  
20 one, GPRS because of the work that we are doing with  
21 Engineering Department, so we need locates. These guys,  
22 they are proficient. They can give you schematic of all  
23 the design of what is inside, anything that's  
24 underground. They are proficient on it. We want to  
25 work with them. We should be doing water fiber optics,  
but in case, we need them for emergency. But it's just  
a rate sheet in case we need them.

MR. ALLEGRETTI: It's the service for  
locating underground pipes. Doug Cunningham recommended  
them, for what that's worth.

Motion to approve 2020 rate sheet for GPRS made by Steve  
Flowers. Second by Tia Cauley.

MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.  
(All signify aye.)

MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.

Next rate sheet is for TroCor LLC,  
Sanitary.

Motion to approve 2020 rate sheet for TroCor LLC made by  
Tia Cauley. Second by Ben Moricz.

1 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.  
(All signify aye.)

2 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.  
Next rate sheet for Dream Builders  
3 of America, Sanitary.

4 Motion to approve 2020 rate sheet for Dream Builders of  
America made by Tia Cauley. Second by Ben Moricz.

5 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.  
(All signify aye.)

6 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.  
Next rate sheet for Midwestern  
7 Electric, Sanitary.

8 Motion to approve 2020 rate sheet for Midwestern  
9 Electric made by Tia Cauley. Second by Ben Moricz.

10 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.  
(All signify aye.)

11 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.  
Next, 2020 rate sheet for Mechanical  
12 Concepts, Sanitary.

13 Motion to approve 2020 rate sheet for Mechanical  
Concepts made by Tia Cauley. Second by Ben Moricz.

14 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.  
(All signify aye.)

15 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.  
Next 2020 rate sheet for Vermillion  
16 Systems.

17 Motion to approve 2020 rate sheet for Vermillion Systems  
18 made by Steven Flowers. Second by Ben Moricz.

19 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.  
(All signify aye.)

20 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.  
Next rate sheet is for ATN  
21 Technology, Sanitary.

22 Motion to approve 2020 rate sheet for ATN Technology  
made by Tia Cauley. Second by Ben Moricz.

23 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.  
(All signify aye.)

24 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.  
Next rate sheet for Automation &  
25

1 Control Services, Inc., Sanitary.

2 Motion to approve 2020 rate sheet for Automation &  
3 Control Services, Inc., made by Tia Cauley. Second by  
Ben Moricz.

4 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.  
(All signify aye.)

5 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.  
Next 2020 rate sheet Hunts

6 Maintenance, Solids.

7 Motion to approve 2020 rate sheet for Hunts Maintenance  
made by Steve Flowers. Second by Tia Cauley.

8 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.  
(All signify aye.)

9 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.  
10 Next is Rush Truck Centers, Solids.

11 Motion to approve 2020 Rush Truck Centers made by Tia  
Cauley. Second by Ben Moricz.

12 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.  
(All signify aye.)

13 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries.  
14 Next item is Unfinished Business.

(None) Public comment? (None)

15 Our next meeting date is  
16 February 20, 2020, 4:30 p.m., at the East Chicago City  
Hall Council Chambers. Need a motion for adjournment.

17 Motion to adjourn made by Tia Cauley. Second by Steve  
Flowers.

18 MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye.  
(All signify aye.)

19 MR. RIVERA: Motion carries. Meeting  
20 adjourned.

21 \*\*\*\*\* Meeting adjourned \*\*\*\*\*  
22  
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Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of Thursday  
February 6, 2020

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



Miguel Rivera, President



Loreto Gonzalez, Vice-president



Tia Cauley



Alojzy (Ben) Moricz



Steve Flowers



Anthony Herrera

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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 10th day of February, 2020.

*Peggy S. LaLonde*



Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR