

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO  
DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS

BOARD MEMBERS

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

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 17, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m.  
Reported for Fissinger & Associates  
By: Lisa Pena

CALL TO ORDER: 5:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL: Present: John Bakota, Henry Ventura, Anthony Askounis, Joseph Ochoa, Ray Lopez, Joseph Allegretti.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 3, 2020

Motion to approve February 3, 2020 Meeting Minutes made by Ray Lopez. Second by Anthony Askounis.

Questions/Comments: None.

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

APPROVAL OF CHECK WARRANTS:

MR. BAKOTA: Check Warrant 021720 WB in the amount of \$272,867.72.

Motion to approve Check Warrant 021720 WB made by Ray Lopez. Second by Henry Ventura.

Questions/Comments: None.

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

MR. BAKOTA: Check Warrant 021720 WF in the amount of \$172,239.20.

1 Motion to approve Check Warrant 021720 WF made by Anthony  
2 Askounis. Second by Henry Ventura.

3 Questions/Comments: None.

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

6 MR. BAKOTA: Check Warrant 021720 CD in the amount of  
7 \$296.33.

8 Motion to approve Check Warrant 021720 CD made by Ray Lopez.  
9 Second by Henry Ventura.

10 Questions/Comments: None.

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

13 MR. BAKOTA: Check Warrant 021720 WF in the amount of  
14 \$638,129.

15 Motion to approve Check Warrant 021720 WF made by Henry  
16 Ventura. Second by Anthony Askounis.

17 Questions/Comments: None.

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

20 MR. BAKOTA: Check Warrant 021920 WB in the amount of  
21 \$135,623.66.

22 Motion to approve Check Warrant 021920 WB made by Ray Lopez.  
23 Second by Henry Ventura.

24 Questions/Comments: None.

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

APPROVAL OF PAYROLL WARRANTS:

MR. BAKOTA: Payroll Warrant 020720 in the amount of  
\$38,405.15. This is payroll from January 18, '20 to January  
31, '20.

1 Motion to approve Payroll Warrant 020720 Payroll 1/18/20 to  
2 1/31/20 made by Henry Ventura. Second by Anthony Askounis.

3 Questions/Comments: None.

4 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.

5 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

6 MR. BAKOTA: Payroll 020720 in the amount of \$26,679.06.  
7 It's Utilities Payroll from January 18, '20 to January 31,  
8 '20.

9 Motion to approve Payroll Warrant 020720 Utilities Payroll  
10 1/18/20 to 1/31/20 made by Ray Lopez. Second by Henry  
11 Ventura.

12 Questions/Comments: None.

13 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.

14 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

15 FILTRATION REPORT:

16 MR. EL HARIT: Actually I don't have much other than we  
17 need approval. We have like a lot of scraps that need to be  
18 done, a lot of valves and some metals. We're doing some  
19 clean up especially in the old plant. So we just need  
20 authorization so we can take it to get scrapped.

21 Well, updates on the new plant. Membrane is  
22 working good. We received all the modules. I mean membrane.

23 We tested the day there was a big leak on Michigan  
24 and Guthrie. We were pushing like almost 14 million from the  
25 new plant nonstop. So we were doing very, very good. I mean  
like production.

MR. BAKOTA: Just from the new plant?

MR. EL HARIT: New plant, yeah.

MR. BAKOTA: That's good.

MR. EL HARIT: That's good. I mean like if it was  
summer definitely we would be touching like 15 to 16. But  
it's winter. They're not designed more than 14.

That's the good news. They're in good shape  
mechanically. I mean like the modules they're good for right

1 now. But again like we talked we bought the modules because  
2 they're cheap. I mean not cheap. They're decent. But  
3 they're not designed for the weather we have here. And  
4 they're not designed for the climate we have here. So we  
5 bought ourselves time to save some money. And then we have  
6 to do research. I mean look for the right modules for our  
7 plant right here.

8 But right now it's working good. I mean like fine.  
9 We're looking at to have a maintenance program for it because  
10 probably that's one of the things we didn't have I mean when  
11 we bought them. So let's see if the program works.

12 We're talking right now to see what kind of program  
13 they have, what they do if they come and all that stuff.  
14 We're looking at that right now.

15 MR. BAKOTA: Is the life expectancy of these modules  
16 less than what we have?

17 MR. EL HARIT: They're the same basically. I mean  
18 probably just a little bit modification, little bit. But I  
19 am not sure. I mean that's what they're saying. However  
20 overall I mean according to research and Dr. Abdul and all  
21 that they're not designed for the weather we have and all  
22 that.

23 I mean we know this. Like I said we're just buying  
24 time for ourselves to look. I mean first to save the money.  
25 Second to look at the right modules for East Chicago.

MR. VENTURA: Do you guys have someone in mind?

MR. EL HARIT: We do not. We did last year have one  
company, vendor and all that. But again I mean like with my  
experience the vendor was just toying. I mean was telling me  
what I want to hear. But again we need to test it.

MR. VENTURA: Right. You're researching this thing?

MR. EL HARIT: Yeah. We're still researching. We do  
have time right now. But in the future I am not sure how  
much time we have.

So from my understanding the storage tanks, the one  
on Tod right here should be in service very soon. I am not  
sure how soon it is. I am not sure.

The one by Michigan, by us on Michigan, the

1 membrane, they just started working on it. So the tank is  
2 down basically. But they have to do the piping. They're  
3 working on piping and all of that. So that's what they're  
4 doing right now.

5 That's basically what I have except if you have any  
6 questions or concerns.

7 We're not doing any project right now. We're still  
8 working just from the project 2019, the ones we did. We're  
9 waiting until I mean probably like April or so so we can see  
10 how we're doing on the money. And then we'll start fixing if  
11 anything needs to be fixed. But so far that's all.

12 MR. OCHOA: Do you have any idea how many gallons the  
13 City uses?

14 MR. EL HARIT: Yeah. That depends. Between 8 and 8 and  
15 a half in the winter. I mean normal. But if there's a fire,  
16 if something else shows up, leaks and all that, it changes.

17 I mean like last time we were pushing like between  
18 15 to 22 for a period of time and then dropped off again to 8  
19 and a half, 9. Summer we go between 11 and a half to 12.

20 MR. OCHOA: And we're making that?

21 MR. EL HARIT: Yeah. For our new plant we're making  
22 that easy. I told you like when we have that leak I mean we  
23 were making 14 like easy.

24 MR. ASKOUNIS: And what do we do with the old one?  
25 Nothing? It's just idle?

MR. EL HARIT: That's above my pay grade. I just work.  
I'm operation. I don't do construction. I just make sure  
the water is out.

Any other questions? Thank you.

MR. BAKOTA: Thank you.

WATER REPORT: None.

DISTRIBUTION REPORT: None.

NEW BUSINESS WATER:

MR. BAKOTA: We have Hasse Construction Emergency, 4506

1 Cline Avenue at \$254,484.15.

2 MS. GUZMAN: Good evening. Winna Guzman, Water  
3 Department Director. There was a 24-inch water main break at  
4 this location. Its near the tracks. This is Phase 1. This  
5 was an emergency situation as well. The amount for this work  
6 was \$254,484.15.

7 Currently they did stop the leak. They inserted  
8 two valves which the total amount just for the valves was I  
9 believe \$72,000 for each valve in addition to the work that  
10 was required to insert those valves.

11 The next phase would be to repair the line. Right  
12 now we're having Hasse submit -- well, they have submitted  
13 the permit to the railroad company. And we'll be following  
14 up on that to see if we could expedite that to get that line  
15 repaired.

16 And I am asking the Board to approve this emergency  
17 main break.

18 Motion to approve Hasse Construction 4506 Cline Avenue  
19 Emergency Main Break made by Ray Lopez. Second by Joseph  
20 Ochoa.

21 Questions/Comments: None.

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

24 MR. BAKOTA: Next Proposal, Hasse Construction Guthrie  
25 and Michigan at \$197,205.

26 MS. GUZMAN: This is just an estimated amount. We  
27 haven't received the exact numbers for the emergency. But I  
28 wanted to advise the Board that there was an emergency at  
29 this location.

30 And as far as the repair to the water main it's  
31 estimated to be \$197,205. However there was one insert valve  
32 verses two insert valves. So that's \$35,000 less. But we'll  
33 get some concrete numbers once they're completed with the  
34 work.

35 MR. BAKOTA: So you're not asking for a motion on this?  
36 This is a proposal. Or do you want a motion?

37 MS. GUZMAN: Should we get it approved?

1 MR. OCHOA: We should wait.

2 MS. GUZMAN: Just wait until we get the numbers.

3 MR. ALLEGRETTI: It's always after the fact. It's a  
4 ratification.

5 MR. BAKOTA: Attached to that on ours it shows payment  
6 repair at \$178,125.

7 MS. GUZMAN: We're going to have to do some repairs,  
8 major repairs, some concrete work and some curbs and  
9 sidewalks. We're going to have to do some major repairs  
10 there.

11 However I would like to just let the Board know  
12 this is an estimate. So just to advise the Board of what's  
13 going on this is related to that Guthrie and Michigan Avenue  
14 main break.

15 MR. BAKOTA: I will go on then. Is it okay if I go on?

16 MS. GUZMAN: Yes. I'm sorry. Please.

17 MR. BAKOTA: We're going on to Hessville Plumbing, 4742  
18 McCook at \$4,297.

19 MS. GUZMAN: This was emergency work performed by  
20 Hessville Plumbing at 4742 McCook. It was in the amount of  
21 \$4,297.

22 MR. BAKOTA: Next we have Hessville Plumbing, 3935 Alder  
23 Street, \$3,826.

24 MS. GUZMAN: This was another emergency leak. And we're  
25 requesting the Board to approve this one as well. This was  
performed by Hessville Plumbing.

Motion to approve Hessville Plumbing 4742 McCook and 3935  
Alder Street Emergency Services made by Anthony Askounis.  
Second by Henry Ventura.

Questions/Comments: None.

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

MS. GUZMAN: Thank you.

25

1 MR. BAKOTA: Next we go to Calumet City Plumbing, 5605  
2 White Oak in the amount of \$9,952.24.

3 MS. GUZMAN: This was another emergency leak at the  
4 location of 5605 White Oak and performed by Calumet City  
5 Plumbing. We're requesting the Board to approve this as  
6 well.

7 MR. BAKOTA: In my packet I also had 4906 Baring. And  
8 it's not listed on ours. Did the other Board Members have  
9 that in their packet?

10 MR. VENTURA: No.

11 MR. BAKOTA: I don't know if it's a mistake.

12 MS. GUZMAN: If we can table that, we'll take a look at  
13 it. It's not on the agenda regardless.

14 MR. HERRERA: That's different. This is adjustments.  
15 That's coming up next.

16 MR. BAKOTA: Where is it listed here?

17 MR. HERRERA: It's not listed there. But we're not to  
18 that point yet. Do you want to tell her now?

19 MR. BAKOTA: I'll go according to what's here.

20 What did we address last?

21 MS. GUZMAN: The next item is 5607 White Oak. We just  
22 went over that. The next one is 4742 Magoun.

23 MR. BAKOTA: 4742 Magoun at \$6,263.34.

24 MS. GUZMAN: This was another emergency leak. And we're  
25 requesting that this be approved. This is in the amount of  
\$6,263.34. Work was performed by Calumet City Plumbing.

Motion to approve Calumet City Plumbing Emergency 4742 Magoun  
made by Ray Lopez. Second by Henry Ventura.

Questions/Comments: None.

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

MR. BAKOTA: Next is Railroad Avenue and 149th at



1 \$8,571.10.

2 MS. GUZMAN: Again this was another emergency leak  
3 repair to 6-inch water main which was performed by Calumet  
4 City Plumbing. We're requesting the Board to approve the  
5 same.

6 MR. OCHOA: Why the disparity in pricing, the charges?

7 MS. GUZMAN: Well, we have a rate sheet for Calumet  
8 City. However it may be they need traffic control. They may  
9 need additional equipment. It could be anything.

10 It could be a smaller -- this was a 6 inch. So it  
11 may be a service line that they addressed. It may be a  
12 different size line that they're addressing. So depending on  
13 the work that's being performed here, they may need more time  
14 to repair it. So it could range.

15 MR. OCHOA: Thank you.

16 Motion to approve Calumet City Plumbing Emergency Railroad  
17 Avenue and 149th Street made by Henry Ventura. Second by  
18 Anthony Askounis.

19 Questions/Comments: None.

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

22 MR. BAKOTA: Next is 417 Broad Street at \$8,767.80.

23 MS. GUZMAN: Again this was an emergency leak. And this  
24 was relating to a 6-inch main. And it was performed by  
25 Calumet City Plumbing in the amount of \$8,767.80.

Motion to approve Calumet City Plumbing Emergency 417 Broad  
Street made by Anthony Askounis. Second by Henry Ventura.

Questions/Comments: None.

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

MR. BAKOTA: Next is Change Order, Contract Number 1  
Change Order Number 3, DN Tanks at \$10,176.02.

Motion to approve DN Tanks Contract Number 1 Change Order  
Number 3 made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Henry Ventura.

1 Questions/Comments:

2 MR. VENTURA: Winna, can you explain this one?

3 MS. GUZMAN: Basically this is relating to the storage  
4 tank on the Michigan-Guthrie area. And this is for a  
5 temporary fence rental to secure the site and exploratory  
6 excavation relating to unexpected location of existing  
7 36-inch and 42-inch piping.

8 So this is relating to that storage tank project.  
9 The increase amount is I believe \$10,176,02. And the  
10 contract would be DN Tanks, Inc.

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

13 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Account Adjustments. We have 5602  
14 Wegg Avenue.

15 MS. GUZMAN: This is for Account Number 11912. There's  
16 a final reading which was not transferred over when the new  
17 account was entered. And the first reading picked up a 0  
18 reading causing usage to be higher. So the bill number  
19 1245925 reflects a 0 amount which I have included information  
20 on.

21 0 amount under the title is Previous Meter Reading  
22 which should have reflected 93,384. We didn't catch it when  
23 the bill was sent out. So we have to make adjustments in  
24 order to correct that.

25 So the actual usage total should reflect  
approximately 3,569 gallons and not 96,900. So billing is  
required to be corrected to reflect correct usage and charges  
as well as penalties and late fees relating to the error.

Motion to approve 5602 Wegg Avenue Account Adjustment made by  
Joseph Ochoa. Second by Henry Ventura.

Questions/Comments: None.

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

MR. BAKOTA: I don't understand this one. This is 4906  
Baring.

MR. HERRERA: I think it was put in there by mistake.

1 MS. GUZMAN: It was attached. That's why. It was  
2 attached. I apologize. So I can take this back up at the  
next meeting. That would be fine.

3 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Are these informational? Previously we  
4 passed a resolution authorizing Winna to make these  
administrative adjustments for bills.

5 MR. BAKOTA: We don't have to go through them?

6 MR. ALLEGRETTI: If you want to, that's perfectly good.  
7 But we're totally at the mercy of the staff who understands  
8 how the process happened. If it's just informational, I  
think it's good. But you don't have to. That's all I'm  
saying.

9 MR. BAKOTA: I'll just go through them for the Board's  
10 information. If there's anything you want to comment on,  
we'll have time afterwards.

11 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Winna has been authorized to make these  
12 adjustments administratively. If there's something major,  
she'll always bring it to the Board.

13 MR. BAKOTA: Okay. I will go on with Adjustments. It's  
14 4010 McCook. We've got 0 The Shores. We have 910 Shell. We  
have 3910 Deodar.

15 On that McCook I have a comment on that. It shows  
16 that it was applied to the current owner, Alan D. Harvey, but  
the previous owner Alan D. Harvey. But on the second page it  
17 shows Doodle Investments, Incorporated.

18 MS. GUZMAN: It's actually the current owner. Let's  
see.

19 MR. BAKOTA: Investments, Incorporated.

20 MS. GUZMAN: That's incorrect. Doodle Investments, LLC.  
21 If you don't check off when we collect and there's multiple  
payments, if you don't check off the previous owners, it may  
22 pick up that previous owner. And if there's a balance or it  
needs to be written off for some reason, it will pick it up  
and then apply it towards that.

23 So that's what happened here. And it needs to go  
24 to the current owner.

25 MR. BAKOTA: Any other questions on what we went through

1 on Account Adjustments?

2 I will go on then. Next is Scrapping of Materials,  
3 Filtration. I believe there were some photographs supplied  
4 too.

4 Motion to approve Filtration 2020 Scrapping of Materials made  
5 by Anthony Askounis. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

5 Questions/Comments:

6 MR. OCHOA: Is he getting the prices, pricing for this?

7 MR. BAKOTA: I don't think they've been weighed yet,  
8 have they?

9 MS. GUZMAN: No. What we normally do and I think he is  
10 following the same process that we are is we take photos and  
11 then bring them before the Board to get approved. And then  
12 basically take it to Sims Metal Management along with a copy  
13 of the letter that's signed by the Board. And then they take  
14 it and give you a check then.

12 So the check will be deposited into our  
13 Miscellaneous Account. We will update the Board as far as  
14 how much it's going to be.

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

16 MR. BAKOTA: Next we go to Past Due Invoices. We have  
17 De-Vine. It's Filtration. It's \$65. The reason was  
18 invoices were being sent to former AP Clerk who is no longer  
19 employed with the City of East Chicago.

18 Motion to approve De-Vine Past Due Invoice made by Anthony  
19 Askounis. Second by Henry Ventura.

20 Questions/Comments:

21 MR. OCHOA: Was this at the last meeting, this De-Vine?

22 MR. HERRERA: It's a different one.

23 MR. LOPEZ: We keep getting the former clerk is no  
24 longer there. But these bills don't say no clerk. It just  
25 says Accounting Department. It's not addressed to anybody.

25 MR. HERRERA: That's the old Filtration Plant.

1 MR. LOPEZ: But it keeps saying clerk. Did they mail it  
2 directly to the clerk?

3 MR. HERRERA: They emailed it to her. And nobody has  
4 access to her email. So it's going to be late because we  
5 have no way of getting it back.

6 MR. LOPEZ: Because if I'm mailing it to a City  
7 Department, I'm not saying mail it to Jane Doe.

8 MR. HERRERA: They're not mailing it. They're emailing  
9 it. That's why. They're not mailing. They're emailing.

10 MR. OCHOA: That has to go to a direct individual.

11 MR. HERRERA: Right.

12 MR. OCHOA: Where are they emailing it now?

13 MR. HERRERA: To one of the ones that replaced the  
14 person now.

15 MR. LOPEZ: So we're going to get a lot more of these?

16 MR. HERRERA: Hopefully not.

17 MR. OCHOA: Maybe we should have it emailed to an  
18 office.

19 MR. HERRERA: No. We suggested that they send it  
20 through the USPS for now in any department because this  
21 happens a lot.

22 MR. LOPEZ: Thank you.

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

25 MR. BAKOTA: Next is GPRS, Filtration, \$900. It was  
contractor never sent Accounts Payable A Reference Sheet in  
order to process.

Motion to approve GPRS Past Due Invoice made by Joseph Ochoa.  
Second by Henry Ventura.

Questions/Comments: None.

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

1 REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL: None.

2 FINANCIAL REPORT:

3 MR. BAKOTA: Financial Report. It's a matter of  
4 information. And you have it in your packet.

5 UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

7 MR. LOPEZ: I'd like to make a comment. I think this is  
8 the right time. First, Winna, for the Board I want to thank  
9 you for defending us the way you did at the City Council  
10 Meeting because it was a good article. But you stood up for  
11 us. And we can't go to all those meetings. And we don't  
12 have all those pages. But you represented us pretty good. I  
13 want to thank you.

14 MS. GUZMAN: Well, I just gave the facts. And I  
15 appreciate that. Thank you very much.

16 MR. LOPEZ: And we have legal counsel to back us up.  
17 Thank you so much.

18 MR. BAKOTA: Any other comments?

19 \* Next Regular Meeting Date: March 2, 2020 @ 5:00  
20 p.m.

21 Motion to adjourn was made by Joseph Ochoa. Second  
22 by Henry Ventura.

23 Questions/Comments: None.

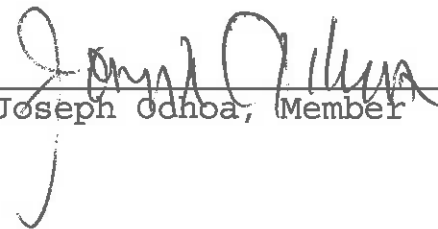
24 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.  
25 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

\* The Meeting ended at 5:33 p.m.


1 Approval of the Meeting Minutes of  
2 Monday, February 17, 2020  
3 Approved and Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
4  
5

6 \_\_\_\_\_  
7 John Bakota, President

8   
9 \_\_\_\_\_  
10 Henry Ventura, Vice President

11  
12   
13 \_\_\_\_\_  
14 Joseph Ochoa, Member

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

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21 \_\_\_\_\_  
22 Ray Lopez, Member

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24 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 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 27th day of February, 2020.



*Lisa Pena*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Pena  
Notary Public, Porter County  
Certified Shorthand Reporter  
License Number 084-003484