

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
Thursday, March 5, 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, Alojzy Moricz, Tia Cauley, Loreto Gonzalez, Steve Flowers.

Also Present: Dr. Abdul Zehraoui, Winna Guzman, Joe Allegretti, Keith Selvie, Anthony Herrera.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 6, 2020
February 20, 2020

Motion to approve February 6, 2020 and February 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes made Loreto Gonzalez. Second by Steve Flowers.

Questions/Comments: None.

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

CHECK WARRANTS:

Sanitary District, Wastewater Division

MR. RIVERA: Next item is Check Warrants for the Sanitary District, Wastewater Division. Warrant Number 030520 SW for the amount of \$77,253.53.

1 Motion to approve Check Warrant 030520 SW made Loreto
2 Gonzalez. Second by Alojzy Moricz.

3 Questions/Comments: None.

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

6 MR. RIVERA: Next is Warrant Number 030520 SR for the
7 amount of \$21,000.

8 Motion to approve Check Warrant 030520 SR made Steve Flowers.
9 Second by Alojzy Moricz.

10 Questions/Comments: None.

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

13 MR. RIVERA: Next is Warrant Number 022120 Sanitary
14 Board Payroll 2/1/20 to 2/14/20.

15 Motion to approve Check Warrant 022120 Sanitary Board Payroll
16 2/1/20 to 2/14/20 made Loreto Gonzalez. Second by Alojzy
17 Moricz.

18 Questions/Comments: None.

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

21 MR. RIVERA: Next is Warrant Number 022120 Utilities
22 Board Payroll 2/1/20 to 2/14/20.

23 Motion to approve Check Warrant 022120 Utilities Board
24 Payroll 2/1/20 to 2/14/20 made Loreto Gonzalez. Second by
25 Alojzy Moricz.

Questions/Comments: None.

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

MR. RIVERA: Next is Warrant Number 022120 Wastewater
Payroll 2/1/20 to 2/14/20.

Motion to approve Check Warrant 022120 Wastewater Payroll
2/1/20 to 2/14/20 made Loreto Gonzalez. Second by Alojzy
Moricz.

1 Questions/Comments: None.

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

4 Sanitary District, Solid Waste Division

5 MR. RIVERA: Next Warrant Number 030520 SS for the
6 amount of \$22,586.85.

7 Motion to approve Check Warrant 030520 SS made Loreto
8 Gonzalez. Second by Alojzy Moricz.

9 Questions/Comments: None.

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

12 MR. RIVERA: Next is Warrant Number 022120 Solids
13 Payroll 2/1/20 to 2/14/20.

14 Motion to approve Check Warrant 022120 Solids Payroll 2/1/20
15 to 2/14/20 made Loreto Gonzalez. Second by Alojzy Moricz.

16 Questions/Comments: None.

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

19 REPORT FROM WASTEWATER DIVISION: None.

20 REPORT FROM UTILITY DIVISION MATTERS: None.

21 REPORT OF FIELD OPERATIONS: None.

22 REPORT FROM SOLID WASTE:

23 MR. RIVERA: Next is Report from Solid Waste, Keith
24 Selvie.

25 MR. SELVIE: Good afternoon, Mr. President. Keith
Selvie, Director of Public Works. And Board. I just want to
make a really quick announcement. Some of you may have seen.
I believe it actually hit the residents' mail, our
Newsletter.

Starting next month, starting April 6 to May 15
we're going to have our Team Up Clean Up. And I wanted to
put it on the record. We'll be going District by District.

1 And I want to make sure that everyone is aware that we're
2 moving forward.

3 This is an opportunity for the residents to put out
4 anything they want to in the alleys per District. We'll
5 clean it as well as we're going to probably do some sweeping
6 as well pulling trash in the front from the easement out to
7 the street.

8 Any questions?

9 MR. RIVERA: Any questions for Mr. Selvie? Thank you.

10 MR. SELVIE: Thank you.

11 REPORT FROM FINANCIAL CONSULTANT: None.

12 REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL:

13 MR. RIVERA: Next item is Report from Legal Counsel, Joe
14 Allegretti.

15 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Good afternoon. An existing bill was
16 essentially amended adding language that would give us, which
17 I've been discussing over the last several meetings, which
18 would give the Sanitary District the right to have user
19 charges modified by filing a rate case with the Indiana
20 Utility Regulatory Commission.

21 The session ends in nine days on March 14. It
22 hasn't passed third reading in the Senate. We'll know in
23 nine days whether or not we accomplished the mission.

24 It's not easy. It's a heavy lift. But we're
25 keeping our fingers crossed. I'll know one way or another
definitely by the time our next meeting comes.

MR. RIVERA: Any questions for Mr. Allegretti? Thank
you.

NEW BUSINESS:

MR. RIVERA: Next item is New Business. We have
Resolution SD 20-01, a Resolution of the Board of
Commissioners of the East Chicago Sanitary District
authorizing the transfer of appropriations into different
budget categories.

From telephone there's a number here I don't

1 understand. \$1,000 to furniture and fixtures for \$1,000.
2 Resolution SD 20-01.

3 DR. ZEHRAOUI: So this is also because we need at the
4 most maybe three or four chairs. They need new chairs. This
5 is why we need this \$1,000 because it is not allocated in our
6 budget for this. So then we need to transfer from telephone
7 for \$1,000.

8 MS. CAULEY: What kind of chairs?

9 DR. ZEHRAOUI: Normal chairs, like sit chairs, office
10 chairs. We say maximum is \$1,200. So this is the maximum we
11 can spend for chairs.

12 MS. CAULEY: And this is a one time deal?

13 DR. ZEHRAOUI: One time.

14 MS. CAULEY: Mr. President.

15 MR. RIVERA: Yes.

16 MS. CAULEY: I have a question for Dr. Z. Dr. Z, didn't
17 we already allow you to order furniture?

18 DR. ZEHRAOUI: No.

19 MS. CAULEY: You didn't order new office furniture? I
20 beg to differ.

21 DR. ZEHRAOUI: This is like two years ago just to change
22 not the chairs, but just the nature of what you call the
23 colors. This is what we changed for my office.

24 MS. CAULEY: You don't need to be changing colors. I
25 got furniture I've had for a long, long time.

Make a motion. No.

Motion to deny Resolution SD 20-01 made Tia Cauley. Second
by Loreto Gonzalez.

Questions/Comments: None.

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

Opposed: None Motion Carries.

MR. RIVERA: Next item is Indiana Department of

1 Environmental Management Violation, Long Term Control Plant.

2 DR. ZEHRAOUI: So as you know the City Council didn't
3 approve the rates. So the project is stopped. So then IDEM
4 is charging us like \$500 per week because we didn't comply
5 with the decree. But Mayor is working on formulating that
6 with Joe Allegretti.

7 We are hoping something will be possibly on March
8 14. Then we can proceed with the project.

9 MR. ALLEGRETTI: We're not going to pay this. We're not
10 going to recommend that this be paid now. We need some time
11 to try to negotiate something with them.

12 And we've been acting in good faith along to get
13 the appropriate financing needed to comply with the Long-Term
14 CSO Control Plant and comply with the agreed judgment which
15 was agreed back in I think '07.

16 We've even gone to the extraordinary step of
17 trying to get some legislative relief so that we have some
18 alternative means of raising our rates.

19 The days of filing a property tax bond issue are
20 over because of the Property Tax Reform Legislation. So our
21 only recourse is to issue a Revenue Bond.

22 The debt service will be paid out of user charges
23 charged by our partnership agreement with the Water Utility.
24 But in order to do that we need the rate to support the debt
25 service.

26 We've done everything we can. So far we've been
27 unsuccessful with the Council. We're trying this other
28 method to accomplish that. And we're hoping that the
29 equities suggest that DEM cut us a little bit of slack and
30 allow us to continue on the road to get it accomplished.

31 We're just doing the best we can.

32 MR. RIVERA: So we may not have to pay this penalty?

33 MR. ALLEGRETTI: We're going to try. Dr. Z and I are
34 going to try to negotiate our way out of it.

35 DR. ZEHRAOUI: Yes.

MR. ALLEGRETTI: There's no motion. This is just

1 informational just to keep you advised. So we want you to
2 know early on if there's trouble. And that's what Dr. Z is
3 doing.

3 MR. RIVERA: So no action is necessary, correct?

4 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Yes, sir.

5 MR. RIVERA: Thank you. The next item is Recommendation
6 of Award for Analytical Services.

7 DR. ZEHRAOUI: Yes. We have Element Materials and we
8 have Microbac. And Element Materials is probably the lowest
9 and more responsible. So I'm asking you to approve this to
10 be awarded to Element Materials for our wastewater system.

11 MR. RIVERA: So the recommendation is for Element
12 Materials, correct?

13 DR. ZEHRAOUI: Yes.

14 MS. CAULEY: What do we need, just a motion?

15 MR. RIVERA: Yes.

16 Motion to approve Award for Analytical Services to Element
17 Materials Technology made Tia Cauley. Second by Loreto
18 Gonzalez.

19 Questions/Comments: None.

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

22 MR. RIVERA: Next is another memo, Recommendation of
23 Award for ESCD Biosolids, sludge hauling.

24 DR. ZEHRAOUI: So we just received an e-mail around
25 maybe 2:00 p.m. today that GE Marshall withdrew from the
26 bids. So we recommend that we go with Synagro. This is the
27 third one. This is the most responsive because we previously
28 in previous years we were working with Actin and there were
29 may issues in their equipment and their compliance with us.

30 So we don't have any issue with them. So we're
31 suggesting that we go with Synagro. Their price is \$60.95
32 per ton. But they are the most responsive.

33 We just received 1:49 today that they withdraw so

1 we'll go with Synagro. They're approximately the same price.
2 But GE Marshall just withdraw today. Actin is \$60 per ton
3 same as \$60.95. But they're more responsive. We worked with
4 them this year, last year and they are the best.

5 Previously we were working with Actin. And they
6 said it doesn't work. So I am proposing that we can go with
7 Synagro.

8 MR. FLOWERS: You have a relationship with them and
9 obviously they're doing what they're supposed to do?

10 DR. ZEHRAOUI: Yes. We worked with Actin before. There
11 are many issues with their equipment. Synagro, they're the
12 best. This is the best one.

13 Motion to approve Award for ECSD Biosolids to Synagro made
14 Steve Flowers. Second by Tia Cauley.

15 Questions/Comments: None.

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

18 MR. RIVERA: Next we have a rate sheet for Luke for the
19 year 2020.

20 Motion to approve Luke 2020 Rate Sheet made Tia Cauley.
21 Second by Alojzy Moricz.

22 Questions/Comments: None.

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

25 MR. RIVERA: Next we have a purchase order.

DR. ZEHRAOUI: So because we selected them this is the
invoices from January and February, \$12,786.25. This is for
three months, January, February and March.

Motion to approve Analytical Testing Purchase Order made Tia
Cauley. Second by Loreto Gonzalez.

Questions/Comments: None.

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

1 MR. RIVERA: Next item is Adjustments.

2 MS. GUZMAN: Good evening, Commissioners. The first
3 one, 4828 Magoun. This payment requires to be reversed in
4 the amount of \$37.27. It was applied to an incorrect
5 account. And I'm asking that the Board allow us to reverse
6 it so we can apply it correctly to the correct account.

7 Motion to approve 4828 Magoun Adjustment made Tia Cauley.
8 Second by Steve Flowers.

9 Questions/Comments: None.

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

12 MR. RIVERA: The next is one is 4417 Arbutus Lane and
13 1608 Senator Drive.

14 MS. GUZMAN: Yes. I placed these two on this request as
15 they paid for these two accounts at the same time for a total
16 of \$267.73. And again the amounts were placed, one was
17 applied incorrectly. So we need to correct, reverse both of
18 them in order to correct that one.

19 Motion to approve 4417 Arbutus Lane and 1608 Senator Drive
20 Adjustments made Steve Flowers. Second by Tia Cauley.

21 Questions/Comments: None.

22 MS. CAULEY: Winna, what are they doing? Are these new
23 employees?

24 MS. GUZMAN: One of them was, yes.

25 MS. CAULEY: They need to start being written up. Come
on now. We ain't going to keep doing this. Bring them up
here. Let them come up here and face us. Then they'll stop
this.

MS. GUZMAN: One of them is no longer employed with us.

MR. FLOWERS: Are they trained?

MS. GUZMAN: Yes. But in the system as it pops up it
brings up the old owners. And if they don't check it off or
uncheck the box, then it applies the payment incorrectly.

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

2 MR. RIVERA: The next one is Second Baptist Church.

3 MS. GUZMAN: On this one this needs an adjustment to
4 1252585 and 1247389. There's two surcharges. When we
5 changed out the new meter somehow we still had the old sewer
6 charge code on there. So we need to remove that and apply
the credit towards the account.

7 Motion to approve Second Baptist Church Adjustment made Tia
Cauley. Second by Loreto Gonzalez.

8 Questions/Comments: None.

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

10 MR. RIVERA: The next one is 4936 Northcote and 4938
11 Northcote.

12 MS. GUZMAN: On this one the owner has been calling
13 wanting to reduce the amount of the garbage fee. Well, the
garbage fees, we were charging them for ten units previously
14 and it is a total of six units. I verified that with the
Building Department as well as my staff went out there to
15 look at it.

16 And actually 4938 Northcote is an empty lot. So it
is a six unit. And my recommendation since he called around
17 this time November 2019 I ask that we apply the credit to
4936 Northcote and continue with the six unit and not the ten
unit.

18 Motion to approve 4936 Northcote and 4938 Northcote
19 Adjustments made Tia Cauley. Second by Steve Flowers.

20 Questions/Comments: None.

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

22 UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

23 PUBLIC COMMENT: None.
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1 * Next Regular Meeting Date: Thursday, March 19,
2020 @ 4:30 p.m.


3 * Meeting ended at 4:53 p.m.

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Approval of the Meeting Minutes of
Thursday, March 5, 2020
Approved and Signed _____




Miguel Rivera, President



Alojzy Moricz, Vice-President

Loreto Gonzalez, Member



Tia Cauley, Member



Steve Flowers, Member



Anthony Herrera, Board Secretary

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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 16th day of March, 2020.



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



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