

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
BOARD OF SANITARY COMMISSIONERS

BOARD MEMBERS

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

Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 18, 2021, 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 In Chambers: Steve Flowers
Present Telephonic Conference: Miquel
Rivera, Tia Cauley, Ben Moricz

Staff Present in Chambers: Anthony Herrera
Staff Present Telephonic Conference: Ken Myers,
Joseph Allegretti

MR. FLOWERS: Before I call the meeting to order, I just want to mention that a dear friend and fellow member of the Sanitary District Board, Mr. Loreto Gonzalez, "Baby Lou", passed away. I wanted to share the information for the members that may not have heard. If we could have a moment of silence. He was a good friend and of course a dedicated member here in the East Chicago community.

(A moment of silence.)

The meeting will now come to order, the meeting of the East Chicago, Indiana, Board of Sanitary Commissioners. This is March 18, 2021, 4:30 p.m., City Hall Chambers. The meeting is being conducted via phone conference. We'll also stipulate the members delegate the president the authority to execute all warrants, documents, minutes, etcetera, on behalf of the Commission, eliminating the need to collect signatures from the members participating electronically

First item, approval of the minutes of meeting held on March 4, 2021.

1 MR. RIVERA: Motion to approve minutes.
2 MS. CAULEY: Second.
3 MR. FLOWERS: All in favor?
(All signify aye.)
4 MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.
Next is check warrants, Sanitary
5 District, Waste Water Division.
WARRANT 031021 SW - \$91,260.21.
6
MR. RIVERA: Motion to approve.
7
MS. CAULEY: Second.
8
MR. FLOWERS: All in favor?
9 (All signify aye.)
MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.
10 WARRANT 031821 SC - \$422,156.24.
11 MR. MORICZ: Make a motion.
12 MR. RIVERA: Second.
13 MR. FLOWERS: All in favor?
(All signify aye.)
14 MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.
WARRANT 031821 SW - \$74,099.74
15
MR. MORICZ: Make a motion.
16
MR. RIVERA: Second.
17
MR. FLOWERS: All in favor?
18 (All signify aye.)
MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.
19 PAYROLL WARRANT 030521 - Sanitary Board Payroll
Dates of 2-13-21 to 2-26-21
20
MR. RIVERA: Motion to accept warrant.
21
MS. CAULEY: Second.
22
MR. FLOWERS: All in favor?
23 (All signify aye.)
MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.
24 WARRANT 0305121 - Wastewater Payroll
Dates 2-13-21 to 2-26-21
25

1 MS. CAULEY: Motion to approve.

2 MR. RIVERA: Second.

3 MR. FLOWERS: All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

4 MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.

WARRANT 030521 - Utilities Payroll
5 Dates of 2-13-21 to 2-26-21.

6 MS. CAULEY: Make a motion.

7 MR. MORICZ: Second.

8 MR. FLOWERS: All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

9 MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.
Sanitary District, Solid Waste
10 Division

WARRANT 031821 SS - \$40,999.54.

11 MR. RIVERA: Make a motion.

12 MR. MORICZ: Second.

13 MR. FLOWERS: All in favor?
14 (All signify aye.)

15 MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.
WARRANT 030521 - Solids Payroll
16 Dates of 2-13-21 to 2-26-21

17 MR. RIVERA: Motion to approve.

18 MS. CAULEY: Second.

19 MR. FLOWERS: All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

20 MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.
Report from Utility Division

Matters: Ken Myers

21
22 MR. MYERS: Thank you, Mr. Flowers. I'd
like to introduce myself to you and some day --
23 hopefully -- we will meet in person. Some of the Board
members I have met in the past as compliance manager.
24 As you may or may not be aware, we have a reorganization
involving the Utility Director, Sanitary District
25 Operation, and the Filtration and Water Operations. And
going forward I am going to be responsible to handle all

1 matters and reporting with regard to the Sanitary
2 District for the Utility Division, plant operations,
3 systems and maintenance.

4 Bring you up to speed a little bit.
5 We have several items that we are completing. First of
6 all, our Long Term Control Plan, the construction of CSO
7 Phase 2. You are aware, bringing you up to speed, our
8 contractor Kokosing has been busy primarily locating
9 some utilities at our head works, getting the pipe so we
10 can do the future connects and the other work that,
11 major work they were completing this past week with
12 regard to Roxana lift station. The generator pad has
13 been poured. The transformer was actually suppose to be
14 placed tomorrow and next week we'll continue with making
15 that transfer of power from one transformer to the new
16 transformer. And then there will be testing of the new
17 generator with the appropriate equipment.

18 With regard to our own employees,
19 work that's being planned two-weeks down the road at the
20 Waste Water Treatment Plant is going to be work at the
21 Magoun lift station. We have contracted a company to do
22 the cleaning of the well, that will occur next Monday
23 and that will be followed up with replacement of damaged
24 bar screens that we have down there. That work is
25 scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday. And then we'll
complete the clean out of our discharge channel, our CSO
lagoon, anticipate in meeting the requirement of
Kokosing so they don't have any unnecessary delay with
their planned activity. That's pretty much all.

One other item that we have is that
as far as hiring, we have interviewed one candidate and
extended an offer to somebody to take over the
pretreatment coordinator position that was vacated and
have requested Human Resources to extend an offer for
that person to come onboard, hopefully in two weeks. If
you have any questions, I will address them now.

MS. CAULEY: Welcome.

MR. MYERS: Thank you.

MR. FLOWERS: Are you doing Solid Waste
also?

MR. MYERS: No, Solid Waste is usually
handled by Keith Selvie.

MR. FLOWERS: We'll move on. Thank you,
Mr. Myers.

1 Report from Financial Consultant.

2 MR. HERRERA: The report is in the packet
3 from Mr. Biller.

4 MR. FLOWERS: Report from legal counsel,
5 Mr. Joe Allegretti.

6 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Thank you. One item
7 that Mr. Myers and I have been working on together is
8 the potential employment of an outside engineering firm
9 to evaluate and update our existing long term CSO
10 control plan, which he's certainly more qualified to
11 speak on this subject than I can. Ken can supplement
12 whenever he wants, as he chooses.

13 The Kokosing project is Phase 2 of
14 the long term CSO control plan. It originated, first
15 drafted and submitted back in 2004, and later in 2007 by
16 a firm, who we don't do business with anymore, HNT, it's
17 basically 20 years old. The original -- the Phase 3 of
18 the project was back in 2007. Now we fear that the
19 current cost estimate is as high as \$60 million, which
20 necessitates a reevaluation of the long term CSO control
21 plan.

22 The biggest cost component of that
23 plan is the sewer separation of Michigan Avenue. And I
24 think in the last 20 years, it's fair to say that sewer
25 separation has not been viewed as the most cost
26 effective way of dealing with CSO discharges. There is
27 other technology that's been developed and put in place
28 since that time. We think because of that, there's a
29 potential cost of 20 or \$25 million. For that reason --
30 and Ken Myers can supplement this or give his opinion on
31 it -- we are going to be recommending or I am going to
32 recommend, and I think Mr. Myers recommended, employing
33 an outside engineering firm to conduct this evaluation
34 and to update the plan, considering other cost effective
35 alternatives. We do have a proposal for initial cost of
36 about \$18,000.

37 I know the Board doesn't like
38 getting last minute items that haven't been discussed.
39 Hopefully we can get this before you in a further in
40 depth discussion of the problem for your consideration
41 at the next meeting, and that's pretty much what I
42 wanted to give you a preview of.

43 Ken, can you supplement that as you
44 think is appropriate?

45 MR. MYERS: The only thing I would add is

1 that I recently got a letter from IDEM asking us about
2 our submittal for our schedule and commitment to both
3 the Phase 2 control plan and ultimately the Phase 3 long
4 term control plan. We get 30 days. We received the
5 letter yesterday. So little bit critical and actually a
6 good place for us to bring in a consultant that has the
7 necessary expert and has the issues that we are looking
8 to address, eliminating the sewer separation component
9 and ultimately reducing our cost long term by
10 implementing a different strategy, which they have been
11 successful in doing in neighboring community.

12 MR. FLOWERS: Any questions from the
13 members? (None) Thank you.

14 New Business. Emergency - Door
15 Tech, \$8,405.00. Mr. Allegretti, can you tell us about
16 that? I'm looking at this in front of me, the expenses
17 of the washroom, hallway, and bar screen. Do you have
18 any information on that?

19 MR. MYERS: I can address that.

20 MR. ALLEGRETTI: I know Commissioner
21 Cauley always has a question as to listing these as an
22 emergency. This is on the agenda as an emergency issue.
23 This is actually a maintenance issue and characterizing
24 it as an emergency is really not consistent with the
25 term emergency as defined by the statute. But anyway, I
don't mean to interrupt Mr. Myers.

MR. MYERS: That is the point I wanted to
make, this definitely does not qualify as an emergency.
This is routine maintenance of our buildings. The
doors, double doors at our wastewater facility.
Maintenance building requires two doors to be replaced
and the frames. The other one is for the Roxana pump
station, which we are working on. And since we are
doing all this work, we want to make sure it's secure
after we put in the new equipment, the new controls.

Again, this is routine maintenance
for corroded steel doors that have been in place for
30 years. And competitive bids were received and Door
Tech was the low bidder of the two or three provided
bidders that we sought costs from.

MR. FLOWERS: Is there a motion to
accept?

MR. RIVERA: I have a question. Mr.

1 Myers, in other words these are things that must be
2 done. It's nothing new, correct?

2

3 MR. MYERS: No, it is nothing new. It's
4 something that needs to be addressed. Again, it doesn't
5 fall under the emergency heading, but there are items
6 that need to be addressed. As we evaluate the condition
7 of our facilities, the doors are not working properly.
8 And like I said, they are in a bad state of repair.

9 MR. FLOWERS: Thank you.

10 MR. RIVERA: I make a motion to accept
11 the Door Tech proposal for the doors and the maintenance
12 to be done.

13 MR. MORICZ: Second.

14 MR. FLOWERS: Any questions regarding the
15 motion? (None) All in favor?

16 (All signify aye.)

17 MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.

18 Next, Dahme Mechanical Industries,
19 Inc., \$5,250.00.

20

21 MR. MYERS: This particular request is --
22 this is a time critical request in that we are having
23 Dahme Mechanical do the bar screen replacement at the
24 Magoun lift station. And this is all predicated on the
25 schedule that was given to us by Kokosing with the work
that they are doing at the plant for the CSO, Phase 2
portion, the construction.

The bar screens have been in need of
repair for some time. They cause a backflow, a surge of
water, which results in the water for the sanitary site
going over to the warm water side. And as the backflow
increases, that water gets pumped into our CSO lagoon.
And Kokosing is going to be working on that in the next
two weeks. We are -- by doing these repairs -- we are
going to prevent the normal flow from having any flows
into the CSO lagoon to facilitate the work that Kokosing
is doing.

We are looking for your approval of
this amount to complete those repairs so that work can
be scheduled next week to accommodate the Kokosing
project schedule.

24

25 MR. FLOWERS: Thank you. Is there a
motion to accept?

1 MS. CAULEY: Make a motion.

2 MR. RIVERA: Second.

3 MR. FLOWERS: All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

4 MR. FLOWERS: Motion carries.

Next is Crane 1 #10905, \$5,688.19

5

MR. MYERS: Again, we are looking for
6 approval so we can obtain Crane 1 to complete repairs on
the overhead cranes that are at the lift stations. We
7 have had that crane, overhead crane, inspected by Crane
1. It's for the operational use and carrying weights
8 because that crane is going to be used by Kokosing here
in the near future with the pump change out as part of
9 the CSO construction program.

While Crane 1 certified that
10 overhead crane for use, they did notice that there were
some OSHA compliance issues relative to the crane, which
11 are more OSHA requirements regarding we need to change
the grounding method on that overhead crane. And at the
12 same time, they noted that a particular button was not
seeded properly and just needed to be replaced.

So Crane 1 has given us that cost
13 proposal to complete those activities, and we are
14 looking to do that in advance of Kokosing relying on the
use of that crane in the upcoming month or so.

15

MR. RIVERA: I make a motion to accept
16 the purchase order for repairs by Crane 1.

17 MR. MORICZ: I second it.

18 MR. FLOWERS: All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

19 Motion carries.

Next, we have a rate sheet from
20 Meccon Industries, Inc.

MR. MYERS: We provided a rate sheet for
21 time and material work to be done by Meccon Industries
as work becomes identified. We are assembling some
22 other mechanical contractors that will also provide us
rate sheets in the future. This is in an effort so that
23 we can establish purchase orders to facilitate us
retaining their services to address any problems that
24 need to be addressed in a timely fashion. We'll already
25 have their time and material rates provided so that we

can do that work and get your approval in advance.

1 So, right now we are looking for
2 your approval of us accepting these rates for work going
3 forward this year, to be used on separate individual
4 work orders.

5 MR. RIVERA: Make a motion to accept the
6 rate sheets for Meccon Industries.

7 MS. CAULEY: Second.

8 MR. FLOWERS: All in favor?

9 (All signify aye.)

10 Motion carries.

11 Next, an adjustment. Arcelor Mittal
12 Harbor West Plant, account 010032.

13 MS. GUZMAN: I'm sorry, I would like to
14 remove this. It was inadvertently presented. It's
15 actually a Waterworks member, Vice-president John
16 Bakota, that requested this information. So I apologize
17 for presenting this before the Board.

18 MR. FLOWERS: We'll strike it or remove
19 it from the agenda.

20 GATX - 4245 Railroad Avenue, account
21 number 010415.

22 MS. GUZMAN: I can explain this one.
23 Again, Winna Guzman, Water Department. This is
24 concerning an account and the meter related account.
25 Bill number 1323976 for this account was due on
January 18, 2021. The ACH payment relating to this bill
was made timely by the customer, on February 12, 2021.
However, it was posted by the Water Department on
2/25/21. Customer was sent the ACH payment information
to the incorrect e-mail. They have now the correct
e-mail, so this should not occur again. As far as
sending the payment and information, the payment was
made timely.

 MR. FLOWERS: Thank you.

 MR. RIVERA: Make a motion to accept the
recommendation for 4245 Railroad.

 MS. CAULEY: Second.

 MR. FLOWERS: All in favor?

 (All signify aye.)

1 Motion carries.

2 Unfinished Business: I have a
3 concern, Mr. Allegretti. I did forward an e-mail in
4 reference to the Gateway Debt Management. Did you get a
5 chance to review it?

6 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Yes, I was going to call
7 you after the meeting and I got sidetracked. The answer
8 is the DOJ, the local government of finance, as you
9 recall couple weeks ago you signed authorization
10 allowing our statutory principal office, the
11 Controller's Office, to access and to post data, which
12 we are required to post, on the Gateway system. The
13 financial information is being sought for posting on
14 Gateway now has already been posted by the Controller's
15 Office, but we were unclear in the guidance document you
16 got, Mr. Flowers, that it wasn't clear the stuff has
17 already been posted. In fact, I wanted to talk to you
18 and we can do that some other time.

19 All you have to do, you have got an
20 e-mail from DOJ -- you need a user name and a password
21 and pin number -- and all you have to do, we can get on
22 that site and go to the appropriate page under debt
23 management, East Chicago Sanitary District, and enter
24 your user name, your password and pin number, and a hit
25 the button submit. I know this sounds crazy, but this
is what government has come to these days. They require
the person in charge to sit there. So we have no true
employees with the Sanitary District, that's the way the
DOJ has us use it.

You have to, as the president of the
Board of Sanitary Commissioners, have to describe and
hit the button that says submit, which has accurate
information and has been verified as accurate by the
Controller's Office. We have to up date really all of
our outstanding debts. That's all been entered on the
Gateway, and you as president of the Sanitary
Commissioners has to do that. And we can talk about
that tomorrow or at your convenience.

MR. FLOWERS: That was eventually
submitted by someone in the Controller's Office?

MR. ALLEGRETTI: Well, this is based on
my conversation with Tim Anderson.

MR. FLOWERS: I do have a password and
information already. Thank you for that explanation.

25

1 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Typical bureaucratic
loops to hop through.

2 MR. FLOWERS: Next is public comments.
3 (None)

4 Next meeting date is April 1st,
2021, at 4:30. There's a typo saying the 5th, but
again, next meeting is April 1st. Location is East
5 Chicago City Hall, via phone conference.

6 Can I have a motion to adjourn?

7 MR. RIVERA: Motion to adjourn.

8 MS. CAULEY: Second.

9 MR. FLOWERS: All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

10 Motion carries. Meeting adjourned.

11 ***** Meeting adjourned *****

12 Approval of the Meeting Minutes of Thursday
13 March 18, 2021

14 Approved and signed _____

15 

16 Steve Flowers, President

15 (S) Juwann Jones
16 Member

17 (S) Ben Moricz

18 Ben Moricz, Vice-President

19 (S) Tia Cauley

20 Tia Cauley

21 _____
22 Miguel (Mike) Rivera

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24 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 23rd day of March, 2021.

Peggy S. LaLonde



Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR