

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
April 18, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

STAFF:

Joseph Allegretti  
Alysia Dunbar

Reported by: Fissinger & Associates, Ltd.  
By: Peggy S. LaLonde

Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Present in Chambers: Joseph Ochoa, John  
Bakota, Henry Ventura, Anthony  
Askounis, Ray Lopez

STAFF Present in Chambers: Winna Guzman,  
Allan Lee, Bill Biller, Joseph Allegretti

MR. OCHOA: Call to order the meeting of  
the Board of Waterworks of April 18, 2022. First item,  
approval of the minutes of April 4, 2022. Do I have a  
motion?

MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

MR. LOPEZ: Second.

MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on  
the motion? (None) All in favor?  
(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Next, Payroll Warrants. WARRANT  
041422, amount of \$12,807.92, Utilities Payroll, dates  
of 3-26-22 to 4-8-22.

MR. VENTURA: Motion to approve.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

1 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on  
the motion? (None) All in favor?  
2 (All signify aye.)

3 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.  
WARRANT 041422, amount of  
4 \$40,481.96, dates of 3-26-22 to 4-8-22.

5 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

6 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

7 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on  
the motion? (None) All in favor?  
8 (All signify aye.)

9 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.  
Accounts Payable: WARRANT 041222  
WB, amount of \$135,805.15. Do I have a motion?

10 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

11 MR. VENTURA: Second.

12 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on  
the motion? (None) All in favor?  
13 (All signify aye.)

14 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.  
WARRANT 041822 WF, amount of  
15 \$622,561.88. Do I have a motion?

16 MR. VENTURA: Motion to accept.

17 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

18 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on  
the motion? (None) All in favor?  
19 (All signify aye.)

20 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.  
WARRANT 041822 WB, amount of  
\$161,305.10.

21 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

22 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

23 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on  
the motion? (None) All in favor?  
24 (All signify aye.)

25 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.  
WARRANT 041822 CD, amount of

1 \$993.04.

2 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

3 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

4 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on  
the motion? (None) All in favor?

5 (All signify aye.)

6 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Filtration Report: Obed Perez.

7 MS. GUZMAN: There's a written report  
8 from Obed.

9 MR. OCHOA: Water Report: Winna Guzman.

10 MS. GUZMAN: I just want to note, as far  
as the Filtration report, I know Mr. Perez submitted a  
11 report, but he wasn't able to be in attendance today  
because of working as an operator due to shortage of  
12 staff in the operator's position. So I just wanted to  
inform the Board.

13 I have submitted a report reflecting  
the Department's activity for review. If you have any  
14 questions, I'd be happy to respond.

15 MR. BAKOTA: Did we get a Fire Department  
report on usage?

16 MS. GUZMAN: It's in your packet as you  
asked. I have also included reports from Sanitary,  
17 Public Works, and the Marina so you are aware. I did  
submit the previous year's report and also the last  
18 couple of months, from January to March.

19 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you.

20 MS. GUZMAN: I'd also like to note a  
couple of things. The State Revolving Funds loan  
21 application that are in your packet, I just wanted to  
inform you that we successfully filed two application  
22 forms with the State Revolving Loan Program on  
March 31st. It reflects relating to demolition of the  
23 existing elevated tank and replace with new two million  
gallon elevated storage tank, new water main to serve  
24 the Roxana area, and to provide or to increase pressure  
and fire flow capacity. And so the membrane at the  
25 filtration plant, replace existing filter membrane,

1 again at the Filtration plant, and also to replace  
2 residential lead lined service lines and replacing meter  
3 pits. And that total is \$23,100,000.00. Just to give  
4 you that information, I just wanted to bring that to the  
5 Board.

6 I also included Ordinance number  
7 0011, this is the additional appropriation ordinance for  
8 Department of Waterworks for additional appropriations  
9 in the amount of 1.5 million for the Water Department to  
10 utilize a list of 2022 projects, that's attached to  
11 that, and it's related to the Distribution Division.

12 I think that pretty much completes  
13 my report. Do you have any questions?

14 MR. LOPEZ: Yes. Page 1 of this, the  
15 rate --

16 MS. GUZMAN: I will get to that soon, we  
17 aren't there yet. That's coming up under the  
18 resolution.

19 MR. BAKOTA: This is a good idea on the  
20 yearly report from the water usage.

21 MS. GUZMAN: Yes, and we are utilizing  
22 that for the IURC annual report that is due April 30th,  
23 and I will provide that to the Board when it is filed.

24 MR. BAKOTA: That will be ongoing,  
25 every year?

MS. GUZMAN: Yes, we have to have that.  
They are really good about it, it just fell a little  
behind.

MR. BAKOTA: Thank you.

MR. OCHOA: Distribution Report: Allan  
Lee.

MR. LEE: Moving right along. As of now  
the 24-inch is all done. While we were there we had  
Hasse put concrete around the new valve we had put in  
for that trouble we had there because they already hit  
it and pulled the valve box out. I had them put  
concrete there so we don't have any more problems with  
that. That's all completed and cleaned up. I'm happy  
about that.

Probably within a week our bid is

1 going to go out to fix 30 of the 110 boxes. It  
2 fluctuates, 110, 120, but we are sending out 30 to get  
3 fixed. The inventory on the valve boxes and the valves,  
4 we're working on that.

5 We are going to be bidding out, we  
6 had a big main break on 143rd, 12-inch valve all broken  
7 there, and actually there's some four-inch valves on  
8 Olcott, one on Columbus; it's going to be a group. So  
9 we're going to try to fix that whole area that got all  
10 broke, probably about three 12-inch valves and maybe  
11 four or five 4-inch valves all have to be fixed. So  
12 that will be a nice project coming up. That will eat up  
13 all our valve box money.

14 MR. BAKOTA: Is it due to truck traffic  
15 that's causing the weakness in the valves?

16 MR. LEE: No, it's the cast iron a lot of  
17 times. The Lake changes temperature, that's why you  
18 have a lot in the winter. When the water changes  
19 temperature the cast iron cracks.

20 Also going out right now, we have  
21 got 32 hydrants and we are going to bid out five of  
22 them, plus three already are in the process; two of them  
23 got fixed, one tomorrow. So three of those are  
24 emergency because there was no hydrants around and I  
25 couldn't wait around for a bid if there is a hydrant  
close by or something. We are going to bid out five  
probably in another week and that will leave 24 hydrants  
in the City still not working. We are looking for money  
and more funding for that, which we'll ask, maybe get a  
little more for that.

Inventory we are doing pretty good.  
We got some money back in inventory, I already spent  
that. The problem with some of the inventory, I don't  
know if some of that inventory didn't get ordered. We  
had a little trouble, then we got our money back and  
then we reordered service boxes last November at a cost  
of 15,000 and today's cost is 30,000. Most of the other  
ones that I have bids on went up about 5,000. So it is  
what it is. The fire hydrants are moving right along.

We got some summer -- part-time help  
and maybe a second one. We got some interviews coming  
up. So we are painting the hydrants with my part-time  
guy one day a week.

MR. LOPEZ: One day a week?

MR. LEE: One day a week because there is

1 lots to learn. He's got to learn one day on service  
2 crew to do shutoffs; he's got GPS one day; one day on  
3 hydrants. I'm trying to get him well rounded, not just  
4 have someone part-time painting hydrants. You know what  
5 I mean? The hydrants need to be painted, but we also  
6 need to give somebody knowledge so they will be useful  
7 if we have an emergency, so they know what is going on.  
8 They need to be well rounded and then you can have him  
9 on other jobs.

10 And we are in the process of getting  
11 training now since we got a part-time and waiting for  
12 the other part-time to get some training and getting a  
13 quote for that. When I get the quote, I can give it to  
14 Winna, a day or two of training on the meter testing  
15 bench that we have that's so nice and shiny back there.  
16 That's on the agenda. Don't worry, it hasn't gone away.

17 We had 81 emergencies. We can do 83  
18 now. The winter covered the meter, the large valves  
19 that are broke. It gives a little bit of an idea what  
20 is there. I didn't list the 4 and 6 and 8-inch because  
21 I wouldn't have room on the paper.

22 And the last one is that Baring job  
23 that I was talking about. So we are going to be  
24 tackling that, send some bids out. That's the other  
25 chunk of money I have for some valves.

26 Tomorrow one of the new trucks,  
27 pickup service trucks, will be going out in the field  
28 and the old van that's rattling with one cylinder  
29 missing will say good-bye. And that's all I got.

30 MR. OCHOA: How big are the cast iron  
31 valves that you were talking about?

32 MR. LEE: Well, all the valves are  
33 different sizes.

34 MR. OCHOA: Would it be beneficial to go  
35 to like a brass or bronze?

36 MR. LEE: Cast iron is the only kind for  
37 the water. They make an insta valve for like crisis,  
38 but all your valves have a gate valve or butterfly,  
39 usually it's a gate. And the reason is, when you get  
40 the larger butterfly, you get a gate so big they stick  
41 out of the ground. When the larger comes, it's a  
42 butterfly, and it's on the side.

43 MR. OCHOA: Thank you.

44 Next, Legal Counsel.

1 MR. ALLEGRETTI: No report.

2 MR. OCHOA: Financial Report.

3 MR. BILLER: No report.

4 MR. OCHOA: Resolution WD 22-08. A  
5 Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the East Chicago  
6 Water Department Amending Resolution WD 21-28, being a  
7 resolution establishing a salary and wage schedule for  
8 the employees of the City of East Chicago Water  
9 Department for fiscal year 2022.

10 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

11 MR. BAKOTA: Second.

12 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on  
13 the motion? (None) All in favor?  
14 (All signify aye.)

15 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

16 Next WD 22-09, Utility Receipts Tax  
17 Repeat/House Enrolled Act 1002.

18 MS. GUZMAN: We are asking for this item  
19 to be removed from the agenda. We are just informing  
20 the Board as to the departments relating to the Utility  
21 Receipts Tax Repeal of IC 6-2.3, which is effective  
22 July 1st, 2022. And this is reference to what you were  
23 referring to a little earlier as we are regulated under  
24 the jurisdiction of IURC and collection utility receipt  
25 tax under the Indiana code 6-2.3, which is now repealed  
or House Enrolled Act 1002, Section 15 of that Act.  
This requires utilities that collect utility receipts to  
file rate adjustment with the Commission no earlier than  
May 1st, 2022. That reflects repeal of the utilities  
tax to advise the Board as to the status of this. We  
are aware of the repeal and this is currently being  
assessed by our financial team and our counsel. So this  
is just to keep the Board apprised as to development in  
the future. Okay.

26 MR. OCHOA: Thank you. Next we have  
27 Proposal for F.E. Moran, Inc., repairs to fire pump,  
28 amount of \$18,312.00. You are asking this be tabled?

29 MS. GUZMAN: Yes, that is correct. This  
30 is requested by Mr. Obed Perez. I talked to him this  
31 afternoon and he requested that this item be removed

1 from the agenda.

2 MR. OCHOA: Do I have a motion?

3 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to table.

4 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

5 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on  
6 the motion? (None) All in favor?  
(All signify aye.)

7 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

8 Rate Sheet for 2022: CNB  
9 Construction, LLC.

10 MS. GUZMAN: This is for 2022  
11 concrete/asphalt rate sheet for the Water Department  
12 submitted by CNB Construction. That's a proposal for  
13 the Water Department and actually states East Chicago  
14 Parks Improvement Engineering Project. We are asking  
15 for approval on this rate schedule with the condition  
16 that they reference Water Department related projects  
17 and obtain a signature from Mr. Burnell. I'd like the  
18 Board to approve it and we'll get that information  
19 corrected.

20 MR. BAKOTA: Have we used them before?

21 MS. GUZMAN: No, this is the first time I  
22 have used them, but the City has used them.

23 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

24 MR. LOPEZ: Second.

25 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on  
the motion? (None) All in favor?  
(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Next, Request for Change Order.  
Hasse Construction, increase and railroad insurance  
renewal, amount of \$9,831.67.

MS. GUZMAN: This is being requested to  
be removed as this was previously approved, so it was  
already sent to us.

MR. OCHOA: Do I have a motion?



1 MR. BAKOTA: Are we removing it or  
2 tabling it?

3 MS. GUZMAN: We are removing because it's  
4 been previously approved.

5 MR. BAKOTA: Make a motion we remove the  
6 Hasse cost increase and railroad insurance renew.

7 MR. VENTURA: Second.

8 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on  
9 the motion? (None) All in favor?  
10 (All signify aye.)

11 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.  
12 Request for Purchase Order: 9400  
13 Calumet City Plumbing, amount of \$10,216.00. Do I have  
14 a motion?

15 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

16 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

17 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on  
18 the motion? (None) All in favor?  
19 (All signify aye.)

20 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.  
21 Purchase Order: 376 Hasse  
22 Construction Company, in the amount of \$9,831.67. Do I  
23 have a motion?

24 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

25 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on  
the motion? (None) All in favor?  
(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.  
Next, 7241 USA Bluebook, amount of  
\$5,383.01.

MR. VENTURA: Motion to approve.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

MR. BAKOTA: Question on this, Winna.  
What is this? Is this the locator?

1 MS. GUZMAN: Yes, that's the equipment.

2 MR. BAKOTA: Is that agreement for the  
3 year or is it --

4 MR. LEE: It's a single item. You just  
5 hook it on and find where the pipe is in the ground.  
6 It's a locator.

7 MR. BAKOTA: That's the charge for every  
8 single item?

9 MS. GUZMAN: We are buying the locator.

10 MR. BAKOTA: Okay, I understand.

11 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on  
12 the motion? (None) All in favor?

13 (All signify aye.)

14 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

15 Request for Purchase Order: 9400  
16 Calumet City Plumbing, in the amount of \$4,059.50. Do I  
17 have a motion?

18 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

19 MR. VENTURA: Second.

20 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on  
21 the motion? (None) All in favor?

22 (All signify aye.)

23 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

24 9400 Calumet City Plumbing, amount  
25 of \$6,519.40. Do I have a motion?

MR. VENTURA: Motion to approve.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on  
the motion? (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

9400 Calumet City Plumbing, in the  
amount of \$3,959.34. Do I have a motion?

MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

MR. VENTURA: Second.

1 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on  
the motion? (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

2 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.  
3 9400 Calumet City Plumbing, amount  
of \$5,354.00. Do I have a motion?

4 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

5 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

6 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on  
7 the motion? (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

8 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.  
9 9400 Calumet City Plumbing, amount  
of \$1,565.00. Do I have a motion?

10 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

11 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

12 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on  
the motion? (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

13 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.  
14 9400 Calumet City Plumbing, amount  
of \$3,283.50. Do I have a motion?

15 MR. VENTURA: Motion to approve.

16 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

17 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on  
18 the motion? (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

19 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.  
20 9400 Calumet City Plumbing, amount  
of \$3,565.00. Do I have a motion?

21 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to accept.

22 MR. VENTURA: Second.

23 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on  
the motion? (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

24 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.  
25 9400 Calumet City Plumbing, in the

1 amount of \$554.00. Do I have a motion?

2 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

3 MR. VENTURA: Second.

4 MR. BAKOTA: Winna, I have a question.  
5 These are labeled or declared emergencies at next  
6 meeting.

6 MS. GUZMAN: These are for emergencies.

7 MR. BAKOTA: Why do we do that, declare  
8 an emergency?

9 MS. GUZMAN: They were late. They had to  
10 be done immediately. We just have to follow the  
11 process, the controller's process. And they require,  
12 once we declare an emergency, that we bring it before  
13 the Board for a vote.

11 MR. BAKOTA: Okay.

12 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on  
13 the motion? (None) All in favor?  
14 (All signify aye.)

14 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.  
15 9400 Calumet City Plumbing, amount  
16 of \$1,287.50. Do I have a motion?

16 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

17 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

18 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on  
19 the motion? (None) All in favor?  
20 (All signify aye.)

20 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.  
21 9400 Calumet City Plumbing, amount  
22 of \$554.00. Do I have a motion?

21 MR. VENTURA: Motion to approve.

22 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

23 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on  
24 the motion? (None) All in favor?  
25 (All signify aye.)

25 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.



1 Unfinished Business: None  
Public Comment: None  
2 Next meeting will be Monday, May 2,  
2022, at 5:00 p.m., East Chicago Council Chambers.  
3 Do I have a motion for adjournment?

4 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to adjourn.

5 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

6 MR. OCHOA: All in favor?  
(All signify aye.)

7 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

8 \*\*\*\* Meeting adjourned \*\*\*\*  
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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 22nd day of April, 2022.

*Peggy S. LaLonde*



Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR

Approval of the Meeting Minutes of  
April 18, 2022

Approved and signed May 2, 2022

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph Ochoa, President

John Bakota  
John Bakota, Vice-President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Henry Ventura, Member

/s/Joseph Ochoa

/s/Henry Ventura

Anthony Askounis  
Anthony Askounis, Member

Ray Lopez  
Ray Lopez, Member

Alysia Dunbar  
Alysia Dunbar, Secretary.

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