

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
(Via Telephone Conference)
Wednesday, September 9, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m.

Reported for Fissinger & Associates
By: Lisa Pena

CALL TO ORDER: 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present in Chambers: John Bakota.
Present Via Telephone Conference: Henry Ventura,
Anthony Askounis, Joseph Ochoa, Ray Lopez.

Also Present in Chambers: Anthony Herrera, Winna
Guzman.

Also Present Via Telephone Conference: Joseph
Allegretti, Ben El Harit, Edward Santen, Bill
Biller.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 17, 2020
Motion to approve August 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes made by Ray
Lopez. Second by Henry Ventura.

Questions/Comments: None.

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

APPROVAL OF CHECK WARRANTS:
MR. BAKOTA: Next on the agenda is Check Warrants.
Check Warrant 081820 WB in the amount of \$35,409.14.

Motion to approve Check Warrant 081820 WB made by Henry
Ventura. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

1 Questions/Comments: None.
2 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
3 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

4 MR. BAKOTA: Check Warrant 090920 WB in the amount of
5 \$168,041.01.
6 Motion to approve Check Warrant 090920 WB made by Joseph
7 Ochoa. Second by Ray Lopez.

8 Questions/Comments: None.

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

11 MR. BAKOTA: Check Warrant 090920 WU in the amount of
12 \$444,952.93.

13 Motion to approve Check Warrant 090920 WU made by Anthony
14 Askounis. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

15 Questions/Comments: None.

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

18 MR. BAKOTA: Check Warrant 090920 CD in the amount of
19 \$700.10.
20 Motion to approve Check Warrant 090920 CD made by Henry
21 Ventura. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

22 Questions/Comments: None.

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

25 APPROVAL OF PAYROLL WARRANTS:

MR. BAKOTA: Next on the agenda is Payroll Warrants.
Payroll Warrant 082120 in the amount of \$37,767.09. This is
payroll from 8/1/20 to 8/14/20.
Motion to approve Payroll Warrant 082120 Payroll 8/1/20 to
8/14/20 made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

Questions/Comments: None.

25

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

2

MR. BAKOTA: Payroll Warrant 090420 in the amount of
3 \$38,314.48. This is payroll from 8/15/20 to 8/28/20.
4 Motion to approve Payroll Warrant 090420 Payroll 8/15/20 to
8/28/20 made by Henry Ventura. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

5

Questions/Comments: None.

6

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

8 MR. BAKOTA: Payroll Warrant 082120 in the amount of
\$24,412.88. This is Utilities Payroll 8/1/20 to 8/14/20.

9

10 Motion to approve Payroll Warrant 082120 Utilities Payroll
8/1/20 to 8/14/20 made by Ray Lopez. Second by Joseph Ochoa.
11 Questions/Comments: None.

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

13

14 MR. BAKOTA: Payroll Warrant 090420 in the amount of
\$24,436.34. This is Utilities Payroll from 8/15/20 to
8/28/20.

15

16 Motion to approve Payroll Warrant 090420 Utilities Payroll
8/15/20 to 8/28/20 made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony
Askounis.

17

Questions/Comments: None.

18

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

20 FILTRATION REPORT:

21 MR. BAKOTA: Do we have a Filtration Report, Ben?

22 MR. EL HARIT: Hi, this is Ben. Basically everything is
going well. I mean like we're working on maintenance. I
23 mean preventive maintenance. So we're working on high
service. We just sent the motor to get fixed. We're waiting
24 for the report from them, from the shop.

25 Also we're working next couple weeks on doing the

1 painting for the modules. We have one of the trains that's
2 acting up. So we're going to be working on it.

3 Other than that there is nothing else. I mean
4 except if you have any questions.

5 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you.

6 WATER REPORT: None.

7 DISTRIBUTION REPORT:

8 MR. BAKOTA: Distribution Report, Ed Santen.

9 MR. SANTEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to
10 report that Christopher Burke, Engineering, is still working
11 on the modeling of the Distribution System. That work is in
12 progress and ongoing.

13 Just an interesting note we're having quite a few
14 hydrants run over and damaged. We are repairing them or
15 replacing them as they come to our attention.

16 And that's all I have to report at this time.

17 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you, Ed. Any questions for Ed?

18 NEW BUSINESS WATER:

19 MR. BAKOTA: We'll go on to New Business. This is an
20 agreement with SLC Meter Rate Sheet Catalog. It's in your
21 packet. It's a Rate Sheet for parts and gaskets and fittings
22 and so on.

23 Motion to approve SLC Meter Rate Sheet 2020 Catalog made by
24 Anthony Askounis. Second by Henry Ventura.

25 Questions/Comments:

MR. LOPEZ: Is this the same one that we were talking
about before that keeps changing their rates? It says rates
subject to the change without notice.

Someone brought that up last time. And I thought
we approved a contract. And then all of a sudden they've got
more stuff in it. Can you answer that?

MR. SANTEN: The Meter Rate Sheet is a vendor that sells
meter supplies. And we were seeking the Board's approval to

1 approve that so we can purchase those items on a regular
basis.

2

MR. LOPEZ: But the last time when I questioned it you
3 had to have an increase. They didn't ask. They just did it.

4 MR. SANTEN: I am not aware of that from previous
meetings. Maybe Winna knows about it. I don't know about
5 that.

6 MS. GUZMAN: Winna Guzman, Director of Water Department.
Mr. Lopez, this is the first time this has presented before
7 the Board. So this has never been presented under SLC. I'm
sorry. For parts for the Distribution System.

8

MR. LOPEZ: So if we approve this one for \$445,000, they
9 can't come back and say --

10 MR. BAKOTA: No.

11 MS. GUZMAN: No.

12 MR. BAKOTA: You're on the wrong one.

13 MR. LOPEZ: I'm just saying without notice.

14 MR BAKOTA: Ray, this is SLC Meter Rate Sheet. Nies
Engineering is for \$445,000.

15

MR. LOPEZ: Okay. Excuse me. They got that small print
16 there. What are we approving? How much are we approving?

17 MR. BAKOTA: No. We're just approving --

18 MR. OCHOA: It's that catalog that's in your packet. I
guess that's what we're approving if we're approving
19 anything.

20 MR. BAKOTA: They're going to buy parts from that
catalog as needed. That's what it's for.

21

MR. LOPEZ: But what amount are we approving?

22

MR. BAKOTA: There is no amount. It's just a contract
23 that we'll purchase from them.

24 MR. OCHOA: It's for individual items when we need them.

25 MR. LOPEZ: Is that Ed speaking?

1 MR. SANTEN: No. This is Ed. It's for individual items
2 primarily due to water meters. I recommend the company. I
3 have used them for many years.

4 They have gaskets and couplings and those sort of
5 things as opposed to like Ferguson and that sort of thing.

6 So we need their parts on many occasions, you know,
7 throughout the year. So I thought it would be easier just to
8 approve the Rate Sheet. Be more simplified for us ordering
9 parts.

10 MR. LOPEZ: Like for one year?

11 MR. SANTEN: Yeah. It's for 2020. So January we should
12 look at approving their catalog for next year.

13 MR. LOPEZ: Okay. I understand. Thanks, Ed.

14 MR. BAKOTA: Any other questions?

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

17 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Nies Engineering for the two 4
18 million gallon tanks. It's an agreement amendment at
19 \$445,000.

20 Motion to approve Nies Engineering Agreement Amendment made
21 by Ray Lopez. Second by Anthony Askounis.

22 Questions/Comments:

23 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Allegretti here. I am afraid I'm
24 unable to discuss this item. Maybe Ben. Is Dr. Abdul on
25 today?

MR. EL HARIT: I mean the only one who can elaborate a
little bit about this, since Anthony was directly with
Dr. Abdul, probably Anthony may know a little about this.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What is the amount of the Change
Order, the actual amount?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Are you talking about Bowen?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Nies, the Change Order.

MR. BAKOTA: Nies Engineering, the Change Order is

1 \$3,298.53.

2 MR. EL HARIT: That Change Order is going back to the
3 City. But, Joe, you can help me on this one. Basically when
4 I talked to Nies about this last week they're saying that
5 Bowen did not meet the demand for the contract with the City
6 for the labor.

7 So basically they're supposed to be having certain
8 minors and certain employees from the City to work on the
9 projects. But they didn't meet that.

10 So they did the calculation. And they come up a
11 number. I mean the 3,000 I believe and something is coming
12 to the City.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The 445,000 has to do with Nies
14 Engineering. The 3,298, that has to do with Bowen. Those
15 are two different items.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Separate items.

17 MR. HERRERA: Joe, you were elaborating on Nies
18 Engineering.

19 MR. ALLEGRETTI: I was just making an inquiry. Is this
20 actually an increase on the contract price of 445,000? Is
21 that what that is?

22 MR. EL HARIT: I believe this is two separate items. I
23 mean like the first one with \$445,000 is separate from the
24 other one.

25 MR. OCHOA: Can we table this until we get more
information on this?

MR. ALLEGRETTI: Ben, I'm sorry. I am not able to
discuss it intelligently. I don't understand the Change
Order.

MR. BAKOTA: Do I have a motion to table?
Motion to Table Nies Engineering Agreement Amendment made by
Ray Lopez. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

23 Questions/Comments:

24 MR. ALLEGRETTI: I'm looking at the Change Order. It
25 looks like the Change Order is for 3,000. It's for a small

1 number. But if the Change Order is for \$445,000 I think we
probably ought to understand it a little better.

2 MR. EL HARIT: Hold on a second. Can I speak?

3 MR. BAKOTA: Go ahead.

4 MR. EL HARIT: There is confusion right now. I mean on
5 like Nies the 445,000, it has nothing to do with the other
6 one because two different Change Orders. I mean I have no
idea about \$445,000.

7 MR. BAKOTA: That's the one we're going to table. We're
done. We got a motion.

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

10 MR. BAKOTA: Next we come to Change Order Number 4
11 Contract Number 3 Bowen Engineering \$3,298.53. Evidently
that's a minus on that, on the contract.

12 MR. EL HARIT: So basically this money is coming back to
13 the City. That's from my understanding because Bowen did not
meet the contract with the labor because they're supposed to
14 have like a certain percent for the labor to work on the
project. But they did not meet that.

15 Motion to approve Bowen Engineering Change Order Number 4
made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

16 Questions/Comments: None.

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

19 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Hayes Mechanical at \$9,275. That's
20 Filtration.

21 MR. VENTURA: This is a Past Due?

22 MR. BAKOTA: Yes. The reason it was sent back is
invoices were being sent to me from Ben stating check was in
the invoice. I checked and it wasn't paid. Don't know who
23 they sent it to. So it's being re-evaluated.

24 Motion to approve Hayes Mechanical Past Due Invoice made by
Henry Ventura. Second by Anthony Askounis.

25

1 Questions/Comments: None.
2 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
3 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

3

4 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Unifirst at \$274.83, Filtration.
5 Reason was invoice was e-mailed to me on 8/17/20 after
6 contacted by company from statement stating late payment.

5

6 Motion to approve Unifirst Past Due Invoice made by Joseph
7 Ochoa. Second by Ray Lopez.

6

7 Questions/Comments: None.
8 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
9 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

7

10 REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL:

10

11 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Report from Legal Counsel,
12 Mr. Allegretti.

11

12 MR. ALLEGRETTI: I am sorry for the confusion on that
13 Nies Engineering, \$445,000. But this Change Order, all we
14 have is a letter from Nies addressed to Ethel Morgan at the
15 SRF, Indiana Finance Authority, asking for approval of a
16 \$445,000 Change Order.

13

17 What the Board wants to see and Winna knows this
18 very well is an approval of that Change Order. We don't
19 usually take these matters up until the SRF approves them.
20 First they approve them and then the Board approves them.

14

15

21 So it gets very confusing. 445,000 is a lot of
22 money. So I didn't mean to create controversy. It just
23 seems like we need some more information.

16

17

24 Secondly we did a meeting Friday with our Rate Case
25 Team, our Financial Adviser and our Rate Lawyer and everybody
26 on the staff. It was very productive. It was Friday
27 morning.

18

19

28 We have a lot of issues to go over. But we are
29 proceeding. And it's tedious and time consuming. But we are
30 making progress.

20

21

31 That's my Report. Thank you.

22

32 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you, Joe.

23

1 FINANCIAL REPORT: None.

2 UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

3 MR. BAKOTA: Unfinished Business we have Customer Matter
4 from 5529 Reading, Mrs. Cervantes.

5 Joe, have you anything on this?

6 MR. ALLEGRETTI: I know Winna is present.

7 MR. BAKOTA: We have the customer here with us,
8 Mrs. Cervantes.

9 Do you want to make a comment, where we're at on
10 this?

11 MS. GUZMAN: Well, I would like to defer this to
12 Attorney Allegretti. We did submit the information to Legal
13 Counsel.

14 MR. ALLEGRETTI: I know that Winna has investigated this
15 incident. And I think what is troubling for staff is there's
16 a big time disconnect between the installation of the meter
17 at the residence and the incident whereby there was breakage.
18 And this caused water escaping which caused damage.

19 The initial disconnect is that there's almost a
20 year between the installation by Calumet City Plumbing and
21 the actual incident that caused the damages to the residence.

22 It's my understanding that there are two things.
23 Number one I think the property owner said that there was --
24 that actually the meter broke or exploded or something to
25 that effect. And apparently the meter was not damaged. And
the meter has not been replaced since this incident.

Secondly that there was a plumber, an employee of
the Water Department or former employee of the Water
Department who actually was able to turn the water off and
stop the water going into the basement and causing damage.

He obviously is probably the best person to make a
comment as to the cause and if the activity of our contractor
or the staff members contributed or caused the damage to the
resident's home.

And lastly, and, Winna, correct me if I am
misstating this, I think you requested that Calumet City

1 again visit the property and conduct some further
2 investigation and give some report as to these issues as to
3 the time passage between the installation of the meter and
4 the incident and any causation issues.

5 MS. GUZMAN: That is correct. So right now we're
6 waiting on Calumet City to communicate with us.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I can't hear it.

8 MS. GUZMAN: This is Winna. Right now just wanted to
9 kind of just state that we did contact Calumet City Plumbing
10 who installed the meter initially back last year in May of
11 2019. And we are waiting on information from them, just some
12 feedback from them.

13 And they may visit the property. So I will be
14 contacting Mrs. Cervantes if they need to gain access to the
15 property. And those are the contractors that initially
16 installed the meter.

17 So right now we're just still waiting on
18 information from them as well.

19 MR. ALLEGRETTI: And may I say that I know
20 Mrs. Cervantes or Mr. Cervantes, the homeowners, are unhappy.
21 Mrs. Cervantes I think is there. And I know Councilwoman
22 Orange is in the Water Utility Business Offices at the
23 meeting.

24 And there was some delay in responding to her. I
25 think it was unfortunate. We apologize for that. And I
26 think that Miss Cam (phonetic) intends to use all diligence
27 to conclude the investigation and give the report and
28 sufficient information for the Board to make a suitable and
29 intelligent decision on the claim at least at this stage of
30 the claim by the homeowner, Mrs. Cervantes.

31 MS. ORANGE: I am not quite understanding. So it
32 happened in May of 2019. And she reported it to you guys
33 right away.

34 MS. GUZMAN: No. The installation of the new meter was
35 May last year. So when this occurred it was this year.

36 MS. ORANGE: What month was it?

37 MS. CERVANTES: Not even a year. It happened in April.

1 MS. ORANGE: So what's the warranty?

2 MS. GUZMAN: We're looking into that. We're looking
3 into seeing what the warranty is. We're just looking into
4 all the information trying to see what their feedback is.

5 MS. ORANGE: Of course they're not going to say they're
6 at fault. I mean at some point they should have some type of
7 warranty. That is a lot of money throughout the City that
8 they changed the meters.

9 I am not saying -- and it could be just one meter.
10 I have a 2015 Volvo. And they said it never happened before.
11 But the engine light continued to go on. They couldn't even
12 get it off.

13 So I know that one out of a million may be and this
14 may be the one in a million. They're not going to take
15 responsibility for it.

16 The only thing I can say and I am not faulting you
17 or anybody else. The Water Department and the Board needs to
18 take some responsibility when things happen.

19 I was here a couple years ago with an older lady
20 that they allowed her bill to get up to \$2,000. The woman is
21 dead now. She didn't have to pay it. Or her estate paid it
22 or whatever.

23 When something happens, it's got to be right away
24 because it can't wait and wait and wait because it's not fair
25 to the homeowner.

26 If that was not their fault or wasn't the City's
27 fault, but if she don't come up and continue to make the
28 complaints you guys wouldn't even look into it. And that's
29 the bad part about it.

30 MS. CERVANTES: The thing is time passed by. And the
31 insurance, time when I have to pay insurance going to go way
32 up because they pay a lot of money.

33 MS. ORANGE: She did have damage, Joe. He said she
34 didn't have damage.

35 MS. GUZMAN: We received the claim from the insurance
36 company. And I did submit that to the Law Department on
37 August 7.

38

1 MS. CERVANTES: Besides that whatever the insurance pay
2 I have big loss because the possession is a lot. Plus my
3 deposit. When I'm going to see the money?

4 MS. ORANGE: Deductible.

5 MS. CERVANTES: The deductible, yes. This is kind of
6 slow moving.

7 MS. GUZMAN: Well, I am going to be on top of them. So
8 hopefully by the next meeting we'll have something. And I
9 will give you a call when the next meeting is. And also do
10 the same for you.

11 But right now we're just waiting on the feedback
12 from Calumet City Plumbing.

13 And again from what we see the meter remains. The
14 same meter that was installed is still in your home. It
15 wasn't the meter that burst. So just to let you know that.

16 So we're looking into that and seeing what the
17 issue was and getting feedback from Calumet.

18 MR. ALLEGRETTI: And, Winna, I don't mean to stick my
19 nose into this. This is Allegretti again. I think either
20 our current employee or former employee was on the scene at
21 the time of the incident. And he was able to turn the water
22 off.

23 MS. GUZMAN: Former employee.

24 MR. ALLEGRETTI: And because of his experience and
25 knowledge of these things, if we can get an interview from
26 him or some kind of a statement because he was there at the
27 time. And that would be probably the best evidence of what
28 was going on when the incident happened.

29 Winna, would you remind me what the name of our
30 person is? Is he a current employee or a former employee?

31 MS. GUZMAN: It's a former employee. And I believe his
32 name is Michael Roja (phonetic).

33 MS. CERVANTES: Michael, he went and turned off the
34 water from outside.

35 MS. GUZMAN: Right.

1 MR. BAKOTA: He didn't come inside?

2 MS. CERVANTES: No. Because inside there was water
already up.

3
4 MR. BAKOTA: But did he look at it? Did he look at the
meter?

5 MS. CERVANTES: The Fire Department came first. No, he
don't see the meter. The water was already up.

6
7 MR. BAKOTA: Joe, the homeowner says he didn't even look
at the meter. So I don't know if he'd be a good judgment of
what the problem is.

8
9 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Then I stand corrected.

10 MR. BAKOTA: Can we schedule this inspection or what
needs to be done before the next meeting?

11 MS. GUZMAN: Yes. I'll try my best to get it done, yes.

12 MR. BAKOTA: The next meeting is September 21 in the
Council Chambers.

13
14 MS. CERVANTES: You can send somebody to my house.

15 MS. GUZMAN: I'll call you.

16 MS. CERVANTES: I hope it can be right away because I
want to leave town. So if you can send next week, it's fine.
Just give me a time.

17
18 MS. GUZMAN: I will call them tomorrow and see.

19 MS. CERVANTES: Maybe a week, week and a half I have to
be out of town.

20 MR. BAKOTA: So can we do it within a week?

21 MS. GUZMAN: I can try to set that up. I have to call
Calumet City.

22
23 MR. BAKOTA: And they'll do a written report on what
they observed or what?

24 MS. GUZMAN: Well, they installed the initial meter. So
we will try to get some feedback.

25

1 MS. ORANGE: When that all happened, you guys didn't
send Calumet City out there when it was their meter?

2 MS. GUZMAN: No. Because it wasn't the meter.

3 MS. ORANGE: But you guys didn't know it wasn't the
4 meter.

5 MS. GUZMAN: No. We acted upon it when she submitted
the letter to us. Then we sent that to the attorney's
6 office.

7 MS. ORANGE: They should have been sent out right away.

8 MS. GUZMAN: We sent someone from our Department the
next day. Mike Butran (phonetic), he went out there the next
9 day. Not Calumet City.

10 MR. BAKOTA: When did this happen again? I'm sorry.

11 MS. CERVANTES: In April. April 9.

12 MR. BAKOTA: Here's a statement on April 7.

13 MS. CERVANTES: Yeah. Since then.

14 MR. BAKOTA: There's a statement here. This is a
service comment, whoever this is.

15 MS. GUZMAN: Mike Butran.

16 MR. BAKOTA: It's in handwriting. It says put fitting
17 back onto lead line, retightened it up, turned water back on,
no leaks.

18 MS. GUZMAN: Yes.

19 MR. BAKOTA: That's on the report if you want to look at
20 it.

21 MS. ORANGE: No. I believe you.

22 MR. BAKOTA: I don't understand what he tightened up.
It just says a line. So was the line leaking or the meter
23 leaking?

24 MS. GUZMAN: It wasn't the meter because the meter is
still intact. The meter is still there.

25

1 MR. SANTEN: The fitting that connects to the lead line
2 was loose for some reason or somehow. I don't know what
3 happened. But that's what was loose.

4 When Mike came down into the basement, he found it
5 loose. He pushed the brass fitting back on the lead line,
6 tightened it up. And there was no more leaks. So I am not
7 really sure how that happened.

8 MR. ASKOUNIS: Can I ask a question?

9 MR. SANTEN: Yes.

10 MR. ASKOUNIS: If I see down here the meter being
11 installed last May, if it was loose and leaking it should be
12 more water than just a couple inches for the whole year. Am
13 I correct or not?

14 MR. SANTEN: I don't know how that unloosened if it was
15 tightened when it was installed.

16 MR. ASKOUNIS: Well, I have here a copy from May 2, 2019
17 if that's the meter.

18 MR. BAKOTA: That's the installation.

19 MR. ASKOUNIS: That's the installation of the meter?

20 MR. BAKOTA: Yeah.

21 MR. ASKOUNIS: If the meter was loose at the connection,
22 it would leak right then. It wouldn't leak a year later.

23 MS. ORANGE: Yeah, it will. If you have that torrential
24 rain that we had that came down, yes, it will. Because then
25 you turn around and you've got all that water and the water
pressure.

Water was going everywhere in Roxana. Everywhere
in Roxana. And so after that, after that rain and stuff like
that, that should have never happened then. So I mean like I
said at some point in time you guys got to take
responsibility.

First of all Calumet City or whatever should have
been immediately taking -- they changed it. Was it loose or
was it not loose? Did it come from the water pressure from
the outside or from the inside?

1 And she should have been given some answers right
away. Then she could have even settled or don't settle.

2
3 Like I said she's got a \$1,500 deductible. And
then her insurance is going to go up. And like I said the
4 water in her basement and the damage and everything like
that.

5 So you guys are throwing the football back and
6 forth and nobody is going to take responsibility. And of
course that company is not going to say that they didn't
tighten it up.

7
8 But at some point, you know, hey, it's a bad
situation because she pays a water bill every month.

9 MS. CERVANTES: And like I say time is going longer and
longer.

10
11 MR. VENTURA: Can you talk to the officer from the Fire
Department that responded before Mike did and ask him what
12 did he observe in more detail?

13 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Winna, do we have a report of that?

14 MS. GUZMAN: Yes, we do.

15 MR. ALLEGRETTI: A report from the Fire Department?

16 MS. GUZMAN: Yes, we do.

17 MR. VENTURA: Because a lot of times they observe
something. But since they don't do anything they won't
18 elaborate. But you may want to talk to him again and ask him
what exactly even though he didn't have to do anything, what
he observed, what did he see because he went in the basement
19 when they got called.

20 MR. BAKOTA: There's a comment on the report here. It
says dispatcher called approximately 11:35. Mickey Carmen
21 Lopez noted copper line busted.

22 I don't know if that's a fire official there.

23 MS. GUZMAN: No. Let me see which one you're
referencing. No. That is the statement I received from
24 Mr. Lopez that was present at the time when I was on the
phone with him.

25

1 MR. VENTURA: There should be a report from the Fire
2 Department. And if you need to, you can speak to the officer
3 that responded. Because even though maybe they couldn't shut
4 it off, he could elaborate as to what he observed or found
5 when he arrived there.

6 MS. CERVANTES: When the Fire Department came, there was
7 water all over already.

8 MR. BAKOTA: Did they go down and look?

9 MS. CERVANTES: They went down. The only thing they
10 told me pick up all the electric cables hanging and go
11 upstairs just in case something happens. They went to the
12 electric box made sure nothing.

13 So I stayed out because I was barefoot walking.
14 And they told me to stay out, stay out.

15 So then they went outside. And they cannot find
16 the place to turn off the water. So they tried to go to the
17 corner. And I said no, no, it's right here. And they cannot
18 figure it out is why we called Mike Roja to come and shut off
19 the water.

20 MR. BAKOTA: I don't know if we can get a report from
21 the Fire Department.

22 MS. GUZMAN: Yeah. It should be in your packet.

23 MR. VENTURA: He could tell you what he observed at the
24 time at the pipe. Even though he might not have been able to
25 shut it off, I am sure he looked at it and figured out we
can't shut this off or it's not here, there's no shutoff.
But at least he could tell you what he found when he
responded.

MR. BAKOTA: That's a good idea, Henry. Thanks.

MS. GUZMAN: I will talk and try and get a report from
them.

MS. ORANGE: And we need to ask how would that come
loose. She wouldn't have did that to her own self. How
would it come loose from the time when he -- I don't care if
it took a year or whatever.

MS. CERVANTES: It busted with a lot of pressure. Water
all over the City.

1 MS. ORANGE: The water probably had built up and having
2 that rain so much in Roxana and the water probably just kept
3 on going and going. And they may not have been able to
4 handle it.

5 MR. BAKOTA: The rain wouldn't affect it.

6 MS. CERVANTES: I never have a problem with the rain,
7 nothing. This one it happens with that. I never even when
8 they have in the street all the water I never had water in my
9 house. It happens with that.

10 MR. ASKOUNIS: John, can I say something?

11 MR. BAKOTA: Yes. Go ahead.

12 MR. ASKOUNIS: Phase 4, look at the blue highlight on
13 the top. It says bucket under leak for years now. Possible
14 room to freeze. That's what the owner said according to
15 whoever wrote this.

16 MR. BAKOTA: He's talking about under the --

17 MR. ASKOUNIS: Do you see that?

18 MR. BAKOTA: Yeah. Wait a minute. She's going to
19 comment on that. Thank you.

20 MS. CERVANTES: Because summertime sometimes the pipes,
21 they sweat. So that's why we have that just in case, you
22 know. Because I put a ceiling after, you know, they changed
23 the meter. I remodeled the room and I put the ceiling.

24 And before there was like with summertime, you
25 know, if it was too cold they drip, the waterlines. But it's
nothing.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Excuse me. That's not the comment. The
comment is bucket under -- says they have drained that bucket
for years now. I mean it was a leak there for years.

MS. CERVANTES: No.

MR. ASKOUNIS: That's what it says, John.

MR. BAKOTA: Her comment, I don't know if you heard her.
Her comment was that the pipes sweat. And that's why the pan
was there to catch the water dripping off the --

1 MS. CERVANTES: He fixed it.

2 MR. ASKOUNIS: It doesn't say sweat. It says leak.

3 MR. BAKOTA: Yeah. I know, yeah.

4 MS. CERVANTES: I know my house.

5 MR. ASKOUNIS: I don't know.

6 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you.

7 MR. ASKOUNIS: Let's find out what's going on. Thank
you.

8

MS. CERVANTES: First of all Water Department, they're
9 the ones that's going to touch all the installation and all
of that. I have nothing to do with it.

10

And like I said if I had any problems before maybe
11 I call the City. But I never had a problem before. Never.
Even when the water come in Roxana I never had water in my
12 house.

13 MR. BAKOTA: I mean I know it's sad to say. But we'll
wait for the Fire Department.

14

MS. GUZMAN: And in the meantime Ed and I can talk to
15 the Fire Department as well.

16 MR. BAKOTA: And you can ask Calumet City Plumbing.

17 MS. GUZMAN: I will talk with them, see if they can come
as soon as possible.

18

MS. ORANGE: And then don't you deal with other plumbing
19 companies to get like an independent -- because Calumet is
not going to talk about their own self. So I mean can you
20 get somebody that's independent saying, you know, that's a
possibility that that could have leaked and the pressure
21 build up.

22 MS. GUZMAN: I'll talk to Joe on that and see how we all
can handle that.

23

Joe, did you hear the question or the comment?

24

MR. ALLEGRETTI: Yes. I understand what the
25 Councilwoman is suggesting. And yeah, that's a consideration

1 because they are warranting the work. And as suggested
2 people act in their self-interest. We get that absolutely,
3 Councilwoman.

4 MR. BAKOTA: So we're settled on that. There will be
5 the fireman's report if he could add anything to it. Plus
6 we'll try to get independent inspectors to do an inspection
7 of what happened. And also let Calumet City Plumbing look at
8 it and whatever.

9 MS. ORANGE: And then Mike. Maybe he knows something.

10 MR. BAKOTA: Our next meeting is going to be September
11 21. It will be in the Council Chambers at 5:00 o'clock. And
12 hopefully we can get that all done before.

13 MS. ORANGE: Will you be gone then, the 21st?

14 MS. CERVANTES: I think.

15 MS. ORANGE: I will come represent you. Don't worry.

16 MR. OCHOA: John Bakota.

17 MR. BAKOTA: Yes. Go ahead, Joe.

18 MR. OCHOA: Can we have a Special Meeting to elaborate
19 on this situation?

20 MR. BAKOTA: If you want, we could arrange one I guess.
21 The only thing, Joe, is we'll still have to wait for these
22 reports from the Fire Department, Calumet City Plumbing and
23 the independent contractor to look at the situation.

24 So at the next meeting we would have to have that
25 information before we have a Special Meeting.

MR. LOPEZ: I agree with you, John.

MR. OCHOA: Yeah.

MR. LOPEZ: John, can you get a better sound system?
You guys keep breaking up. And it's straining my deaf ears.

MS. GUZMAN: We apologize for that.

MR. ALLEGRETTI: When we're not talking, we should
probably mute our phones.

25

1 MR. LOPEZ: Or walk around with the microphone. Do
something. You guys go in and out in and out. We can't hear
2 everything.

3 MR. BAKOTA: We're meeting at the Water Department
Office here. It's not a good place to meet. We should be in
4 the Council Chambers. I don't know why this keeps happening.
It's a bunch of bull.

5
6 MR. LOPEZ: You're the boss, John. Come on. Exercise
it.

7 MR. BAKOTA: I will from now on.

8 MR. ALLEGRETTI: It's a conspiracy.

9 MR. LOPEZ: And Joe is our attorney. He'll back us up.

10 MS. GUZMAN: Just to know there was a conflict today.
That's why.

11
12 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Absolutely.

13 MR. BAKOTA: And that's where we're at right now with
this situation. And they're going to get that report prior
to you leaving. And then, Gilda, you'll be at the meeting?

14
15 MS. ORANGE: Yeah. The 21st. What time is it going to
be?

16 MR. BAKOTA: It's going to be 5:00 in the evening.

17 MS. ORANGE: Okay. Yeah. I can be there.

18 MR. BAKOTA: Then we'll go from there.

19 MS. CERVANTES: I guess somebody has to take part of
this. Like I said maybe they said no, it's not my fault.
20 City, they say no, it's not my fault. Somebody has to pay.
It's not my fault.

21
22 MS. ORANGE: I hear you.

23 MR. BAKOTA: We'll go with that then.

24 MS. CERVANTES: And like I say everything takes so long.
First of all I know my agent, he showed up. And he saw all
the disaster in my house the day after in the morning. And
25 the adjuster from my insurance, they took a month because of

1 the pandemia. He don't want to come check.

2 So during that time I was like throwing things.
3 And finally it's about like four weeks ago, not even four
4 weeks ago finally they fixed my basement. And like I said
5 it's a lot to lose.

6

MR. BAKOTA: It's a mess, yeah, water damage.

7

MS. CERVANTES: It's a mess. Lucky I had another
8 bathroom upstairs. But everything downstairs damaged, big
9 damage.

10

MR. BAKOTA: We'll go with that then.

11

MS. CERVANTES: Okay.

12

MR. BAKOTA: From the information we got and then Winna
13 will contact them.

14

MS. GUZMAN: I'll follow-up with you.

15

MR. BAKOTA: And then contact you. Thank you.

16

MS. CERVANTES: Thank you.

17

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

18

19

* Next Regular Meeting Date: September 21, 2020

20

@ 5:00 p.m.

21

Motion to adjourn was made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by
22 Anthony Askounis.

23

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

24

Opposed: None Motion Carries.

25

26

* Meeting ended at 5:49 p.m.

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Approval of the Meeting Minutes of
Wednesday, September 9, 2020

Approved and Signed _____

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John Bakota, President

(S) Henry Ventura

Henry Ventura, Vice President

(S) Joseph Ochoa

Joseph Ochoa, Member

~~Anthony Askounis~~ Anthony Askounis

Anthony Askounis, Member

(S) Raymond Lopez

Ray Lopez, 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 September, 2020.

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