

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)
Monday, September 21, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m.

Reported for Fissinger & Associates
By: Lisa Pena

CALL TO ORDER: 5:06 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present in Chambers: John Bakota.

Present Via Telephone Conference: Henry Ventura,
Anthony Askounis, Ray Lopez.

Also Present in Chambers: Anthony Herrera, Winna
Guzman.

Also Present Via Telephone Conference: Edward
Santen, Ben El Harit, Bill Biller, Abdul
Zehraoui.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 9, 2020

Motion to approve September 9, 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 is Check Warrants. Check Warrant
080720 WF in the amount of the \$11,245.

Motion to approve Check Warrant 080720 WF made by Henry
Ventura. Second by Anthony Askounis.

1 Questions/Comments: None.

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

4 MR. BAKOTA: Check Warrant 092120 WB in the amount of
5 \$87,063.30.

6 Motion to approve Check Warrant 092120 WB made by Ray Lopez.
7 Second by Anthony Askounis.

8 Questions/Comments: None.

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

11 MR. BAKOTA: Check Warrant 091820 WB in the amount of
12 \$182,202.83.

13 Motion to approve Check Warrant 091820 WB made by Henry
14 Ventura. Second by Anthony Askounis.

15 Questions/Comments: None.

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

18 APPROVAL OF PAYROLL WARRANTS:

19 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Payroll Warrants. Payroll Warrant
20 091820 in the amount of \$38,866.72. This is payroll from
21 8/29/20 to 9/11/20.

22 Motion to approve Payroll Warrant 091820 Payroll 8/29/20 to
23 9/11/20 made by Anthony Askounis. Second by Henry Ventura.

24 Questions/Comments: None.

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

MR. BAKOTA: Payroll Warrant 091820 in the amount of
\$24,818.24. This is Utilities Payroll from 8/29/20 to
9/11/20.

Motion to approve Payroll Warrant 091820 Utilities Payroll
8/29/20 to 9/11/20 made by Ray Lopez. Second by Henry
Ventura.

1 Questions/Comments: None.

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

4 FILTRATION REPORT:

5 MR. BAKOTA: Filtration Report.

6 MR. EL HARIT: I don't have nothing for this week. But
7 we're just getting ready for the winter I guess.

8 MR. BAKOTA: Thanks, Ben.

9 WATER REPORT:

10 MR. BAKOTA: Water Report, Winna Guzman.

11 MS. GUZMAN: Good evening. Winna Guzman, Water
12 Department Director. I provided a report for the month of
13 August. And if you have any questions, I will be happy to
14 answer.

15 MR. LOPEZ: Can't hear you. Are you talking?

16 MR. BAKOTA: Yeah. Hold on a minute.

17 MS. GUZMAN: Good evening, Board. This is Winna Guzman,
18 Water Department Director. I provided a report for the month
19 of August 2020 for your review. If you have any questions, I
20 will be happy to answer.

21 MR. BAKOTA: No questions? Winna, anything else?

22 MS. GUZMAN: No.

23 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you, Winna.

24 DISTRIBUTION REPORT: None.

25 NEW BUSINESS WATER:

MR. BAKOTA: Next is New Business Water. And this is
Agreement with Nies Engineering, the Two 4 Million Gallon
Tank Contract Increase to \$80,000.

The new amendment increased the upper limits by
\$80,000. Upper limit is now \$460,000. It was 380,000.

1 MR. LOPEZ: Mr. Chairman, point of information. This is
2 the one we talked about last time, right? They had to get
3 some approval from the SRS.

3 MR. BAKOTA: Yeah.

4 MR. LOPEZ: I make a motion we take it off the table.

5 DR. ZEHRAOUI: No. No. This is Dr. Abdul. So this
6 increase is relation to some engineering that has been done
7 at pumping station because the City was unable to find the
8 tie-in to the water. So we send Nies Engineering to provide
9 that new design.

8 So I am recommending the Board to approve this
9 80,000 increase. And this should be the last one. 460,000
10 for the project management is good price for us because it's
11 around 3 percent for the whole project. I am recommending
12 that this Agreement would be approved. Thank you.

11 MR. LOPEZ: Because at the last meeting it was \$445,000.

12 DR. ZEHRAOUI: We meet with him. This is the last one.
13 So we don't need any increase over the increase because the
14 City is delayed. So we meet with him a meeting. And we were
15 clear this is the last increase.

14 MR. LOPEZ: So the total amount is \$460,000?

15 DR. ZEHRAOUI: Yes, sir.

16 MR. LOPEZ: Now is this SRS approval --

17 DR. ZEHRAOUI: SRS approval needs the Board's approval
18 first.

19 MR. LOPEZ: Because it says April they approved
20 \$380,000. You guys upped it 80,000 more?

21 DR. ZEHRAOUI: Yeah. 80,000 is what is increased from
22 April until now.

22 MR. LOPEZ: I got it now. Okay. Now the figures match.
23 Thank you.

24 Motion to approve Nies Engineering \$80,000 Contract Increase
25 made by Ray Lopez. Second by Henry Ventura.

25 Questions/Comments: None.

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

3 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Associated Technical Services, Leak
4 Detection & Location Survey.

5 MR. SANTEN: This is Ed Santen reporting. The attached
6 Agreement is for your consideration for us to do a citywide
7 leak survey throughout the system.

8 MR. VENTURA: Ed, is this a one-time thing or is this
9 continuous?

10 MR. SANTEN: This is going to be a one-time thing
11 initially with the City. And then as we proceed to move
12 forward down and through the years I will be recommending
13 that until we get our water loss under control. But I would
14 recommend at a minimum once a year right now.

15 MR. VENTURA: So this will work for what we have?

16 MR. SANTEN: This is going to be for this year, yes.

17 Motion to approve Associated Technical Services Leak
18 Detection & Location Survey Agreement made by Henry Ventura.
19 Second by Ray Lopez.

20 Questions/Comments: None.

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

23 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Adjustments, 4944 Reading Avenue.
24 Winna will talk about this.

25 MS. GUZMAN: Winna Guzman again here. This is regarding
4944 Reading Avenue, Account Number 11661. This is asking
for an adjustment.

And the reason for that is reading provided by
meter reader was incorrect causing high usage on the bills.

This is a meter pit. And it has been noted too
that the meter is a stop meter.

So our recommendation is that we adjust Bill Number
1289880 under date of July 7, 2020 to reflect the estimated
reading.

1 The meter will also be replaced with a Master
2 Meter.

3 MR. LOPEZ: How much is the adjustment?

4 MS. GUZMAN: \$160.32. So we'll be estimating that.
5 We'll be estimating based on the previous usage.

6 Motion to approve 4944 Reading Avenue Adjustment made by Ray
7 Lopez. Second by Henry Ventura.

8 Questions/Comments: None.

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

11 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Past Due. Rowell Chemical at
12 \$12,339.10. It says when I received the statements I sent an
13 e-mail to them to find out where these invoices sent because
14 they weren't sent to me.

15 Motion to approve Rowell Chemical Past Due Invoice made by
16 Anthony Askounis. Second by Henry Ventura.

17 Questions/Comments: None.

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

20 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Bakertilly \$4,361.25. Vendor sent
21 invoice on 9/15/20. Thought they sent it before. AP Clerk
22 did not receive the invoice until 9/15/20.

23 Motion to approve Bakertilly Past Due Invoice made by Henry
24 Ventura. Second by Anthony Askounis.

25 Questions/Comments: None.

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

28 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Peoples Bank \$10.70.

29 Motion to approve Peoples Bank Past Due Invoice made by Ray
30 Lopez. Second by Henry Ventura.

31 Questions/Comments: None.

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

2 MR. BAKOTA: Next is First Merchants Bank at \$5. Vendor
3 sent invoice on 9/11 after the AP Clerk requested any past
4 due items.

5 Motion to approve First Merchants Bank Past Due Invoice made
6 by Henry Ventura. Second by Ray Lopez.

7 Questions/Comments: None.

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

9 REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL: None.

10 FINANCIAL REPORT:

11 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Financial Report, Bill Biller Cash
12 Report, August of 2020 Cash Report.

13 MR. BILLER: Mr. President, there's a Cash Report in the
14 packet. My only comment is the month of August collections
15 were down slightly. And we still continue to estimate the
16 collections for the year will be down approximately 600 to
17 \$700,000 from what we were in 2019.

18 MR. LOPEZ: And that's primarily industrial public?

19 MR. BILLER: That's residential, commercial, industrial.
20 Mainly industrial, yes.

21 That concludes my Report, Mr. President.

22 UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

23 MR. BAKOTA: Next we have Unfinished Business. We have
24 a Customer Matter of 5529 Reading.

25 Ed, we have representatives from that address.
We'll let them introduce themselves and then we can carry it
from there please.

MR. FLORES: My name is Ralph Flores, Jr. from Flores
Insurance Group. And I am here representing my client,
Carmen Cervantes, who resides at 5529 Reading. Also we have
Councilwoman Gilda Orange here with me.

1 So back several months ago as you're aware there
2 was some water damage in her basement that we feel was caused
3 by a device that was installed in the basement I believe to
4 monitor the water usage in the home.

5 And the question that I have is was that device
6 installed by a City employee or was it installed by an
7 outside contractor?

8 MR. SANTEN: The subject in question was put in by an
9 outside contractor working on behalf of the City.

10 MR. FLORES: Is it possible to obtain information on the
11 outside contractor?

12 MR. SANTEN: Sure. I mean once you're completing your
13 statement I will follow-up with my review.

14 MS. ORANGE: My name is Gilda Orange. And I am here on
15 behalf of Carmen. I've been coming to a couple meetings with
16 her. And she may be on the line. I am not quite sure if she
17 was connected or not.

18 But I just feel that the City has some
19 responsibility. She's never had that problem before as much
20 water as Roxana gets. I think that the City should do some
21 consideration of restoring her property back whole.

22 I know that the insurance company did step in and
23 fix the thing for her. But people just lose confidence in
24 the Water Department and the City when things like this don't
25 go right and all of a sudden the resident is held responsible
who pays their taxes, who makes sure they pay their water
bill.

 And so I'm just asking for some type of
consideration for her.

 MR. SANTEN: My name is Ed Santen, Distribution
Supervisor. I am very pleased to report that I met the owner
of Calumet City Plumbing at the home at 5529 Reading Friday
afternoon.

 The owner went to the house and looked at the
piping coming into the house and determined based on his
review as a licensed plumber and the owner of the company
that the fitting indeed could have loosened and popped off.
Although very unusual, it looks like it did. And it's the
only one in the City that has done so to date.

1 So Mr. Giglio, the owner of the company, indicated
2 to me -- I was at the meeting also with them. And he had
3 indicated to me that he would personally take care of this
4 himself with the City's insurance or he would have his
5 insurance company resolve the issue with the City.

6 So I'm very pleased to report it will be taken care
7 of for the homeowner.

8 MS. ORANGE: I sure appreciate that because like I said
9 she was really concerned. She is now taking care of her sick
10 mother. So I am glad. She'll be pleased with that. I mean
11 she's retired and money doesn't grow on trees. And I'm glad
12 that the City has determined that.

13 I wasn't quite sure whether the owner would say
14 anything. But I'm proud of that also.

15 MR. SANTEN: We had to physically get inside the house
16 to look at it. So once we did we were able to determine it
17 was a problem on the fitting on the line itself. We're sorry
18 for any delays.

19 MR. FLORES: The only question I have is how can I
20 obtain the contact information for Calumet City Plumbing?

21 MR. SANTEN: The information you have in front of you,
22 please give that to Winna, our Director of Water. She'll
23 forward it to me and I'll make sure it gets into the hands of
24 the owner of the business. And he will resolve that with the
25 City.

 MS. ORANGE: This is Gilda again. I would like to thank
the Board and Winna for looking into this because I know that
you guys hear a lot of complaints. And you have to look
through them. I'm glad that you guys did.

 I thank Attorney Allegretti also for you guys
handling this. And I'm sure she will be quite please.
Myself or Ralph will call her. Like I said she's taking care
of her sick mother. But I thank you guys, all of you.

 MR. SANTEN: You're welcome.

 MS. CERVANTES: Thank you to everybody.

 MR. LOPEZ: I want to say thank you to you for helping
her and let her know that we apologize. But we have to be
real careful that everything is done right and we don't make

1 an example of one and then somebody else wants it.

2 But that's why it takes a long time. Everybody
3 investigated it. Everything did their job. It came out
4 right. And I thank you for your help.

4 MS. CERVANTES: Thank you so much to everyone.

5 MR. VENTURA: Ed, you're going to handle the rest of it
6 with the City and the insurance and everything?

7 MR. SANTEN: Winna and I will take care of it. I'll
8 make sure I follow it through all the way to completion.

8 MR. VENTURA: Let us know what happens at the next
9 meeting.

10 MR. SANTEN: As soon as it's financially resolved I'll
11 send everyone a note so they're aware.

11 MR. VENTURA: Thank you very much.

12 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you, Ed.

13 MR. SANTEN: You're welcome.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

15 * Next Regular Meeting Date: October 5, 2020
16 @ 5:00 p.m.

17 Motion to adjourn was made by Henry Ventura. Second by
18 Anthony Askounis.

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

21 * Meeting ended at 5:34 p.m.

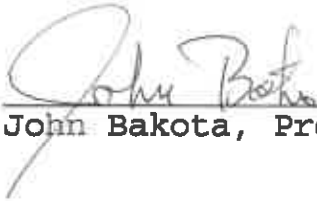
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Approval of the Meeting Minutes of
Monday, September 21, 2020
Approved and Signed _____



John Bakota, President

Henry Ventura, Vice President

Joseph Ochoa, Member

Anthony Askounis, Member

Ray Lopez, Member




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 28th day of September, 2020.



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



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