

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

STAFF:

Winna Guzman
Ben El Harit
Ed Santeen
Joseph Allegretti

Reported by: Fissinger & Associates, Ltd.

By: Peggy S. LaLonde

Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Present: John Bakota

Present Telephonic: Henry Ventura, Ray
Lopez, Joseph Ochoa, Anthony Askounis

Staff Present: Winna Guzman

Staff Present Telephonic: Ed Santen, Joseph Allegretti,
and Ben El Harit

MR. BAKOTA: First order of business is
to approve the minutes of September 21, 2020.

Motion to approve minutes of September 21, 2020, as
written, made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony
Askounis.

MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by
saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

Next we have approval of Check

Warrants.

WARRANT 100520 WB - \$141,415.93.

Motion to approve Warrant 100520WB, in the amount of
\$141,415.93 made by Henry Ventura. Second by Anthony
Askounis.

Questions/Comments:

1 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by
saying aye?

2 (All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

3 Next are Payroll Warrants.

4 PAYROLL WARRANT 100220 - \$36,754.09

Dates of 9/12/20 to 9/25/20.

5 Motion to approve Payroll Warrant 100220, in the amount
of \$36,754.09, for dates of 9/12/20 to 9/25/20, made by
6 Henry Ventura. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

7 Questions/Comments: None

8 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by
saying aye?

9 (All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

10 PAYROLL WARRANT 100202 - \$25,288.23 - Utilities payroll

Dates of 9/12/20 to 9/25/20

11 Motion to approve Utilites Payroll Warrant 100220, in
12 the amount of \$425,288.23, made by Joseph Ochoa. Second
by Ray Lopez.

13 Questions/Comments: None

14 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by
15 saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

16 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

17 Next we have Filtration Report.

18 MR. EL HARIT: Well, the only thing I
have -- no report actually -- but we are still working
on getting ready for winter, checking everything and
19 making sure everything is working. This time of year
make sure the sprinklers and everything working. Other
20 than that, there is nothing else.

21 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you.

Water Report: None

22 Distribution Report, Ed.

23 MR. SANTEEN: Thank you, Mr. President.
I am working diligently with our engineering to address
24 the 24-inch water main break underneath the CSX railroad
track. Jim is working on the paperwork and permits to
25 get our contractor in there to see what broke and assess

1 the course of action to repair that pipeline.

2 Just today I was surprised with an
3 invoice from CSX for doing some temporary work earlier
4 this year. So I would anticipate more invoices coming
5 from them. The situation is a big job and we are
6 working as quickly as we can to get that line back in
7 service. That's my report.

8 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you, Ed.

9 Next is New Business. Water: There
10 is an emergency at Core and Main, this is a 24-inch bell
11 joint clamp, amount of \$7,760.

12 Motion to approve emergency at Core and Main, made by
13 Anthony Askounis. Second by Henry Ventura.

14 Questions/Comments:

15 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by
16 saying aye?

17 (All signify aye.)

18 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

19 Next is Resolution WD 20-11. This
20 is a Resolution of the Board of Trustees, East Chicago
21 Water Department, authorizing the transfer of
22 appropriations into different budget categories.

23 Motion to adopt Resolution WD 20-11, made by Ray Lopez.
24 Second by Joseph Ochoa.

25 Questions/Comments:

MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by
saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

Next is adjustment at 4714 Baring
Avenue, amount is \$1,654.40.

Motion to approve adjustment in the amount of \$1,654.40,
made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

Questions/Comments:

MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by
saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

Next is past due invoices. We have

1 seven of them. Unless the Board objects, I will go
2 through all seven of them and then I'll ask if there is
3 any questions, and ask for a motion on all of them. You
4 do have them in your packet and you could number them 1
5 through 7, and then refer to that if you have questions.
6 Is that okay?

7
8 MR. VENTURA: Yes, go ahead.

9
10 MR. BAKOTA: 1. Grainger, amount of
11 \$139.74, Filtration. The reason is -- I called in to
12 see if we had any outstanding invoices, and they sent
13 this one to me by mail.

14 2. Eurofina, amount of \$510.00, Filtration.
15 Reason: Invoice must have been overlooked somehow.

16 3. Grainger, amount of \$169.52, Water. Reason:
17 Invoice was received by Water Department on 9/23/20.
18 Vendor sent invoice to the wrong department. Issue has
19 been resolved.

20 4. Terpstras, amount of \$1,233.00, Water.
21 Reason: Vendor applied a payment to a different invoice
22 making invoice amount below still open.

23 5. Calumet City Plumbing, amount of \$7,487.99.

24 6. Unifirst, amount of \$158.23, Water. Reason:
25 Could not process invoice until vendor issued a credit.
Credit was issued on 9/30/20. Issue has been resolved.

7. First Merchants Bank, amount of \$16.00, Water.
Reason: Vendor failed to send invoice until AP clerk
requested on 10/1/20.

That's the end of past due invoices.
Are there any questions? (None) I'll ask for a motion,
please.

Motion to approve all past due invoices made by Anthony
Askounis. Second by Henry Ventura.

Questions/Comments: None

MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by
saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

1 Next, report from Legal Counsel.

2 MR. ALLEGRETTI: I don't have much. I
3 just want to reiterate what Ed was saying. It's very
4 challenging to deal with railroads, and CSX, the water
5 break is problematic. The railroad loses sight of the
6 fact that if a break occurs under the railroad
7 right-of-way, it would eventually washout their rail bed
8 and cause a derailment. So they have more of a stake in
9 the repair of the main break as we do. But nonetheless,
10 they torment us and make us jump through hoops, and pay
11 unnecessary fees; other than -- you know -- acting as a
12 partner to solve the solution.

13 It's challenging for us. It's
14 always been challenging. That's always the hand we are
15 dealt.

16 Lastly, proceeding with our rate
17 study in anticipation of our rate case. Our finance
18 team is working hard and we are making progress. That's
19 all. Thank you.

20 MR. BAKOTA: Mr. Allegretti, is there any
21 other reason why we can't meet in person now?

22 MR. LOPEZ: Yes, because of the virus
23 still out there.

24 MR. BAKOTA: I'm not asking you, I'm
25 asking Mr. Allegretti.

MR. ALLEGRETTI: I think the Governor's
Executive Order is kind of normalized that it's
discretionary if you want to accommodate some -- not me
-- but some of our members that are in the category of
senior citizens -- I'm not naming names -- who are more
comfortable avoiding in-person meetings. But there is
no legal prohibition.

MR. BAKOTA: All right, thank you.

MR. LOPEZ: East Chicago is still on four
per the Mayor.

MR. ALLEGRETTI: I think those are the
Mayor's wishes.

MR. BAKOTA: Next is the Financial
Report. (None)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

1 PUBLIC COMMENT: None

2 Our next meeting will be
3 October 19th, here the Council Chambers, at 5:00 p.m.
4 Do I have a motion for adjournment?

5 Motion to adjourn meeting made by Henry Ventura. Second
6 by Anthony Askounis.

7 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by
8 saying aye?

9 (All signify aye.)

10 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
11 Meeting adjourned.

12 ***** Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.*****
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Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of
October 5, 2020

Approved and signed _____



John Bakota, President

(S) Henry Ventura

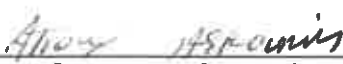
Henry Ventura, Vice-President

(S) Joseph Ochoa

Joseph Ochoa, Member

(S) Raymond Lopez

Ray Lopez, Member



Anthony Askounis, Member



Anthony Herrera, Secretary

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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 7th day of October, 2020.

Peggy S. LaLonde



Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR