

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting Minutes
November 2, 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
Esperanza Ceja-Ramirez

Reported by: Fissinger & Associates, Ltd.

By: Peggy S. LaLonde

Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Present: John Bakota, Anthony Askounis

Present Telephonic: Ray Lopez, Joseph
Ochoa

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 October 19, 2020.

Motion to approve minutes of October 19, 2020, as
written, made by Ray Lopez. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

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

(All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

Next we have approval of Check

Warrants.

WARRANT 102020 WB - \$30,129.60.

Motion to approve Warrant 102020 WB, in the amount of
\$30,129.60, made by Ray Lopez. Second by Anthony
Askounis.

Comments/Questions: None

MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by

1 saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

2 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
WARRANT 110220 WT - \$879.80.

3 Motion to approve Warrant 110220 WT, in the amount of
4 \$879.80, made by Ray Lopez. Second by Joseph Ochoa.
5 Comments/Questions: None

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

(All signify aye.)

7 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
8 WARRANT 110220 WB - \$134,011.18.

9 Motion to approve Warrant 110220 WB, in the amount of
10 \$134,011.18, made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony
Askounis.

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

(All signify aye.)

12 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
13 Next approval of Payroll Warrants.
WARRANT 101620 - \$40,453.83.

14 Payroll dates of 9/26/20 to 10/9/20
15 Motion to approve Warrant 101620, in the amount of
16 \$40,452.83, Payroll dates of 9/26/20 to 10/9/20, made by
Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

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

(All signify aye.)

18 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
19 WARRANT 103020 - \$36,978.16
20 Payroll dates 10/10/20 to 10/23/20

21 Motion to approve Warrant 103020, in the amount of
\$36,978.16, Payroll dates of 10/10/20 to 10/23/20, made
by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

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

(All signify aye.)

24 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
WARRANT 101620 - \$22,579.99 - Utilities Payroll
25 Dates of 9/26/20 to 10/9/20

1 Motion to approve Warrant 101620, in the amount of
2 \$22,579.99, Utilities Payroll for dates of 9/26/20 to
3 10/9/20, made by Ray Lopez. Second by Anthony Askounis.

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

6 (All signify aye.)

7 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

8 WARRANT 103020 - \$22,576.88 - Utilities Payroll
9 Dates of 10/10/20 to 10/23/20

10 Motion to approve Warrant 103020, in the amount of
11 \$22,576.88, Utilities Payroll for dates of 10/10/20 to
12 10/23/20, made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Ray Lopez.

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

15 (All signify aye.)

16 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

17 Filtration Report, Ben El Harit.

18 MR. EL HARIT: No report.

19 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you. Water report,
20 Winna Guzman.

21 MS. GUZMAN: No report.

22 MR. BAKOTA: Distribution report, Ed
23 Santen.

24 MR. SANTEN: I have no report.

25 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you. New business.
Resolution WD 20-13 - resolution of Board of Directors
authorizing the write off of certain delinquent water
charges and penalties.

Motion to approve Resolution WD 20-13, made by Joseph
Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

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

(All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

Now we'll go to Resolution WD 20-14.
Resolution of the Board of Trustees, East Chicago Water
Department, authorizing transfer of appropriations into
different budget categories.

1 Motion to approve Resolution WD 20-14, made by Ray
Lopez. Second by Anthony Askounis.

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3 MR. HERRERA: I would just put on the
record the amounts. We are transferring the total of
4 \$250,000 into Operations/Contractual: 80,000 from other
miscellaneous equipment; 35,000 from repair and
5 maintenance supplies; 75,000 from payroll/salaries;
20,000 from payroll/salaries overtime; 5,000 from
6 payroll PERF; 35,000 from payroll health insurance;
totals \$250,000.

7 Comments/Questions: None

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

9 (All signify aye.)

10 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

Next is Emergency, Core & Main,
\$2,044.20.

11
12 Motion to approve Core & Main emergency, in the amount
of \$2,044.20, made by Anthony Askounis. Second by
Joseph Ochoa.

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

15 (All signify aye.)

16 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

Next is Austgen Electric,
17 transformers repairs, \$55,415.00. The other bid was
Midwest at 98,730. Evidently we are going with Austgen
Electric. Is there any comment about that? (None)

18 Motion to approve Austgen Electric, transformer repairs,
in the amount of \$55,415.00; made by Joseph Ocho.
19 Second by Ray Lopez.

20 Comments/Questions: None

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

22 (All signify aye.)

23 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

24 Next is R & D Construction, asphalt
\$30,720.00. Excavate area and fill low spots as needed,
install four inches of stones, compact two-inch surface,
approximately 800 feet long 12-foot wide. This is a bid
25 of \$30,720.

1 Motion to accept bid from R & D Construction, amount of
2 \$30,720.00, made by Ray Lopez. Second by Anthony
3 Askounis.

3 Comments/Questions: None

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

(All signify aye.)

6 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

6 Next is Core & Main, hydrants,
7 \$26,150.00. The other bid came in at \$26,459.58. Core
8 & Main seems to be the lowest bid.

8 Motion to accept bid from Core & Main, in the amount of
9 \$26,150.00, made by Anthony Askounis. Second by Joseph
10 Ochoa.

10 Comments/Questions: None

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

(All signify aye.)

13 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

13 Next we have past due invoices.
14 Cintas, \$65.75, Water Department. The reason was vendor
15 never sent invoice to department. Invoice received on
16 10/20/20. Do I have a motion?

16 Motion to approve past due invoice from Cintas, in the
17 amount of \$65.75, made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Ray
18 Lopez.

17 Comments/Questions: None

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

(All signify aye.)

20 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

21 Next we have CSX, \$21,516.99. This
22 says invoices were under dispute by the Law Department
23 and Water Department.

23 Motion to approve past due invoice from CSX, in the
24 amount of \$21,516.99, made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by
25 Anthony Askounis.

24 Comments/Questions: None

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

2 (All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

3 Next is Calumet City Plumbing,
4 \$89,025.78. The reason, invoices were under review by
department.

5 Motion to approve past due invoice from Calumet City
6 Plumbing, in the amount of \$89,025.78, made by Joseph
Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

7 Comments/Questions: None

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

9 (All signify aye.)

10 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

11 MR. LOPEZ: These invoices are old. They
go all the way back to June.

12 MR. HERRERA: Some of them were sent
13 later, some of them were under review. I can't tell you
specifically for each of them, but I can tell you that
14 some were sent very late and some were under review.

15 MR. LOPEZ: Are they satisfied this is
it?

16 MR. HERRERA: Yes -- so far. That's
17 everything from the statement on our end and the
contractor's end as past due or outstanding.

18 MR. LOPEZ: Thank you.

19 MR. HERRERA: We'll clean it up at the
20 end of the year, that's usually when we have a lot of
outstanding or past due. We clean them up at the end of
the year.

21 MR. BAKOTA: Next is compliance,
22 Esperanza Ceja-Ramirez, with Planning and Economic
Development.

23 MS. CEJA-RAMIREZ: This is final
24 compliance report account summary for Prestressed Tank
Contract 4, which is the one off of Guthrie Street. The
25 original contract amount was \$4,197,112.00. Change

1 order amount totals \$358,737.00. The adjusted contract
2 amount would be \$3,838,375.00, which brings total
3 damages of \$186,971.11. For those who are interested,
4 liquidated damage was \$53,395.56, but the EC residency
5 damages is \$133,575.45, which I am happy to report. To
6 let you know, they were able to use East Chicago
7 residents, which came out to be 8.20 percent. That's
8 about it. Anyone have any questions for me?

9 MR. BAKOTA: Total due to the City is
10 \$161,000?

11 MS. CEJA-RAMIREZ: One total was
12 \$161,900.

13 MR. BAKOTA: Did the Board hear that
14 explanation?

15 MR. LOPEZ: Most of it.

16 MS. CEJA-RAMIREZ: The total damages for
17 East Chicago residency, as well as liquidated damage,
18 which is the minority component; total \$186,971.11. The
19 remaining balance owed to the company was \$24,999. When
20 you deduct that \$186,971.11, they owe to the City
21 \$161,972.11. This brings us to that amount. The
22 company was able to find East Chicago residents and
23 satisfy the minority component, that's more important
24 for us to reveal and identify, which is 8.20 percent of
25 East Chicago residents were able to work on the job.

MR. BAKOTA: Any questions?

MR. LOPEZ: No, except a thank you.

Motion to accept report as presented made by Joseph
Ochoa. Second by Ray Lopez.

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

(All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

Next report from legal counsel, Mr.
Allegretti.

MR. ALLEGRETTI: I have no report. I've
been working on the rate case with the IURC. Our
consultants are working hard. Other than that, I have
nothing really to report. Thank you.

1 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you. Financial
report, Bill Biller. We have no report.
2 Unfinished Business: None
Public Comment: None
3 Our next meeting will be November 16th,
here in the Council Chambers, at 5:00 o'clock.
4 Do I have a motion for adjournment?

5 Motion to adjourn made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by
Anthony Askounis.

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

(All signify aye.)

8 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.
Meeting adjourned.

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10 ***** Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.*****
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Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of
November 2, 2020

Approved and signed _____



John Bakota, President

~~SI~~ Henry Ventura

Henry Ventura, Vice-President

~~SI~~ Joseph Ochoa


Joseph Ochoa, Member

~~SI~~ Ray Lopez

Ray Lopez, Member

~~Anthony Askounis~~

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 4th day of November, 2020.

Peggy S. LaLonde



Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR