

**METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO
MINUTES OF THE CIVIL SERVICE BOARD MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2021**

Board Members Present: Mr. John S. Kendall, Chairman
Ms. Mazie A. Harris, Vice Chairman
Mr. Donald J. Storino, Secretary

Others Present: Mr. Ted Kosowski, Assistant Director of Human Resources
Mr. Robert Byrne, Human Resources Manager
Mr. Jay Henderson, Human Resources Analyst
Mr. John Weaver, A/V Analyst
Mr. Joseph Cook, Principal Attorney
Mr. Seth Rosenberg, Senior Attorney
Ms. Gina Lencioni, Senior Attorney
Ms. Rhonda Thomas, Appellant
Mr. Kenneth Akins, Respondent
Ms. Kendra Spearman, Attorney
Mr. Robert Quezada, Appellant
Mr. Frank Avila, Jr., Attorney
Ms. Chentile Jackson, Appellant
Ms. Colleen Condon, Police Sergeant
Ms. Maureen MacPherson, Police Officer
Mr. Christopher Blasky, Police Officer
Ms. Nina Brody, Clerk of the Civil Service Board

The meeting was convened at approximately 10:00 AM with Chairman John S. Kendall presiding.

The minutes of the regular meeting of August 18, 2021 were approved.

The minutes of the executive session of August 18, 2021 were approved.

There was no public comment.

The preliminary call of hearings revealed:

Rhonda Thomas	The petition for rehearing was denied. Mr. Cook, counsel for the District, to prepare an order. Passed to the end of the call.
Kenneth Akins Jr.	Set for hearing at 10:15 a.m. Motion in Limine to be heard at time of hearing.
Robert Quezada	Set for hearing at 10:45 p.m.
Chentile Jackson	Continued to October 20, 2021 for status. The deadline to exchange exhibits and witness list extended to October 20, 2021.
Robert Biel	Set for hearing on October 20, 2021 at 10:15 a.m.
Sergio Senese	Continued to October 20, 2021 for status.

The Attendance and Performance Review for Lance Beier reported that Mr. Beier is on a 1-year leave of absence. Continued to the September 2022 meeting.

The Attendance and Performance Review for Michael Zidonis, Jr. reported that Mr. Zidonis is on ordinary disability with a December 1, 2021 return to work date. Continued to the December 15, 2021 meeting.

Mr. Kosowski reported that since the last meeting of the Board, there had been eighty-six (86) requests for leaves of absence, which the Board ratified.

Mr. Kosowski reported that since the last meeting of the Board, there were two (2) expired eligible lists.

Mr. Kosowski reported that since the last meeting of the Board, there were no terminations of probation.

Rhonda Thomas Recalled. The Board to prepare the order denying petition for rehearing for the next meeting.

The Board recessed the meeting at approximately 10:12 AM
The Board commenced the hearing at approximately 10:13 AM

Kenneth Akins Ms. Kendra Spearman, counsel for Mr. Akins, presented her Motion in Limine. Mr. Joseph Cook, counsel for the District, responded to the Motion. Counsel for both parties argued their cases. The Chairman stated that the packet of documents was prejudicial and that any witness was to appear in person. The initial document could be brought into evidence as a business record and could be attacked on cross-examination.

Motion to exclude witnesses was made and approved.

The Board recessed the hearing at approximately 10:26 AM
The Board resumed the hearing at approximately 10:30 AM

Kenneth Akins Mr. Cook, counsel for the District, presented opening statements. Ms. Spearman, counsel for Mr. Akins, presented opening statements.

Mr. Cook, counsel for the District, called and questioned Mr. Ted Kosowski as a witness. Mr. Cook presented District Exhibit No. 1. Ms. Spearman objected to foundation. Ms. Gina Lencioni, counsel for the District, responded to objection. Mr. Cook continued to lay foundation for exhibit. Mr. Cook requested to admit the exhibit into evidence.

The Board recessed the hearing at approximately 10:59 AM to an executive session.
The Board resumed the hearing at approximately 11:16 AM

Kenneth Akins

The Board admitted District Exhibit No. 1 as a business record. Counsel for Mr. Akins will be allowed to present case law to rebut.

Mr. Cook continued his direct examination of Mr. Kosowski. Ms. Spearman cross examined Mr. Kosowski. Mr. Cook examined Mr. Kosowski on re-direct.

The District rested its case.

Mr. Cook, counsel for the District, presented closing statements. Ms. Spearman, counsel for Mr. Akins presented closing statements. Mr. Cook presented a rebuttal.

Mr. Cook recalled Mr. Ted Kosowski as a witness regarding confirmatory tests. The Chairman questioned Mr. Kosowski. Ms. Spearman questioned Mr. Kosowski.

The Board took the matter under advisement.

Briefs of 5-7 pages regarding whether exhibit admissible as a business record due October 8, 2021.

The Board will probably not have a decision until the November meeting.

The Board adjourned the hearing at approximately 11:51 AM
The Board commenced the hearing at approximately 12:01 PM

Robert Quezada

Mr. Frank Avila, Jr., counsel for Mr. Robert Quezada, presented opening statements. Mr. Cook, counsel for the District, presented opening statements.

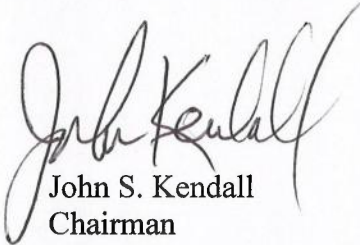
Mr. Avila, counsel for Mr. Quezada, called Mr. Quezada as a witness. Mr. Avila presented District Exhibit Nos. 1-10. Mr. Cook, counsel for the District cross examined Mr. Quezada. Mr. Cook presented District Exhibit Nos. 1-3 and 5-11. Mr. Avila questioned Mr. Quezada on re-direct and presented District Exhibit No. 2. Mr. Avila reserved rebuttal.

The hearing was continued to October 20, 2021 at 10:15 a.m.

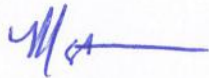
The Board adjourned the hearing at approximately 12:53 PM

The Board resumed the meeting at approximately 12:53 PM

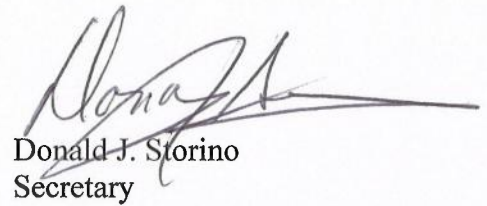
The Board adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:53 PM



John S. Kendall
Chairman



Mazie A. Harris
Vice Chairman



Donald J. Storino
Secretary

Dated: September 15, 2021