

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY

VALPARAISO, INDIANA

March 27, 2020

The Board of Public Works & Safety of Valparaiso, Indiana met March 27, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. in City Hall. Present were Mayor Murphy, Bill Oeding, Steve Poulos and Attorney Patrick Lyp. Mayor Murphy called the meeting to order.

Mayor Murphy moved that the claims be approved for payment and subject to appropriation balances, seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved.

CDBG/ORCA Grant to Demolish

Stu Summers requested approval to enter into an Agreement between the City and the Porter County Public Library System for a CDBGG/ORCA Grant to demolish a blighted structure and create a Library Plaza Garden at 106 Jefferson Street. The City is the recipient of the grant money with the library being the sub-grantee. ORCA needs an agreement between the two entities before they will distribute any funds.

Bill Oeding moved to approve entering into the Agreement. Seconded by Steve Poulos and so approved.

NITCO Fiber Installation Eastport Center

Mike Jabo requested approval of a site work application for NITCO fiber installation at Eastport Center.

Bill Oeding moved to approve the site work application. Seconded by Steve Poulos and so approved.

Audubon Estates Phase II Cancellation of Letter of Credit

Mike Jabo requested approval to cancel; the Letter of Credit for Audubon Estates Phase II.

Steve Poulos moved to approve cancellation of the Letter of Credit for Audubon Estates Phase II. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved.

Status Report – 1425 Glendale Blvd

Attorney Estrada advised the only work to date on this property was temporary fencing. It is his opinion along with Vicki Thrasher that this matter move on to the unsafe building hearing. TRK's attorney addressed the board. The property owner has been ill over the last few months and is in the hospital now. There is no one in charge to have the project move forward. They hope to be at the property next week working on the project. The attorney for a group of physicians who have a case against TRK spoke to the board. He feels the project should be encouraged to move forward. The utility bill was paid yesterday. Attorney Estrada stated he wants to know the property is safe and not hazardous to citizens. TRK is asking for another 30 days to show they are going to get this project done.

Mayor Murphy said he does not feel there is much progress being made despite commitments to do so. Bill Oeding asked what they will get accomplished in 30 days. TRK said they would get contractors and sub-contractors on the property working on the project.

Attorney Estrada on behalf of Vicki Thrasher, submitted her Notice of Violation, Order for Demolition, report, pictures, inspection, title memorandum and Proof of Service, all marked as Exhibit 1. The attorney for TRK asked for comments on behalf of the respondent be added to the record as well

Bill Oeding moved to accept Exhibit 1 as presented by Attorney Estrada. Seconded by Steve Poulos and so approved.

Attorney Estrada questioned Vicki Thrasher on her involvement with this property to date. She still feels the property is a public nuisance, health hazard, safety hazard, vacant and abandoned. Work has not been performed on the property since late last summer.

The attorney for TRK requested a stay for 30 days to allow them to show to the board they intend to continue with this project.

Bill Oeding moved to adopt the Order to Demolish with a 30 day stay. On March 27th TRK will advise the City what has been done and what will be done in the next two weeks. Seconded by Steve Poulos and so approved.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.