

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY
VALPARAISO, INDIANA
April 24, 2020**

The Board of Public Works & Safety of Valparaiso, Indiana met April 24, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. by teleconference due to the corona virus. Present were Mayor Murphy, Steve Poulos, Holly Howe and Attorney Patrick Lyp. Mayor Murphy called the meeting to order.

Steve Poulos moved that the minutes of the April 9, 2020 meeting be approved. Seconded by Holly Howe and so approved.

Steve Poulos moved that the claims be approved for payment and subject to appropriation balances, seconded by Holly Howe and so approved.

DCMC Contract

Patrick Lyp requested approval for a Contract between the City of Valparaiso and DCMC regarding disaster relief (FEMA) assistance for the City. By Executive Order FEMA has jurisdiction over reimbursement of expenses related to COVID-19. Professional service requests cannot exceed \$20,000 and are reimbursable. If the Board approves today there will be a 2:30 p.m. call to move forward. The utilities can be a part of these claims.

Steve Poulos moved to approve entering into the Agreement with DCMC. Seconded by Holly Howe and so approved.

Ratification of Documents – Brooks Development

Patrick Lyp requested ratification of the following documents in relation to the Brooks development: Appointment of Authorized Representative, Maintenance Agreement, Agreement for Reimbursement of Certain Public Improvement and, First Amendment Agreement for Reimbursement of Certain Public Improvement. The Utility Board and Brooks development entered into an agreement to develop a regional detention pond. These documents have to do with that project.

Steve Poulos moved to ratify documents regarding Brooks Development. Seconded by Holly Howe and so approved.

LPA Agreement – Community Crossings Grant

Mike Jabo requested approval for LPA Agreement between the City of Valparaiso and INDOT concerning the Community Crossings Grant. This makes the \$1 Million funds available to the

City. The Engineering Department recommends approval. It has been reviewed by Patrick Lyp and he recommends approval.

Holly Howe moved to approve the LPA Agreement with INDOT for the Community Crossings Grant. Seconded by Steve Poulos and so approved.

Unsafe Building Hearing – 301 Morthland Drive

Attorney Estrada requested a hearing on Notice for Demolition for 301 Morthland Drive. Evidence was filed April 14th. Since that time NIPSCO has been turned off but no other substantial work. It is the intent of the owner to demolish at their cost. John Vazanellis, representative of the property owner, explained they have hired PCS Mechanical to do the demolition work. NIPSCO has removed the meters but they still have to remove a line. PCS Mechanical has been told they cannot go on the property until the line is removed. They have applied for the permits. He requested a 30-day continuance.

Attorney Estrada explained they can have the hearing today and then hold off filing the Order for 30 days. They also can file the Order and the property owner has 30 days to rectify the situation.

Attorney Estrada moved forward with the hearing. On April 14, 2020 he submitted evidence supporting the Order to Demolish.

Steve Poulos moved to accept the evidence as submitted marked as Exhibit One regarding the property at 301 Morthland. Seconded by Holly Howe and so approved.

Vicki Thrasher gave her accounting of the property. She has inspected the property. It is in poor condition. The roof is collapsing. Siding is falling off. It appears there has been a fire and no repair has been done. There are no windows. She feels it is a hazard to public health. It contributes to blight and is detrimental to property values.

Steve Poulos asked and was told at the present time there is no purchaser.

Steve Poulos moved to approve the Order to Demolish but hold off on recording until a progress report is given at the second BOW meeting in May. Seconded by Holly Howe and so approved.

Unsafe Building Hearing – 553 Factory Street Unsafe Building Hearing – 552 Boundary Street

Attorney Estrada requested a hearing on a Demolition Order for 553 Factory Street and 552 Boundary Street. There has been substantial work done on both of these properties. The property has been painted. There is an agreement that they will remedy the remaining issues. Attorney Estrada

recommended continuing this matter to the second BOW meeting in May. There is a ladder leaning against the fence at 553 Factory. This situation will be remedied right away.

George Lepeniotis, representative of the property owner, stated his client has been working on remedying this situation. They need good weather to complete the work.

Holly Howe moved to continue the hearing on the Demolition Orders for 553 Factory Street and 552 Boundary Street until the second BOW meeting in May. Seconded by Steve Poulos and so approved.

Ransom Road

Don McGinley requested review, approval, and signatures for INDOT Project R-39629, Ransom Road Safety Improvements, Change Order #3, HMA Patching, Type B, Errors and Omissions, Item related. During construction work they have realized there is a pavement lane that is deteriorating and failing. INDOT has allowed the HMA patching. INDOT is participating in the repair so it qualifies for the 90% INDOT and 10% City match. The Public Works has the funds available.

Steve Poulos moved to approve signatures for INDOT Project R-39629, Ransom Road Safety Improvements, Change Order #3, HMA Patching, Type B, Errors and Omissions, Item related. Seconded by Holly Howe and so approved.

Silhavy Access Road Project

Don McGinley requested approval for Change Order #1, Changed Condition, Constructability Related, and Over/Under Run Contract Final Balance. This project is substantially complete. Don did an over/under run. By doing this the amount due has gone from \$9,626.25 down to \$6,253.70. This matter is pending approval from RDC.

Steve Poulos moved to approve Change Order #1, Changed Condition, Constructability Related, and Over/Under Run Contract Final Balance pending RDC Approval. Seconded by Holly Howe and so approved.

Pikk's Tavern Alleyway Dining

Carley Lemmon requested approval of Pikk's Tavern Alleyway Dining. There is no change from last year's request.

Holly Howe moved to approve Pikk's Alleyway Dining request. Seconded by Steve Poulos and so approved.

4th of July Contract

Patrick Lyp requested approval of the Contract for the 4th of July celebration fireworks. He has reviewed the proposed contract and is satisfied with the cost and the program. This is a three-year contract. There is language in the contract for this year in case there is not a 4th of July celebration. There is a June 15th date for cancellation. The fee has increased due to the tariff coming in from China. It will not go up during the next three years of the contract. The Contract is paid by Local Option Income Tax Fund.

Holly Howe moved to approve the 4th of July Contract. Seconded by Steve Poulos and so approved.

Grant Application for FEMA COVID-19 Grant Application for FEMA Safer Grant

Chad Dutz requested approval to submit two grant applications to FEMA. These are for assistance due to COVID-19. They are working with the State Fire Marshall on this project. It is separate from what DCMC is doing. It is for fire departments only.

Steve Poulos moved to approve submitting the two grants to FEMA. Seconded by Holly Howe and so approved.

Ransom Road

Don McGinley updated his request for Ransom Road made above. They may begin working within the next week or two and there might be road closures and/or traffic congestion.

TRK Update

Vicki Thrasher reported they have a request for quotes out. Quotes received will be opened at the first BOW meeting in May. Nothing has been heard from TRK and no work has been done. Patrick Lyp advised the bank has filed a foreclosure action.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.