

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

VALPARAISO, INDIANA

May 23, 2025

The Board of Public Works and Safety of Valparaiso, Indiana met May 23, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. in City Hall. Present were Mayor Costas, Bill Oeding and Katrina Spence (late). Mayor Costas called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2025 meeting. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 2-0 vote.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that the claims be approved for payment subject to appropriation balances. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 2-0 vote.

Demolition Project 357 Lincolnway, 359 Lincolnway & 360 Indiana Bid Opening

City staff requested bids from qualified contractors for the demolition of vacant structures on the east side of Campbell St. between Lincolnway and Indiana. A Pre-Bid meeting was held on-site on Thursday May 15th for contractors to view the project, five contractors were in attendance. The project cost estimate is \$160,000. Bids are due Friday, May 23rd at 10:30 am and will be opened and read aloud at the Board of Works meeting.

Bids Received Were:

C. Lee	\$154,831.00
Egolf Coates	\$190,000.00
G.E. Marshall	\$163,315.00*

- This bid was opened later during the meeting but was time stamped received timely. It was listed on the wrong bid sheet and therefore not opened when the C .Lee and Egolf Coates bids were opened.

Max Rehlander asked to take the bids under advisement and make a recommendation at the next meeting.

Traffic & Safety Recommendation for a 15-Minute Parking Sign

The owner of Super Subs reached out to the City requesting a 10- minute parking sign for Super Subs at the first stall closest to the intersection of Jefferson St. and Washington St. for the use of pick-up orders at their sub shop. After discussion, the Engineering team decided that since there is a 15-Minute Parking sign in front of Gil's Pharmacy at the opposite end of the block, they would change the request from a 10- minute to a 15-minute parking sign to keep it uniform and the sign would serve not only the sub shop but also surrounding establishments. It went in front of the Traffic & Safety committee on 5/19/2025 where they took a vote, which

was approved 4-0. The Engineering Department looks to request for Board of Works consideration and approval for Public Works to post a “15-Minute Parking sign.”

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve posting a 15-Minute Parking sign at the first spot closest to the intersection of Jefferson and Washington Street. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Goodrich Rd and Ransom Rd Closures

Egolf Coates Excavating is requesting two road closures at the intersection of Goodrich Road and Ransom Road. Egolf Coates Excavating is installing a water main along Goodrich Road from Ransom Road to Candlewood Drive. This connection will provide a much needed water main loop for Valparaiso City Utilities. The first closure request is an after the fact request for closure on May 19th and reopen as soon as possible. This is for the work related to boring the new water main including bore pits in the roadways. The upcoming second closure is scheduled for May 27th to close the intersection of Goodrich Rd and Ransom Rd to make the final connections to the existing water main. The contractor expects this closure to be for one day dependent upon weather. The Engineering Department has reviewed this request and coordinated with the contractor and the City Utilities Department and recommends approving these closures. Detour route is marked.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve two road closures at the intersection of Goodrich Road and Ransom Road. The first closure is an after the fact request for the closure on May 19th reopening as soon as possible. The second closure is scheduled for May 27th. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Bid Opening 2025 Annual Sidewalk Program – Package 3

The Engineering Dept advertised for bid the 2025 Annual Sidewalk Program – Package 3 starting May 9th. The project consists of replacing and installing approximately 3,000 SQ YD (27,000 SQ FT) of sidewalks throughout the City of Valparaiso. The Engineer’s Estimate is \$500,000.

Bids Received Were:

Rieth Riley	\$562,327.00
Gariup Construction	\$599,900.00
Davis Concrete	\$454,276.00
Milestone	\$465,355.00
New Tech	\$418,951.00

Bill Laird asked to take the bids under advisement and make a recommendation at the following meeting.

Porter County Library – Jefferson Street Parking Closure

The Porter County Library is requesting permission to close the row of parking along the north side of Jefferson Street between Franklin Street and Michigan Avenue. The library will be performing tree maintenance in front of the building and will need space for equipment. The parking spaces will be closed on the evening of May 28th and will reopen the afternoon of May 29th. Traffic on Jefferson Street will not be affected.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve closing the row of parking along the north side of Jefferson Street between Franklin Street and Michigan Avenue. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Acceptance of Pathway Easements

The Engineering Department recommends approval and acceptance of the pathway easements located at the following addresses:

- 1054 Ransom Rd
- 1056 Ransom Rd
- 3503 Lake Meadow Dr
- 358 Bullseye Lake Rd

These easements will allow the City to construct pathway connections along Ransom Road and Bullseye Lake Road.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve and accept the pathway easements located at 1054 Ransom Rd, 1056 Ransom Rd, 3503 Lake Meadow Dr, 358 Bullseye Lake Rd. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Request to Advertise for Bids – Crack Seal Program

The Engineering Department is requesting permission to seek bids for the annual crack seal program. The Engineering Department and Project Management staff have reviewed the roads and recommend improvements to the selected streets.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve and accept the request to advertise for bids for the annual crack seal program. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Forest Park Irrigation Project Recommendation of Award and Contract Approval

The Parks Administration staff opened bids for the Forest Park Irrigation project at the May 13, 2025 special Park Board Meeting. Bid results of the total project are as follows:

Precision Golf Irrigation	\$1,548,000.00
George E. Ley Company	\$1,354,720.39

The Parks Administration staff and Hydro Designs as CMA have reviewed the bid packages and confirmed that all submissions were complete. The Department recommends awarding the contract to the lowest bidder, George E. Ley Company in the amount of \$1,354,720.39 and asks the Board to execute the contract.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve awarding the contract to George E. Ley Company in the amount of \$1,354,720.39. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Tower Park Improvements Project Recommendation of Award and Contract Approval

Parks Administration staff and Berglund Construction as CMA opened bids for the Tower Park Improvements project at the May 13, 2025 special Park Board Meeting. The project consists of a new prefabricated restroom facility, steel shelter assembly, playground, and associated utilities, concrete pavement walkways, and landscaping restoration. Bid Results of the total project are as follows:

	Base Bid	Alternate #1
New Tech	\$346,000.00	\$17,000.00
Hasse Construction	\$423,050.00	\$19,300.00
The Pangere Corp.	\$449,655.00	\$17,935.00
Larson-Danielson	\$456,543.00	\$19,413.00
Gariup Construction	\$457,500.00	\$35,000.00
Grimmer Construction	\$624,000.00	\$32,000.00

The Parks Administration staff and Berglund Construction as CMA have reviewed the bid packages and confirm that all (6) submissions were complete. The department recommends awarding the contract to the lowest bidder, New Tech, in the amount of \$363,000.00, inclusive of Alternate #1, and asks the Board to execute the contract.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve awarding the contract to New Tech in the amount of \$363,000.00 - bid and alternate. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Porter Business Center – First Replat Approval

The developers of Porter Business Center are requesting approval for the First Replat of said subdivision. The subdivision is located on the north side of S.R. 2. Clark Dr. accesses the existing business center from S.R. 2. There are two existing businesses on the west side of Clark Dr. The First Replat was reviewed by the departments and approved by the Plat Committee on May 7, 2025.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve the First Replat of Porter Business Center. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

**Façade Agreement for 76 Washington Street
Murken Building**

On February 6, 2025, the City received an Application from the Applicant requesting consideration of façade and sign improvement grant funds to enhance the façade of the building located at 76 Washington Street. The scope of work has been refined to bring the building into compliance with UDO standards and reduce project costs. Staff recommends an award of \$20,738 for the façade improvement application of the property. This amount includes \$13,238 for the costs to improve the exterior building façade which is within the program's reimbursable allowance of 50% of the cost of actual, reasonable and necessary construction of exterior building improvements up to \$30,000 per façade plus an additional \$7,500 for architectural services reimbursable at 100%.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve the Façade and Sign Improvement Agreement with Murken Building LLC. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Section 5307 Fund Conveyance Agreement for V-Line

Don Lorntzen presented a Section 5307 Fund Conveyance Agreement. When one of their grants runs out of funds, it is switched to another grant. This Agreement is for \$475,834.00.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve the Section 5307 Fund Conveyance Agreement for V-Line. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Engagement Letter – Baker Tilly Regarding SB-1

Bill Oeding presented an Engagement Letter from Baker Tilly. It lays out the scope of work for their help with SB-1 and the affects on the City of Valparaiso.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve the Engagement Letter with Baker Tilly. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Norfolk Southern Railroad Safety Grant – Application Checklist

Chief McIntyre presented a Grant Application Checklist. This is a \$30,000 grant they are applying for. Proceeds are to be used for equipping cameras at NFS railroad crossings within the City of Valparaiso.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve the Grant Application Checklist for the Norfolk Southern Railroad Safety Grant. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Capital Planning Professional GIS Services, Lochmueller

Lead service replacement planning is a critical priority for VCU in the coming years. With VCU's Aging Infrastructure Plan for water and sewer systems and the City's Road's Asset Management Plan, careful coordination and planning are essential. Given the complexity of managing multiple concurrent projects, VCU and the City seeks assistance in developing a robust GIS planning tool to streamline coordination efforts. After a thorough vetting process, VCU and the City recommends selecting Lochmueller Group, based on their proven experience with similar GIS projects. VCU staff held several meetings with Lochmueller to ensure they are fully capable of delivering the requested planning tool. Following these discussions, VCU and the City are confident that Lochmueller is the right consultant for this project. Lochmueller has submitted a proposal totaling \$76,000. VCU proposes to split the cost evenly among assets, in coordination with the City and the Engineering Department. VCU will fund \$38,000 through lead service grant funding and \$19,000 through the Stormwater Professional Services Fund. Staff is requesting the use of Local Roads and Streets Fund to cover the remainder of \$19,000. The VCU Board approved the contract and associated funding at the May 13th meeting. City staff respectfully requests and recommends that the BOW approve funding in the amount of \$19,000 from the Local Roads and Streets fund for the capital planning contract with Lochmueller.

MOTION: Bill Oeding moved to approve the Agreement with Lochmueller and funding in the amount of \$19,000 from Local Road and Streets Fund. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Property Maintenance Code/Rental Housing Code Violation Matters

Bill Oeding explained that Building & Code Enforcement Director, Vicki Thrasher, is not present today. She is requesting that all matters be continued to the next meeting.

- a. 4102 Campbell
- b. 808 Napoleon
- c. 303 Indiana
- d. 103 Morgan
- e. 505 Academy
- f. 1106 Institute

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve continuing all cases as presented, to the next BOW meeting. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Street Closures

- Iron Gate Block Party – June 28,2025
- Porter County Master Gardener's Garden Walk - June 28,2025

- Combat Vets Motorcycle Assn. Blaster Dash – July 12, 2025
- American Legion Riders Forever in our Hearts Benefit Ride – August 9, 2025
- Elks Lodge Popcorn Fest Cookout – September 6, 2025
- Valpo Market Use of Parking Lot – June 3-October 11, 2025

These have been reviewed and approved by all impacted departments.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve the requests for street closure as presented. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Public Assembly Request

Attorney Patrick Lyp - This request is made by Deb McLeod. The NWI Activists/NWI NOW group is assembling in support of 50501 rally protest. They are requesting to organize on the southwest and southeast corner of Courthouse Square on June 6 and June 13, 2025 from 12:00pm – 2:00pm. They are expecting 150 to attend. This has been confirmed with Valparaiso Police Department. The Group will not go into the street; will not block pedestrian traffic; and will not create any unsafe conditions. Any signs, banners, or displays must be carried and not placed on sidewalk or against traffic light pole. Given the close proximity of the public assembly to a busy intersection, no microphones/ other amplifying devices are allowed. Groups will not encourage cars to honk their horns and will abide by the quiet zone policy. If number of participants changes to more than expected, Applicant will notify VPD. The County has approved this request.

Motion: Mayor Costas moved to approve the request for Public Assembly on June 6 and June 13, 2025. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Abonmarche Agreement with VFD for Stations #1 and #4

Chief Dutz presented an Agreement with Abonmarche for architectural and engineering services to do proof of concepts for design of fire stations #1 and #4.

Motion: Mayor Costas moved to approve the Agreement with Abonmarche for architectural and engineering services for proof of concepts of fire station #1 and #4. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Social Media Policy

Attorney Patrick Lyp presented an Amended Social Media policy. In January of 2023 the City adopted a Social Media Policy. He went through and listed changes he has made.

Motion: Mayor Costas moved to approve the Amended Social Media Policy. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Contract with Lamar – Billboard signs

Bill Oeding presented a Contract between the City of Valparaiso and Lamar for electronic rotating billboard signs located within Northwest Indiana. These billboards will promote Valparaiso and are funded by the Liquor License Funds. The amount of the Contract is \$18,060.00.

Motion: Mayor Costas moved to approve the Contract with Lamar for billboard signs in the amount of \$18,060.00. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

TO HEAR CITIZENS' FULL COMMENTS, PLEASE REFER TO THE WATCH CITY MEETINGS SECTION OF THE CITY OF VALPARAISO'S WEBSITE (WWW.CI.VALPARAISO.IN.US)

No Public Comments.

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned.