

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

VALPARAISO, INDIANA

June 13, 2025

The Board of Public Works and Safety of Valparaiso, Indiana met June 13, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. in City Hall. Present were Mayor Costas, Bill Oeding and Katrina Spence. Mayor Costas called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2025 meeting. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 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 3-0 vote.

Valparaiso Compost Site Grinding Bid

The Recycling & Waste Reduction District of Porter County opened the Grinding Bids. The bids were due June 3, at 9 a.m. A public meeting was held at 9:05 a.m. in the Commissioners Chambers, 155 Indiana Ave, Valparaiso, IN. They received one bid.

Homer Industries, LLC	\$114,000.00
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The District recommends that Homer Industries, LLC, complete the Valparaiso Compost Site Grinding and Hauling . The Recycling District pays the first \$40,000 of this contract and then the percentages are split.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to accept the bid of Homer Industries LLC in the amount of \$114,000.00 for grinding and hauling. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Bid Opening - Crack Sealing Package

The Engineering Department advertised the annual Crack Sealing Package for bid on May 27th and June 3rd, with bids scheduled to open on June 13th. The Engineers' cost estimate for the project is \$298,460.80. No bids were received.

Attorney Patrick Lyp – The Engineer's Department can re-bid this package or they can seek out a contractor and negotiate with them.

Bill Oeding – He suggested calls be made before they go out to bid a second time to see if it can be determined why no bids were received.

2025 Annual Sidewalk Program – Package 3 Award And Contract Execution

At the May 23, 2025, BOW meeting, the Engineering Department opened bids for the 2025 Annual Sidewalk Program - Package 3.

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

Based upon the above bid results New Tech is the apparent lowest, responsive, responsible bidder. The Engineering Department recommends awarding the 2025 Annual Sidewalk Program – Package 3 to New Tech in the amount of \$418,951.00. The Engineering Department is also asking the Board to execute the contract. The Engineer’s Estimate was \$500,000.00.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to accept the bid of New Tech in the amount of \$418,951.00 for 2025 Annual Sidewalk Program – Package 3. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Acceptance of Pathway Easement

The Engineering Department recommends approval and acceptance of the pathway easement located at 1058 Ransom Road. This easement will allow the City to construct a pathway connection along Ransom Road.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to accept the Pathway Easement for 1058 Ransom Road. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Termination of MOU with County for Parking Garage

Attorney Patrick Lyp – September of 2021 The City entered into an MOU with the County for use of their parking garage. This was for the use of citizens of Porter County. Since then the City has made an annual \$15,000 payment for this use. At the June 3rd Commissioner’s meeting with no prior notice to the City, it was announced they want to increase the amount from \$15,000 to \$30,000. The MOU requires both parties to agree to an increase. On June 4th he received a letter from the Commissioners terminating the MOU effective September 2, 2025. He watched the Commissioner’s meeting and it appears there may be a misunderstanding of the fee charged for use of the parking garage and building permit fees. There was a request to waive a building permit fee. The response from the City was that the request had to be made to the Council since they were the only entity that could give that approval. Generally speaking when a city or town does a project within their community, they generally do pay the building permit fee. Had the County asked he is sure the Council would have considered it. But no request was made of the City to consider that. The City prepaays for

the whole year. As of September 2nd there will be about \$5,000.00 to be returned by the County to the City.

He is not sure it is worth \$30,000 for the use of the garage. They will spend the next 90 days trying to get a feel for that. He has asked Valpo Events to keep an eye on it and give some feedback.

Mayor Costas – The building is under the County control. However, Valparaiso residents are also Porter County residents.

Waiver of Objection and Consent to Annexation -Wood's Edge

Attorney Patrick Lyp – This Waiver of Objection and Consent to Annexation is for the entire subdivision. Attorney Patrick Lyp recommends acceptance of the Waiver of Objection and Consent to Annexation for Lots 93 & 94 within the Cherry Hill Subdivision. This area is served by City Utilities but is outside City Limits. This will be included in the Restrictive Covenants also.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve the Waiver of Objection and Consent to Annexation for Wood's Edge subdivision. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Bloomfield Mechanical Maintenance Service Agreement

The Project and Facility Management Department requests approval of the Bloomfield Mechanical preventive maintenance agreement for the HVAC units at the City Hall building. This maintenance agreement provides service visits for each quarter for three years. The annual billed rate includes the cost of materials and labor for maintenance services:

Year #1 - \$4,880.00

Year #2 - \$4,880.00

Year #3 - \$5,124 (5% increase for year 3)

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve Bloomfield Mechanical Maintenance Service Agreement for the HVAC units at City Hall. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

MacAllister-CAT Maintenance Service Contract

The Project and Facility Management Department requests approval of the MacAllister-CAT preventive maintenance agreement for the generator at the City Hall building. This maintenance agreement provides planned maintenance twice annually for three years. The annual billed rate includes the cost of materials and labor for maintenance services:

Year #1 - \$3,323.00

Year #2 - \$3,323.00

Year #3 - \$3,323.00

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve MacAllister-CAT Mechanical Maintenance Service Agreement for the generator at City Hall. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

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

City staff opened bids at last month's Board meeting for the demolition of vacant structures on the east side of Campbell Street between Lincolnway and Indiana. The project cost estimate is \$160,000. All three bidders were in attendance at the required pre-bid meeting held May 15th. City staff have reviewed the bids and recommend award and execution of the contract for the project to the low bidder, C Lee Construction in the amount of \$154,831.00.

Bids Received Were:

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

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve awarding the demolition bid to C Lee Construction in the amount of \$154,831.00 and executing the contract. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Internet renewal for Fire Station 1

The IT department recommends replacing Comcast Broadband internet at Station 1 with NITCO fiber internet. Moving to NITCO will get the Fire Station on a fiber internet circuit and allow for future expansion if we move to point to point transport circuits between locations. The cost monthly will not increase from what the current Comcast contract is now.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve the NITCO Contract renewal for Fire Station 1. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Internet renewal for Fire Training

The IT department recommends replacing Comcast Broadband internet at Fire Training with NITCO fiber internet. Moving to NITCO will get the Training Facility on a fiber internet circuit and allow for future expansion if we move to point to point transport circuits between locations. The cost monthly will decrease from \$194.90 to \$169.90.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve the NITCO Contract renewal for Fire Training. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Consulting Services Agreement – Sports Facilities Development and Valpo Parks

Kevin Nuppnau – He presented a Consulting Services Agreement with Sports Facilities Development. They will act as the owner’s representative for the work to be done on the old McGill building on Lafayette Street. The Agreement is in the amount of \$810,000.00 over a 24 month period.

They are working with the City n the RDC to explore the transformation of the facility into a year round recreation and enrichment campus to offer diverse sports programs, interactive play areas, vibrant community spaces and enriching educational opportunities for both residents and visitors. Partnership with SFD is critical for short and long term success.

The Park Board approved this Agreement at its May 27th Board meeting. Attorney Lyp has reviewed and approved this Agreement.

Moving forward this project will be referred to as Valpo Rec.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve the Consulting Services Agreement with Sports Facilities Development in the amount of \$810,000.00. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Red’s Deli – 68 Lincolnway Property User Agreement and revised Façade Construction for Agreement

Red’s Deli has revised their original construction plans for the Façade Grant Agreement approved at the Board of Public Works & Safety on November 22, 2024. The construction revision is to allow for a vertically operable bi-fold storefront window. The operation of this window would overhang the City sidewalk (right-of-way) by 2 ft. – 11 in. When the window is in a fully extended position over the sidewalk there will be an 8-foot clearance. Staff has worked with Attorney Patrick Lyp to develop the Property User Agreement for the bi-fold window. Planning Department recommends approval of the Property User Agreement and the revision to construction based on the originally approved Façade Agreement. The revision and work proposed should be based on the plans prepared by Wagner Architecture dated 5/20/2025.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve the Property User Agreement and the revision to construction for Red’s Deli - 68 Lincolnway. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Insurance for City Entrance Monument Signs

Jim Anton – The City has eight monument entrance to the City signs. The total value of the signs is \$1,230,579. To insure the signs the annual premium is \$2,383.00. The biggest risk to the City is if an uninsured or under insured motorist would hit it.

Bill Oeding – It is his opinion that this is a good investment to protect the signs.

Katrina Spence – She also thinks it is a good idea to insure the signs.

Attorney Patrick Lyp – Accidents involving City property come through his office. People would be surprised how many accidents there are.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve insuring the monument signs at entrances to the City. The effective date will be when the City takes ownership of the monuments. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Jim Anton – He had been asked to meet with the City Department Heads. He has done that and he just wants to publicly commend them for the professionalism they bring to their tasks.

Street Closures

- Elm Street Block Party – July 20, 2025
- Porter Starke Service Foundation Turkey Trot – November 27, 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.

Porter County Sheriff's Department – Verbal Agreement for QR Code on SOOFA Signs

Don Lorntzen – The Sheriff's Department has approached him to see if they can place their QR code on the SOOFA signs at the V-Line Shelters. The signs are solar powered and are managed by Kim Ranegar. There are six of these in the City. The QR Code would be for citizens that need help and/or assistance. The SOOFA contract ends in December of 2025.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve a verbal agreement with the Porter County Sheriff's Department to place their QR Code on the six SOOFA signs in the City. Seconded by Bill Oeding 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.